



BEYOND mountains

There Are More Mountains
Is there still a silver lining?

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“Z” security and CISF for Baba Ramdev.

Unguarded Airports under terrorist threat

CISF (Central Industrial Security Force) is a Central force, that guards important government buildings/installations, facing threat perception or are very sensitive from security angle, as also to protect the mammoth installations, such as airports, industries like Jamnagar Refinery of Reliance amongst others. The industrialists make payment for the services they avail from CISF. Shockingly, our 8 major very sensitive airports, domestic and international, and 19 sensitive airports have not been provided CISF security, which, unambiguously, demonstrates that even in such sensitive installations, where the planes worth several lac crores are stationed, not only of our Domestic Airlines but International Airlines also land and take off, it's an open invitation to the terrorists to blow up our installations, as we fail to guard them. God forbid, collapse of Civil Aviation sector would bring economic catastrophe; rather if a single airport comes under terrorist attack, it will raise international concern.

It is amazing and shocking that Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Ashram in Haridwar, has been provided adequate force by CISF to guard it. It betrays lack of understanding on the part of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs; Kiren Rijiju. Replying to a query raised by the Congress MP, Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia, that how come Patanjali has such security network and airports have been left out, at whose mercy? Ramdev also enjoys 'Z' category security. Not only that, his flunky Acharya Balkrishna, said to be his childhood friend, also enjoys adequate personal security.

CISF Security cover to Patanjali ashram is unwarranted in view of the fact that airports are without CISF security cover. If at all there is a terrorist strike, and terrorists enter Patanjali, even if there is threat perception, there are no vital installations in the Patanjali, production line may be harmed or destroyed, it may be loss of 'atta' noodles, 'heeng peda', or other Ayurvedic products.

Jokes apart, national interest should supersede all others. Babas, in India, have been a privileged lot, Dhirendra Brahmachari, Sai Baba of Puttaparthi, Asaram Bapu, Nirmal Baba, latest version, addition is Ramdev, only difference is they made money by pontificating and sermonizing religious scriptures, as Babas' game is a game of guile and gumption, to mislead the people at large. But Ramdev's strategy was to establish himself, as yoga teacher first and when his breathing exercises were adopted by people throughout India and other countries, he earned public goodwill and trust, he then switched on to Ayurvedic products, now he is running a full-fledged industry / empire and claims his sales will touch 10000 crores annually. Therefore, the government should withdraw CISF force from Patanjali Ashram and should be diverted to airports first. Let Baba Ramdev arrange and manage security of his empire himself, there are lot many private security agencies, will be ready to render their services to Patanjali.

CISF is not only neglecting to guard airports but also Hotel Taj, Mumbai, which bore the maximum brunt of 26.11 attack, Mr. Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia, further informed that even Sai Baba Mandir has not been provided CISF security, a place, I believe, which is most vulnerable to terrorists' attack as at any given point of time, there are tens of thousands of devotees present there.

The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, replied that in the deployment of CISF, there is a process which is followed and inputs are taken from IB, processed and proper procedure is followed. I 'm sure such a ridiculous, absurd and weird logic will tend to make even horses laugh. Going by the minister's statement that IB inputs must have been received regarding the threat perception to Patanjali and surprisingly, the IB inputs made no single mention of any airport under threat. Leave alone threat from Pak backed terrorists, even the local modules or home grown terrorists would certainly try to sabotage other important installations rather than targeting Patanjali. In fact, this portrays his outlandish conduct as he is not capable to define and determine how and where CISF security should be deployed. It seems he has been inducted in the ministry, to please and placate the people of North-East.

I think the government needs to guard its turf and forte first and then Patanjali. This is a grave impropriety and putting national interest in jeopardy but this is nothing new. In this BJP regime, many horrifying things are happening. Political class is a trusted index of hypocrisy and duplicity, cronyism and conflict of interests, it's all rhetoric and is ideological ammunition for public consumption only.

Mammoth contributions of Bhagat Singh and other martyrs ignored.

