

NATIONAL SECURITY

Common citizens are not aware of the elements that harm national security in India. In today's situation, it has become difficult to differentiate between external and internal security. The real threat to our security is from covert operations, insurgent and terrorist activities. The agitation that went on for a long time in Jammu and Kashmir is the latest example of this. Security agencies have no qualms in admitting that Pakistan-trained terrorists were involved in spreading violence in Jammu and Kashmir. The problem of large number of people migrating from Bangladesh to India needs immediate attention. There is a need to formulate a comprehensive policy on this issue by discussing with the Government of Bangladesh. This 'flood' of illegal Bangladeshis cannot be stopped only by periodic talks and ad hoc measures. The support given by external elements to separatist movements and terrorist activities cannot be controlled only with the help of police force. For this proper political initiative is needed. In order to control the violent movements, we have to work for the economic upliftment of the backward people and their social and political welfare. Internal violence generated due to some wrong policies and political agendas has affected internal security more than external threats. Problems arising between communities should not be allowed to linger for too long. If these problems arise, it can be solved with the efforts of all political parties. We must focus our attention on all kinds of threats facing the country, including threats from our enemies, international and domestic terrorists, insurgents and organized criminal gangs. We must crush the elements associated with internal unrest, insurgency, terrorism and organized crime. External forces and internal social crisis harm the economic, social and political stability of the country. They should be crushed while dealing strictly with them. The common man should be educated about this and involve them in matters affecting national security.

How do we unhook or let go?

■ MOHANJI



When you let go, when you unhook, it always helps. For example, you keep hatred towards somebody who has hurt you, victimised you about something or cheated you. So if you keep that hatred, you are neither releasing that person nor releasing yourself. Instead, from your side, clear it off your mind. You can always choose to keep your inner space clean or empty or you must. So when you release everything from your system, it automatically helps the other person to release from their system. This is one thing. Secondly, it is very important to release lumps or clumps of "negative" energy rather than hold it. Energy can never be negative, but its use sometimes becomes negative. If you have bad feelings, it's the same energy which is being used for negative effect. If you have knowingly or unknowingly hurt your parents and if they are in the body, you must do whatever you can for them within your capacity. Imagine they are not in the body. Take care of all people, consider them as your parents or consider them as your relatives, whatever. Then do whatever you can for them. So in a way, in consciousness, everything gets erased. (To be continued...)

BOI - Brings 77 Years expertise in International Finance Centres

■ VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

Bank of India - a major public sector bank with a significant international presence recently opened IFSC SEZ Banking Unit and NRI help centre in our foreign Exchange back office cell in Gift city - Gandhinagar capital of Gujarat today. It was inaugurated by the Bank of India's MD & CEO Rajneesh Karnatak in the presence of the Bank's Executive Director Swarup Dasgupta and Executive Director of IFSCA - Pravin Trivedi. Rajneesh Karnatak, MD & CEO, BOI said: "The launch of the IFSC Banking Unit and NRI Help Centre is a significant milestone in Bank of India's journey to becoming a global bank. The Bank aims to touch a business of USD 4 billion with equal distributions of advances and deposits in the subsequent three years by March 2027 through its IFSC banking unit at GIFT City." The BOI IBU has the twin advantage of being situated in India, providing the benefit of the time zone window for its counterparts located globally with competitive pricing & quick processing from an experienced team. In GIFT City BOI will cater to the business of foreign corporations coming to India for business. Through the IBU the bank will provide a range of global banking solutions. On the loan side, it will give External Commercial Borrowings, Trade Finance Facilities, Foreign Currency Loans and Syndication Loans. The IBU will provide services, such as External Commercial Borrowing (ECBs), Trade Finance Facilities, Foreign Currency Loans, Syndication Loans (Origination, Underwriting and Distribution), Foreign Currency deposit account -Current and Term Deposits, besides offering digital banking facilities through transaction-based Internet Banking facility, to various clients allowed as per IFSCA guidelines. Bank of India has a presence in 15 foreign countries through 21 foreign branches, 4 foreign subsidiaries, one joint venture, and one Representative office. The bank's overseas branches contribute around 15% mix business to its Global Deposits and 16% to its Global Advances. BOI has branches in New York, San Francisco, Paris, Singapore, etc. and subsidiaries in countries like New Zealand, Uganda, Tanzania, and Indonesia. Besides, the lender also has a joint venture with the government of Zambia. While addressing the gathering at the time of inauguration of IFSC Banking unit and NRI Help center, Mr. Karnatak reiterated BOI's commitment to providing superior, proactive banking services to niche markets globally while providing cost-effective, responsive service to customers in its role as a truly international bank. We are confident of achieving \$1 billion in business by March 2024 and \$4 billion in the subsequent three years," said Rajneesh Karnatak, MD& CEO of the bank at the inauguration ceremony. Karnatak further added that the IBU has the advantage of tax heaven for 10 years, lower cost of operation, compared to overseas operations, besides easier regulations for lending to corporates in foreign currencies as there is a unified regulator. Speaking about the performance of the banking sector in India, the BOI MD has rightly said that "The banking system in India is in a sweet spot at present. Banks are doing well. Gross and net NPAs are at the lowest, if you compare with the previous five years. He reiterated BOI's commitment to providing superior, proactive banking services to niche markets globally while providing cost-effective, responsive service to customers in its role as a truly international bank.

