

CHINA STAND

China has not changed its stand as far as declaring Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar as global terrorist. It has its own reasons to go and the stand taken by it in Security Council meeting was as expected as it has been preaching and practicing. It is not that China is free from terrorism. It is domestically facing Uyghur terrorists which it has been able to quell successfully. Since the September 11, attacks in 2001, the Peoples Republic of China Government has strengthened its involvement in multilateral and bilateral counter-terrorism efforts. As a result of these efforts, some Uyghur separatist movements have been labelled as terrorist groups by the United Nations and U.S. Department of State. There have been allegations that the Chinese government has been applying charges of terrorism in an inconsistent and sometimes politically motivated manner. With billions of dollar invested in Gawadar port it is China which has both commercial and military interests, so the silence on Masood Azhar in Security Council, but Islamabad of late is realising that behind the Chinese investment there is more about its own economic and strategic interests. On the other hand China does not want to attract unwanted terrorists attention over the investment in Gawadar. Countries all over the world had supported India's fight against terrorism after the Pulwama attack, following which 11 countries had co-sponsored the move to ban JeM. Except China, all member countries of the UNSC had supported the move. India had also got support from all the European countries in the Security Council and four other prominent nations outside the UNSC. The signals from Beijing were that they are "consistent" on their position and they wanted a solution "acceptable to all". Despite all efforts by India, China, a veto-wielding permanent member of the UN Security Council, blocked India's proposal from being adopted by the Sanctions Committee. An assets freeze under the Sanctions Committee requires that all states freeze without delay the funds and other financial assets or economic resources of designated individuals and entities which looks a far-off reality.

SAVING GREEN

God tragedy once again brings to the fore need to protect green cover. On Wednesday over three dozen shops were buried when landslide hit the area. Most of the north comprising Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh has been facing landslides and avalanches. The unchecked urbanisation has its own cost in terms of devastation of property and human lives. Renewable energy and recycling of energy has no doubt caught the world attention as the demand and supply for the energy has increased tremendously but one sector remained neglected is the green cover which has been denuded wantonly. Around the world, over half of new power generation capacity now comes from renewables. In Europe, the figure is more than 90 per cent. In the US and China, new renewable energy jobs now outstrip those created in the oil and gas industries. We are dealing with scientific facts, not politics. And the facts are clear. Climate change is a direct threat in itself, and a multiplier of many other threats. Climate change is an unprecedented and growing threat to peace and prosperity and the same in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals. The Paris Agreement on climate change adopted in December 2015 is unique in its universality, with every single government having signed it. The pact entered force in less than a year and to date more than 130 countries have ratified it. The reason for this consensus is clear, all nations recognise that implementing the 2030 Agenda goes hand-in-glove with limiting global temperature rise and increasing climate resilience. The year 2016 was the hottest on record and sea ice is at a historic low and sea levels at a historic high. These trends are indisputable explains the consequences of climate change including food insecurity, water scarcity, poverty and displacement. Tackling climate change is a tremendous opportunity for governments and business as there is no trade-off between a healthy environment and a healthy economy. Green business is good business. Climate action is a necessity and can advance the attainment of sustainable development goals. How we go about it can be the subject of scientific and political debate. But there is no question that we must act, urgently and decisively, now for a sustainable future.

OFF 'D' CUFF

Gandhi's vision of Ram Rajya

Whether we consider the Ramayana as history or mythology, it cannot be denied that the concept of Ram Rajya is an integral part of our cultural inheritance. Establishment of Ram Rajya has been the ultimate ideal of genuine political leaders, right from those who engaged in India's freedom struggle led by Gandhiji, to those in successive elected governments, post-Independence.

Writing in 'Young India' (September 19, 1929), Gandhiji had said: "By Ram Rajya I do not mean Hindu Raj. I mean Ram Raj, the kingdom of God. For me, Ram and Rahim are one and the same; I acknowledge no other God than the one God of Truth and righteousness. Whether Ram of my imagination ever lived on this earth, the ancient ideal of the Ramayana is undoubtedly one of true democracy in which the meanest citizen could be sure of swift justice without an elaborate and costly procedure." In the Amrit Bazar Patrika of August 2, 1934, he said: "Ramayana of my dreams ensures equal rights to both prince and pauper."

