

## **Crimes of UPA government**

There had been many serious lapses on the part of the present government at the Centre in effectively dealing with the various security challenges faced by the country. The security scenario in the country is so bad that India has now become one of the most insecure countries in the world. The terrorism which was earlier confined to Jammu & Kashmir and the North East has now engulfed the entire nation. The situation has deteriorated to such an extent that the people all across the country are gripped with a growing feeling of insecurity and fear complex as anything can happen to anybody at any place in the country. Terror strikes and serial bomb blasts are taking place at different locations in the country at regular intervals causing blood-shed and mayhem all over the country. While the innocent and helpless people are subjected to continued brutalities by the Islamic terrorists from across the border and their agents in India, the spineless government at the Centre shows no sign of taking any retaliatory steps to tackle this undeclared war on India thereby allowing the jihadi elements in Pakistan to achieve their goal of bleeding this country with thousands of cuts.

### **UPA Government's Suicidal Policy on Kashmir**

Ever since the installation of the UPA government at the Centre, the leaders of the new regime have been advocating the need for promoting people to people contacts and friendly relations with Pakistan. Egged on by the US and its allies, both the countries soon started a peace dialogue and confidence building measures. In accordance with this policy, train services and more cross-border bus services were resumed between the two countries. Two cross-border trade links with POK were also established on October 21, 2008 fulfilling a long pending demand of the separatists in the Kashmir valley. All restrictions to travel to Pakistan were relaxed and many pseudo-secularists in the country with doubtful integrity also took regular pilgrimage to Pakistan to further cement our friendly ties. The separatists in the Kashmir valley were allowed to undertake frequent trips to Pakistan to meet their contacts and patrons including many jihadi leaders. The jihadi terrorist groups in Pakistan took full advantage of this lowering of caution and opening up of the borders by India to send their operatives to establish closer liaison with home-grown terror outfits like the SIMI and select suitable targets for terror attacks. SIMI activists and new jihadi volunteers recruited by PAK-ISI from different parts of the country were regularly taken to terror camps in Pakistan for imparting training in the use of fire arms and explosives. Thus the SIMI and the newly created Indian Mujahideen were converted into dreaded terror outfits and in association with them a number of terror attacks mainly in the form of serial bomb blasts were carried out in different parts of the country by the Pakistani terrorist groups like Leshkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad.

General Parvez Musharaf while addressing the UN General Assembly in 2005 had sought total demilitarization and self rule in J&K. This demand was originally raised by Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Jalahuddin to resolve the Kashmir issue. Taking a cue from Musharaf's demands, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) which was an alliance partner in the PDP-Congress ministry in J&K also soon started openly supporting the demand for self rule in the state. PDP leader and former chief minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed in a departure from his past stance strongly endorsed the demands for total demilitarization and self rule in the state. His daughter Mehabooba Mufti is known to have close links with the pro-Pakistani elements in the state and her influence may have been the motivating factor for his new stance. There was hardly any opposition to these demands from the Congress. In fact the prime minister appeared to have been impressed by the demands raised by Mufti Mohammad Sayeed as he soon nominated Mufti Mohammad to lead an unofficial delegation to the UN in November, 2006 so as to enable him to address the UN General Assembly and explain his concept of self rule as an ultimate solution to the Kashmir dispute. Self-rule in effect means independence and many independent

observers and intellectuals in the country were perplexed and shocked by this development and wondered as to how Mufti Mohammad Sayeed who had held very high and responsible positions in the government both at the state and central level could suddenly change his stance and become a proponent of self rule as a workable solution to the row over Kashmir. They were even more baffled by the prime minister's decision to send Mufti Mohammad to the UN to promote a cause raised and cherished by the Kashmiri militants and their patrons in Pakistan.

Meanwhile a systematic and massive campaign was launched in Kashmir valley by the separatist elements with the backing of the pro-American human rights groups and media to dub the Indian army personnel deployed in J&K as rapists, abductors and murderers of innocent people. The hate-campaign against the army was further intensified after the sudden discovery of some mass graves in places like Baramulla and Uri and NGO and human rights activists describing them as mass graves of disappeared Kashmiries who had become victims of army repression. A rights body called the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) which had allegedly conducted a two-year survey of people missing after being taken under custody by the security forces in J&K had compiled a report titled 'Facts Under Ground' giving details of missing people taken under custody, labeled as foreign militants and buried in nameless graves. The APDP which released the report in April, 2008 claimed that many of those buried in about 900 nameless graves were victims of enforced disappearance. Highlighting this claim by the APDP, Amnesty International and other international human rights organisations had painted a grim picture of the human rights situation in J&K and the separatists and rights activists in the Kashmir valley in turn had started a hysteric campaign demanding the total pull out of the army from the state. The armed forces and the J&K police had clarified that hundreds of foreign militants who were trying to infiltrate into the country were killed in the past by Indian security forces and the alleged discovery of some nameless graves played up by the rights activists were actually the graves of such unidentified infiltrators from across the border. However the UPA government did nothing to defend or salvage the reputation and honour of the army thereby indirectly giving some legitimacy to the allegations raised by the separatists against the army personnel. Although the government of India rejected the demand for total pull out of the army from J&K, it did agree for a troop reduction and restraining the army from internal security duties. Taking full advantage of this immobilisation of the army, the separatists in the valley stepped up its anti-India campaign which reached its peak after the eruption of riots over the Amarnath land controversy. By not taking stringent measures to curb the open anti-India campaign launched by the separatist elements, the authorities allowed the situation to deteriorate to such an extent that holding huge anti-India rallies, burning of Indian national flags and hoisting Pakistani flags had become the order of the day in the Kashmir valley. It is only when the state government's authority across the Kashmir valley had diminished to a dangerous level that the Centre finally ordered a crackdown on the separatists and brought the situation under control. After watching the latest flare-up in the Kashmir valley, the fifth columnists of the secular variety in the country concluded that India can no longer hold on to Jammu & Kashmir. One secularist who prefers to describe herself as a citizen of the world mobile republic attended a massive anti-India rally organised by the separatists in Kashmir valley on August 18, 2008 and later made her majestic declaration that India needs azadi from Kashmir as much as Kashmir needs azadi from India. But the assembly elections held in the state in December, 2008 had clearly shown that what the people of Jammu & Kashmir need is not azadi but good governance. Despite the poll-boycott call given by various separatist outfits in the state, more than 61% of the people exercised their franchise.

The net result of the peace dialogue, confidence building measures and softening of the border with Pakistan is that it has given a tremendous boost to terrorism in India and the Islamic terror attacks which were earlier mostly confined to Kashmir have now spread to all parts of the country. With the

resumption of more and more cross-border bus and train services, it has become easy for the terror recruits from India to avail intensive terror training at various terror camps in Pakistan and for terrorists from across the border to come, recce and select terror targets in India. The soft border also enabled the ISI and its terror allies to create a new terror monster in India in the form of Indian Mujahideen. Fake Indian currency printed in government facilities in Pakistan has also started pouring into the country in a big way threatening to destabilise our economy. The present situation in the country is such that there is absolutely no guaranty to the life and property of the people anywhere in India and the hapless and panic-stricken citizens, whether young or old, rich or poor, Hindu or Muslim are not very sure that they will live for another day.

### India Becomes a Puppet of USA

Alan Hart, a veteran British journalist who had worked for ITN, the UK's leading commercial news broadcaster, and BBC's flagship current affairs programme Panorama, during his recent visit to Mumbai in November, 2008 had expressed his disapproval of India getting itself increasingly aligned with the USA. He further said that it was unfortunate that India is now being perceived as an American puppet in the eyes of the world. Alan Hart was absolutely right in his observation as that is what India has become, an American puppet, under the UPA regime. The following instances unambiguously make it clear that India has mortgaged its sovereignty and national pride to become a subservient and junior partner of the USA.

Russia (formerly the Soviet Union) had been the main supplier of arms and other defence equipments to India for the last 50 years. France and Israel were the other two major suppliers of arms to India. This equation is now changing with the UPA government signing a number of mega arms deals with the various defence firms in the US. Prior to this dramatic pro-US tilt, India had signed a 10-year agreement with the US paving the way for stepped up military ties, including joint weapons production and cooperation on missile defence. The agreement titled "New Framework for the US-India Defence Relationship (NFDR) was signed on June 27, 2005 by US Defence Secretary Ronald Rumsfeld and India's then Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee. Under this agreement, the US has offered high-tech cooperation, expanded economic ties and energy cooperation. The NFDR also envisages stepping up of strategic dialogue with India to boost missile defence and other security initiatives, launching of a defence procurement and production group and cooperation on military research, development, testing and evaluation. It further proposes joint and combined exercises and exchanges between both sides, naval pilot training and increased cooperation in the areas of worldwide peacekeeping operations and expansion of interaction with other nations for promoting regional and global peace and stability. Joint military exercises with the US and also with some of its allies have now become a routine event which has caused some concern in countries like Russia and China and also in the Arab world.

Under the UPA regime there has been a significant upgrade in intelligence cooperation between the US and India. Signalling this upgrade, US Director of National Intelligence (DNI) J. Michael McConnell, who heads the entire US intelligence set up, had made his first visit to India in May 2008. During this visit he is reported to have met National Security Advisor M.K.Narayanan and the heads of central intelligence agencies like the IB and R&AW. His quiet trip to India was reportedly aimed to establish contact at the highest level and discuss ways to strengthen intelligence cooperation between the two countries. With 16 spy agencies under him, he is the highest ranking intelligence official in the US. McConnel again visited India on December 23, 2008 to monitor the findings of the FBI team which was allowed to conduct a parallel probe into the Mumbai terror attacks and to have consultations with Union Home Minister, National Security Advisor and chiefs of central intelligence agencies about the progress of the investigation into the Mumbai terror Attacks.

The Indo-US CEOs Forum was constituted during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to USA in July 2005 as part of the Indo-US economic dialogue. In reply to a question raised in Rajya Sabha by Brinda Karat of the CPM in January 2008, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee had stated that the Indo-US CEOs Forum whose activities are coordinated through institutions of the CII and the US India Business Council, is a forum in which the private sector representatives of the two countries interact and also discuss their inputs to the annual India-US Economic Dialogue for strengthening bilateral trade and economic linkages between the two countries. He strongly denied about any interference by the Forum in policy matters like judicial reforms, education, energy security, etc. However the facts accessed through RTI queries had revealed that the finance ministry and the Planning Commission have always worked overtime to implement the Forum's recommendations. Brinda Karat had later described the Indo-US CEO's Forum as a Super Planning Commission.

