

English news channels' war against Modi government

(By N.T. Ravindranath)

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What has happened to our English news channels? For almost three weeks since the Times Now channel broke the Lalit-gate story on June 14, these channels had nothing worthwhile to report or debate, other than about their new superhero called Lalit Modi. This man's only fame (or notoriety) came from his association with cricket, an international game played by hardly 15 countries. This man left for London in 2010, fearing prosecution by some Indian law enforcement agencies against him in connection with some financial irregularities committed by him during his tenure as the BCCI chief. Now the opposition Congress describes him as an absconder, a fugitive, a law evader and a man as dangerous as Dawood Ibrahim. Lalit Modi who left for London in 2010 continues to stay there. The Congress was in power at the Centre till May, 2014, and if they had any information about his involvement in any serious crime, they could have easily brought him back to India. But, they did nothing like that.

Now Lalit Modi, sitting in his London residence, has started a new hobby of putting out controversial tweets on important personalities with the sole purpose of creating controversies and remaining in the news. His every-day tweets were treated like Hydrogen bombs by the pressstitutes and other Modi baiters in India, as long as it suited them. I think, something very serious is cooking up in India. How can all the news channels suddenly turn against the BJP and start a virulent campaign against the BJP ministers. There definitely is a conspiracy behind this murky drama. It all started with Arnab Goswami of Times Now breaking the Lalit gate story on June 14 about how External Affairs Minister Sushama Swaraj had helped London-based Lalit Modi to get necessary travel documents to fly to Portugal in July 2014, to be near his wife who was to undergo a surgery for cancer in one of the hospitals in Portugal. Sushama had immediately tweeted that it was only a humanitarian gesture shown to Lalit Modi, who is an Indian citizen. Reports released by the concerned authorities had confirmed that Lalit Modi's wife Mrinalini Modi had indeed undergone a surgery for cancer at a Cancer Research Centre in Portugal on 4th August 2014. The controversy should have ended with that. But no, the loud mouth Arnab wanted to project this incident as the greatest controversy and scam engulfing the Modi government, to the utter joy and relief of the disheartened and demoralized Congress leaders who were desperately waiting for an issue to corner the BJP leadership. What followed was even murkier. There was a virtual competition between different news channels in ferreting out fresh controversies and scams involving BJP ministers at the Centre and states, like Vasundhara Raje of Rajasthan, Pankaja Munde and Vinod Tawde of Maharashtra and Shivraj Singh Chauhan of Madhya Pradesh, creating an impression that the BJP ministers are as corrupt and scam-tainted as the Congress ministers. The allegation against Vasundhara Raje included usurpation of the Dholpur palace in Rajasthan. These allegations may or may not be baseless. But, certainly there cannot be any comparison with the anti-national crimes committed by the earlier UPA government. However, even the minor scams and allegations need to be probed to bring the guilty to book. But the most significant development in this sordid episode is that Arnab and company abruptly

dropped the Dalit gate as a major issue once Lalit Modi started tweeting about his links with Rahul Gandhi and Robert Vadra. This exposes the shady intentions of Arnab and company's present campaign against the BJP ministers. They have now taken up the Vyapam scam in Madhya Pradesh to maintain the tempo their attack on the BJP ministers. There is some mystery behind the Vyapam scam and the BJP will have a tough time clearing the veil of mystery surrounding the Vyapam deaths. The question still remains as to why all the English news channels have suddenly turned against the NDA government and are trying to malign the BJP ministers raising some minor lapses and improprieties as major crimes and scams and trying to mislead the people that the country has plunged into a political crisis. Though arrogant and megalomaniac, Arnab Goswami of Times Now is a good TV anchor. Why has he suddenly gone berserk and became the most hated TV anchor in the social media?

The truth is that though the anti-national government of UPA led by Manmohan Singh and controlled by Sonia Gandhi was dislodged by the NDA regime, the anti-national infrastructure in India that was painfully built up over the years by the western block of countries led by the US with the immediate aim of stalling India's progress and with the ultimate aim of India's balkanization, is very much intact in the form of vast network of activist NGOs and human rights organizations and assets in the media and bureaucracy. These satanic forces would not allow Modi to conduct the affairs of the state in a peaceful and constructive manner as it goes against the global designs of the western think tanks. The electronic media's war against Modi government has to be seen from this perspective. Coming days may see an escalation of this war against the Modi government. The US never wanted a strong and hardworking leader like Narendra Modi to become the prime minister of India, because the US think tanks knew very well that under a strong and capable prime minister like Modi India will achieve faster and greater progress which will make it that much more difficult for the US to implement its pet agenda of destabilization and balkanization of India. The malicious campaign launched by various activist NGOs and human rights organizations to defame and demonize Modi since 2002, was planned, supported and funded by some western agencies patronized by the US and its allies. The US even denied a Visa to Modi, while he was the chief minister of Gujarat, to visit the US only to strengthen the west-sponsored campaign to demonize Modi as a butcher of Muslims. But, despite all such malicious campaigns by the western agencies, Modi not only became more and more popular and powerful, but ultimately became the prime minister of India. This was a great set back for the US and its allies.

