

Love Pakistan and Aman ki Asha campaign by The Times of India.

The year 2010 descended on us by giving a rude shock to every patriotic citizen of this country. The shock came on the very first day of the new year in the form of a "Love Pakistan" campaign launched by the Times of India newspaper through the special front cover page of the paper, with a lot more nonsensical inputs in the inside pages. The TOI in a patronising manner pointed out to us, the idiotic Indians, that to ring in a happy new year, we should learn to love and respect Pakistan and be prepared to live in amity and harmony with the people of our western neighbour. The campaign text further claims that as per a survey carried out by the paper, the Love Pakistan campaign has the overwhelming support from majority of people in different Indian cities. (Of course, you know how the survey is done!)

The Times of India is the leading English news daily in India. But it is never known as neutral and unbiased in its views and comments on government's internal and external policies, security issues, defence preparedness and various socio-political developments in the country. It has in the past published many planted and motivated reports as regular news items. Some of its editorial comments can be considered as anti-national in essence. For instance, take its comments on influx of Bangladeshi migrants into the country. The paper says that Bangladeshi migrants provide cheap labour to India and their influx is thus indirectly contributing to our economic growth. Hence, instead of condemning them, we should treat them as an asset to the nation! Take its views on Maoist menace and "Salva Judum" movement. Maoists are working for the disintegration of the country. They attack police stations and police patrol parties, kill policemen and loot their arms and ammunition. They extort money from the people and forcibly recruit tribal youths into the Maoist movement. They destroy communication towers, railway lines, oil pipe lines and try to block all our mega development projects in the country in its bid to stall our economic progress at the behest of certain foreign agencies. Though the followers of this movement are mostly poor and illiterate, most of its top leaders and senior activists are well-educated Hindu and Christian activists from urban areas, who receive vast sums of money from certain NGOs and church agencies. These activists are nothing but anti-social and anti-national elements. And the TOI says that the Maoist movement is a socio-economic problem and as such it should not be dealt with force. Instead, the government should take a conciliatory stance and engage them in talks. The "Salva Judum" on the other hand is a people's resistance movement formed by the people of Chattisgarh to resist the increasing incidents of violence and intimidatory tactics like extortion and abduction by the Maoists. The "Salva Judum" is supported by the Chattisgarh government and also major national political parties like Congress and BJP. But the TOI is not impressed. It consistently opposed the "Salva Judum" movement and wrote editorials demanding a ban on Salva Judum movement accusing it of encouraging fratricidal killings among the villagers. But the fact is that the TOI, which is sympathetic to Maoists, does not want any hurdle, opposition or resistance to the Maoist movement.

The TOI has published many such rubbish and nonsensical news items and carried out many unethical campaigns in the past. The latest in this series is the "Love Pakistan" campaign. From January 1st onwards the TOI has been using a lot of space in the paper to promote its Love Pakistan campaign. But why? Does India have any hostile intentions against Pakistan? Who declared a 1000-year war with India? Who threatened to bleed India with thousand cuts? Who is running terror camps in its territory and sending jihadi infiltrators and fidayeen volunteers to India to engineer terror attacks in India as part of Pakistan's undeclared war on India? Why is the TOI surmonising Indians to live in peace with Pakistanis? Is Pakistan ready to promote peace and friendship with India?

It was in 1987 that terrorism took root in Kashmir with Pakistan sending armed infiltrators into Kashmir. Around 17 years ago, it was Dawood Ibrahim who took Pak-sponsored Islamic terrorism from the border state of Kashmir to interior India by orchestrating a series of bomb blasts in Mumbai killing 258 people. Since then the D-company was either directly involved or had provided men and material and other infrastructural facilities to Islamic terror outfits like Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Indian Mujahiddin in engineering terror attacks in different parts of India including the 2006 serial train blasts and November 2008 terror attacks in Mumbai. According to a US Congressional report, prepared by Congressional Research Service (CRS) and released on January 5, 2010, Dawood's well-designed and well-maintained terror engine has now transformed into a 5000-member terror and criminal syndicate network operating mainly in Pakistan, India and United Arab Emirates, which has a strategic alliance with the ISI and Islamic terrorist outfits like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Ai Qaida. The US department of treasury had in 2006 named Dawood a specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) and then President George Bush had designated him and his D-company as a Significant Foreign Narcotics Trafficker under the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act. However Washington had never put any pressure on Pakistan to give up Dawood. In fact the CRS report had also clearly mentioned Dawood Ibrahim's strategic alliance and links with both ISI and LeT, which the US had designated as a foreign terrorist organization in 2001.

Dawood Ibrahim now lives with his family members in his palatial bungalow in a posh colony in the port city of Karachi. An Interpol notice sent to him in his Karachi address in 2006 further confirms Pakistan as his base of operations. Reportedly he wears a Cartier diamond-studded watch worth over 25 lakh, smokes Treasurer cigarettes, wears Masorati sunglasses and signs with a diamond studded pen that is worth a few lakh rupees. He travels in a Mercedes-500 series car and is provided escort by Rangers, Pakistan's paramilitary force, even while travelling around. Besides his involvement in extortion and terrorist activities, Dawood Ibrahim is also engaged in other businesses like real estate, investment in share market, printing of fake Indian currency, drug and arms trafficking and oil-mixing. However Pakistani authorities continue to deny his presence in Pakistan!