We are an ungrateful nation, we value the sportspersons more than our martyrs. We are proud of Saina Nehwal, an ace Tennis player with international place, considered to be affable with no artificial aura, as she romps home victorious with number of medals but one thing which has demeaned her is asking for her Padmabhushan, I believe, such national awards should come and flow automatically keeping in mind your exemplary contribution or success in a particular field, once you ask for a title, for your stupendous contribution towards a game or where you represent yourself, it undermines your personality.

Various governments in the last 20-30 years have adopted an approach of conferring Padma Awards on those whose profile is devoid of merit. The most glaring example of misuse and abuse of the government authority is to consider and confer Padma Award, as in the case of Sachin Tendulkar, cricketer, for his empirical achievement in cricket in a career spanning over 2 decades. No one would dispute that not only he is a master blaster but is masters' master. But very few will disagree with me that conferring Bharat Ratna on Sachin was a hysterical bloomer on the part of those who were at the helm of affairs and who were jostling with each other to do Sachin this proud.

Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya, and Vajpayee have been conferred with this award. Vajpayee is not an issue at present and regarding MM Malviya we can't ignore his contribution towards education but awarding it after over 100 years sounds bizzare. If it is so then why did the govt develop a tunnel and myopic vision that Shaheed Bhagat Singh did not fit into the scheme of things, contribution of Bhagat Singh towards the independence movement was unparralled. No one offers himself to be crucified and carry the cross. But he had the platelets to lay down his life with Rajguru and Sukhdev.

Freedom may have come after many years as such movements don't bring results instantly, even the present young generation may not be knowing much about Malviaya but are aware of martyr Bhagat Singh. I don't mean to undermine Malviya's contribution but certainly if both have to be categorized I would certainly go with Bhagat Singh. It is not only him, there have been number of public figures who have been demeaned and not recognized for their contributions. During struggle days of Bhagat Singh, like fog in the sugarcane fields, terror engulfed the entire country of the ruthless power of British Raj and with the sweeping powers with the Britishers, it was not easy to carry out the anti-British crusade.

Entering the Parliament, National Assembly, hurling a bomb without hurting anyone, shouting Bharat Mata ki jai was no mean achievement, the intention of Bhagat Singh was to convey the spirit of freedom fighters who wanted to relieve us from the shackles of slavery but the Britishers twisted all laws, in a contrived manner, and hanged Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev. Even this sacrifice did not move our present and earlier governments I would say the governments forfeit their right to govern.

The way Bhagat Singh has been treated with disdain that even he has not been recognized as a martyr. It is a poignant tale of abject neglect by successive governments, in not recognizing their unparalleled sacrifice, may be, our govt chases the popular sentiment, plays to the gallery. In fact, the conferment of such an awards now, as it appears, is in line with Britishers way of conferring title of 'Rai sahib' and 'Sir' on Indians who were faithful to the Britishers. Delhi being the center of power, quite a chunk of awards are claimed by people in Delhi, you have a cardiologist, neurologist, gastroenterologist, nephrologist, urologist all these specialty doctors have acquired this award because any one as a patient who is all powerful in politics, bureaucrats, helps them to claim the award, As the doctors even filmstars get this award and rarely based on any merit.

Sant Singh Chatwal NRI, close friend of former US President Clinton, was conferred with Padmabhushan, as some Union Minister availed his hospitality on his visit to US , all the taint of smear attached to Chhatwal and shame was ignored though it was an established fact that he was an international crook, the contrived profile defeated the deservability. Even now the same pattern is being followed.

We should confer such prestigious and meritorious award on people who deserve like Bhagat Singh, Field Marshal SHFJ Manek Shaw as he was the hero of 1971 war, Lt. Justice HR Khanna who sacrificed his seniority career was kept away from becoming CJI because he ruled in a minority judgment that freedom of speech and personal liberty is right of citizen no matter the state is in state of emergency. But public memory is short and memory of politicians who call the shots always remains in a state of irreversible coma. None was conferred with Bharat Ratna.