Again, in the Harijan of January 2, 1937, he wrote, "By political independence, I do not mean our imitation of the British House of Commons, the Soviet rule of Russia, the Fascist rule of Italy or the Nazi rule of Germany... We must have

ours, suited to ours... I have described it as Ram Rajya, that is, sovereignty of the people based on moral authority.

"According to him, the ideal Ram Rajya may be politically described as 'the land of dharma and a realm of peace, harmony and happiness for young and old, high and low, all creatures and the earth itself, in recognition of a shared universal consciousness.' However, writing in the Harijan on June 1, 1947, just two months before Independence, Gandhiji lamented that "there can be no Ram Rajya in the present state of iniquitous inequalities in which a few roll in riches and the masses do not get even enough to eat!" Apparently, after the initial euphoria of Independence and the unexpected violence resulting from the Partition, the focus of political leaders shifted towards building India into a secular and socialistic society, taking a leaf from the ideology of Soviet Russia. Over the following decades, overzealous secular politicians tried to reduce Ram Rajya to a metaphor; while its spiritual and religious connotations were overlooked.

After the demolition of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya in 1992, and the later change in political ideology of the netas in power, the emphasis suddenly shifted to the rebuilding of a Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

What expectations do we have in 2019?

■ MAHADEEP SINGH JAMWAL

"Clever nations are the ones who keep changing their governments! Because power must change hands otherwise it will get spoiled and rot!"

- Mehmet Murat ildan, a Turkish author.

If we have to take this quotation as inspiration and guidance, then to aid and to maintain the dignity of the BJP, the voters are required to change the ruling dispensation. This will be a great contribution of voters towards BJP and especially by those who are blind followers of this party; because loving parents never want their child to be spoiled and becoming rot. The only favour we can do for BJP and its aspiring leaders is to keep this fraternity out of power, so as to save it from devastation and its leader from decomposition. The schedule for biggest fair of democracy announced by ECI on 10th March 2019 has occasioned to show our concern for a change of power to save BJP from being spoiled and becoming rot as per essence of the lines of the Turkish author. This will be a great blessing and contribution for BJP from one and all voters, schedule to register their choice of power in 2019.

At the same time, we have to concentrate on expectations in 2019 also. Although expectation is an assumption that something in the future will happen, or that we expect to happen. Unfortunately, an expectation has no basis in reality. So it cannot be verified. Central to most problems in the human condition is the idea that we create expectations for many situations in life; accordingly we have created some expectations (unfulfilled) from 2014 and hope the things can be better in 2019? What for the same we have to bring in a change as to perceive the real intentions of the wicked politicians. The curse of expectations is what we frequently do not know the difference between reality, the truth, and illusion, the untruth. If we don't visit the performance that we have observed, our expectations will be unrealistic. We remember how Modi as a star campaigner of BJP was thruster in respect of fabricated expectations. Really speaking our real life isn't pretty enough and everyone desires it to be better, more productive, more lively, more exciting. But a psyche that our life is progressing at a hundred miles an hour speed is just a mental chaos of deceived voters created by very smart Modi government through its biased media. The prime minister likes to speak of legacy issues often. The truth is his legacy is going to be an issue of sizeable concern for himself.

One fails to understand what the parameters applied by PM on tax payer's money, while branding himself differently on different occasions on the pattern much described

in Hindi as: "Ganga Gaye Ganga Das, Jamuna Gaye Jamuna Das", asking himself as the "pradhan sevak" of the people, on the other occasion he called himself as "Chowkidar" and recently in Gujarat, to woo the 'Majdoor' community as "I am Mazdoor No 1". It was the same person who as PM of India has stated on foreign soil, downgrading the Indians that "he is ashamed of being born on Indian soil". Before elections in 2014, it was same Modi who at the time of filling nomination papers in Varanasi has trumpeted 'Ma Ganga has called me to Varanasi', earlier during the state elections of UP, he had been saying I am 'adopted son' of Uttar Pradesh'. At least a person who always exploits the emotions of innocent citizenry is not the expectation in 2019.