Modern Agricultural Technologies for Rural Prosperity

■ DR. BANARSI LAL

Agriculture is the most important sector in the Indian economy. This sector contributes immensely to employment, foreign exchange, food and many other sectors. Agricultural sector is the basic catalyst and accelerator of growth and development of the industrial and services sectors. It is no longer possible to mitigate the needs of the increasing population and to achieve the food security objectives by expanding the areas under agriculture. But this problem can be solved by increasing the agricultural productivity by utilizing the yield increasing modern technologies. Agricultural research and technological improvements are therefore crucial to increase agricultural production and productivity and thus can reduce the poverty and meet the demands of food without irreversible degradation of natural resources. Modern technologies play a crucial role in agricultural production and productivity. Technological uses are influenced by the technical trainings, meetings, campaigns, demonstrations, trials, oral transmission and credibility on technician and belief level on technology. Adoption of new technologies varies differently for the progressive, young and educated farmers. Generally the farmers are having positive perception of technologies but they face lot of problems in technology adoption due to lack of capital, guidelines and compensation policy. State and Central Governments are providing facilities to the farmers in increasing their crops yields through the use of various technologies and schemes. An increase in agricultural productivity is a prevailing motive for the Indian farmers and a driving force in India's agricultural policy. The success of modern technologies can be obtained by knowing how to apply fertilizers, pesticides and take care of plant for its healthy growth. A farming system is the result of a complex interaction of a number of interdependent components such as soil, water, crops, livestock, labour and other resources within an environmental setting. The total environment can be divided into two elements: technology and human. Technology determines the type and physical potential of different enterprises and includes the physical and biological factors that can be modified. The human element is characterized by exogenous and endogenous factors which can be controlled by the farm household. It is the household which ultimately decides whether to adopt a new technology or not. The decision of use of technologies is dependent on how farmers perceive the technology. After independence, India has made tremendous progress in agricultural development. There has been substantial increase in available food-grain per capita. Before mid 1960s, India relied on imports and food aid to meet domestic requirements. Severe drought in 1965-66 compelled India to reform its agricultural

methods. India adopted significant technological reforms and focused on the food grain self-sufficiency. This ushered in India's Green Revolution. Superior high yielding and disease resistant wheat varieties in combination with better farming practices to improve production and productivity were adopted. A hectare of Indian wheat farm that produced an average of 0.8 tons in 1948 produced 4.7 tons of wheat in 1975 from the same piece of land. Such fast growth in farm productivity enabled India to become self-sufficient in the food grains. By 2000, Indian farmers adopted wheat varieties capable of yielding 6 tons of wheat per hectare. With Green Revolution success in wheat and rice was exceptionally obtained. Benefits of improved farming technologies now largely depend on whether India develops infrastructure such as reliable irrigation network, electricity production, flood control systems, transportation facilities and competitive buyers of produce from the Indian farmer. Agronomically the package of technologies may seem attractive but the farmer may not accept due to the financial risk. The provision of appropriate credit facilities may sufficiently reduce the risk element to make the package more attractive. The reasons for poor adoption of modern technologies are as :(1) If the farmers are illiterate or less educated. (2) If the technology is new to the farmers then generally they will not believe on it. (3) They might not have seen the demonstration fields of the technology. (4) Worry of low yield (5) Old age farmers do not believe on new technology and only believe in their past experience (6) Old behaviour of cultivation practices embedded in farmers mind for a long period (7) Large land holding farmers think that if the yield is lost due to the use of new technologies in larger area, the amount of loss will be greater: (8) Lack of capital (9) Lack of skilled labour. Generally numerous factors have been identified for the use of modern technology in agriculture. The results of agricultural research include high yielding crop varieties, better livestock breeding practices, more effective fertilizers and pesticides and better farm management practices etc. Agricultural research and development are required to increase the production and productivity. Education also speeds the rate of adoption of new technologies by farmers. Farmers who have more education may be better able to assess the merits of technology and can successfully adopt the new technology for their benefits. A large share of agricultural research expenditures is devoted in the maintenance of research. Educated farmers can gain technology skills through education to solve their field problems. Education is thus an investment in human capital analogous to a farmer's investment in physical capital. Education hastens the rate of development of new system. It is also kept in mind that required input for the technology is available or not. There is need to look into the societal and cultural standards in which the