The US is a great democratic country and the lone superpower in the world. It leads the world in military power, economic might, space exploration, research in science and technology and even in the fields of films and fashion. Millions of people from all over the world, including India, have gone to the US and prospered. All such things about the US are quite admirable, and India must keep very cordial relations with such a country. But, it will be a Himalayan blunder to consider the US as a true and trusted friend or a natural ally of India. Because, for the US, India and China are its main rivals in this world. Both India and China are likely to surpass the US in economic clout and military strength in the next 30 to 50 years. This will not be acceptable to the US and its NATO

allies who want to perpetuate their world dominance for ever. They will do everything possible to stop the rise of China and India, the two potential future super powers. The US has already declared a silent war against both India and China and all the internal problems in India, like the Maoist movement, Sikh militancy, insurgency in the north-east, separatist movement in Kashmir, caste and other ethnic conflicts, etc, are all the manifestations of this silent war. In this atomic age, an open war between two major powers is almost impossible. In this era, it is through the silent war using a vast network of activist NGOs, human rights organizations and carefully cultivated strategic assets that the US overpowers its enemy to achieve its political and strategic objectives. How the US and its allies ensured the break-up of their cold war rival, the mighty Soviet Union, without firing a single shot is a classic example of this new strategy. They would have ensured the break-up of India as well if the UPA government continued in power for two more terms.

As feared by the western think tanks, the Modi government during its first year in office has initiated a number of measures to revive and strengthen the economy and for the uplift of the poor. It has also taken urgently required steps to strengthen our armed forces and boost up their declining morale. Modi's non-corrupt image, his firm grip on the administration and his assertiveness in foreign policy, etc, has clearly unnerved the western lobby prompting them to resort to desperate measures to defame and unsettle the NDA government as being witnessed now.

Modi's achievements

Modi has restored India's prestige and honour among the comity of nations. The eagerness and enthusiasm being shown by world leaders in establishing friendship with India's new prime minister is indicative of the emergence of a resurgent India. The fact that an Indian-sponsored resolution, co-sponsored by 176 other countries, declaring June 21 as 'International Day of Yoga' was unanimously passed by the UN on December 12, 2014, demonstrates the respect and clout that India under Modi commands in the world today.

The prime minister's authority has been re-established. The prime minister's office is no more remote-controlled by any extra-constitutional authority.

The cabinet functions as a cohesive unit. It is not plagued by policy paralysis or indecisiveness. The Indian economy has already started showing signs of revival. The inflation is under control. India's GDP growth rate which was steadily going down during the UPA regime has made impressive recovery during the NDA rule. The World Bank and various rating agencies have predicted 7.5% growth rate for India in 2015-16 and 8% in 2016-17. India is now considered as a big investment destination. FDI inflows have shot up by 39%. Investment commitments amounting to tens of billions dollars from the US, China, Japan and South Korea are in the pipeline. Russia has pledged to construct ten more nuclear reactors in India over the next two decades. Canada has agreed to supply 3000 metric tonnes of uranium to India over a period of five years starting from this year. Australia has also agreed to supply uranium to India as per an agreement signed between the two countries in September, 2014.

Modi has eradicated corruption at the top level. Agents of corporate houses and other power brokers have disappeared from the corridors of power in Delhi. This is a big achievement as the corruption at the top level, especially in defence contracts and coal mine allocations, etc, involving lakhs of crores of rupees had become an accepted norm during the UPA rule in India. Of course, it will take some more time to percolate this anti-corruption drive to smaller cities in the country. But, for a change, not a single corruption scam was reported during the first year of Modi government.

The NDA cabinet's first decision was to set up an SIT headed by a retired supreme court judge to investigate and unearth the black money illegally stashed abroad. The Parliament had recently passed the Black Money Bill, 2015 which provides for punishment up to ten years of imprisonment and a penalty of 300% taxes for concealment of illegally stashed black money abroad. Following persistent efforts by the Modi government, Swiss tax authorities have started giving names of Indians having illegal accounts in their jurisdiction. Giving a big boost to Indian efforts to unearth the black money stashed by Indians abroad, four more tax havens like Liechtenstein, Isle of Man, British Virgin Islands and Cayman Islands have agreed to do away with their banking secrecy ways and cooperate with India in unearthing black money held by Indians in their jurisdiction. More foreign banks are expected to come out with such offers of cooperation for exchange of information in this regard. The Union cabinet has also cleared the Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Bill on May 13, 2015, which is aimed at preventing domestic black money.

Modi's 'Swachh Bharath Mission' has brought about a new awareness among the people about the need for cleanliness in all private and public places. As part of this mission, the government has started monitoring programmes on housing, smart cities, toilet construction and waste management, with Prime Minister Modi himself monitoring the progress in this regard.

Accepting the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission, the Modi government has approved the hike in the states' share of total federal revenues from the current 32% to 42%. Through the auction of coal mines and telecom spectrum, the government is set to raise about Rs 338000 crore. This is only the beginning, as more such auctions are under way.

The Modi government has launched the following insurance and pension schemes to ensure the financial inclusion of the poor in India's march towards prosperity.

- 1) Life insurance cover of Rs.2 lakh with annual premium of Rs.320/- under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana.
- 2) Accidental insurance cover of Rs.2 lakh/1 lakh with an annual premium of Rs.12/- under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana.
- 3) Fixed minimum monthly pension to the poor ranging from Rs.1000/- to Rs. 5000/- from the age of 60 years, under Atal Pension Yojana.

With the avowed objective of funding the unfunded, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Micro Units Development Refinery (MUDRA bank) on

April 9, 2015, to encourage and finance self-employment and the small and medium enterprises. Set up with a corpus of Rs. 20000 crore, the MUDRA bank will give loans ranging from Rs. 50000/- to Rs. 100000/- to small industrial units like vegetable vendors, salons and workshops at low interest rates.