We have to introspect on the controversies also that resonated throughout during Modi government such as: 'Demonetization' that failed on every one of its stated objectives such as combating terror funding, fake notes and black money, 'the betrayal of farmers', causing sharp increase in farmers suicide, promising doubling the income of farmers in 2022, a dream year, yet in womb, for the Modi government, media capture (India ranking 138 of 165 countries in 'World Press Freedom' Index 2018), 'weakening of institutions, the parliament remained as an inconvenience to Modi who preferred to rule by fiat and ordinances, promised Lokpal is so artfully forgotten that an irate Supreme Court has to direct action, unprecedented move of four Supreme Court judges before the media, withdrawal of all criminal cases against himself (UP CM), the CBI in the throes of a battle for credibility and many more. Surely nobody in soft democracy will expect these stigmatized happenings, in 2019.

Undeveloped expectations created in 2014, have generated mistrust, acrimony, disappointment, bitterness, among common man, although this frenzy, has very smartly been tried to be pushed below the carpet, by present ruling fraternity and biased media. The hot balloons of voter's emotions are likely to burst in 2019 and BJP is likely to feel the hot air. It hints that to change an emotionally charged situation is a distant dream because Modi government have proved its inability to control the dynamics of promises and expectations of 15 lakh, employment promise, price rise, Lokpal, Ganga clean up, peace and harmony in society, basic necessities, bullet train, black money, smart cities et cetera created by Modi himself in 2014. Completely for five years, it has been attempted to believe that under Modi government, we have been conditioned to accept our self as sky divers, whereas international data never put in public domain by ruling fraternity such as: the lowering of the stan-

dard of political discourse, sharp increase in cultivation of hate, 3% of Indians considering themselves thriving in 2017 compared to 14% in 2014, India ranking 64 in the list of 189 poorest countries in 2016, 100 of the 119 countries in 2016 in Global Hunger Index, 1.77 million homeless people in India in 2017, 30% of India's youth not in employment, India world's most dangerous country for women, ranking at 138 of 165 countries in World Press Freedom Index 2018, in annual Global Democracy Index, India dropping at 42nd position slipping from 27 in 2014 are self speaking myths. A reversal of all these rankings that have stigmatized the India is the expectation in 2019. The most important expectation in 2019 is regarding the formation of criminal free new government, as Modi government was loaded with 24% ministers facing charges of murder, kidnapping, rape and what not.

When we shift our concentration confined to the region of Jammu and Kashmir, it is hard to forget that how Modi have exploited us in 2014, when we were promised to keep both Kashmir centric political parties, Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) and the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (JKPDP), always unfavorable to Jammu region, away from musical chairs of power. After getting 25 seats from Jammu region ultimately aligned with JKPDP for its power lust and BJP sold away the mandate given by Jammuites for its lust on similar lines as it has exhibited in 2008. The mishandling of Kashmir caused eight month long curfews that destroyed the local economy. Worse still, there was a marked increase (72%) in the number of our soldiers martyred in just the first three years of the BJP's term. The extremely inept handling of Kashmir deserves a study unto itself. Our expectations in 2019 are that Jammuites will learn a positive lesson and keep away BJP from political map of J&K in assembly elections also.

Concluding we can sum up the idea of government in 2019, as protector requiring taxes as people friendly contribution, the basic economic infrastructure of human connectivity, infrastructure of care to enable citizens to flourish socially and economically, a more expansive concept of government as provider, is the social welfare government, particularly in the vulnerable conditions of youth, old age, sickness, disability and unemployment due to economic forces beyond their control and dignity to the Indian woman by empowering them politically, socially, economically and as an independent decision making authority.

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Men's frustration root cause of domestic violence

■ PREM CHOWDHRY

Two factors identified by women themselves in their individual and collective take on violence are alcoholism and unemployment of men. While there have been many legislative reforms to safeguard women's rights, these have remained largely ornamental, while the litigation space continues to be hostile to those who approach the courts for the protection of their rights.

Violence against women takes many forms. It takes place both in the private and public realms. It manifests itself in acts of rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, acid attack, domestic violence, marital rape, sex-selective abortion, voyeurism, stalking and 'honour killing'. Gender-based violence is an outcome of systemic discrimination and inequality between the sexes, and is a violation of fundamental rights of the victim.

I shall concentrate on spousal violence, which is widespread in our country. Official data continues to indicate that domestic violence is on the rise and so do the media reports of gruesome cases of intimate partner violence. According to the National Family Health Survey-3 (NFHS) of 2005-06, 27 per cent of all married women have experienced physical, emotional and sexual violence. Activists claim that the percentage is actually much higher.