technology operates. Collective technologies are more easily adopted as collective action reduces transaction cost. Affordability of the technology is an important indicator for their wider use as cost is the major factor in encouraging or discouraging the application of appropriate technology in developing economies. In India labour is relatively cheaper than capital and thus, labour-intensive technologies are less costly. It is an important factor to find out how smoothly technology works in the local production system and the supportive system that explains to what degree is the technology system dependent or system independent. This indicates the need for understanding two types of risk i.e. the internal and external risk. Although analysis of risk is necessary before applying new technology, it is almost impossible to remove all risks. If the chosen device is static it will relatively reflect the short-lived solutions to a much larger problem. The technology, which supports the continuation of development by enhancing capability to expand, can be expected to compete at the regional, national and international level. A significant positive relationship between infrastructure and Indian agricultural productivity is essential to boost agricultural productivity. Improved road connectivity can reduce the farmers' cost of acquiring agricultural production inputs and of transporting outputs to market. It has been observed that the process of adoption of new agricultural technologies in India specially in some states has been slow and interrupted mainly due to constraints like lack of capital, low price of agricultural produce, insufficient cold storage facilities, transportation facilities, mandis, high rental charges of implements and machines inadequate institutional credit, lack of soil and water testing facilities, inadequate irrigation facilities and high cost of agro-inputs. Performance of the technologies can be explained on the basis of their success and failure stories. The performance can also be assessed on the basis of percentage of population adopting to a particular technology. Modern technologies are helpful in improving the crops yields, protecting crops against diseases and pests, making livestock healthy, designing the best methods of crops storage and even helping in predicting the climate conducive for agricultural practices. The use of modern agricultural equipments and machineries help in making agricultural practices easy for the farmer. In the developing countries like India agricultural mechanization is the order of the day. Promotion of technology with social wisdom can help in preventing migration of youth from rural to urban areas, mitigate the adverse impact of climate change and revive agriculture for sustainability of India's growth. (The writer is Sr. Scientist & Head of KVK, Reasi SKUAST-J).

Modi's France ,UAE Visit to cement and strengthen Ties

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

Prime minister Narendra Modi is embarking on his eventful visit to France and Muslim country UAE to create friendship and cement mutual relations so that these three countries will play their role in the world affairs and geo-politics. From today 13th of July Prime minister Modi will remain on three days visit. During this visit PM will be on tour of two countries. PM Modi will first visit France and then will visit UAE on 15th of July. PM Modi during this visit will have a tight schedule. PM Modi departed from India for an official visit to France and UAE. Ahead of his departure to France Modi said in a statement that he is looking forward to meeting French president Emmanuel Macron and holding discussions on taking forward the partnership between the two nations "I look forward to meeting President Macron and holding wide-ranging discussions on taking forward this longstanding and time tested partnership over next 25 years. I have had the opportunity to meet president Macron several times since my last official visit to France in 2022, most recently in Hiroshima, Japan in May 2023 during the G-7 summit." an official statement released from the PMO said. Calling his visit special PM joined Macron for Bastille Day celebrations in Paris as the Guest of Honor. Indian Air Force aircraft performed a fly-past on the occasion. PM Modi had a fruitful meeting with his French counterpart Elisabeth Borne and Senate president Gerard Larcher during which he discussed ways to impart new impetus to India's multilateral cooperation and time tested strategic partnership with the key European nation. PM Modi's visit to France is being interpreted as a step towards closer military cooperation between the two countries, as India is gearing up to acquire 26 new Rafale M fighter jets that will fit into India's maritime military