Women empowerment, a dirty joke on women.

At times, when we face certain intractable situations and we fail to solve the issues, grope and whistle in the dark, fail to overcome them or win over, we just leave it at that, forget it and accept it as a fate accompli. This can be an individual's approach but Governments cannot shy away from tackling those issues. Cases such as rape cases, where the victim is brutalized, tormented, is a victim of a gang rape, invites public outcry. More so, if it occurs in big cities and when after the gang rape, the victim is strangulated or burnt alive, there is a public outrage of tidal dimension as it happened in the case of Nirbhaya.

After Nirbhaya, people thought that there will be a steep decline in such cases if not totally eliminated. But this did not happen and we continue to read in the newspapers, cases of gang rape, occurring day in and day out, in national dailies and vernacular papers but government's approach is flaccid, callous and it pulls up its socks, in a knee jerk reaction, and announces a slew of measures which are for public consumption and an effort that reeks of hypocrisy.

In Rohtak, a girl was gang raped by the same boys who raped her three years ago. They were out on bail. They must have been monsters, beasts, to repeat this act with brazen temerity even as they were being tried by the court. In fact, these 5 youths were harassing and threatening the family to withdraw the case, reach out of court settlement. There is good amount of money offered in such cases by the accused family to the inspector (I.O.) who carries out the investigations, also buckles under pressure and weight of the politicians who side with the accused.

This is a coercive, criminal and illegal way to send them a clear threat that either you withdraw the case or you will face another gang rape of the girl. What does it point out to, the fatal weakness of our corrupt police, and law enforcing agencies, that people do not have any fear of law, at times, accused are granted bail as in this case. The case will be settled by the court based on the chargesheet filed, if the IO has been taken care off well by the accused, he will leave some loose ends, to make the case weak which will in turn benefit the accused, may result in his acquittal.

I blame the Judiciary, the police, our Executive and above all Human Right Activists', NGO's, so called social reformers' and arm chair intellectuals, whose heart bleed for the accused. There is a lady lawyer, who appears on the Times Now debates, you talk of death penalty, she jumps, as if she will pounce on the panelist and the empathy and compassion she shows towards the accused, it betrays as if someone in her family is also facing gang rape charges.

It is therefore, explicit that Human Right Activists, Judiciary and Executive are squarely responsible for this. Whenever we talk about passing any strict laws against rapists like chemical castration, bobbittize, those indulging in rapes and death penalty in every rape case, judiciary always waves a red flag. Justice (Late) JS Verma Committee constituted after Nirbhaya, refused to lower down the age of juvenile from 18 to 16, he despised such an idea, notwithstanding, the fact that such crimes are committed by the boys, all in the age group of 16-22-23.

Rape case trial goes for years and years, barring a few exceptions, like Pushkar rape of a foreign national which was decided in 27 days. If the trial prolongs, it gives the accused, an opportunity to browbeat and threaten the victim's family to withdraw the case and settle it out of the court. This is what happened in the case of a hapless girl from Rohtak as those 5 accused were out on bail.

The conduct of our law enforcing agencies, at times, is like a case of a fence eating the crop, like an incident happened, and keep on happening, a girl was gang raped and she went to file a criminal complaint to the police station and she faced another trauma, a double whammy, when she was raped by the policeman himself, maybe she invoked the mercy of the God as the police man acted a marauder.

Oh God !, save us from our saviours.

The problem is, we have taken in our stride, that the cases of rapes and there after the burning of the body, cannot be stopped and, therefore, let us accept it as a common malaise, a law and order problem. Ask the victims and their families, in number of cases, acid is thrown on the face and the body of the rape victim or the one who spurns the advances of the accused and she is murdered. I do not think any society, even with a vestige and modicum of sensitivity, will countenance this kind of inhuman and beastly act.