Besides Dawood Ibrahim, all other main accused in the 1993 serial bomb blasts in Mumbai, all the main accused in the 2006 serial train blasts in Mumbai and all the five

terrorists who hijacked an Indian Airlines flight to Kandhahar in December, 1999, are also enjoying safe asylum in Pakistan. Will the Pakistani authorities be ready to hand over all those criminals and terrorists including Dawood Ibrahim to India?

India is flooded with fake Indian currency notes printed in various government presses in Pakistan. Even as I write this message, fake Indian currency worth crores of rupees are pouring into the country through various channels from Bangladesh, Nepal, Dubai and even directly from Karachi through the sea route as part of Pakistan's bid to destroy Indian economy. See for instance some of the latest incidents of seizure of fake Indian currency.

The anti-terrorism squad (ATS), Mumbai on January 5, 2010 arrested four persons from Mankhurd for possession of fake Indian currency valued at Rs.46500. Reportedly, the accused had admitted that the fake notes, all in the denomination of Rs.1000 and Rs.500, were printed in Pakistan and smuggled into the country via Bangladesh .

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence in December, 2009 arrested three persons including a Pakistani woman for smuggling in fake Indian currency notes worth 18 lakh from Karachi to Mumbai via Dubai .

A special team of Tamil Nadu police arrested D. Manarul Sheikh (48) of Jharkhand, alleged to be one of the kingpins in the circulation of fake Indian currency notes worth millions of rupees in the country, from Jharkhand on December 22, 2009. The accused has admitted that the fake notes printed in Pakistan had been routinely brought into the country from Bangladesh and Nepal .

The Nepali police busted a major fake Indian currency racket in Nepal on December 27, 2009 when they arrested two Nepali citizens from near Kathmandu and seized fake Indian currency notes with a face value of Rs.8 million from them, reportedly printed in Pakistan. Will Pakistan stop such uncivilised and war-like activities against India?

There are about 50 terror camps still operating in Pakistani territory where jihadi recruits from both Pakistan and India are routinely trained in terrorist acts and skills and then sent to engineer terror strikes in India. Instructors in these terror camps include ISI and army officials, confirming the involvement of state agencies in running such terror camps. Every terrorist arrested in connection with various terrorist acts in India has admitted that they had undergone training in such terror camps in Pakistan. Will Pakistan close down all such terror camps in its territory and refrain from exporting terrorism to India?

The answer to all the above-mentioned questions is an emphatic "NO". Pakistan continues to deny the presence of Dawood Ibrahim or any other terrorists or criminals wanted by India in Pakistani territory. Pakistan continues to deny the existence of any terror camp in its territory or sending jihadi or fidayeen elements to engineer

terror attacks in India. This despite the fact that even on last Tuesday (12-1-2010), Numan Harshad, a Pakistani teenager and trained suicide bomber, was nabbed by the Border Security Force personnel from the Attari sector of the border while trying to infiltrate into the country. He had admitted that he was one of the seven Pakistani suicide bombers trained in a training school in Okara district of Pakistani Punjab from where Ajmal Kasab, the main accused in the 26/11 attack, also came. Similarly, the whole world knows that the November 2008 attack on Mumbai was carried out by 10 Lashkar-e-Taiba activists from Pakistan and they were in constant touch with their handlers in Pakistan throughout the operation. But Pakistan will admit none of it. More than a year has passed since the Mumbai attacks and Pakistan still refuses to confirm the Pakistani origin of nine of the accused who were shot dead. It took about four-five months for Pakistani authorities to confirm the Pakistani origin of Ajmal Kasab, the main accused who was caught alive.

This being the ground reality, the Times of India should explain as to why we should love Pakistan? Is there any scope for Aman ki Asha? What is the meaning and purpose of all these nonsensical "Love Pakistan" and "Aman ki Asha" campaigns started by the Times of India Group from January 1st, 2010 onwards, advocating the need for promoting peace and friendship with Pakistan? The answer is simple. This "Love Pakistan" campaign drama is part of a sinister operation by some western intelligence agencies led by CIA to create a congenial atmosphere among the people of India which will be conducive to an impending settlement on Kashmir. It may be noted that since the Kargil conflict, under pressure from the US, India had agreed to start a peace initiative with Pakistan. This was the price India had to pay for accepting the American mediation in the Kargil conflict. As a result of this unofficial US mediation, Pakistan withdrew most of its troops from Kargil heights and India for the first time showed willingness to talk to Pakistan for a negotiated settlement on Kashmir. There are also strong reasons to believe that the entire Kargil conflict was part of a CIA operation meant to bring around India to the negotiation table to talk to both Pakistani authorities and Kashmiri separatists to resolve the Kashmir issue to the satisfaction of Pakistan. It may be noted here that while answering a query from a journalist, Gen. Musharraf had pointed out that India's willingness to open a dialogue with Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir dispute was the greatest achievement for Pakistan from the Kargil conflict. The peace initiative got further momentum with the victory of Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) in the 2004 and 2009 Lok Sabha elections, installation of an UPA government at the Centre and the American lobby within the UPA government virtually taking control of the UPA government.