At a function held in New Delhi on June 25, 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the NDA government's flagship urban development missions, Smart Cities, Atal Mission for rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Housing For All by 2022 mission Pradhan Mantri Awaz Yojana (PMAY). The central government has decided to release Rs 3 lakh crore by way of central funding for these three missions that aim to create 100 Smart Cities, 500 AMRUT cities over the next five years and build 2 crore affordable houses across 4041 statutory cities and towns over the next seven years.

On July 1, 2015, Prime Minister Modi launched a Digital India Week in Delhi in the presence of almost all industry bigwigs in the country. On the very first day of the Digital India Week saw top industry houses pledging investments worth Rs 4.5 lakh crore in various technological ventures that can add 1.8 million jobs. Speaking on the occasion Prime Minister Modi promised a slew of digital programmes like digital lockers to store documents, e-Sign using Adhar, e-Hospital systems, National Scholarship Portal, Centre of Excellence on Internet on Things (IoT) and high speed digital highway that will make government services more efficient and easily accessible.

Even Modi's opponents agree that Modi's greatest achievement was in the field of external affairs. Apart from improving our relations with all our neighbouring countries, Modi was also able to establish very warm and friendly ties with almost all major countries in the world within a short span of one year. Prime Minister Modi visited 18 countries in 57 days. The staff accompanying the prime minister has been halved, so also the media accompanying him. Still, there was spectacular coverage of all such events. Wherever he went, he got a heroic welcome from the hosts as well as from the local people and the Indian Diaspora. The ease with which he mingled with world leaders and engaged them in discussion on policy matters was simply admirable. The skills he displayed in establishing a rapport with world leaders like Xi Jinping of China, Barack Obama of the US, Shinzo Abe of Japan, Tony Abbot of Australia and Francoise Hollande of France was simply mind-blowing.

Modi government has started a crack down on corporate espionage, involving big business houses, bureaucrats, various ministry officials, lobbyists and journalists, which was rampant during the UPA regime. Top executives from five firms and two consultants were arrested by the Delhi police in this regard for leaking classified government documents to energy companies for money. One arrested Oil Ministry staffer was reportedly making Rs. 5 lakh a month by selling photo copies of classified government documents. Firms involved in this corporate espionage case included Mukesh Ambani –led Reliance Industries, Ruia's of Essar, Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta group company Cairn India and Anil Ambani-led Reliance Dhirubhai Ambani Group (R-ADAG).

The greatest threat to India's unity and territorial integrity does not come from Pakistan or China, but from the net-working NGOs and human rights organizations funded by some western agencies. All the militant and secessionist organizations in the country are supported and funded by these NGO and human rights activists. Modi government has correctly diagnosed this menace and started taking punitive action against such activist NGOs like Green Peace India and Ford Foundation.

India's border agreement with Bangladesh will further strengthen relations between the two countries. This may soon pave the way for Indians in the north-eastern states to travel across Bangladesh to Kolkata. Bangladesh has already started reciprocating to India's gesture by taking action against separatist leaders of Assam and Tripura based in Bangladesh.

India under Modi has also demonstrated India's capacity to respond to emergency situations caused by armed conflicts or natural calamities, both in India and outside. The NDA government rescued about a thousand students from a crisis-ridden Ukraine in June, 2014. India also rescued about 1500 Indian citizens from Iraq and about 3000 people from Libya in 2014. Besides ensuring the rescue of about 3500 stranded persons from war-torn Yemen, India also quietly secured the release of a Christian priest from Taliban captivity in Afghanistan.

Modi government has taken so many steps to boost India's defence preparedness, which was deliberately neglected by the previous UPA government. Some of the steps taken on top priority are as under.

- 1) India has decided to buy 36 Rafale fighter jets from France in fly away condition, as a first step to augment the depleting strength of the Indian Air Force fighter squadrons.
- 2) The Modi government has cleared the allocation of funds for India's largest ever warship, the 65000 tonne aircraft carrier 'INS Vishal'.
- 3) In February, 2015, the government approved the construction of 6 nuclear-powered submarines and 7 stealth frigates at an estimated cost of \$ 8 billion as per Modi's plan to strengthen our naval might and indigenize defence production.
- 4) Modi government in November 2014 cleared the proposal to acquire 814 artillery guns of 155-mm calibre for Rs. 15750 crore under the Buy and Make category. As per this decision, 100 of these guns would be bought off the shelf and the remaining would be manufactured in India. This is a very important decision as after the Bofors fiasco of 1987, India has not imported any kind of artillery guns from outside.
- 5) Reportedly, India is going ahead with its plan to develop another ICBM, the Agni-VI, code-named as 'Surya' which will have Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) capability and a manoeuvrable re-entry capability. Though its range is currently kept as classified, it will reportedly have a strike range of 10000 km. It is likely to be flight-tested in 2017.
- 6) India has acquired the infrastructure development rights to develop two Indian ocean islands, namely Agalega and Assumption from Mauritius and Seychelles respectively, to checkmate the growing influence of China in the region.

Modi government's mistakes and blunders.