It is important to understand the cultural context of how marital violence is perceived by men and women and what is the level of its acceptance. For this, I shall rely upon my fieldwork done in my state, Haryana.

Culturally, beating women is very much part of the rural culture, accepted as a mat-

ter of course by men and women. To understand this, the ideology summed up in a popular proverb, common throughout northern India, is useful: joru khasam ki ladai kya (a quarrel between a married couple is of no consequence). This proverb shows the acceptance of ladai (quarrel), as a 'verbal duel', which is considered innocuous; but in reality, it often means infliction of physical violence on the woman. Rural society has always sanctioned wife-beating. "The man who beats his wife or the family that beats his bahu are all considered to be doing the right thing," pontificate the older generation of men in the villages. The general opinion voiced by a majority of the men regarding the infliction of violence on their wives ranged from total denial to prevarication. A few confessed to having used a 'couple of slaps' here and there 'to keep the women in line'.

However, an underlying impression of both men and women was that physical violence has declined over the years. Two factors which are identified and highlighted by women themselves in their individual and collective take on violence are: alcoholism and unemployment of men. Both accentuate men's frustration that is frequently taken out on women, especially their wives. The foremost was growing alcoholism. Women voiced a strong co-relation between the two. The existence of a vast network of sharab ke theke (licensed liquor shops) has become a continually growing problem in northern India. The ban on liquor in Bihar is a recent example of dealing with this problem. The women consider the spread of liquor and intoxicants as the cause of tension

in homes, leading to shortage of money for family expenses, frequent quarrels, and extortion of money from women, leading to violence. Liquor is clearly behind the deteriorating quality of a woman's life and cuts across region, caste and class lines.

This increase in the consumption of liquor has been triggered by a cluster of inter-related causes, peculiar to different classes and even caste groups. Among these causes, the increased paying capacity of the consumers, particularly in the rural areas, has been a decisive factor both according to the academics and the rural perception. Interestingly, the two reasons advocated for the popularity of alcohol among the lower castes and classes, in direct opposition to higher castes and classes, is economic deprivation and low self-esteem. The rise in alcohol consumption has also been indirectly encouraged by the state with a major stake in its revenue - through its excise policy and licensing of an increasing number of retail shops.

Apart from alcoholism, unemployment of men is primarily responsible for violence against women. The great increase in population and pressure on land due to limited expansion in commerce and industry and the overburdening of the agrarian sector has created severe unemployment. Rural unemployment is calculated to be almost twice of urban unemployment. Widespread unemployment and the consequent inability of a man to support his family are a major cause of frustration, lack of confidence and an onslaught on their masculinity. Together, these lead to domestic violence.

Mind it, this is a beginning and a trailer. We can't afford to be complacent. Pak may retaliate. The venomous serpent needs be decimated. Apart from external enemy we direly require to bust the terror network on our own soil which would mean internal cleansing. Burgeoning/ Anti-national elements, separatists and the terror supportive leaders shall have to be hit too hard to raise their heads again. It is a good augury that the nation is in high spirits and united in this national cause. We have not to lose the momentum. In case Pak indulges to retaliate we must turn focus on POJK and implement the Parliamentary Resolution of 1997 for settling the Kashmir problem once for all. We have the need- ed will power and the potential.

No reason to look back.

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Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Change or NOTA !!!

Dear Editor,

The society we live in comprises of diverse section be it religiously, morally or occupationally still only few of the sections are acknowledged heard and replied as per desire. One of the most prominent suffering class is unemployed youth, the so called demographic dividend. Surprisingly our central government put forward a number of initiatives regarding this class like Kaushal Vikas, stand up India, start up India and what not but without proper implementation. After every five years, we end up choosing new faces, different political appearances but all the have same ideology of fake promises and corrupt practices. In India,

A highly strategic corridor

■ CLAUDE ARPI

During the 1962 war, China's Air Force was not in a flying condition because of lack of fuel. It possibly got some from Tajikistan, where it is building its new base. We must keep a watch.

A couple of weeks ago, The Washington Post published an article titled, 'In Central Asia's forbidding highlands, a quiet newcomer: Chinese troops'. It reported: "Two miles above sea level in the inhospitable highlands of Central Asia, there's a new power watching over an old passage into Afghanistan: China." According to interviews, satellite images, photographs and first-hand observations by a Washington Post journalist, it was found that Chinese troops have settled in one of the most strategic areas of central Asia, termed "a choke point in Tajikistan."