plans. India and France had consensus on 63 bilateral issues and they inked a very significant defense deal. PM Modi was received earlier by Prime Minister Borne at the airport in a special gesture. A ceremonial welcome and guard of honor were accorded to Prime minister Modi upon his arrival. Modi and Borne discussed furthering cooperation in various areas such as economic and trade, energy, environment, education, mobility, railways, digital public infrastructure, musicology and people to people ties. Modi has also productive meeting with Senate president Larcher and the two leaders deliberated on a range of issues of mutual interest and both agreed to work together to deepen India-France cooperation in a number of areas. Modi also interacted with children and members of Indian Diaspora. PM Modi said that world is moving towards new world order and the role and capability of India is changing fast. Addressing the Indian community at La Seine Musicale, Modi referred to India's presidency of G20 and said more than 200 meetings are being held across the country. Making a strong pitch for India's permanent membership in the united Nations Security Council PM Modi said the primary UN body cannot claim to be speaking for the world when its most populous country and the largest democracy is not a permanent member. Modi has paid an official visit to France and Arab Emirates (UAE). He visited Paris from July 13-14 at the invitation of president of France Emmanuel Macron. The PM was the guest of honor at the Bastille day Parade on July 14, where a tri-services Indian armed forces contingent participated. PM held formal talks with the president Macron. Macron hosted a state Banquet as well as a private dinner in honor of the prime minister. PM also met Prime minister of France as well as the presidents of the senate and the National Assembly of France. He

interacted with the Indian Diaspora in France, CEOs of Indian and French companies and eminent French personalities. The year 2023 marks the 25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership and prime minister's visit will provided an opportunity to chart the course of the partnership for the future across diverse sectors such as strategic, cultural, scientific, academic and economic cooperation. Prime minister will thereafter, visit Abu Dhabi on July 15. He will hold talks with HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, president of UAE and ruler of Abu Dhabi. The India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has been steadily strengthening and PM Modi's visit will be an opportunity to identify ways to take this forward in various domains such as energy, education, healthcare, food security, fintech, defense and culture. It will also be an opportunity to discuss cooperation on global issues, particularly in the context of UAE's presidency of COP -28 of the UNFCCC and India's G20 presidency in which UAE is a special invitee. PM Modi will visit UAE after concluding his two day visit to Paris. He will hold wide-ranging talks with Sheekh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, president of the united Arab Emirates and ruler of Abu Dhabi, to take forward bilateral ties in key areas of energy, food security and defense. "The India-UAE comprehensive strategic partnership has been steadily strengthening and ther PM's will be an opportunity to identify ways to take this forward in various domains such as energy, education, healthcare, food security, fintech, defense and culture," the MEA said. PM Modi visited France and will also visit UAE on return from France to take forward cooperation with both the countries in areas ranging from defense and security to energy. Modi was the chief guest at military parade considered a signal honour, and the last foreign leader who was invited was US presi-

dent Donald Trump in 2017. A 269 member Indian tri-services participated in the parade and three French -origin Rafale combat jets of the Indian Air Force also joined a flypast and added color to the parade. Macron and Modi held formal talks on a wide range of subjects and issues of bilateral and international issues. Modi also met his French counterpart Elisabeth Borne and talked on bilateral issues. Defense was the focus area during Modi's visit to Paris. The two leaders signed agreements to pave way for the India buying 26 Rafale-Marine combat jets for the navy and building three more Scorpene -class submarines. India's defense acquisition council -DAC headed by defense minister Rajnath Singh is expected to accord acceptance of necessity -AON. Modi also met the presidents of the Senate and the National Assembly. People familiar with the matter said several agreements to enhance defense cooperation between India and France are expected to be finalized during the visit, including those for acquiring 26 naval variants of the Rafle combat jets, or Rafale Marine and three Scorpene class submarines, and another for joint development of an engine for fighter jets with French aircraft equipment manufacturer Safran. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the India-France strategic partnership and the external affairs ministry said Modi will "provide an opportunity to chart the course of the partnership for the future across diverse sectors such as strategic, cultural, scientific, academic and economic cooperation." From France Modi travelled to Abu Dhabi and held talks with president of UAE and ruler of Abu Dhabi. In brief PM Modi's visit to France and UAE will further cement and strengthen ties between India, France and UAE.

(The author is a columnist, social and KP activist).