Though Modi government was not tainted by any scam, it has committed many mistakes and blunders. Appointment of Smriti Irani as the HRD minister was a serious mistake, as she, being an undergraduate, was not qualified for this job. Smriti Irani is a competent person and she could have been given some other ministry. The NDA government quite naturally received a lot of flak from the opposition for this avoidable lapse. Prime Minister Modi's prolonged silence over the 'Ghar vapsi' programmes and the communally provocative utterances of some Hindu fringe group leaders, including some of his own party MPs, had alienated many of his supporters and strengthened the anti-BJP feelings and fears of the minority communities. Modi, after a long wait, had finally come out with a statement condemning such communal utterances. But it was too late, as the BJP had paid a heavy penalty by then by losing the state elections in Delhi. Another distressing fact in this regard is that the BJP could have easily swept the Delhi elections if it was conducted within three or four months after the 2014 Lok Sabha elections.

Obama's India visit

Inviting US President Obama as the chief guest at India's Republic Day function was a mistake. It was generally considered as a big diplomatic coup by Modi, and a great victory for India. But, that is a misconception. More than India and Modi, it was the US which wanted to get closer to Modi-led India after all that he had done to defame and insult Modi. India should realize that while friendly relationship with the US is desirable, we should maintain utmost caution in all our dealings with a dangerous ally like the US. All friendly overtures of the US towards India should be treated like the proverbial Dhritarashtra's embrace. The invitation extended to Obama to be the chief guest at the Republic Day function in India was a God-given opportunity to Obama to mend US-India relations. What did India achieve by Obama's visit? His visit was by and large successful, but his parting shot that India could achieve greater progress if only it could contain the communal fringe elements and stuck to secular credentials, demolished Modi's efforts to present himself as a secular leader.

Service tax hike

The Union budget for 2015 presented by finance minister Arun Jaitley hiked the service tax to 14% from the current 12.36%. The hike will hit the common man badly. Eating out, buying property, staying in hotels, travelling, and mobile, insurance and credit card payments have become costlier from June 1st onwards. This was quite avoidable as this is not the way to usher in the good days and good time.

Defence preparedness

The Union budget presented for 2015 was a big disappointment for the defence sector. Senior military officers and defence analysts have since long been demanding a minimum budget allocation of 3% of the GDP for defence. A Parliamentary Committee on Defence had long back recommended that there should be a permanent provision in the annual budget for allocation of at least 3% of the GDP for the defence expenditure. However, the UPA government had been consistently refusing the demand for a

reasonable hike in the defence budget. With the installation of the Modi government at the Centre, there was great expectation that there will be a substantial hike in the defence budget. However, the NDA government had allocated only less than 2% of the GDP for defence in the budget for 2015. This was shockingly unexpected. The Modi government should look into this urgent and genuine demand of the armed forces and hike the defence allocation to 3% of the GDP at least within the next two years.

OROP fiasco

During his election campaign speeches before the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, Modi had given a commitment that if voted to power, his government will fulfil the long-pending demand of the retired defence personnel for the implementation one rank one pension (OROP) formula. It is true that this is a three-decade old demand which despite open protest programmes by the retired defence personnel in the form of return of their gallantry medals and making a bonfire of their artificial limbs, etc, the earlier UPA government consistently refused to entertain. However, when it became clear to them that they were not going to return to power, they approved this demand just before the 2014 elections, but allocated only Rs. 500 crore, instead of Rs.8500 crore required for the initial implementation of this demand. It means that they were not serious about implementation of this proposal. Whatever may be the duplicity and flip-flops of the UPA government in this regard, Modi government, having given a commitment to implement this demand if voted to power, should have gone ahead and fulfilled this promise immediately after taking over the charge. Modi government's indecision on this issue even after completing one year in office has invited a lot of criticism from the congress which now accuses the Modi government of betraying the trust and sentiments of the armed forces personnel. The Congress-led UPA government which tried to weaken our armed forces in every possible way and did everything possible to keep our defence personnel frustrated and demoralized during their ten-year rule are now accusing the Modi government of breach of trust and betrayal solely because of the inept handling of the issue by the NDA government.

It was reported that one reason for the delay in announcing the acceptance of the OROP formula is that similar demand may also come from the paramilitary personnel and the possible demoralization among them if they are not brought under this scheme. This is ridiculous. The OROP is a commitment given by the Modi government to the armed forces. The career and service conditions of defence personnel are not comparable with that of paramilitary personnel. If such a demand is entertained, there would be similar demands from some other sections of forces and it would amount to opening the Pandora's box. The real reason could be the cold war between the IAS-IFS lobby and the military top brass. The IAS-IFS lobby is always opposed to any favours or concessions being given to the military personnel. There is considerable resentment among the military top brass about the manipulative politics being played by the IAS-IFS lobby taking advantage of their closeness to the civilian authorities, to deny the military personnel their legitimate rights and dues. They firmly believe that all their troubles like their systematic degradation in their status, perks and promotion prospects had happened in the past mainly because of the manipulative politics being played by the IAS-IFS lobby. The government should ensure that there are no shady characters playing petty politics to hold up or sabotage the OROP scheme.