Before the final agreement for the two nuclear reactors at Koodankulam, the Russians were under tremendous pressure from the US to abort it. However they did not budge stating that it was covered under the 1988 intergovernmental agreement (IGA) signed before the revised Nuclear Suppliers Group guidelines were put in place. After finalising the text of a fresh IGA for four additional reactors contingent on fixing an appropriate safeguards arrangement with the IAEA and securing amendments to NSG guidelines, the UPA government quite strangely refrained from signing the deal even though the Russians were ready to supply the reactors. This was disclosed by A.N.Prasad, Former Director, BARC and Member, Atomic Energy Commission in his letter to the editor of English news daily 'The Hindu', dated 3d, December 2007. Reportedly the UPA government acted against the national interest and refrained from signing the deal only because of the displeasure of the US over the said deal. India signed the deal for additional reactors from Russia only after signing the nuclear deal with the US.

On August 4, 2008 Indian authorities had given permission to a North Korean plane to overfly Indian airspace on 7th. August. While seeking permission, the Korean authorities had specifically mentioned that the Korean civilian plane, an IL-62, would depart Mandalay, where it had made a stop over, around 1 pm on 7th. August and overfly Indian airspace on its way to Tehran. The permission was valid until 1 pm on August 9 and was granted under routine civil aviations rules. However on August 7th. morning the Indian authorities all of a sudden withdrew the permission granted to the North Korean plane to overfly the Indian airspace reportedly under hurriedly conveyed instructions from the Prime Minister's Office. The DGCA authorities had immediately got in touch with Kolkata Air Traffic Control and an urgent cancellation message was relayed to Yangon ATC. There was no official explanation for the cancellation of permission granted to the North Korean flight. But it is widely believed that it was done at the behest of the US which still perceived both North Korea and Iran as countries falling under the "axis of evil" list. The fact that India could not resist such pressures and interference in our dealings with other countries shows how subservient India has become to the US.

### Downturn in Sino-Indian Relations

The Sino-Indian relations which remained in a deep freeze after the border conflict in 1962 had been showing steady signs of improvement since 1980s following some positive steps taken in this regard by leaders like former prime minister and Congress leader late Rajiv Gandhi and another former prime minister and BJP leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee. However our relations with China have again taken a downturn lately because of the UPA government's indirect support to the cause of Tibetan refugees in India. This perceived change in the attitude of the UPA government towards the Tibetan refugees had emboldened the militant elements amongst them to become more assertive in their

campaign against the alleged oppressive Chinese rule in Tibet. There is also a strong group of radical youngsters among them who have started criticising the 'middle path' followed by the Dalai Lama so far and arguing for shifting their goal to total independence for Tibet.

As part of the global protest against the Chinese atrocities in Tibet, the Tibetan refugees and their supporters all over the world, mainly in Western and European countries, had carried out violent demonstrations during the Olympic torch relay prior to the Olympic games in Beijing. In India also protest meetings and demonstrations were carried out in different parts of the country and there was also an attempt by the protesters to storm the Chinese embassy in New Delhi. More than 100 Tibetan exiles in India had also taken out a protest march from Dharmasala to Tibet on 10th. March 2008 coinciding with the 49th. anniversary of the Dalai Lama's escape from Tibet after a failed uprising. However they were promptly stopped by the Indian authorities on the same day. In the backdrop of the growing demand from a section of the Tibetan exiles to leave the present middle path followed by them and seek total independence for Tibet, a key conclave of Tibetan exiles from all over the world was held at Dharmasala in India from November 17 to 22, 2008 to decide about the future course of action. The conclave attended by about 500 delegates decided to continue with the Dalai Lama's 'middle way' approach of talks with Beijing to gain genuine autonomy for Tibet. The conclave however did not rule out the possibility of changing their stand to seek total independence if their demand for genuine autonomy for Tibet was not granted.

China has not taken lightly the reluctance of the Indian authorities in curbing the activities of Tibetan refugees in India. It has now become more assertive in claiming the entire state of Arunachal Pradesh as its own territory and there had been a number of incursions into our territory by the Chinese army in the recent past. In the year 2007 alone there had been 142 such incursions into our territory. China is also claiming a small part of land called the 'finger area' located at the southern tip of Sikkim as its territory despite the fact that it has never been a disputed territory in the past. In the Ladak region also there had been frequent incursions into our territory.

Reportedly hundreds of Tibetan children are smuggled out of Tibet every year and are brought to Dharmasala, the headquarters of the Dalai Lama, for enrolling in schools in India run by the Tibetan government in exile, where they are given religious education which is denied to them in Communist China. In July, 2008 the Tibet Autonomous Region Party Committee Discipline Department had issued a warning that the children who return from schools in India and parents who fail to bring their children back to Tibet could face unspecified disciplinary action. Some civil rights bodies and the Washington-based International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) had expressed grave concern over the warning issued in this regard by the Chinese authorities. The Chinese authorities have also been making allegations that the Dalai Lama's supporters in Nepal have been luring away young children of Tibetan origin from Nepal for indoctrinating them in the Tibetan schools in India.

China is very sensitive to any criticism against its alleged oppressive rule and human rights violations in Tibet and it does not hesitate to show its anger and displeasure to any country which shows any kind of support and sympathy to any Tibetan leader opposed to the Chinese rule in Tibet. For instance, French President Nicolas Sarkozy had met the Dalai Lama in Poland on 6th. December, 2008 while attending a meeting organised by the Polish government to celebrate the 25th. anniversary of the awarding of Nobel Peace Prize to former Polish President Lech Walesa. China had earlier repeatedly warned President Sarkozy against meeting the Dalai Lama whom it described as a globe-trotting separatist who wanted to divide their country. China had also scrapped its annual summit meet with the European Union which was to take place on December 1, 2008 in protest against Sarkozy's scheduled meeting with the Dalai Lama. The day after the meeting between Sarkozy and the Dalai

Lama, China had slammed France for its gross interference in China's internal affairs. A strong protest was also lodged by the Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister with the French Ambassador to China conveying the indignation of the Chinese people over Sarkozy's action. Viewed from this perspective, the present toughening of stand by China on the border dispute with India is a natural turn of event as it coincides with the increased militancy on the part of Tibetan refugees in India.

In response to the concern expressed by the Chinese authorities over the activities of the Tibetan refugees in India, the Indian authorities in the past had assured China that India will not allow the Tibetan refugees to indulge in any anti-China activities from the Indian soil. This assurance has been grossly violated by the UPA government by allowing the Tibetan refugees in India to conduct meetings, demonstrations and campaigns against China, especially on the eve of the Olympic games in Beijing. India could have prevented it by simply issuing a stern warning to the Tibetan exiles in India. The refugees should realise their status as refugees and refrain from activities which could harm the interests of the host country. As suspected by China, the violent protest programmes organised by the Tibetan exiles and their supporters all over the world, mainly in western and European countries, over the human rights violations in Tibet was a western ploy to bring the Tibetan struggle for independence into international focus so as to embarrass and discredit China on the eve of the Beijing Olympics. It was not in India's interest to be a party to such a plot. But the UPA government preferred to be a court jester of the US.

### Unfriendly and Unreliable US

Ever since Pakistan started encouraging and engineering terrorist activities in India, we have been providing all details of such activities of Pakistan with all necessary evidence to the US authorities and demanding the declaration of Pakistan as a state sponsor of terrorism. But the US rejected all such evidences and took the stand that there was no conclusive proof to act against Pakistan.

Following Pakistan's active involvement in sponsoring terrorist activities in India, the IB and RAW had prepared detailed dossier giving details of all the evidences collected by them against ISI. A 3-member team of Home Ministry and IB was sent to Washington to hand over copies of the dossier to the US authorities and request them to declare Pakistan as a state sponsor of terrorism. But the US State Department summarily rejected the dossier. The CIA took the stand that there was no terrorism in J & K and there was no conclusive proof to nail the ISI for its involvement in sponsoring terrorism in India. Protecting Pakistan from all allegations of wrong doing in India has always been a consistent element of US foreign policy ever since 1947.

It is an open secret that the Sikh militancy that took root among the Sikh diaspora in countries like the US, Canada and England had enjoyed the patronage of some Western agencies. Talwinder Singh Parmar, a sacked saw mill worker of Vancouver in Canada and a leader of Babbar Khalsa, had issued many provocative statements threatening to eliminate Indira Gandhi. He was also wanted in India for trial in a case relating to the massacre of some Nirankaris in Punjab. Though India had sought the help of Western Intelligence agencies for his arrest and repatriation to India, they never obliged.

At India's behest, the Interpol had issued a look out notice to all member countries to arrest Parmar and inform Indian police if he was found in their territory. In 1983, the West German Police arrested him and informed the CBI about it through INTERPOL. They had also sought the details of the cases in which he was wanted and evidence against him. The CBI informed them that a CBI team with all such details will be flying to Bonn immediately and requested them to keep him detained till their arrival. However, under pressure from some local Sikh community leaders the West German

authorities sent him back to Canada and told the CBI that they couldn't get extension of his detention. Two years later Parmar had played an active role in the conspiracy for blowing up an Air India plane "Kanishka" off the Irish Coast, which resulted in the death of over 300 passengers, many of them Canadian citizens. If the West German, US and Canadian authorities had cooperated with India in repatriating Parmar, probably this tragedy could have been averted.

In July 1994, the Indian authorities on the basis of precise information arrested one of the perpetrators of the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts who had taken shelter in Karachi after the explosions. His interrogation revealed all details regarding the recruitment, training and arming of the perpetrators by the ISI, the role of the ISI in the selection of economic targets to be attacked in India and the role played by Dawood Ibrahim in the entire conspiracy. It also brought out how the ISI had shifted the perpetrators to Bangkok and kept them in a hotel for some time in order to prevent detection of their presence in Karachi by the US authorities. The RAW also learnt from its sources that under pressure from Dubai authorities to quit Dubai, Dawood Ibrahim had shifted his office and residence to Karachi and was living there as a Pakistani citizen. Though the Government of India brought all these details to the notice of US authorities, they were still reluctant to hold Pakistan responsible for such acts of terrorism in India.

The US has never been willing to cooperate with India in terrorism-related cases that could cause embarrassment to its key ally Pakistan. The US did not take any interest in facilitating investigation into the hijacking of an Indian Airlines flight IC-814 to Kandahar in December 1999 in which several ISI-linked persons were involved. Though there was credible evidence about the presence of all the five hijackers namely Mohammad Ibrahim Athar Alvi, Zahoor Ibrahim Mistri, Shahid Akhtar Sayed, Shakir Mohammad and Azhar Yusuf in Pakistan, the US did not want to put pressure on Pakistan for their return to India. The US also did not cooperate in forcing Pakistan to hand over the three men, namely Mohammad Masood Azhar Alvi (Jaish-e-Mohammad chief), Syed Omar Sheikh and Mushtaq Ahmad Zaragar (Al-Umar chief) released in return for the hijacked passengers on board the flight IC-814.