YOUR COLUMN

Illegal Sand Mining

Dear Editor,
Karnataka Revenue Minister Krishna Byregowda has pleaded helplessness in controlling the illegal sand mining. Expression of helplessness in controlling and regulating sand mining is a covert admission of the government's inability to give efficient administration. He was participating in a discussion on the issue in the Assembly. The minister has expressed apprehension that the price of sand will increase if illegal mining is curbed and its trade regulated. On the other hand, if sand mining is legalized, more sand mining will take place. The government is caught between the devil and deep sea. The minister expressing inability to control the sand mafia is not a good beginning for the new government. The opposition party has pointed out that the stone quarrying is going on in more than 100 acres of land as against the 46 acres of land for which licence was issued. Blasting in the midnight is a serious threat to the peaceful living of residents in the vicinity of quarrying and many buildings have reportedly developed cracks due to the blasting. The minister reminds in the Assembly that he had suggested to the BJP government for levying a one-time penalty on illegal mining. Now this is the time for the minister to implement his own ideas and suggestions. Expression of helplessness to control the illegal mining emboldens miners. They start carrying out their illegal activities more aggressively than before. "Even if a snake is not poisonous, it must pretend to be poisonous to save itself", says Chanakya. The government must prove its mettle in safeguarding the interest of builders. A government with chicken-hearted ministers can do nothing except blaming the previous governments. A government's efficiency is mirrored in the implementation of the ideas and suggestions conceived by the leaders when they were in opposition. But the present government has been showing its prowess in removing the lessons on Savarkar and prescribing those lessons that are palatable to it. Its witch-hunting is visible when the government has been putting on hold the land given to Jana Seva Trust belonging to RSS. Jana Seva Trust is involved in the social service activities. The government has been showing more interest in holding investigations on "scams" of the previous govern-

ment. It is good if the scamsters are brought to the wheels of justice. Hardly there is anything on record to show that any party has instituted inquiry against any of its own leaders or members. The misdeeds of one should be exposed by the other only. Former Chief Minister S.R. Bommai has asked Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to hold enquiry on the scams that took place during his own regime from 2013 to 2018. If Bonmai believes that scams had taken place during the previous regime of Siddaramaiah, it is he who should have ordered to conduct the enquiry. He cannot take high moral grounds in believing that he had not indulged in vindictive politics. Neither his suggestion to conduct inquiry on the scams that took place in 2013-18 is going to be heeded nor is he going to be appreciated for not taking any action against the scamsters of the previous Siddaramaiah government. A sense of fear must be instilled among the ministers that any wrongdoings done now will be exposed by the future governments, no matter even if it is called vendetta politics. Enquiry agencies are only fact-finding committees. Ultimately it is the courts that they take final call on the findings. Innocent persons will be exonerated and the guilty punished. K.V. Seetharamaiah.

Hazards Of National Highway Jammu-Kashmir

Dear Editor,
The Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, which connects the Kashmir valley to the outside world, is known for its dangerous conditions and is considered one of the most dangerous roads in South Asia. This highway is a crucial link between Kashmir and the rest of the world, but it is closed for almost 40 days a year due to adverse weather conditions. Unfortunately, landslides on this route, which are predominantly caused by human activities, have resulted in numerous deaths over the years. Unscientific felling of trees and the use of heavy machinery to widen the Jammu-Srinagar highway in the Pir-Panjal range has become a frequent activity, causing instability and landslides. Development activities carried out in such an unscientific manner can be disastrous and fatal, altering the down-slope pressure and diminishing the strength of the hills. Such activities contradict the complex geographical and ecological aspects that form the basis of this region. Human-made activities, uncon-

trolled use of resources, and natural forces combine to increase the vulnerability of the highway. The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway is situated in a region that is tectonically active and geologically complex. The Himalayas are one of the youngest and most active mountain ranges in the world, and their formation has resulted in a complex geological structure that makes the region particularly prone to landslides. As landslides continue to pose a serious threat to travellers on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, it's essential to understand the complex factors involved and work towards reducing the risk of such incidents in the future. The Jammu-Srinagar national highway has been identified as a high-risk route for travellers, according to the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The statistics released by the Ministry indicate that in the last year there were 648 traffic accidents on the highway, with a balance of 93 deaths. The frequency and severity of accidents on the highway has been a concern for authorities, as the region's complex geological structure and active tectonic environment contribute to risks. In addition, unplanned and unscientific development in the area, including road widening and removal of vegetation cover, has increased the region's vulnerability to landslides and other natural disasters. Efforts are underway to mitigate these risks, including building retaining walls and planting trees along the road to stabilize the soil. However, much remains to be done to ensure the safety of travellers on this critical route. The vibrations caused by the heavy machinery used to widen the road have also played an important role in increasing the instability of the slopes. These activities contradict the ecological and geographic complexities that underpin the existence of this area and have made the highway more vulnerable to the forces of nature. The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway is also vulnerable to landslides due to the environmental factors that characterize the region. The highway passes through several areas that are prone to high rainfall, particularly during the monsoon season, which can cause the soil to become saturated and unstable. Despite numerous efforts by successive administrations to improve connectivity between Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the world, the environmental impact of these developments has often been overlooked. The consequences of such abandonment have been devastating for the regions affected by these projects. The widening and four lanes of the Srinagar-Jammu national highway, for example, have had a severe impact on the local ecology.

MOOL RAJ.