Tackling the menace of anti-national NGOs

The Modi government has already initiated some measures to curb the anti-national activities of some activist NGOs. However, these NGOs enjoying the support and patronage of the US, its NATO allies and the church are too powerful and cannot be effectively dealt with in the normal course. These activist NGOs are responsible for stalling or delaying all our developmental projects like thermal and nuclear power plants, coal and uranium mining projects, steel plants and big dams and ports. For instance, though the MOU for the 52000 crore POSCO steel plant project in Odisha was signed in 2005, the work on this 12 million tonne per annum project is yet to begin because of the NGO-sponsored anti-POSCO agitation by the villagers and suspension of green clearance by the environment ministry. There are thousands of other projects all across the country similarly stalled or delayed by the problems created by the anti-development lobby or environmental ministry. During the UPA rule, Sonia Gandhi herself had played a leading role in stalling various development projects using her loyalists in the National Advisory Council. Sonia's close friend and former NAC member Aruna Roy had personally campaigned against many mega development projects in the country including the Kudankulam nuclear power plant. The Vedanta Resources had sought the environmental clearance for its Rs 5000 crore alumina refinery in Odisha in March 2003, for which the clearance was granted in September 2004. However, the refinery's functioning depended upon the bauxite mined from the Niyamgiri Hills, for which a separate clearance had been sought. But the local tribals, instigated and supported by some local and foreign NGOs, opposed any mining in the hills raising environmental and rehabilitation issues. Rahul Gandhi himself had led the local tribals' agitation against the Vedanta Resource's Rs. 4500 crore bauxite mining project in Niyamgiri Hills. After a prolonged legal battle, clearance for both the refinery and the mining project was rejected by the Centre. It is some local NGO activists, funded and supported by the foreign NGOs, who instigate and influence the illiterate local villagers by giving them money and liquor and incite them to oppose all developmental projects in the country. They even show documentary films to convince the people how a particular project was going to adversely affect their health and livelihood. Former environment minister in the Manmohan Singh cabinet, Jayanti Natarajan, had openly admitted a few months back that she was forced to deny environmental clearance to many developmental projects under the pressure from the top leadership of the party. This was a clear indictment against Sonia Gandhi for her role in stalling or delaying our development projects. Still, the Modi government has failed to expose and nail Sonia Gandhi for her anti-national activities.

After sending a 26-page rebuttal to the home ministry over the allegations raised against the NGO Greenpeace India, Samit Aich, executive director, Greenpeace India alleged that the MHA has used unfounded allegations and arbitrary penalties against his NGO in a blatant attempt to silence them. He asserted that they remained proud of their campaigns for clean air, water and affordable energy and determined to resist all moves to intimidate them by such dirty tricks. He said that the ministry was hiding behind technicalities and its intention was to silence dissent. He further charged that it was an attempt to shut Greenpeace down by a ministry that lacks the courage to come out and say so directly. (Hindustan Times, May 9). Such defiance by the NGO Greenpeace

India clearly indicates that the government has to take harsher measures to crush these NGOs to safeguard our national interests, if necessary by enacting sterner laws, as Russian President Putin did in Russia recently. Troubled by the western NGOs, Russia on May 24, 2015 enacted a new law that allows the government to prosecute NGOs that are undesirable. Those who work for such undesirable NGOs could face six years in jail. The law says that any organization posing a threat to the country's security can be designated undesirable.

Failure to expose the anti-national activities of the UPA government

A major mistake committed by the Modi government was that it deliberately ignored to expose the seditious/anti-national activities of the UPA government and bringing the guilty ones to book. The ten-year misrule of the UPA government led by Manmohan Singh remains as the darkest chapter in the history of independent India, because of the seditious activities of some of the ministers and other party leaders. Some of the major crimes of the UPA government are listed below.

Helped the spread of jihadi terror in India

In the name of peace talks and confidence building measures with Pakistan, the UPA government removed all travel restrictions to Pakistan. More cross-border bus services were introduced and train services between the two countries were also resumed. Two cross-border trade links were also established with POK, which was actually a long-standing demand of the separatists in the Kashmir valley. With the lifting of all travel restrictions, it became easy for the SIMI and Indian Mujahiddin voluntaries to go across the border and get trained in Pakistani terror camps. Various jihadi terrorist groups in Pakistan took full advantage of this lowering of guard by the Indian authorities to send their operatives to India and select terror targets in India for their future terror attacks. The Indian Mujahideen later started conducting regular terror attacks, mainly in the form of serial bomb blasts, in different parts of the country with the support and guidance of Pakistani terrorist groups like Lashkar-e-Toiba. The serial train blasts that took place in Mumbai in 2006 and the Mumbai terror attacks of 2008 were probably the two biggest terror attacks that the world has seen in the recent past. Yet, we allowed the culprits involved in such attacks to go unpunished. Thus the UPA government's pro-Pakistan policy was solely responsible for the spread of jihadi terror in India.

Abolition of POTA

The UPA government encouraged terrorism. The first act of the UPA government after coming to power in 2004 was abolition of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA). When the jihadi terror was becoming deadlier and the Maoist menace was spreading like wild fire, what was the logic behind abolition of a tough anti-terror law like the POTA? Even after the Mumbai terror act of 2006, Sonia stonewalled the demand for enacting a tough anti-terror law.

Mufti sent to UN to canvass for self-rule in Kashmir

In November, 2006, the UPA government sent an unofficial Kashmiri delegation led by PDP leader Mufti Mohammad Sayeed to the UN to make a presentation at the world body explaining the need for self rule and full autonomy for Jammu and Kashmir which

could pave the way for an independent Kashmir. Thus, the UPA government encouraged the campaign for an independent Kashmir.