Now is the time for the government to implement the following laws

- Death penalty for gang rape
- Lowering the age of juvenile form 18 to 16
- Jail is an exception and bail is a right -should not apply in rape cases. There should not be a provision of bail, barring a case where the court or the prosecution finds some sort of a lacuna or loose ends and which may give benefit of doubt even during the trial. Those who pour acid on the girls who are maimed for life. In case of acid attacks, death penalty should be imposed. I have watched lawyers, in the panel in debates, on various news channels, it gives you a feeling of revulsion against those who still call death penalty, a violation of human rights. Human rights to whom?

Patanjali is all organic, rest is caustic!

We go through Patanjali products advertisements, we are made to believe that all preparations biscuits, oil, spices, herbs, etc. cause cancer, if manufactured by any other company but Patanjali. It is only Patanjali products which are pure, nutritious, healthy and safe. It was a sinister design of Ramdev with the abetment and active, overt collusion of the govt that Maggi noodles was declared cancerous, and was thrown out of the window. It was to pave way for Patanjali noodles to capture the market. When Patanjali noodles made strong foothold in the market, Maggi noodles were permitted an entry.

Once again, a new innovation by Patanjali, its tooth brushes are also organic, stupendous achievement indeed!

Tomorrow, Patanjali may claim that its toilet brush is also organic. Wait a while, we will become an organic nation.

How could a person, a self-proclaimed Baba, reach empirical heights in business, whose turnover crossed 11000 crores, may be, he is close to the powers, as he is, he has a land bank of 11500 acres, a person so weak and coward, who, to escape police arrest, during 2011 Jan Lokpal Bill Andolan, ran away incognito in salwar", and to commemorate the chivalry of Ramdev, should not we start celebrating as "Salwar Diwas".

Surgical strikes, an act of valour of our soldiers.

Don't drive political mileage.

I strongly condemn the opposition parties for politicizing the surgical strike carried out by our forces in POK, destroying 8 terrorist camps with 40 terrorist killed and 9 Pak army jawans who gave them support and cover. Some political mercenaries slump to sickening depth of moral depravity, they question whether such a surgical strike was ever attempted. This kind of politics reeks of politicians' disdainful conduct, that even in the matter of national security and national interest, they try to break new grounds, to keep the issue open and on boil, thus giving it a political colour and further shore up peoples' frayed tempers confounding the confusion.

The unsavoury controversy spawned by Kejriwal, followed by Sanjay Nirupam and Digvijay Singh of the Congress, astonishingly, even, PC Chidambaram, joining bandwagon of louts, regarding the authenticity of surgical strike, in POK, has triggered nationwide angst and anguish over demeaning our soldiers.

Though our democracy is 70 years old and we also proclaim to be the largest democracy of the world but the conduct of our peoples' representatives, Parliamentarians, and Legislators, is absurd, loathsome and it betrays their sick mindset with obscurantist tendencies. For them, scoring brownie points, over one another, is the fulcrum and the objective of being in politics.

Almost the entire cabinet, important ministers; Defense Minister, Manohar Parrikar, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Ravi Shanker Prasad Singh, have made it a ritual to appear on the TV or address press conference or speak to media persons, at least, once in a day, going in a gung-ho mood, eulogizing Modi for the bold step, having given free hand to the army to devise its own strategy and strike wherever it feels necessary and appropriate.

Not only the ministers, the TV panelists, almighty Sambit Patra, Ratan Sharda, Sudhanshu Trivedi, I call them legendary panelists. All these persons, attributed the success of this surgical strike to Modi's pragmatic policy to cull Pak sponsored terrorism. It was more than a matching response to Uri attack by Pak sponsored terrorists. This successful surgical operation has disturbed Pak's juggernaut. It is a fact, our army has done us really proud.

Just see the conduct of our ministers, politicians and spokespersons on different TV channels, going in public, every day, repeating the same thing as if they are carrying coal to New Castle. No one is denying or underestimating the valour of our armed forces and Modi for reposing faith in the armed forces but giving ball by ball account, by entire BJP and Sangh Pariwar, is retrogressive to national interest .