In 1992 the US State Department had alleged that there was large scale illicit opium cultivation along the Sino-Indian border in certain areas and wanted the D.G. Security to take aerial photographs of the region with an aircraft given by the US some years ago. We agreed. But they wanted one of their intelligence officers also to travel in the aircraft during the aerial photography missions. When India refused, they threatened to impose economic sanctions against India for not cooperating with the US in the fight against narcotics. India stood firm and the issue was not raked up again. But the incident exposes the blackmailing tactics used by the US authorities to force India to accept its terms.

India purchased an amphibious transport warship USS Trenton from the US for \$50.63 million in 2006. This 37-year old ship was rechristened as INS Jalashwa by the Indian Navy. A report of the CAG tabled in the Parliament in March, 2008 had criticised certain clauses in the purchase deal which put restrictions on offensive deployment of the ship and permitted the US to conduct an inspection and inventory of all articles transferred under the end-use monitoring clause. What purpose will be served by acquiring a war-ship which can not be used for any offensive deployment?

India had acquired a 'Charlie-I' class nuclear submarine on lease from the Soviet Union in 1988 to give our navy first-hand experience in nuclear submarine operations and maintenance work. It was rechristened as INS Chakra on joining Indian navy. However, not only the idea of acquiring a second nuclear submarine was given up, but even the first one was abruptly returned to the Soviet Union in 1991, reportedly because of strong objection from the US against any extension of its lease. As a result,

the expertise gained from operating INS Chakra was steadily lost as India did not operate any other nuclear submarine all these years.

But after the 1971 war, there was a joint covert operation by the US intelligence community and Pakistan's ISI to initiate an action plan for destabilisation of India. This plan envisaged encouragement to a Sikh militant movement in Punjab for an independent state of Khalistan.

### Inaction on Illegal Immigrants from Bangladesh

The root cause of all the problems and violence in Assam has been the steady influx of illegal immigrants into the state from Bangladesh. The violent agitation in the state against the influx of foreigners which started in 1979 ended with the signing of Assam Accord in 1985. Unfortunately the Assam Accord did not yield any results because of the treacherous enactment of the IMDT Act by the congress-I government at the Centre which gave legal protection to the infiltrators. The congress-I leadership justified its action as a necessary step to protect the interests of the minorities.

On April 10, 1992 Assam's then chief minister, Hiteswar Saikia, had stated in the State Assembly that there were about two to three million illegal Bangladeshi migrants in Assam. Many Muslim leaders of the congress-I in the state had reacted angrily to Saikia's statement and one of them had even given an indirect threat to destabilise the state government. An unnerved Saikia had to swallow his pride and declare that there was not a single illegal Bangladeshi migrant in Assam. In a repeat performance, on 15th July 2004, Union Minister of State for Home Sreepakash Jaiswal had stated in Rajya Sabha that there were 1,20,53,953 Bangladeshi migrants illegally staying in India, with five million of them in Assam alone. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during his visit to Guwahati the next day was confronted by a highly worried Congress Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi and other party leaders in the state who informed him about the heavy price the party will have to pay in the 2006 Assembly elections in the light of the statement made by Sreepakash Jaiswal on Bangladeshi immigrants. Under the compulsions of the vote-bank politics, the prime minister soon had to make a public statement expressing his doubts about the veracity of the statement made by Jaiswal. A week later Jaiswal himself told the Parliament that the figures quoted by him on the issue of illegal migrants from Bangladesh were not authentic. Though the MoS had to change his own statement on Bangladeshi immigrants issue, the statistics provided by him fully tallied with the figures given by former Assam Governor Ajai Singh and his predecessor S.K.Sinha and former Union Home Minister late Indrajit Gupta.

In July, 2005, the Supreme Court of India struck down the IMDT Act describing it as “unconstitutional” and the biggest hurdle in deportation of illegal Bangladeshi migrants from India. The Court also warned that large-scale infiltration from Bangladesh constituted an “external aggression” against the country and directed the Centre to take immediate steps to deport all Bangladeshi migrants from India. However despite such a strong verdict from the Supreme Court, the UPA government is not prepared to take any action to detect and deport the Bangladeshi migrants from India or to check the continued inflow of Bangladeshis into India. The growing population of Bangladeshi migrants in Assam has already created a tense situation in some parts of Assam. There had been a number of violent clashes between Bangladeshi Muslims and local villagers or police in districts like Goalpara, Udalgiri, Darang and Baska in Assam during the year 2008. In the communal violence that erupted between the Bangladeshi Muslims and local Bodo villagers in Udagiri and neighboring districts in Assam in October 2008, more than 50 people were killed and about one lakh people were displaced.



A number of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants linked with Pak-ISI or Harkat-ul-Jihad-e-Islami (HUJI) have been arrested by the police from different parts of India in the recent past for indulging in anti-national activities. A large number of Bangladeshi migrants engaged in circulating fake Indian currency were also arrested by various security agencies in the past from different parts of the country. But still the UPA government is reluctant to launch a crackdown on the illegal migrants from Bangladesh. The Supreme Court of India while hearing a PIL on 15 January, 2009 about deportation of illegal migrants from Assam had expressed its displeasure over the manner in which the government was evading taking any action on Supreme Court's earlier order for identification of illegal migrants in Assam and has sought a status report from the government on the deportation of illegal Bangladeshi migrants. The bench headed by CJI K.G. Balakrishnan also observed that the illegal migrants in India appear to be getting more facilities than the Indian nationals.

### Encouragement to Terrorism

Senior BJP leaders have always been accusing the UPA government of being soft on terrorism. But this accusation is a gross understatement. The UPA government is actually encouraging and helping all militant and terrorist outfits in the country by adopting various pro-militant policy initiatives.

### UPA Misdeeds in Jammu & Kashmir

The Congress had forged an alliance with the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the 2002 assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir despite being fully aware of PDP's close pro-Pakistani leanings. PDP Leader Mufti Mohammad Sayeed who took over as the chief minister of the Congress-PDP coalition government in the state in November 2002, used his tenure as the chief minister to consolidate and strengthen his party's mass base in the state. Mufti Mohammad's daughter Mehbooba Mufti is closely linked with all Kashmiri terrorists and separatist elements in the state and also those based across the border. She is a staunch proponent of self-rule and autonomy for Jammu & Kashmir. She had also been strongly advocating for the use of dual currency across the LOC, free trade in goods and services, free mobility of capital and labour between the two Kashmirs and shared sovereignty of an integrated and united Jammu & Kashmir. Despite such open display of anti-national traits by Mehbooba Mufti and other PDP leaders, the Congress leadership did not find it necessary to end its association with the PDP. On the contrary, it allowed the PDP and other separatist leaders in the state and their mentors in Pakistan to freely travel across the border to meet, discuss and plan their future strategy for the ongoing freedom struggle in Jammu & Kashmir in the name of promoting confidence building measures through people to people contact. In another controversial decision, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh nominated Mufti Mohammad Sayeed to lead an unofficial delegation to the U.N. to make a presentation about his concept of self-rule as a solution to resolve the Kashmir dispute before an international gathering at the General Assembly in November 2006. What was the intention of the prime minister behind such a move? Was he trying to muster international support for Mufti's self-rule and autonomy demand? Criticism from the so-called nationalist parties against this foolish and dangerous move was rather mute and subdued. Tariq Hamid Karra, Finance Minister of J&K while addressing a meeting at Srinagar on Jan.2, 2008, had demanded a separate currency for Kashmir. The Congress leadership did not press for any action against Tariq Karra for his irresponsible and provocative utterances, obviously because it did not find anything wrong with the atrocious demand raised by a prominent member of the J&K ministry.

When the supporters of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the separatists in Kashmir valley in association with some human rights organisations started a misinformation campaign against the Indian army dubbing them as rapists, abductors and murderers of innocent people during the PDP-Congress alliance rule in the state and raised the demand for the total pull out of the army from the J&K, neither the state government nor the Centre came forward to defend the army and salvage its reputation. Though the Centre after due deliberations rejected the demand for the total pull out of the army from the J&K, it reportedly agreed to a partial troop reduction in the state and against deploying the army personnel for internal security duties. The campaign against the army by the separatists and other militant elements in Kashmir valley was the result of a conspiracy by certain western agencies and the jihadi leaders in the J&K and Pakistan for bringing the alleged human rights violations in J&K to the international focus and to get the army withdrawn from the J&K. By not standing by the army and succumbing to some of the demands of the separatists, the UPA government indirectly gave credence to the allegations raised by the militants against the army and strengthened the position of the separatists in the valley.

A proposal made by the PDP leaders for providing a safe passage to the militants and those political leaders who had crossed the LOC and were staying in Pakistan and POK, to come back and lead a normal life in J&K has been under the serious consideration of the UPA government since last one year. PDP president Mehbooba Mufti had personally taken up this issue with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi. This was a clever move by the PDP and its patrons in Pakistan to resettle thousands of ISI-trained militants from POK in Kashmir valley in preparation for launching a final jihad against the Union of India. The UPA government however could not give the green signal for this proposal because of stiff opposition from various security agencies.

Ever since the UPA came to power, there were deliberate efforts to create some operational difficulties for the army units posted in J&K. In 2004, Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed had asked the army to vacate all schools, hostels, hotels and forts occupied by its units in Jammu & Kashmir. Since then the PDP leaders were consistently raising this demand and putting pressure on the UPA government to get their demand conceded by the army authorities. In September 2007, Defence Minister A.K. Antony, as per a decision taken by the UPA government, gave an ultimatum to the army to vacate all schools, hostels and hotels in J&K by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007. The army authorities had to swallow the insult and comply with the said order before the expiry of the deadline.

In April 2008, the Union government announced a big hike in the rental rates of the land and orchards occupied by the army in J&K, as per the recommendations of an expert committee set up by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh after such demands were made by some PDP leaders. The hike ranges from 200% to 500% for different categories of land and will remain in force for five years. The army and other security forces had to be deployed in large numbers in Jammu & Kashmir to protect the life and property of the people in the backdrop of deterioration in the security situation in the state because of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. It was the duty of the state and central authorities to extend all possible help and assistance to the army and other security forces in meeting their operational needs. However the UPA government's sympathy always lied with pro-separatist outfits like PDP and the army was subjected to a lot of humiliation and harassment.