Pakistan's agents as interlocutors on Kashmir

The UPA government on October 13, 2010 appointed a 3-member team of interlocutors to initiate a dialogue with different sections of people in Jammu and Kashmir and submit their recommendations to help the government to resolve the Kashmir problem. The interlocutors assigned with this task are noted journalist Dileep Padgaonkar, academic Radha Kumar and former information commissioner M.M.Ansari. However, two of these interlocutors, namely Dileep Padgaonkar and Radha Kumar were later found to be linked to Dr.Syed Gulam Fai, Executive Director of Kashmir American Council, an ISI under-cover front based in Washington DC. Dr.Fai was arrested on 18th July, 2011 by the US Justice Department on charges of illegally receiving up to 4 million dollars from the ISI and trying to influence the US politicians and opinion-makers on the Kashmir issue. Fai, who was accused by the FBI of being a spy for the Pakistani spy agency ISI, pleaded guilty on December 7, 2011 to the charges levelled against him. The Kashmir American Council also runs two subsidiaries called Kashmir Centers at Brussels and London. The KAC and the two Kashmir Centers routinely conduct international peace conferences on Kashmir to mobilize and canvass support for Pakistan's stand on Kashmir. Radha Kumar, one of the three interlocutors, had attended a Kashmir conference organized by the Kashmir Centre in Brussels in 2006 where as Dileep Padgaonkar had attended such a conference in Washington DC in 2010. Following the arrest of Dr.Fai in July,2011, details of Fai's Indian agents, including Dileep Padgaonkar and Radha Kumar, had appeared in all the news papers. Even then the UPA government refused to remove them from the interlocutors' panel.

UPA government encouraged Maoist movement

The UPA government was very sympathetic to the Maoist movement. It treated the Maoist movement as a humanitarian problem and prevented the security agencies from taking any stern action against the Maoists. The Maoists are known to indulge in routinely harassing and intimidating innocent villagers by subjecting them to extortion, looting and kidnapping. They even attack police stations, CRPF camps and police patrol parties, loot arms and ammunition and massacre hundreds of police personnel. In one such attack alone 76 CRPF personnel were massacred at Dantewade in Chhattisgarh on April 6, 2010. In another attack on a motorcade of Congress leaders in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district on May 25, 2013, 28 people, including Mahendra Karma,the founder of Salva Judum, an anti-Maoist outfit, and Pradesh Congress committee president Nand Kumar Patel were killed and 32 people were injured. In another instance, it was found that the Maoists had surgically implanted an IED in the stomach of a slain CRPF jawan at Latehar in Jharkhand on January 7, 2013, intended to kill those who were trying to shift the dead body. Even the IAF helicopters engaged in providing evacuation and logistics support to paramilitary forces deployed in Maoist-infested areas had come under ground fire from Maoists on many occasions. This being the true state of affairs, how could anyone consider the Maoist movement as a peaceful and humanitarian movement?

Dr. Binayak Sen, a pro-Maoist doctor undergoing imprisonment for his Maoist links was in absentia honoured by the government with a gold medal for his contribution to the society at the Indian Social Science Congress in Mumbai in December, 2007. On being released on bail in April, 2011, he was appointed as a member of the Planning commission's Steering Committee on Health. This is how the Maoists were treated by the UPA government.

An anti-national appointed to head the Muslim grievances panel

Retired chief justice of Delhi High Court Rajinder Sachar is a known sympathizer of Maoist movement, ULFA, Kashmiri separatists and Naga insurgents, as can be proved by his articles and statements on such topics posted on the net. In January, 2000, Sachar had strongly condemned the arrest of Th. Muiva, General Secretary of National Socialist Council of Nagaland-IM (most dominant Naga insurgent group) and had sought the intervention of Government of India to get him released. He later flew all the way to Bangkok to express his solidarity with the arrested Naga leader Th. Muiva. It may be noted that Muiva was arrested by the Thailand police on January 19, 2000 while he was travelling from Karachi to Bangkok on a fake South Korean passport. Sachar held the view that the Muslims are discriminated in India. He also considered the separatist movement in Kashmir, Khalistan movement, Maoist movement and various other insurgency movements in India as liberation movements and had given his open support to such movements. It was such a traitor that the UPA government appointed to head the Commission to study the grievances of Muslims and suggest remedial measures.

Efforts to depict Batla House shoot out as fake encounter

The Batla House shoot-out in Delhi was a meticulously planned operation, carried out on specific information. It happened during the forenoon hours on a sunny day on September 19, 2008, at Jamia Nagar, a congested Muslim locality in Delhi, in the presence of a large crowd of Muslim onlookers who raised religious slogans while watching the raid from a distance. Two young terrorists were shot dead in the operation. Inspector R.C. Sharma, a brave and distinguished police officer was also killed in the shoot-out and another police officer was injured. Two other terrorists however managed to give a slip to the police and fled from the scene. The irate Muslim residents of the locality however refused to believe that the two boys shot dead were terrorists and described the shoot-out as a fake encounter. This was supported by a section of senior Congress leaders with the blessing of the top Congress leadership, only to create an alienation among the Muslims in India.

Soft towards Sikh militancy

In a strange and controversial decision, the UPA government removed 142 of the 169 hardcore Punjabi militants from its blacklist. These wanted persons whose names have been deleted are believed to be currently based in Pakistan, the US, Canada, Norway, France and Germany. Those who have benefited from this baffling gesture of UPA government include four dreaded Punjab terrorists based in Pakistan, namely, Wadhawa Singh, chief of Babbar Khalsa International, Paramjit Singh Panjwar, chief of

Khalistan Commando Force, Ranjit Singh @ Neeta, chief of Khalistan Zindabad Force and Lakhbir Singh Rode, nephew of slain terrorist Jarnail Singh Bhinranwale and President of International Sikh Youth Federation. The removal of their names from the blacklist will enable them to move freely around the world or return home.