The opposition, which has placed a very bizarre and absurd demand to see the footage of the operation, should not be spared. I think there should not be any politicking on the issue of national interest but blabbering, indulging in juvenile and jingoistic valour, as if our army has done it once and for the first time, tantamounts to casting aspersions on our army which has weathered many a storms. Our army has chequered record of giving Pak a bloody nose in 1965-71-98 but the projection suggests that it is for the first time our army has carried out such an operation.

Defense Minister has a smirk on his face, with quirk muscle movements, patting his back for this surgical strikes and then caricaturing Pak army verbally, is a sickening sight, every day. Do these ministers and BJP panelists think that we have reached a conclusive stage with Pak, as if answer to this 'K' issue is at a hailing distance.

Politicians around, who have huge treasure trove of filthy lucre, are mentally bankrupt which is why they are questioning the integrity of our armed forces. In the entire country, if we flip through and exhume the service record of every service, it can be railways, patwaris, police, judiciary, local bodies, so on and so forth, we realize, soldiers' devotion and contribution is supreme. They are untainted from the temptation of money, who keep themselves insulated from any controversy and serve the nation.

Parrikar's statement that Pakistanis are still in anesthesia mode and do not know that operation has been conducted, betrays an infantile chauvinism. Our peoples' representatives, suffer from fundamental blindness and ignorance towards such delicate issues. They have a cavalier approach towards issues of national interest and peoples' welfare is diluted by reasons of political expediency, where the larger picture is obfuscated from their memory which is clouded and guided by their political ambitions.

We had enough of self-congratulatory sessions and we have to brace ourselves from possibility of terrorist strike by Pak anywhere in the valley or elsewhere. Pak's armory is open with its guns blazing at us, Pakistan army must be eager to carry out still more sinister operation.

Lets' hope and pray our winning streak continues.

Licentious depiction on the celluloid depicts moral bankruptcy of film directors.

Art and cinema are systematic arrangement or adaptation of means for the attainment of some end. It's an application of skill and knowledge in a creative effort to produce works that have a form or beauty, an aesthetic expression of feelings. Cinema depicts, and is, largely, a reflection of, contemporary society that is presented with the ingredients of morality and entertainment for the viewers and the masses. The theme chosen by Deepa Mehta may be projected as a social issue but selecting such a subject has neither any rationale nor any objective. To suggest that such a subject has any social relevance, with a message or a lesson for the society in the Indian context, is an appalling skullduggery.

Any issue, which attains controversial overtones on a subject which violates our basic ethos of social and moral values, attracts fierce debates, face off and grandstand from the self-styled custodians of right to freedom of expression. Any controversy, which is hotly debated and that too on some unusual subject like gayism or lesbianism, devastates and damages our much venerated 5000 years old culture, civilization and its pristine glory . The movie 'Aligarh' revolves around Dr Shrinivas Ramchandra Siras, who taught Marathi at Aligarh Muslim University. He was sacked from his position of Reader and Chair of Modern Indian Languages, on charges of indulging in homosexuality. After he was filmed in a sting operation conducted by a TV channel, having consensual sex with a man, TV channel showed him having sex with a rickshaw puller whom he roped in at his house inside the campus. A deeper meaning, in AMU campus, perverted sex was being practiced by none other than a senior professor. What message goes to the student fraternity? Not only that, it would make news headlines, Is AMU, the oldest Indian University, promoting gayism by its senior faculty?

In the first place, objecting to the title "Aligarh", there cannot even be a feeble dissonance, that a movie with such a title named Aligarh, as the only connotation, even a layman would draw and establish, is to associate gay culture with the city of Aligarh, a metaphor for AMU. Apart from the fact that a movie, with such a subject, can never be educative and carry any social message for the society. It can only be portrayed as cheap mode of propagating sex in perverted way. Those who portray 'Aligarh' as an art movie, can afford the luxury of subjecting themselves to ridicule . Good luck to them .