In 2006, Gen. Musharraf had come up with a 4-point formula to resolve the Kashmir stalemate. His peace formula envisages total withdrawal of Indian troops from Kashmir, grant of self-rule and autonomy to the people of Kashmir, allowing people of both parts of Kashmir to travel across the border without Passport and visa and joint supervision of Kashmir by both Pakistan and India. This four-point formula is nothing new. It was originally proposed by Kashmiri separatist leaders like Hisbul Mujahiddin leader Sayyed Jalahuddin and others. If this atrocious proposal is accepted, Kashmir will cease to be a part of India and we will lose Kashmir for ever. However instead of out-

rightly rejecting this proposal, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh quite strangely had agreed to take up this proposal during the peace talks. Formal peace talks with Pakistan were however stalled for last two-three years because of various developments like assassination of Benazir Bhutto, general elections in Pakistan and terror attacks in India, although informal peace talks between the two countries continued to take place under American pressure. Prior to the 2009 Lok Sabha elections in India, senior Pakistani leaders and also Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had repeatedly said that a proposal to resolve the Kashmir issue has almost been finalised which will not necessitate any alteration in the border.

It is now certain that there is an American conspiracy to help Pakistan to annex Jammu & Kashmir in a surreptitious manner without a war. As per this conspiracy, the goal of merger of Jammu & Kashmir with POK will be achieved through a carefully calculated strategy of forcing India to build up friendly relations with Pakistan through a peace dialogue followed by resumption of cross-border train and bus services, starting cross-border trade, media campaign and ultimately making the borders irrelevant. The proposed peace formula envisaging grant of total autonomy and self rule, total troop withdrawal, free cross-border travel by people of both parts of Kashmir without passport and visa and joint supervision of unified Kashmir by both Pakistan and India would be on the lines of the four-point peace formula suggested by General Musharraf in 2006 and now being demanded by separatists in Kashmir. As India will have no troops in Kashmir or no say in administering the state, this peace formula will in effect amount to presenting J&K on a platter to Pakistan. It appears that the UPA government is stealthily implementing this Musharraf-formula pending a formal settlement. The Centre has already withdrawn 30000 army troops (two divisions) and eight paramilitary battalions from Kashmir and has announced further troop reduction shortly. There are also move to withdraw or modify the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, (AFSPA), despite strong opposition from the army authorities. The border is also becoming increasingly irrelevant as promised by the prime minister. The strength of the state police has been hiked up to 70000 from the earlier 30000 through special recruitment drive to enable the local police to take over all additional internal security duties from the paramilitary forces. In a fresh development, the fifth Working Group on Centre-State relations appointed by the Jammu & Kashmir government in 2006 has submitted its report to the government on December 23, 2009. It was later found that there was no consensus among the Working Group members and the Working Group had not even met since 3d. September, 2007. And yet, Justice (Rtd) Sageer Ahmad, Chairman of the Working Group, submitted a unilaterally-prepared report to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah recommending autonomy for Kashmir. This report was later handed over to the prime minister. These are all dangerous signals.

Pakistan had been a staunch ally of the US for all these years and the US can never be trusted as an impartial umpire as far as the Kashmir dispute is concerned. The Kashmir peace formula is a trap. Within three years after signing it, Jammu & Kashmir will become an integral part of Pakistan. However there is a hitch. People do not know the full implications of the proposed deal. Once the details are announced, there could be a lot of opposition to it. So, a favourable atmosphere congenial for a deal over Kashmir has to be created. The "Love Pakistan" campaign of the Times of India is part of this

game. We know what to expect from Pakistan and jihadi fighters and can deal with them in an appropriate manner. But, what we have to guard against more is the activities of some of our own fellow Indians acting as fifth columnists in India.

P.S. : One news item that brought some cheers to my otherwise depressed state of mind in the new year is that two prominent NGO leaders, Medha Patkar and Sandeep Pandey, both Magsaysay award winners, were attacked by a group of tribal villagers at Dantewara town in Chattisgarh on January 6, 2010, as the villagers were angry over the two leaders who always fought for the human rights of naxalites while ignoring the plight of poor villagers who are the real victims of atrocities perpetrated by naxal cadres. The villagers threw eggs and tomatoes at the two leaders and manhandled Pandey. The two leaders were proceeding to attend a people's court being organized by naxal cadres in a nearby area. It is gratifying to note that while many educated Indians from urban areas still refuse to believe the anti-national credentials of these NGO and human rights activists, many poor and illiterate tribal villagers in the interior India have realised their true colours.

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