A high-level panel on service sector set up by the Planning Commission in its report submitted in April, 2008 had sought the release of surplus land held by the armed forces in cantonments across the country so as to address the acute shortage of urban land for construction of hotels, multi-storeyed flats and office buildings. The armed forces in the country are reportedly already faced with a severe land crunch which has adversely affected its operational plans and training programmes. It has also

been reported that the military is managing with fewer firing and grenade ranges, training grounds and family quarters due to paucity of land. Rejecting the proposal made by the Planning Commission panel, the Ministry of Defence after consultations with the service chiefs, had pointed out that the military which holds about two lakh acres of land in its 62 cantonments in the country actually needed another two lakh acres of land for its 'key location plans' to accommodate units, fighting formations and other establishments.

### Soft Approach to ULFA

The United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) is the most dominant and dreaded terrorist and insurgency outfit in Assam. The ULFA was founded in 1979 mainly to save Assam from the threat posed by the continued influx of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and prevent the local Assamese from being reduced to a minority in the state. But over the years it changed its original ideology and objectives and allied with the ISI of Pakistan and the Bangladeshi terrorist group Harkat Ul Jihadi-e-Islami to wage a war against India. Instead of ousting the illegal Bangladeshis from Assam, it has started killing the Hindi-speaking people from other states working or settled in Assam, as part of its ethnic cleansing drive demanding a sovereign Assam. Besides the routine looting and extortion, the ULFA also engineered many terror strikes and bomb attacks across the state targeting innocent people, government properties and security forces. It also blew up many oil and gas pipelines in Assam in its effort to weaken the Indian economy as desired by its foreign masters. These operations are guided by ULFA leaders based in the shelter camps located mostly in Bangladesh.

The UPA government which had been showing a soft corner for all militant movements in the country was keen on finding a political solution to the Assam problem through a peace dialogue with the ULFA leaders. Necessary groundwork for bringing the two sides to the negotiating table was done by some social activists, most notable among them being writer Indira Goswami who had maintained friendly relations with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and also with ULFA supremo Paresh Barua. The peace talks that started between the government representatives and the ULFA-nominated People's Consultative Group (PCG) in October, 2005 however broke down in 2006 after three rounds of talks mainly because of the continued terrorist activities by the ULFA militants and the retaliatory action by the army.

The Assam police had arrested two Pakistani nationals, one Bangladeshi national and seven Indian Muslims from Guwahati and elsewhere in Assam in 1999 for being either ISI operatives or activists of Pakistan-based Harkat-ul-Mujahideen engaged in anti-Indian activities. All of them were booked under sections 121, 122 and 153(A) of the IPC which included charges like waging war against India, criminal conspiracy and sedition. Reportedly, the two Pakistani nationals Mohammad Fasih Ulla Hussaini and Javed Wakhar were top activists of Harkat-ul-Mujahideen. The arrest of these militants and ISI operatives in 1999 had created quite a lot of sensation in the country. However all of them were acquitted on 12th. June, 2008 for failure of the prosecution to substantiate the charges. There was widespread criticism in the press against the acquittal of the ten militants alleging mishandling of the case by the Congress government in the state. Former Assam Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, under whose tenure the two Pakistanis were arrested, had also criticised the Congress government in the state for its indifference in getting the accused convicted, despite having solid evidence against them.

The members of the People's Consultative Group (PCG) nominated by the ULFA leadership for conducting peace talks with the representatives of the UPA government are supposed to be independent social activists and intellectuals acceptable to the government side. However in February, 2008 a PCG member and a prominent human rights activist Lachit Bordolai was arrested under the NSA by the

Assam police in connection with an ULFA plot to hijack a plane from Guwahati to Pakistan in 2007. Another PCG member Hiranya Saikia was arrested by the Assam police under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act on 22nd. June, 2008 for acting as a conduit for communicating messages and instructions from the ULFA top brass to the field activists. In fact all the members of the People's Consultative Group (PCG) including noted writer Indira Goswami accepted as mediators by the government are very closely linked with the activities of the ULFA. How could the government accept them as impartial mediators?

Top leaders of ULFA who are mostly based in Bangladesh under the protection and patronage of Pakistan's ISI and HUJI of Bangladesh, have been projecting the insurgency problem in Assam as a political struggle between two sovereign countries ie Assam and India. Hence when the UPA government in 2004 wanted to initiate a peace dialogue with the ULFA to find a political solution to the militancy in Assam, initially the ULFA leaders insisted that the peace talks should be held in a third country as a neutral venue. Reportedly the UPA government was ready to accept this condition to hold the peace talks in a third country. B.K. Handique, the minister of state for defence, had said on 30th. May, 2004 that the government was willing to hold talks with the ULFA nominees even in a third country. However saner elements in the ministry and the bureaucracy probably realised the dangerous implications of conducting the talks in a third country and successfully sabotaged the said move. After the government's rejection of a third country as the neutral venue, the ULFA leadership finally agreed to hold the talks in India itself through a 10-member team of People's Consultative Group nominated by the outfit. Though the talks have broken off after three rounds of talks, there are some renewed efforts by some of the Congress leaders and some members of the People's Consultative Group to revive the peace talks.

The UPA government initiated the peace talks with the ULFA nominees even after the refusal by the terror outfit to drop its demand for a sovereign Assam. The government was also aware that the ULFA is now fully under the control of the Pakistan's ISI and as such it will not be in a position to take any decision on its own. Under the circumstances the peace talks drama was bound to be an exercise in futility. As many political analysts have alleged, the ULFA leaders volunteered for peace talks only whenever their cadres suffered some serious setbacks in the field and wanted to gain time to regroup and recoup themselves.

### Encouragement to Maoism

Ever since the installation of the UPA government at the Centre, there has been a spurt in the Maoist movement in the country and today about 170 districts in 15 states in India are said to be Maoist-infested and the movement is reportedly making further inroads into more and more areas, especially in the tribal regions in the country. This spectacular growth of Maoist movement in the country can be attributed to the support it receives from the powerful lobby of militant NGO and human rights activists in the country who enjoy the patronage of some top leaders of the UPA government. The UPA government from the very beginning has been showing a very sympathetic attitude towards the naxalite menace treating it as a socio-economic problem and advocating a peaceful dialogue to resolve this problem.

### Anti-Maoist Operation Sabotaged.

The UPA government's sympathetic approach to naxal movement had resulted in the sabotage of a major anti-naxalite operation in Andhra Pradesh in 2005. About 30 top leaders of the CPI-(Maoist) including State Secretary Ramakrishna and representatives from Chattisgarh and Bihar who were holding a secret meeting deep inside the Nallamala jungles in Prakasam district in Andhra Pradesh were encircled by special anti-naxalite Grey Hound Commandos on February 3d. 2005. On receipt of SOS messages sent by Ramakrishna about the imminent commando crack down on them, the pro-naxal human rights activists in the state like Varavara Rao had immediately sought the help of some top Congress-I leaders in Delhi to call off the operation. Following the intervention by the Centre the operation against the Maoist leaders was called off much to the annoyance of the Grey Hound Commandos. If there was no such intervention from the Centre, the commandos could have gone ahead with their operation and captured or killed all those top Maoist leaders which would have broken the backbone of the Maoist movement in Andhra Pradesh. The UPA government should be held accountable for all the subsequent Maoist violence and killings in the state.

### Indian Social Science Congress Honours Maoist Leader

The 31st Indian Social Science Congress was held at SNDT university, Churchgate, Mumbai from 27 to 31 December 2007. Union HRD Minister Arjun Singh had consented to be the chief guest. However since he could not come, the Science Congress was Inaugurated by Balachandra Mungekar, President of the Indian Academy of Social Sciences and Member of Planning Commission. Dr. Binayak Sen, a human rights leader and Vice President of PUCL who was recently arrested and jailed by Chattisgarh police for his close links with Maoist leaders, was honoured in absentia at the Science Congress by presenting a gold medal to him on behalf of Indian Academy of Social Sciences. He was also lauded for his fresh and innovative interpretation of Mahatma Gandhi's teachings. The UPA government obviously found nothing wrong in a dignitary like the Planning Commission Member honouring a jailed pro-Maoist leader at an official function. A citation awarded to Binayak Sen along with the gold medal states as follows.

“The Indian Academy of Social Sciences (ISSA), the National Science Academy of Science of Nature-Man-Society, is privileged to honour Dr. Binayak Sen, one of the most eminent scientists of modern Democratic Republic of India by bestowing upon him R.R. Keithan Gold Medal on the 29<sup>th</sup> Day of December in the year 2007 at the 33rd Annual Meeting of the General House at SNDT Women's University, Mumbai for his outstanding contribution to the advancement of science of Nature-Man-Society and his honest and his sincere application for the improvement of quality of life of the poor, the downtrodden and the oppressed people of Chhatisgarh, one of the richest but at the same time one of the most poverty-stricken states of India. His creative innovations in the field of social engineering are path breaking and have all the necessary potentialities for creating India as a true democratic republic rooted in the principle of equality, freedom and fraternity. What he has done by exposing himself to a great deal of sufferings and personal risks shall continue to inspire scientists as well as general public for a very long time. His name shall shine in the annals of history of science of Nature-Man-Society for ever.”

### Pro-naxal Elements Dominate Expert Committee Appointed to Study Naxal Movement.

The UPA government has allowed the induction of several NGO action group nominees into many important government committees and institutions including the Planning Commission as part of an action group conspiracy to influence the decision making process of such bodies. The Planning Commission had recently set up an expert committee to study the growing menace of naxalite problem in the country and suggest remedial measures to tackle the problem. Majority of the members in this

committee were sympathisers of the naxalite movement. Predictably the committee came out with a report describing the naxalite problem as a socio-economic problem which needs to be tackled with sympathy and understanding. The report ascribed the growth of naxalite movement to people's discontent and failure of the system and asked the government to hold peace talks with the naxal leaders. On the other hand the committee was highly critical of the 'Salva Judum', a people's resistance movement launched by the tribals in Chattisgarh to resist the violence, extortion threats and other pressure tactics of the Maoist cadres and recommended immediate disbanding of the 'Salva Judum'.