It depicts a new phenomenon, we see in the society rather its global issue, Former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court AP Shah had given a judgment to decriminalize homosexuality and expunged section 377 of IPC. In an appeal, the SCI struck down HC judgment and upheld section 377 in the IPC criminalizing homosexuality.

Apart from the subject, the protest by various bodies, associations, forums, religious organizations conveying that movie named Aligarh suggests that it is a depiction of such perverted form of sex prevalent in Aligarh is legitimate and leaves no room for any debate, AMU enjoys a distinct aura as one of the prestigious universities in India, as its alumni include Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, freedom fighter and activist, Bharat Ratna, Justice Ram Prakash Sethi, Supreme Court of India, Akhtar Hussain, former field hockey player, an Olympian and many more bureaucrats and men of eminence .

The film producer cannot be given the liberty to sully the name of Aligarh, no hectoring can be tolerated under the alibi of the infringement on the right of expression and freedom, being subjected to an assault. The celluloid is the most effective media to propagate the masses as compared to written text but freedom of expression can never be passed on as unlicensed and unbridled liberty to depict on the celluloid such topic, which is more vulnerable and has vibrant potential to corrupt young minds. Every right, granted by Constitution more so freedom of speech and freedom of expression, can never be without accompanying accountability. If producer /director claims that it is an educative movie, it's humbug,

It's rightfully conjectured that city will suffer irreparable damage if the movie is screened, no doubt, it will be a bonanza and windfall for the producer. A time has come that such filmmakers, who prey on such perverted subjects, should be stopped in their tracks. An advice to the viewers, remove the blinkers, don't be captive of your jaundiced and myopic vision and misled by filmmakers' duplicity and hypocrisy.

Such filmmakers just fantasize on pliable audience. Some filmmakers encounter at the idea of producing such a movie and feast on viewers encounter with sensuality, sex of different kind, watching with a curiosity, the viewers, befuddled like a deer caught in the headlight, are lost in a world of fantasy.

When we refer to our 5000 year old culture and civilization, the name Khajuraho suggests or what comes to mind, what all we see the statues and figures carved out of stones bear resemblance or similarity on love making between a man and a woman. It's considered to be real fact of human behaviour which we can easily correlate with the normal sex. Some solidly orthodox people take it but it should not be considered a taboo as the sculptures are depicting married life of a couple. Have you seen any figure or statue of same sex , man to man - woman to woman in Khajuraho or elsewhere, indulging or performing the kind of sex.

The annihilation of morality in the society is compounded with movies like Aligarh. The producer is no babe in the wood. He is aware his attempt at such a movie will result in intense controversies. However vulgar, irrational is the treatment of the subject , but the film director, with teflon ease, gives a very opaque nomenclature to the movie as social and educative. Let professor like Dr Shrinivas be complimented for having used campus for his unusual sexual urges. Contrary to the orders of the nature, the narrative which the directors have for their movie is simply "glorious".

Do not be passionate and swept away by Pak's gestures, its whodunnit and a red herring

Pak NSA advisor passed on intelligence input to Ajit Doval, our NSA (National Security Adviser), that some terrorists from Pak have infiltrated into India to carry out and execute a sinister plan to indulge in terrorist activities during "Shiv Ratri" festival, this piece of information came and our Government went in gung-ho mode, in fact our political establishment has gone overboard to appreciate this "gesture" of Pakistan.

Despite being betrayed by Pak, all successive Governments, whether democratic, ISI and army, we have been cheated over and over again, we still trust Pak, at times, but we have not learnt lessons from the past mistakes and those who do not learn from the past mistakes, are destined to be doomed.

I believe this fable of passing of "vital and sensitive information" is simply a Pak ploy to establish its credentials in the world that it is not abetting terrorism in India rather it is helping out India in its war against terrorism but as we say, he is a fool who believes in the lameness of a wolf, a horse's health, a boy's love, a whore's oath and let me finish by adding Pak's promises which are observed more in breach than in observance.