Closing down of CIRUS research reactor

CIRUS was a research reactor at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) at Trombay, near Mumbai. It was supplied by Canada in 1954. This 40 MW reactor went critical on July 10, 1960. India conducted its first nuclear test at Pokhran (Pokhran-1) in 1974 using the plutonium produced by the CIRUS reactor. However, under pressure from the US, and as part of the nuclear deal signed with the US, India was forced to close down the CIRUS reactor on December 31, 2010, though it had a life of 20 more years. The CIRUS was a symbol of growth of our country's civil and strategic atomic programme, and most of the nuclear scientists in the country, including late P.K.Iyengar, one of the architects of India's first nuclear test in 1974, were extremely angry and upset over the forcible closure of the CIRUS reactor. Why did India agree to such an anti-national clause?

Sonia Gandhi, a queen of corruption

Sonia Gandhi is a queen of corruption. She had helped her family friend Ottavio Quattrocchi in every possible way to go scot-free from the charges levelled against him in connection with the Bofors scam. She had even sent the additional solicitor general B.Dutta and S.K.Sharma (DOP,CBI) to London in December, 2005 to facilitate the early release of \$ 4.5 million of Quattrocchi's frozen account in the BSIAG Bank in London. According to a front page report in the English daily tabloid 'Mumbai Mirror' dated September 15, 2012, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had met Sonia Gandhi on August 31, 2012, i.e.the day he returned from the non-alignment summit in Tehran, and conveyed to her that his office had cleared the coal block allotment on the recommendation of her political secretary Ahmed Patel. Manmohan Singh was reportedly forced to clarify his position by the drubbing he was getting in the media over the coal-gate scam and the aspersions being cast on his integrity.

Dr Subramania Swami had written a letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on November 24, 2010, informing him that Sonia Gandhi's sisters Anushka and Nadia had received Rs 18000 crore (\$3.3 billion) each, amounting to 60% of the total kickbacks in the 2G scam. He had also written some more letters to the prime minister about the various other corrupt and shady dealings of Sonia Gandhi, with evidence. He had also conducted a press conference in Chennai in November, 2010 alleging the role of Sonia Gandhi in various mega scams in the country. Dr Subramania Swami is a former Union law minister, and the serious charges made by him against Sonia Gandhi cannot be taken lightly. However, there was no probe ordered against Sonia Gandhi, nor was there any defamation suit filed against Subramania Swami in this regard.

Prestigious neutrino project was sabotaged and stalled

An underground neutrino research lab that was to come up at Singara in Nilgiris,Tamil Nadu was successfully sabotaged by Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh in 2010. The paper work on the project had started in 2002, and the site selection committee

after verifying the suitability of many locations, finally selected Singara in Tamil Nadu as the most suitable site for the project. However, some foreign-funded NGOs and environmental activists started a campaign against this project raising the issues of environmental pollution and threat to wild life, etc, and managed to get this project shifted to Bodi West Hills in Theni district of Tamil Nadu. This site was earlier rejected by the site selection committee earlier for not being suitable enough for the project. Even at the new site, the work on the project is held up because of an agitation against the project by some local villagers, instigated by some foreign-funded NGOs by spreading all kinds of falsehood against the project. Even the approach road to the new project site is yet to be completed. The neutrino science is not just a new science, but it is the science of the future. The whole universe is filled with neutrinos. And yet, the scientists know very little about these mystery particles. Thousands of scientists all over the world are engaged in unveiling the hidden mysteries of these elusive particles. The experiments being carried out by the European Organization for Nuclear research (CERN) at its research lab in Geneva are also linked with the neutrino research. The proton-colliding experiments at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at Geneva with tentative evidence for the existence of Higgs boson (the God particle) has already created a sensation among the scientific community in the world. The neutrino research is certain to open the floodgate of new mysteries and revelations that could shock the mankind. We will now come to know more about the black hole, antimatter and dark energy. It is such an important project that the Sonia loyalists have successfully stalled and delayed.

Attempts to defame and demonize Intelligence Bureau

There were blatant attempts by the CBI to defame and demonize the Intelligence Bureau by implicating IB officers in plotting and abetting the murder of some jihadi terrorists who were killed in encounter with the police, claiming them as innocent Muslims. For the first time in independent India, the IB was forced to produce some classified papers in a trial court. The fact that even the prime minister could not stop an open and awkward confrontation between two national security agencies indicates the involvement of some extra constitutional power centre to malign the IB and weaken its operational capabilities..

Anti-development lobby patronized by Sonia-led NSA

There is a very strong anti-development lobby in India which opposes all major development projects in the country like power, steel and cement and nuclear power plants, mega dams and ports, uranium and coal mining projects, raising the issues of environmental pollution, rehabilitation of project-affected people, loss of livelihood of people, etc. As a result of the activities of this lobby, hundreds of prestigious mega developmental projects in the country are indefinitely delayed and many other proposed projects like the Vadhavan port in Maharashtra, Umbargaon port in Gujarat and Haripur nuclear plant in West Bengal have been abandoned. What amounts to a grave concern is that during the UPA rule, this anti-development lobby was whole-heartedly supported and patronised by the Sonia-led NAC. 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 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. 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. Medha Patkar is notorious for her destructive campaigns for stalling various mega development projects in the country. Her friend and a former NAC member Aruna Roy had also extensively campaigned against various development projects in India, including the Kudankulam nuclear power plant. Another Sonia loyalist Jairam Ramesh had withheld the green clearance to many mega development projects and had even blocked the construction of many border roads raising the bogie of environmental pollution.