### Antipathy to Anti-terror Laws

The human rights and NGO action group activists who support all anti-national movements in India have always been opposed to all stringent laws enacted to contain terrorist acts in the country. It was under their pressure that the TADA was abolished in 1996. Following the September 11 terrorist attacks in the US and the growing incidents of terror attacks in India, especially in J&K, the NDA government enacted the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA), a new law to fight terror, in March, 2002. However the UPA government which replaced the NDA government after the Lok Sabha elections in 2004 was only too pleased to oblige the NGO and human rights lobby by abolishing the POTA, giving much relief to all militant elements in the country. Despite the steady deterioration in the security scenario in the country and recurring incidents of serial bomb blasts in different cities in India, the UPA government stubbornly resisted the growing demand from vast sections of the people for enactment of an effective anti-terror law on the lame excuse that it will be misused by the police to harass innocent people. For that matter any punitive law can be misused by the police. Does it mean that all such laws should be done away with? It is the duty of the government to ensure that such laws are not misused. The fact of the matter is that the UPA government did not want to take any steps which will displease the NGO and human rights activists and other pro-terrorist elements in the country. According to a report published in the English daily "The Indian Express" dated October 2, 2008, a stringent anti-terror law recommended by the Administrative Reforms Commission was rejected by the UPA government reportedly because Sonia Gandhi was opposed to any such law which has POTA-like provisions. She felt that there is no need for any new anti-terror law as the existing laws are sufficient to deal with terrorism.

After the terror attacks in Mumbai in November 2008, there was tremendous pressure from various security agencies and political leaders, including some prominent members within the UPA government, for enacting a new anti-terror law to effectively deal with the worsening security situation in the country. However a powerful group of pro-militant leaders within the UPA still resisted the move for any such new anti-terror law and it was finally decided by the UPA government to choose the easier option of strengthening the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA). As per the additional clauses incorporated in UAPA, an accused could now be kept in police custody for 30 days, the time limit for framing chargesheet has been extended to 180 days, no foreigner could be granted bail in a terror-related crime and the government could attach, freeze or seize the financial assets of a person involved in a terrorist act. However, unlike the Prevention of Terrorism Act, there is no provision in the amended UAPA validating the admissibility of a confession made before a police officer.

### Wastage of Taxpayers Money

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), a pet project of the powerful NGO lobby was introduced in 200 districts in the country in 2006. It was extended to another 130 districts in the country in 2007. The first draft performance audit report of the CAG on the NREGS was released in January 2008. According to this report the Employment Guaranty Scheme was a

colossal failure as the scheme meant to create 100 days of employment for one member of each of the below poverty-line families in the rural areas, actually generated on an average only 18 days of employment despite the fact that the full amount allocated for the scheme was spent. There were many irregularities in the implementation of this scheme and in some cases the muster rolls maintained for workers engaged under this scheme contained names of non-existent or dead persons. In many places the payment to workers was shown for work which was never undertaken. After the release of the CAG report about the failure of the scheme many economic experts and analysts had demanded the total abolition of this scheme. Instead, under pressure from the NGO lobby, the UPA government not only rejected the demand for its abolition but extended the scheme to all the districts in the country from April 2008. In the union budget for 2008-2009 initially an amount of Rs.16000 crore was allocated for the implementation of the NREGS. However, under pressure from the powerful NGO lobby, the Centre subsequently sanctioned an additional amount of Rs.10500 crore for this scheme taking the total allocation for the scheme to a whopping Rs.26500 crore for this fiscal year alone. Chief Justice of India, Justice K.G.Balakrishnan while addressing a Regional Conference on the NREGS at Bangalore on 22 November, 2008 had stated that though the NREGS is a progressive welfare measure, its implementation is seriously hindered by factors such as corruption, lack of transparency in payment of wages, falsification of wage records and nexus between contractors and officials. That is exactly the problem with this scheme. The NREGS is simply not a workable scheme under our present corrupt system and hence it is bound to be a failure and waste of money.

The loan-waiver scheme for the farmers announced by the Finance Minister is another such scheme which does not make any sense. This waiver originally amounting to about Rs. 60000 crore was announced as a populist measure to please the farming community and to create a vote-bank among them. But it was done without any proper study about the problems of the farmers or about the real reasons for the increasing incidents of suicide by the farmers. According to one survey report, in about 40% of the cases the loans are taken from the money lenders. It is the poorest section of farmers who are forced to approach the money lenders for loans. This is because of the extra-cautious approach of the bank officials who are reluctant to grant loans to the poor farmers as they do not want to add on to the non-performing assets of the banks. If the prospects of loan recovery are not very certain, the banks will tactfully make the procedure so cumbersome that the poor and harassed farmers would voluntarily opt to go to the money lenders. While it is necessary to address the genuine grievances of the farmers, resorting to unethical and undesirable solutions like the loan-waiver scheme would set a bad precedent for the country. The very concept of loan-waiver is highly regressive and objectionable. It makes the honest farmers who have paid back their loans look like fools while the dishonest ones are rewarded. Despite strong criticism against this scheme from leading economists in the country, the UPA government raised the allocation for this scheme from Rs.60000 crore to Rs. 71680 crore. The loan-waiver scheme has not stopped farmers' suicide in the country, but it has caused considerable damage to the country's economy.

While the UPA government was very liberal in wasting country's financial resources on and illogical schemes like NREGS and loan-waiver package, it failed to allocate adequate funds to meet the genuine requirements of the defence forces despite the extremely grave security situation prevailing in the country. Senior military officers and defence analysts have since long been demanding a minimum budget allocation of 3% of the GDP for defence. The Parliamentary Committee on Defence had also recently recommended that there should be a permanent provision in the annual budget for allocation of at least 3% of the GDP for defence expenditure. And yet India's defence allocation for 2008-09 has fallen below 2% of the GDP for the first time since 1962. Another vital sector that became a victim of government neglect is the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). The budget allocation for DAE this year is Rs.4797 crore, which is Rs.1333 crore less than the allocation made in the last year's budget.

Wasting exchequer's money on unproductive and undesirable schemes like NREGS and loan-waiver for farmers and denying adequate funds for important sectors like atomic energy, defence and infrastructure development demonstrates the UPA government's style of good governance.

### Support for Western Conspiracy to Defame India

The alleged discrimination against Dalits in India has now been internationalised with the UN Sub-commission on Human Rights held Geneva in August 2004 adopting a resolution to appoint two rapporteurs to investigate and find a solution to tackle the problem of caste-based discrimination in countries like India. The duo will work in collaboration with other UN agencies like ILO, UNESCO, the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, etc. and undertake a three year study. In the past, India had always opposed all efforts by the western countries and the powerful international Christian lobby to equate the alleged caste-discrimination in India with racial prejudice. But for the first time in the history, the representatives of the UPA government did not oppose the introduction of such a resolution and meekly allowed the adoption of this resolution equating caste-discrimination in India with racial prejudice, which has been a pet propaganda theme of Christian missionaries.

### Jamia Nagar Shoot-out

The NGO and human rights lobby as usual had tried to project the Jamia Nagar shoot-out in New Delhi as a fake encounter and claiming that the two youths killed by the police were innocent students. The Batla House operation was a meticulously planned one, carried out on specific information. It happened during the day time in a congested Muslim locality in the presence of a large crowd of Muslim onlookers who raised religious slogans while watching the raid from a distance. A brave and distinguished police officer was killed in the shoot-out and another police officer was injured. However the irate Muslim residents of the locality, supported by the human rights lobby, firmly believed that it was a fake encounter. There was no effort from the government side to nip in the bud all such malicious rumours and allegations and to reassert the genuineness of a path-breaking war-on-terror operation. A substantial section of the press and electronic media also gave credence to the lies and malicious propaganda carried out by the human rights lobby describing the Jamia Nagar encounter as a cold-blooded murder of two innocent students and cast aspersions on the genuineness of the Batla House operation. As a result of this sinister campaign by human rights activists and a section of the media, even the moderate Muslims in the country believed that the Jamia Nagar shoot-out was a fake encounter. Sensing the simmering anger among the Muslim residents of Jamia Nagar over the alleged fake encounter, senior Samajwadi Party leaders who had earlier praised the Delhi police for the success of the Jamia Nagar operation took a U-turn on the issue and rushed to Jamia Nagar to express their solidarity with the local residents on the issue and supported their demand for a judicial enquiry into the Batla House shoot-out. Top congress-I leaders like Kabil Sibal, Arjun Singh, Digvijay Singh and Salman Khurshheed also visited Jamia Nagar to extend their sympathy and support for the demands and grievances of the local Muslim residents over the issue. These leaders also reportedly apprised both congress president Sonia Gandhi and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh about the anger and misgivings among the Muslims in Jamia Nagar over the Batla House encounter and strongly supported their demand for a judicial enquiry into the incident. These leaders became silent only when the concerned agencies shared clinching evidence with them about the involvement of the two killed militants in several terror plots. The government had all the evidences to prove the genuineness of the Jamia Nagar operation. But still it did not take any timely action to clear the misgivings among the Muslims in Jamia Nagar and other parts of the country about the Batla House shoot-out and allowed the human rights lobby to project it as a fake encounter case.



## Appointment of Sachar Committee

Justice Rajinder Sachar is a human rights activist and a staunch supporter of all anti-national movements in the country like the Maoist movement, Islamic militancy, separatist movement in Kashmir and insurgency movements in the North-East. The press conferences conducted by him to condemn the arrest of Maoist leaders like Arun Fareira and Vernon Fernandez of Mumbai and pro-Maoist human rights leader Dr. Binayak Sen of Chattisgarh and the articles he had written showing his sympathy for the separatist movement in Kashmir and his air-dashing to Bangkok in 2000 to express his solidarity with top Naga insurgency leader Th. Muiva, (General Secretary of NSCN-IM, the most dominant Naga underground outfit) who was arrested by the Thailand Police for travelling on a fake passport, etc. give ample evidence for his support to various anti-national movements in the country. The UPA government cannot be unaware of his anti-national credentials. It was a crime to appoint such a man as the head of a committee to study the social, economic and educational status of Muslims in India and recommend remedial measures. Predictably he distorted the facts and submitted a biased report which was aimed to create disaffection among the Muslims in India.

The Sachar Committee Report, as expected, had created a lot of resentment and anger among the Muslim community as it confirmed their long nurtured suspicion that the existing bias and discrimination against the Muslims within the Indian society and establishment was the major factor responsible for the socio-economic backwardness of the Muslim community in India. The conclusions drawn by the Sachar Committee are factually incorrect. The minority communities in India also include Christians, Sikhs, Jains and Parsis who are doing much better than Hindus in different spheres of life. If there is any section of people who have not benefited from the social and economic development in the country, it could only be the Adivasis and Dalits. The Muslims are comparatively much better off economically. In the field of education and employment if they are lagging behind other communities like Hindus, Christians and Sikhs, it is only because of their aversion for education. Based on the recommendations of the Sachar committee, the government has announced a lot of concessions and welfare measures for the Muslim community in the form of scholarships to Muslim students, new educational institutions in all Muslim localities, 15% quota for Muslims in bank loans and special development funds for all districts in the country with 25% or more Muslim population, etc. altogether worth thousands of crores.