It was not so long ago that our PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the stormy petal of yore, a panglossian by nature, took the Lahore bus and this gesture was greeted by Pak with Kargil, where we lost 498 JCO's and many soldiers.

Even in the backdrop of what had happened earlier, should we repose faith in Pak; Pak is a classic case of running with the hare and hunting with the hound, sharing information on terrorists, it is a whodunit and a red herring. Pak, in fact, is preparing grounds for Secretary level talks which are now in limbo because of air base attack on Pathankot. I think, when it comes to Pak, we are always led the garden path and Pak takes no time in cocking a snook on the Indian Government by doing a volte-face.

In fact, when we deal with Pak, we should not forget the sequence of events of the last few years. We should not forget Kargil, beheading of jawans, then in UFA Summit in Russia Nawaz Sharif promised Lakhvi's voice samples will be given and then a few hours later, before he stepped out of the plane at Islamabad, he retracted. I think all these point out to an undebatable conclusion that its intentions are not kosher, it just bides the time and, at times, it seems all the statements and assurances are off the cuff statements which are just issued without the concurrence of Pak army and ISI who are the puppeteers and Nawaz Sharif is a puppet. No one would countenance that Nawaz Sharif enjoys the freedom to negotiate with India on issue like Kashmir without a nudge from the Army or ISI.

It has been discussed, thousands times, that Pak Government means the army and the ISI, the real puppeteers, I think we need to talk to puppeteers rather than the puppets, therefore, all such statements betraying , ostensible , goodwill are for world consumption and they lack serious concern and sincerity of purpose. The whole of India is on alert after Pak NSA's input.

I think Pakistan is playing monkey tricks with our government which, it seems, believes, this piece of information of terrorist sneaking into India, like a hoax call from a miscreant to the airport that such and such flight has some explosives in the cargo which turns out to be false / mischievous, or there is a terrorist onboard.

I think a time has come when we stop our roughshod approach in dealing with Pak. Therefore, let us not take it as if the leopard has changed its spots. We understand that such an input cannot be ignored but my understanding says that it is simply prevarication to push terrorists into India and keep us engaged in looking the other way. Why this gesture of Pak because it does not stand to lose anything, we would have appreciated if the voice sample of Lakhvi had been given, which could have established Pak's credentials. Just by passing on the information, which is like a hoax call to the airport, therefore, the so called gesture from Pak does not sponge off our skepticism on Pak. No wonder it's pulling wool over eyes of Modi Government.

Farmers' stare at famine, water is luxury but 17 lac liters for curing cricket pitch

I had raised my voice and expressed indignation when UPA government conferred Bharat Ratna on legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, an outstanding cricketer, an icon, this is the way people brand him. Nothing against Sachin but the game of cricket is certainly mired in controversies, the corruption in BCCI. How alluring it is that Srinivasan, BCCI President who had to move out as president of BCCI after startling revelations about his son Myappan's involvement in match fixing in IPL, resorted to million ways to stay put in BCCI?

Let us go back and trace the history of this game. It was supposed to be a good game with no contours of corruption or of players' involvement. In fact, after India won the World Cup in 1982, under the tutelage of Kapil Dev, the then Captain of Indian cricket team, the scourge of betting and match fixing eclipsed this royal game which had enjoyed pristine glory and number of times our cricketers proved their mettle.

Ajay Jadeja, Mohd. Azharuddin and few others were expelled by the BCCI as they were, allegedly, found to be involved in betting and match fixing. Notwithstanding the fact that Ajay was given clean chit by a committee headed by Delhi High Court Judge Justice JK Mehra but BCCI did not exonerate him. I believe, Justice in India is not delivered but judgments are pronounced. Big money poured in after 1982 World Cup, stakes were very high, there was deep frenzy when cricket was played.

In Match fixing, stakes are high, even in small towns, the betting and match fixing amount goes to 500-1000 crores, Even managed by small time bookies of a game couched and accentuated with lot of financial bunglings and on all India parameter on one IPL match or other T 20, there is a betting up to 50 thousand crores. They are the ones who decide who will drop the catch and which player will be LBW and will return to the pavilion. At times, the dressing room becomes a venue to settle the terms of match fixing.