The US newspaper said, "Tajikistan - awash with Chinese investment - joins the list of Chinese military sites that includes Djibouti in the strategic Horn of Africa and man-made islands in the South China Sea, in the heart of Southeast Asia", adding "the modest facility in Tajikistan - which offers a springboard into Afghanistan's Wakhan Corridor a few miles away - has not been publicly acknowledged by any Government. But its presence is rich in significance and symbolism." The region has been (and is) still highly strategic. Last year, a publication, 'The 1959 Tibetan Uprising Documents: The Chinese Army Documents' was released on Kindle. It was a collection of top secret documents of the military intelligence of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), dating from the end of the 1950s till the 1962 war with China.

At that crucial time, China had a serious problem - it did not have an Air Force in a position to take on the Indian Air Force. The compiler of the above mentioned paper noted: "Disadvantage of the Chinese Air Force is still a major problem in case of a conflict with India. Indian jets can start at a low altitude with a full load of bombs and plenty of fuel. Also, India has many airports only about a 100 kilometres from the highest peaks of the Himalayas. Short distance and higher bomb load mean each Indian jet is at least twice if not three times more effective than a Chinese aircraft." Apart from the fact that many airplanes had been sent to the Korean front and that the Soviet Union had stopped supplying spare parts for the MIG fighter planes, the PLA Air Force (PLAAF) had a major hurdle: No fuel for its few planes.

The amount of gasoline reaching the plateau from China via the Qinghai-Tibet or the Sichuan-Tibet highways was not enough to maintain a large occupation force on the Tibetan plateau (read the Indian borders) and at the same time, provide the necessary fuel for the PLAAF. One of the published documents mentioned secret statistics for "border trade" and the import of fuel, gasoline and other commodities between 1953 and 1967.

What do the statistics show? In 1958, gasoline of 380 tonnes was imported into Tibet; in 1959, nothing; in 1960, 2,220 tonnes, in 1961, 96 tonnes and in 1962, 30 tonnes. This means that in 1960, there was a huge surge in fuel import. But import from where?

There was no possibility of any gallon passing unnoticed through Nathu-la or Jelep-la - the two main passes between Sikkim and Chumbi Valley (Tibet) - ditto for the passes in Uttarakhand or North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) (Arunachal Pradesh today) or even Demchok in Ladakh, which had been closed for trade by the Chinese.

The author of the publication presumed that "corrupt" Indian officials had let the fuel be smuggled in. That, too, was not possible. First, the officers of the Indian Frontier Administrative Service, posted in these areas, were the most upright people, and in any case, considering that a mule could only carry 40 kg per trip, it would have meant thousands and thousands of mules, which did not exist on the plateau... and they would have to have been transparent.

After pondering over the issue, my conclusion was that this amount of gasoline could not have crossed any Indian or Nepalese border post into Tibet. It left few other possibilities. One was the Soviet Union. Though it had just split with China, relations between Beijing and Moscow had reached a breaking point by 1959.

the number of unemployed persons refers to number of persons on the live register. Live Register is the systematic arrangement of Index Cards pertaining to applicants who are in need of employment assistance. India is ranked 96 with unemployment rate 8.8 and youth unemployment rate be 12.90 irrespective of these highly budgeted employment schemes. The state "Jammu and Kashmir" is world famous for saffron, it's paradise nature, it's welcoming environment, diverse culture apart from terrorism, political unrest and recruitment delay.

The students of our states, no matter how hardworking and serious aspirant they are, have to keep one thing in their mind, i.e. delay in the recruitment process. A post notified in this year can only be joined after 3 years be it Jammu and Kashmir public service commission (civil service examination), jammu and Kashmir service selection board posts, Jammu Kashmir police recruitment. The recruitment history of our state demotivates youth and in turn bring out zero results. My main motive is to bring the delay in Jammu Kashmir police sub inspector recruitment which was notified in 2016 but haven't completed till now. The illogical decision about delaying in CSE MAINS 2018, no proper channelization of recruitment policies. This is our beloved system. Every time we vote and think that things might get better but it become worse. Every deserving candidate need to fight for its rights. It's like work hard and crack the exam then go to court prove your innocence, revoke the stays, fights writs irrespective of your head on head competition you cleared.

Farah Magray,
Viva-e-mail