One of the most atrocious recommendations of the Sachar Committee was for giving recognition to madrasa degrees on par with regular college degrees and also for making the madrasa degree holders eligible to appear for competitive examinations like the civil services, banks and defense service examinations. The government's acceptance of this demand has helped a madrasa product of Darul Ulum Deoband of UP to get selection in the IAS in the Civil Service examinations held in 2008. Allowing a madrasa product without any regular academic qualification to get selection into the IAS is the worst kind of Muslim appeasement shown by the UPA government. It has also been reported that the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry is all set to recognise madrasa certificates as equivalent to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) certificates. By giving recognition to madrasa certificates on par with regular college degrees and announcing liberal central aid to madrassas, the UPA government has given a big boost to madrasa education in the country. It is widely believed that the madrasa institutions are the breeding centres of Muslim fundamentalism. The overemphasis on the superiority of Islam in the madrasa curriculum tends to make the Muslim children intolerant towards other religions which could make them prone to get easily influenced by the lure of jihadi philosophy. As such the UPA government should have taken necessary steps to motivate the Muslim masses to send their children to regular schools instead of promoting madrasa education.

The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has included a chapter in class VIII social science text book about the marginalisation of Muslims in India. The new chapter under the caption "Muslims and Marginalisation" extensively refers to the Sachar Committee Report and point out as to how the Muslims in India were kept away from availing any benefit from the social and economic development in the country. This allegation is totally baseless and the inclusion of such a chapter in a school text book which is taught in thousands of schools in India is a deliberate act aimed to subvert the minds of young Muslim children. The Centre's act of accepting the biased report of the Sachar committee and implementing its ill-conceived recommendations and including the alleged Muslim marginalisation as a subject to be taught in schools clearly indicates that there are some elements within the UPA government who are engaged in promoting Muslim militancy in India.

The Sachar Committee Report has done immense damage to India's reputation as a truly secular country. Since it is a government appointed committee, the findings of the committee would be treated by most countries as a true reflection of the status and condition of Muslims in India. It gave a wrong message to Muslims in India that they were being deliberately discriminated against. It gave an opportunity to Pakistan and other unfriendly countries to point an accusing finger at India for ill-treating an entire community due to communal bias. The November 2008 terror attacks in Mumbai were extensively covered by the international media. Commenting on the incident, a section of the press in the Western and European countries had extensively quoted from the Sachar Committee report to justify the Jihadi terrorism in India.

### Ottavio Quattrocchi Episode

In April 1998, the CBI in a court affidavit had nailed Ottavio Quattrocchi and late Rajiv Gandhi for being involved in Bofors scam. Quattrocchi's accounts in the BSIAG Bank in London were frozen in July 2003 by the British government on the request of CBI as the amount was linked to the Swish accounts of A.E.Services, a company owned by Quattrocchi which had received the Bofors kickbacks. All appeals by Quattrocchi to defreeze these accounts were turned down by the British courts following strong defence put up by the CBI. However there was a sudden change in the CBI's stance on the issue after the installation of the UPA government at the Centre. On May 31, 2005 the Delhi High Court gave a judgement quashing the proceedings against the Hinduja brothers and Swedish arms manufacturer A.B.Bofors in the Bofors kickbacks case on technical grounds that the photocopies of vital documents from the Swedish authorities submitted by the CBI were not certified. The verdict came four days after Additional Solicitor General B.Dutta conceded that the CBI was unable to get either the authenticated copies or originals of the Swedish documents on the basis of which the agencies had proceeded against the accused. Strangely enough the CBI's Director of Prosecution (DOP) S.K.Sharma gave his legal opinion against contesting the judgement. This was one of the factors that led to the defreezing of Quattrocchi's accounts. Subsequently the law ministry wrote to Britain's Crown Prosecution Service recommending the release of Quattrocchi's frozen accounts as nothing adverse was found against him. The government also sent Additional Solicitor General B.Dutta to London in December 2005 to depose before the British Crown Prosecution Service that the CBI did not have any clinching evidence to link the Bofors money to Quattrocchi's off-shore company A.E.Services and that the Government of India did not have any objection in defreezing Quattrocchi's accounts. S.K.Sharma (DOP,CBI) was also sent to London to ensure the early defreezing of Quattrocchi's accounts. On 11th January 2006 the Queen's H.C decided to defreeze Quattrocchi's accounts and \$4.5 million (Rs.21 crore) in his accounts was immediately withdrawn even as the Supreme Court was directing the Centre to ensure that his accounts remained frozen.

Ottavio Quattrocchi wanted by the CBI in connection with the Bofors case was detained by the Argentinian authorities on February 6th, 2007 on the basis of a Red Corner notice issued by the Interpol. The CBI was informed by Interpol about the detention of Quattrocchi at Iguazu International Airport in Argentina on February 7th. itself. However on February 12th. the Additional Solicitor General while responding to a petition filed in the Supreme Court by lawyer Ajay Agarwal seeking recovery of Rs.21 crore withdrawn by Quattrocchi from a British bank made no mention of the detention of Quattrocchi by the Argentinian authorities. The CBI officially released the information about Quattrocchi's detention in Argentina only on February 23d. 2007. On March 2nd. the CBI sent a team of officials to Argentina to fight the extradition case for which the papers had to be filed by 7th. March. The CBI's request for extradition of Ottavio Quattrocchi was however was rejected by the El Dorado court, Argentina on June 8, 2007 on the ground that the plea was not backed by necessary judicial documents. The court also ordered the Indian government to compensate Quattrocchi for the legal expenses borne by him in fighting the extradition proceedings against him.

In fact the CBI had hurt its own case by not providing the relevant trial court order in the Bofors payoff case to the Argentine court leading to rejection of India's plea for Quattrocchi's extradition to India. According to the Argentine court's order placed before the Supreme Court of India by the CBI on January 15, 2008, the Government of India failed to submit a court resolution ordering the issuance of the arrest order dated May 25, 1997, which is the origin and reason for the commencement of the extradition proceedings. Instead, the government had furnished the February 24, 2007 trial court order issuing a fresh arrest warrant obtained after Quattrocchi was detained in Argentina. The order was bereft of any details and gave no clue to the Argentine court as to why the arrest warrant was issued. The El Dorado court made it clear that it was not acceding to India's request only on the ground of non-supply of the May 25, 1997 order. Not providing a copy of the original arrest order of May,1997 to the El Dorado court was obviously a deliberate act on the part of the CBI to let Quattrocchi off the Hook. Earlier the Government of India had helped Quattrocchi in unfreezing his account in a London bank and releasing his money from his frozen account by rushing two senior government officials to London to expedite the process even as a petition challenging any move by the government to facilitate the unfreezing of Quattrocchi's account in the London bank was being heard by the Supreme Court. By the time the Supreme Court gave its verdict directing the UPA government to ensure that Quattrocchi's account in the London bank remained frozen, his account was already unfrozen and the money withdrawn. The chain of events clearly shows that the UPA government had helped Ottavio Quattrocchi, the Italian businessman accused in the Bofors case, to go scot-free at every stage and the CBI was not serious about getting Quattrocchi extradited to India. The UPA government is thus guilty of misleading the nation about the progress of Bofors scam investigation and wasting taxpayers' money for the numerous foreign jaunts undertaken by the CBI for conducting a sham investigation into the Bofors case.

### Boost to LTTE Movement in Tamil Nadu

There was a time when the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE) enjoyed the overwhelming support and goodwill of the people of Tamil Nadu. However after the ghastly assassination of Rajiv Gandhi by a suicide bomber of LTTE in 1991, there was a surging outrage among the people over the heinous crime and the support base of LTTE was almost wiped out from Tamil Nadu. Only some small groups of people like MDMK leader Vaiko and P.Nedumaran of Tamil National Movement (TNM) continued to extend their support to the LTTE, that too in a subdued manner. M. Karunanidhi, the present chief minister of Tamil Nadu, who was a strong supporter of LTTE had also stopped showing any open sympathy for the LTTE movement after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. After lying low for a couple of years the pro-LTTE outfits like MDMK and TNM again became active and vociferous in their support for LTTE and some new pro-LTTE organisations also started springing up in the state

with the support of some NGO action groups. However the then Chief Minister Jayalalitha dealt very firmly with such militant pro-LTTE elements and in July 2002 she imposed a ban on two pro-militant organisations, Tamil Nadu Liberation Army (TNLA) and TamilNadu Retrieval Troop (TNRT), under POTA. The Tamil National Movement (TNM) was also outlawed by the Tamil Nadu government in August 2002 and its leader P. Nedumaran was arrested under POTA. Earlier on July 11, 2002 MDMK leader Vaiko was also arrested under POTA for making public speeches in support of LTTE.

Sonia Gandhi, widow of slain leader Rajiv Gandhi, was initially very much opposed to DMK leader Karunanidhi as the Jain Commission report had made some adverse remarks against him in connection with Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. In 1997 she had demanded that the DMK which was linked to Rajiv Gandhi assassination case as per the Jain Commission report be sacked as a partner of the United Front Ministry at the Centre and pulled down the government when her demand was not met. However after the Lok Sabha elections in 2003 despite Karunanidhi's past record of being a staunch supporter of LTTE, quite strangely the Congress-I led by Sonia Gandhi decided to align with Karunanidhi's party to form the UPA government at the Centre. Very soon some NGO and human rights activists in Tamil Nadu started a campaign to get the death sentence given to Nalini, one of the four convicts sentenced to death for Rajiv's assassination, commuted to life term. Strangely their movement had the blessing of Sonia Gandhi. In 1999, ie one year after becoming the congress president, Sonia had a private meeting with President K.R.Narayanan and she reportedly told the President that neither she nor her son and daughter wanted any of the four convicts sentenced to death for Rajiv's assassination be hanged. She further pleaded that no child should be orphaned by an act of the state. The Indian Express daily dated November 20, 1999 commenting on these developments had observed that before Sonia's plea for mercy to Rajiv's killers, the congress leaders were the leading opponents to showing any mercy to them. Sonia's mercy plea silenced them all. What transpired at Sonia's private meeting with the President was revealed by Mohini Giri, former Chairperson of the National Women's Commission and acting on Sonia's plea, Nalini's death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment by the state governor in May,2000. (Front Line, November 5-18,2005) .