Sabotage of defence projects

The Indian Navy's proposal for India's first strategic underground naval base at Rampilli near Vishakhapatnam that was meant to house its nuclear-armed submarines was shot down by the environment ministry in April, 2013, with the regional office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) opposing the diversion of over 600 hectares of reserved forest land for the said purpose citing a strong possibility that it may affect the water table and soil moisture content in the area.

The Navy's proposal to set up a missile testing range at Tillanchong island in the Andaman and Nicobar islands was shot down by the environment ministry in October, 2012, as the said island was the habitat of an endangered bird Nicobar Megapode. Raising the bogie of threat to another endangered species of bird 'Narcondam Hornbill', the Environment Ministry in 2012 refused to clear a critical Ministry of Defence (MoD) project to install a surveillance radar along the coastline in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Sabotage through blacklisting of foreign defence firms

Former defence minister A.K. Antony's blacklisting of almost all major international defence manufacturing firms on flimsy grounds was mainly responsible for the serious shortages of equipments and spare parts faced by the armed forces during the UPA rule, which had forced the former army chief V.K. Singh to write a letter to the prime minister about the alarming state of affairs in the army. Some of the defence firms were blacklisted on rumours or unsubstantiated charges. Such blacklisting spree at the behest of Antony had started choking our defence needs and adversely affected our defence modernization programmes. It is an open secret that almost all arms companies maintain and use millions of dollars of slush funds to clinch their mega defence deals. Though it is always desirable to avoid any kind of irregularity in the arms contract, including availing the services of an arms broker, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has to study the existing patterns, availability and urgency of the items required and such other practical aspects of the deal before rejecting a deal. The MOD's decision in such matters should not be guided by any fanatic commitment to a false

notion of self-righteousness and moral convictions, if such a decision leads to a weakening of our defence preparedness endangering the country's security interests. The comptroller and auditor general (CAG) report submitted on May 8, 2015 (for the period up to March, 2013) pointed about glaring deficiencies in Tejas light combat aircraft's electronic warfare capabilities that could compromise its survivability in combat. It said that the self-protection jammers could not be fitted on LCA Mark-1 due to space constraints and glitches in radar warning receiver, where as LCA Mark-II is still under development. A second report of CAG on ammunition management projected the massive ammunition shortage faced by the army with reserves that would barely last 20 days in intense fighting. The report added that stocking of ammunition at 'minimum acceptable risk level' was not ensured, as availability as on March 2013 was below this level in respect of 125 out of a total of 170 types of ammunition. The UPA government was the most corrupt government that the independent India has ever seen. If the same government takes such a moralistic stance on checking corruption in defence procurement deals, it is certainly not aimed at curbing corruption, but meant only to weaken our defence preparedness. Non-corrupt, but incompetent A.K. Antony apparently was more than happy to cooperate with the scheming Sonia in her vicious game plan to weaken India's military might.

Comments

Sonia Gandhi is basically an Italian citizen and a suspected loyal agent of the Catholic church and the US. But how could our Indian leaders like Antony and Jairam Ramesh be a party to such anti-national activities? How could Manmohan Singh remain as a silent spectator to such seditious activities? The crimes committed by the UPA ministers and other Congress leaders are not ordinary crimes but crimes against the nation and hence cannot be pardoned. Ironically, the same Congress traitors are now raising all kinds of allegations against the Modi government and trying to create hurdles before India's march towards progress. It was a criminal lapse on the part of Modi government not to have exposed the seditious activities of the UPA government and brought all the traitors to book.

One reason why the Modi government could not act against the Congress traitors could be that there are some pro-Sonia elements even within the BJP and RSS. This is clear from the fact that articles in praise of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi had appeared in 'Organizer', the mouthpiece of the RSS, in the past.

An immediate provocation for the present west-sponsored war against the Modi government could be the action initiated by the Ministry of Home Affairs against the foreign-funded NGOs, especially the FORD Foundation. The FORD Foundation is reportedly closely linked with the CIA. The Foundation started its operations in India as early as in 1952. It is an important agency engaged in protecting the American interests all across the world and any attack on this agency is likely to invite strong retaliation from the US in every possible way.

Frustrated and marginalized BJP leader L.K. Advani had recently hinted that an emergency-like situation arising in India again could not be ruled out. Advani is a seasoned politician and his unwarranted and uncalled for comment definitely has a deeper meaning. Everyone knew that his target was Narendra Modi. The present anti-BJP campaign by Arnab Goswami and company may transform into an anti-Modi

campaign soon with all opposition parties and anti-Modi elements, even those within the BJP, ganging up against the Modi government. Those who have observed Arnab Goswami ever since he broke the Dalit-gate story on June 14, may agree that Arnab has crossed all journalistic ethics and decency and has become a law unto himself. No government can tolerate such behavior from a media personality. Democracy does not give unlimited freedom and license to a TV anchor to threaten, blackmail or abuse a Union or state minister. A time may come when the government will be forced to take action against such an anchor. Advani was probably hinting about such a possibility.

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