The campaign carried out for getting Nalini's death sentence commuted to life with Sonia extending a helping hand got wide publicity in the press and electronic media which resulted in the revival of some public support and sympathy for the LTTE in Tamil Nadu giving it a fresh lease of life. Slowly the erstwhile supporters of LTTE including DMK chief M. Karunanidhi also started airing their views in support of the LTTE. In 2006 Nalini had sent a representation to the state government seeking her early release from the jail as she had completed a 15-year jail term by then. But her plea was rejected by the government on September 14, 2006 stating that the state government can not do anything in the matter as her case was investigated by the CBI. She had moved the High Court against this order and the court battle in this regard is still in progress. Meanwhile some pro-LTTE leaders and human rights activists in Tamil Nadu have also started a campaign in support of Nalini's early release from the jail.

On March 19, 2008, Sonia Gandhi's daughter Priyanka Vadra had visited Vellore jail in Tamil Nadu to meet Nalini Sriharan who is undergoing life imprisonment in connection with Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. Priyanka had reportedly spent about an hour with Nalini. Priyanka's explanation for her controversial visit to Vellore jail to meet Nalini was that it was her way of coming to peace with loss. Some sections of the people believe that Sonia's personal efforts to get Nalini's death sentence commuted to life term was the height of her magnanimity and her daughter has surpassed her mother's largeheartedness by her Vellore visit. But what has really happened is that Priyanka's controversial visit to Vellore jail and the publicity it received created a new sympathy wave for Nalini and a new respectability to the LTTE, the outlawed organisation.

The LTTE has already regained its lost support base and influence in Tamil Nadu with the active support it receives from the state chief minister and his party and the indirect boost given by the so called magnanimous gestures shown by Sonia Gandhi and her daughter Priyanka Vadra towards Nalini. Chief Minister Karunanidhi had openly displayed his pro-LTTE leanings by penning a poem in memory of the slain LTTE political wing leader S.P.Tamilselvan who was killed in an air strike by the Sri Lankan Air Force in the first week of November, 2007. The revival of support for LTTE is not confined to Tamil Nadu alone. It has started spreading to all Tamil pockets in the country. A section of students of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi mostly hailing from Tamil Nadu had shown their support and sympathy for the LTTE and its slain leader Tamilselvan by conducting a poster campaign in the JNU campus on November 7, 2007. The posters conceptualised by one M Phil student Kalaiarasan condoled the death of Tamilselvan in strong terms and described him as a martyr. The posters also proclaimed that "Martyrs are not born, they are sown". Justifying the poster campaign, the student leaders speaking to the media people reportedly said that their brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka are fighting for their right of self determination and pointed out that the support for freedom struggles has always been relevant to the culture of the JNU and they are only carrying this tradition forward.

The LTTE in Sri Lanka had received some serious set-backs lately following the death of some of its prominent leaders and depleting strength of its cadres. The government forces in Sri Lanka have reportedly captured almost all strongholds of LTTE in the recent past and they are presently engaged in a fierce battle with the rebel forces in its bid for capturing the remaining bases of LTTE. The beleaguered LTTE leadership has been seeking the help of its supporters and well-wishers in Tamil Nadu including Chief Minister Karunanidhi to put pressure on the Centre to intervene to stop the war in Sri Lanka and force the Sri Lankan authorities to start a peace dialogue with the LTTE for an amicable settlement. Meanwhile the pro-LTTE parties, organisations and groups in Tamil Nadu have started a massive protest campaign in the state holding protest programmes, meetings and demonstrations against the killing of Tamil civilians in Sri Lanka and asking the union government to intervene to stop the genocide of innocent Tamils in Sri Lanka.

The pro-LTTE campaign in Tamil Nadu has taken a violent turn lately with the LTTE supporters unleashing a reign of terror on all those who oppose any Indian intervention in Sri Lanka. On October 14, 2008 there were two incidents targeting the office of the English news daily "The Hindu" in Coimbatore by pro-LTTE supporters belonging to the Periyar Dravidar Kazhagam (PDK) in protest against the anti-LTTE stance of the newspaper. The miscreants burnt some copies of the newspaper. Their attempt to storm the office was however averted by the police. On October 16, 2008 morning some pro-LTTE supporters belonging to PDK and Tamil Desiya Podhu Odaimai Katchi assaulted a distributor of "The Hindu" newspaper at Erode and snatched thousands of copies of 'The Hindu' and 'Business Line', doused them with petrol and set them on fire. MDMK leaders Vaiko and M.Kannappan were arrested by the Tamil Nadu police on 23d. October,2008 for threatening to start an armed struggle against the government for its failure to stop the war against the Tamils in Sri Lanka. On 24th. October,2008 a violent mob of supporters of pro-LTTE organisations like Federation of Tamil Advocates and Revolutionary Youth Front ransacked the office of Janata Party President Subramanian Swami at Lal Bahadur Shastri Road in Madurai in protest against his anti-LTTE stance. On the same day a statue of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi was found vandalised in the northern suburb of Chennai city by some unknown miscreants. In another development on the same day, Tamil movie director Seeman was also arrested by the police for making secessionist statements and justifying the assassination of former prime minister Rajive Gandhi in 1991 by the LTTE suicide bombers stating that the Tamils were betrayed by the Indian leader. Addressing a protest rally in Rameshwaram on October 19th. Seeman had also reportedly threatened to take part in an armed struggle against India if

the Centre did not intervene to stop the killings of Tamil civilians by the Sri Lankan forces. The pro-LTTE campaign in Tamil Nadu is thus now dangerously drifting towards a Tamil separatist movement in the state. The leniency and goodwill shown, inadvertently or otherwise, by the UPA government and Sonia Gandhi towards M. Karunanidhi, a pro-LTTE leader, and Nalini, an accused in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, was solely responsible for the revival of the support base of LTTE in Tamil Nadu.

### Quota Politics

The quota politics being pursued by the UPA government amounts to a direct attack on the fundamentals of the Constitution of India. Instead of striving for a casteless society, the present reservation policy of the government is only dividing the country on caste-lines. The poor and disadvantaged sections in the country definitely need help. But the OBC quota law which states that the caste should be the basic criterion for the identification of the socially and educationally backward classes will only lead to perpetuation of the caste system in the country. There are other more realistic parameters like the income of the family, educational status of the members, type of accommodation (like pucca, kutcha or no house), ownership of land and occupation to identify the backward sections in the society. How can we take caste as an identifying factor for backwardness when we do not allow caste census. The recent caste struggles in Rajasthan and Assam were caused by the flawed reservation policies of the government. The Gujjar stir in Rajasthan seeking scheduled tribe status resulted in a caste conflict between the Gujjars and Meenas. Earlier in November, 2007 the agitation launched by the Adivasi Chhatra Sangh in Assam had led to clashes between the Adivasis and the local people and the army had to be called in to bring the situation under control. Like the Gujjars in Rajasthan, the Adivasi Chhatra Sangh had also been demanding the ST status. Now the Marathas in Maharashtra are demanding 25% reservation for the Maratha community in the state. Speaking at a meeting organised by Mumbai wing of Maratha Samanvay Samiti on 20th November 2008, Shiv Sangram chief Vinayak Mete has threatened to launch a violent campaign soon if their demand for reservation was not met. Meanwhile the Congress-NCP government in the state has decided to include Marathas in the OBC category fearing that the Marathas may not support them in the coming elections. However this decision has not gone down well with the OBC and Dalit leaders in the state who fear that their quota in the government jobs and educational institutions will shrink if the Marathas are included in the OBC list. The quota politics is aimed to incite caste conflicts and thereby to divide and weaken the Hindu society. It is part of a well-designed strategy by the anti-national lobby in the country engaged in working for the destruction of Hinduism and disintegration of India.

### Appointment of Air Marshal Fali Major as Chief of Indian Air Force

The selection of Air Marshal Fali Major as the new Chief of Indian Air force was a controversial decision. He was the senior most air marshal in service and that way was eligible to be promoted as the new chief. But basically he is a chopper pilot. Each of the 20 air chiefs who served the country as the chief of IAF since 1947 has been a fighter pilot. Though there is no government rule that mandates that only a fighter pilot could become the air chief, it has been the convention and the done thing. There is also the question as to how a man who can not, as per rules, command the Western or South Western Command of IAF by virtue of his not being a fighter pilot, can be eligible to hold the post of Chief of Air Staff. According to press reports when it was decided by the government to appoint Air Marshal Fali H. Major as the new Chief of Air Staff, there was a lot of criticism within the ranks against the decision to appoint a non-fighter pilot as the new Air Chief. At least one senior Air Marshal-rank officer was quite vocal on this issue and reportedly had even conveyed his protest to the higher authorities in writing.

Eight months after taking over as the new Air Chief, Fali Major probably realised that it was difficult for a non-fighter pilot like him to do full justice to his role as the Air Chief and he had no inhibitions to admit it. In November 2007, the Defence Ministry officials were surprised to receive an unusual letter from the Air Headquarters proposing that only fighter pilots should be considered for appointment as Chief of Air Staff in future. An intriguing question arises as to why the UPA government flouted the conventions and appointed a helicopter pilot as the new Chief of Air Staff at the risk of creating internal rivalry and disunity within the ranks. Was there any malicious motive behind such a step?

### UPA Government's Sympathy for Anti-development Lobby

The anti-development lobby which opposes all major development projects like power, steel and cement plants, mega dams and ports, uranium and coal mining projects in the country enjoys the patronage of top Congress leaders. When Medha Patkar, one of the top leaders of the anti-development lobby, went on an indefinite fast at Jantar Mantar in Delhi from March 29, 2006 in protest against the Centre's clearance for raising the height of the Sardar Sarovar dam from 110.64 metres to 121.92 metres and also demanding immediate rehabilitation of all project-affected people, the UPA government had deputed three Union ministers namely Saifuddin Soz, Union Water Resources Minister, Ms. Meira Kumar, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister and Pritviraj Chavan, Minister of State (PMO) to meet Medha Patkar and express the Centre's support and sympathy with her. Minister Saifuddin Soz even joined the protest programme and sat with Medha Patkar for a few hours on April 4, 2006 to express his solidarity with the cause taken up by her. The three Union ministers later visited the project site to study the condition and problems of the displaced villagers and submitted a detailed report to the prime minister fully supporting the arguments and allegations raised by Medha Patkar.

Top officials and engineers connected with the Sardar Sarovar project and the Gujarat government had pointed out that by raising the dam height, it will be possible to provide water to more than 2000 additional villages in Kutch and Saurashtra region and also to generate 1450 MW of power. Medha Patkar is notorious for her destructive campaigns for stalling all mega development projects in the country. A world bank loan sanctioned for the Sardar Sarovar project and another loan for the project sanctioned by the Japanese government were cancelled as a result of the intensive campaign that she carried out outside the country with the help of some foreign agencies. Many mega development projects in the country were either cancelled or delayed because of the destructive campaigns undertaken by Medha Patkar and her associates during the last two to three decades causing a loss of tens of thousands of crores of rupees to the nation. Showing sympathy to such activists in itself is an anti-national act. According to a report published in the English daily 'The Free Press Journal', dated April 21, 2006, Saifuddin Soz's total support to Medha Patkar's campaign against Sardar Sarovar dam was prompted by a directive from 10 Janpath.

### Blatant Misuse of CBI

Following a PIL filed by a UP resident Viswanath Chadurvedi in March, 2007, the Supreme Court had ordered a CBI investigation into the disproportionate asset case against Samajwadi Party leader Mulayam Singh Yadav. Since Mulayam Singh Yadav was in the opposition camp then and his rival and BSP leader Mayavati was very close to the Congress, the Centre was only too pleased to order a CBI enquiry against the SP leader. However after the support extended by the Samajwadi Party to rescue the UPA government in the July 22, 2008 no-confidence motion, the CBI taking a U-turn approached the Supreme Court seeking permission to withdraw the case against Mulayam Singh Yadav who was charged with amassing wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income. The agency

in its written request to the SC said that it decided to withdraw the case after getting legal opinion from experts and “directions” from the Centre. The CBI obviously buckled under political pressure in the backdrop of the changed political equations at the Centre after Mulayam Singh Yadav extended his party's support to the UPA government following the withdrawal of support to the UPA by the left front. The Supreme Court on January 6, 2009 had slammed the CBI for its inconsistent stand in the disproportionate asset case against Mulayam Singh Yadav and asked the agency not to become an instrument in the hands of the Central Government.

In 2005 when the Bahujan Samaj Party was supporting the UPA government at the Centre, the CBI had given a clean chit to BSP leader Mayavati in the case related to Rs.175-crore Taj Heritage Corridor Scam which was filed in 2003 and even had sought the closure of the case. However the Supreme Court referred the case to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for a report on the evidence collected by the CBI against Mayavati. After examining the records, the CVC submitted its report to the Supreme Court on 18 August, 2005 informing the Court that there was enough evidence to prosecute Mayavati in the Taj Corridor case. Accordingly the Supreme Court ordered the prosecution proceedings against Mayavati, but the CBI took scant interest in proceeding with the case. However in June 2008 when Mayavati's relations with the Congress were considerably strained and she withdrew her party's support to the UPA government, the disproportionate asset case filed against her was again taken up by the CBI with renewed interest.

The most blatant and shameless misuse of the CBI by the UPA government was demonstrated by the deliberate bungling by the CBI in getting the Bofors Scam accused Ottavia Quattrocchi extradited to India from Argentina and in allowing him to withdraw the Bofors Scam money from his frozen account in a London bank. Quattrocchi's accounts in the BSIAG Bank in London were frozen in July 2003 by the British government on the request of CBI as the amount was linked to the Bofors kickbacks. On May 31, 2005 the Delhi High Court gave a judgement quashing the proceedings against the Hinduja brothers and Swedish arms manufacturer A.B.Bofors in the Bofors kickbacks case on technical grounds that the CBI had failed to produce certified photocopies of vital documents from the Swedish authorities. The CBI's legal cell strangely enough decided not to contest this judgement. Subsequently the UPA government sent two top officials to London to expedite the process of unfreezing Quattrocchi's accounts. Similarly when Quattrocchi, the accused in the Bofors Scam, was detained by the Argentinian authorities in February, 2007 as per a Red Corner notice issued by the Interpol, the CBI failed to produce the necessary vital documents for his extradition to India and as a result India's request for his extradition was rejected by the Court.

The Congress governments have always been notorious for using the CBI for political objectives and settling personal scores. By such misuse of the CBI to frame up criminal charges against political rivals or to create loopholes in the legal proceedings to allow an accused to go scot-free, the UPA government has destroyed the credibility of a prestigious government institution like the CBI. It is a crime not lesser than an anti-national act.

### Antulay Episode

After the Mumbai terror attacks, the people of India had shown exemplary unity in condemning the jihadi terror strikes and the nation's resolve to fight against the terror mongers from Pakistan. BJP, the main opposition party in the Parliament, had extended its full support and cooperation to the UPA government in taking appropriate measures in strengthening the security and intelligence network in the country and bringing the sponsors of Mumbai terror strikes based in Pakistan to justice. The entire Muslim community and the Urdu press for the first time showed rare unity in condemning the jihadi terror attacks in Mumbai and the Pak-ISI for sponsoring terrorist strikes in India. Outraged by the



mindless terror attacks in Mumbai, Muslims had taken out protest marches and demonstrations in different parts of the country against the terror sponsors based in Pakistan. They also wore black bands on Eid day in protest against the Mumbai carnage. Initially there were some comments and allegations in the cyberspace and Pakistani and Chinese media about the possible involvement of some Hindu terrorists in the Mumbai terror strikes. But soon it died out following the disclosures made by Mohammad Ajmal Kasab, one of the terrorists caught alive, and some of the affected victims and eyewitnesses. Then came the bomb shell from A.R.Antulay, Minister for Minority Affairs, that he suspected a conspiracy by the Hindu terrorists in the killing of ATS Chief Hemant Karkare and seeking an inquiry into the said possibility.

Antulay's mischievous conspiracy theory was aptly condemned by vast sections of the people and the media in the country as irrational and irresponsible. Senior leaders of BJP and some other political parties and also the media strongly demanded Antulay's ouster from the cabinet as his utterances had caused serious embarrassment to the UPA government and helped to strengthen the Pakistani argument that the Mumbai carnage was an insider job and that India was making wild and baseless allegations against Pakistan. However a defiant Antulay stood by his conspiracy theory and repeated the allegation that ATS chief Karkare accompanied by two other senior police officers rushed to Cama hospital in the same vehicle only to get killed because of some conspiracy. Following his controversial remarks, some MPs and leaders, mostly Muslims, from the Congress and other political parties also came forward in support of his stance. Some senior ministers in the union cabinet like Pranab Mukherjee, P.Chidambaram and A.K.Antony were reportedly not happy with the gross indiscretion shown by a senior cabinet minister like Antulay. However Congress General Secretary Digvijay Singh came out openly in support of Antulay by stating that Antulay had done nothing wrong as he had only expressed a genuine doubt and sought a clarification. The controversy raised by Antulay created some confusion and divisions among the Indian Muslims and a section of Muslims and Urdu press found some merit in the allegations raised by him. Thus the rare unity shown by the Hindus and Muslims in condemning Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in India in the aftermath of the Mumbai terror strikes was shattered and the national resolve to combat terror unitedly was seriously dented by the irresponsible allegations made by Antulay. On December 23, 2008 Union Home Minister P.Chidambaram made a detailed statement in the Lok Sabha explaining the circumstances that led to the killing of Maharashtra ATS chief Hemant Karkare during the terror strikes in Mumbai and made it clear that there was no conspiracy whatsoever to eliminate the Maharashtra ATS chief. He also described the controversy raised over the issue as regrettable. A.R.Antulay also expressed his satisfaction over the clarification given by the Home Minister. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh described the entire episode as the result of a human error and said that in view of the clarification given by the home minister and the satisfaction expressed by Antulay, the matter should be considered as a closed chapter. Thus despite repeated demands from substantial sections of people, political leaders, intellectuals and the media for the ouster of Antulay from the union cabinet for his irresponsible remarks on Mumbai terror attacks, nothing happened to him. After making an attempt to vitiate the communal atmosphere in the country and weakening the nation's resolve to stand united to fight against the menace of terrorism, he got away without even a scratch with his ministerial position intact.

The Antulay episode is not a simple matter and it can not be brushed aside just like that. The Congress party is run by a dictator-like leader. No party leader can make a controversial statement like the one made by A.R.Antulay and get away with it without the party supremo's approval. See what happened to Margaret Alva, a staunch loyalist for so many years. The fact that Digvijay Singh, the party general secretary and a staunch loyalist, came in defence of Antulay clearly shows that the controversial allegations raised by Antulay had the support of the party leadership. The conspiracy

theory raised by Antulay was found baseless. But there definitely was a conspiracy behind the Antulay episode. After the Mumbai terror attacks, the Hindus and Muslims in India had shown rare unity in condemning the jihadi terror and in their resolve to fight Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in the country. At the political level the main opposition party, BJP, had extended its full support to the UPA government in taking all necessary steps to tackle terrorism. Some anti-national elements within the government however did not want such united stand by the Hindus and Muslims and also by the two major political parties in India on the issue of terrorism. They want a divided India. Antulay was used by this lobby to achieve their goal and they did succeed to certain extent.

### National Advisory Council

Immediately after the installation of the UPA government at the Centre, Congress President Sonia Gandhi had set up a high-powered National Advisory Council (NAC) with herself as the chairperson to monitor the functioning of the government and to give necessary guidelines and suggestions to the different ministries in proper implementation of the government policies and programmes. This committee did not have any constitutional validity. However since Sonia Gandhi was its chairperson, all recommendations of the said council were treated as mandatory by all the ministries and the NAC thus functioned like a super cabinet. In March,2006 Sonia Gandhi resigned from the Lok Sabha and also as chairperson of the NAC following the demand raised by the BJP and other opposition parties seeking her disqualification from the Lok Sabha as she held an office of profit as chairperson of the NAC. The NAC, which remained headless for a while, was ultimately wound up a few months later. The most disturbing aspect of the composition of the NAC was that while two of its members were very prominent activists of the NGO action groups, most of the other members were also supporters or sympathisers of networking NGOs which had always acted against the interests of the country.

The instances and events explained above clearly indicate the anti-national character of the UPA government. The spurt in naxalite violence, terrorist attacks and the caste and communal divide in the country are all caused by the flawed policies deliberately followed by the UPA government. People may find it difficult to believe that a government in power which is duty-bound to safeguard the security interests of the country and protect the life and property of the people could engage in such anti-national activities. But that is the bitter and unfortunate fact. There may be some individuals in the ruling regime who are not directly associated with the crimes of the UPA government. But they are guilty of remaining silent and thereby indirectly collaborating with the anti-national activities of their colleagues. The UPA rule has been a national tragedy and a disaster, a disaster designed to perfection by a coterie of anti-national elements.

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