With IPL, the brain child of disgraced LAMO, Cricket has become purely a game of different kind where scantily clad, voluptuous girls shake their legs and bodies whenever a cricketer hits a four, six or makes a century and half century, or a rain of runs.

With this write up, I am not encroaching upon or going into further details about this game but want to emphasize and bring home the point that the Maharashtra Government has no qualms about watching helplessly but without remorse or empathy for people of Marathwada, Latur, where farmers were committing suicide due to drought and crop failure which has, shockingly, taken a back seat. They are facing another natural calamity compounded by the

apathy of the government which has released 17 lac liters of waters for curing cricket pitches. Means, our government is supporting a sin and an evil, that is the cricket, which has lost its linkage with the objective for which this game was played. And now, I feel the government, the BCCI, the cricketers have adulterous relationship, wherein, everyone is the beneficiary at different levels.

Mr. Fadnavis, Marathwada is facing the gravest drought, Maharashtra Government is in docks for ignoring the people who are in desperate need of water and with the tunnel and myopic vision and colour blind as they are, their imagination and thinking does not travel beyond curing cricket pitches. I feel India was better off without these sick, wicked and sinister politicians.

Judicial powers to The Republic Channel CEO, Arnab will lead to speedy justice. Shashi Tharoor, in one hour debate, tried and convicted for murder.

Arnab Goswami, former CEO of 'Times Now' Channel and now, of newly launched channel, "Republic", has donned the mettle of a public prosecutor, a judge and IO. For some people like Arnab, even honking of a dog or someone catching cold is an important issue to debate. To show a good opening of The Republic, to pick up impressive TRP, the issues are being sensationalized, to create thunder effect. Here is an anchor and CEO, who is passionate about every issue, even while reporting a sneeze or cough, creates a tsunami. Yesterday, I was watching debate on The Republic Channel, third day after its launch, there were 12 panelists, which, after the debate, I realized it was a jury which was trying Shashi Tharoor in absentia for murdering his wife Sunanda Pushkar.

At times, even people who brag about being highly professional, do a goof up. While concluding the debate, Arnab said, he started off with Lalu's exposure on first day, second on Kejriwal, third on Shashi Tharoor, fourth on something more revealing. Mr. Goswami, we have seen you since Times Now days, you are a megalomaniac, you live in delusion and you believe - after me the deluge.

As I have observed all these years, watching TV debates on different channels, the anchors discuss issues, state issues, national issues, which are in public domain and leitmotif of public discussion concerning people at large, but Arnab believes in doing things differently and, finally, it results in treatment of issues which ultimately makes a potpourri and hodge-podge. Your debate today may be about why chicken crossed the road. Even at the end of debate, the viewers are clueless and don't even make out what or why the issue was taken up and there are so many interpretations that it results in a goof up.

Yesterday, the debate was about Shashi Tharoor who was under Arnab's radar, firing salvos against him even before any chargesheet could be filed against him or even investigations concluded or could be completed against him if his collusion could be proved, he proclaimed that it is Shashi who murdered his wife Sunanda Pushkar. It was bizarre, watching him honking, bragging throughout seeing him in high octane mode, he was pleading the case as public prosecutor and raised questions which I don't think any viewer could understand; why body was removed from RN 307, to RN 344 and dead person can't walk, and she was dead in RN 307. "kya sahab aa rahen hai - ja rahein hain "

The way he was nailing Shashi, it seems, he was privy to everything and was present himself there at the hotel. These are all conjectures and surmises. When there are 12 people, I don't think they would have similar views.

Manju Kak, a panelist, declared that Sunanda Pushkar was a colourful lady, I don't mean she was a lady of easy virtue but may be lady of leisure but it's a connotation everyone can understand. The entire studio morphed into a court room where Arnab was prosecutor and BJP stooges like Mr. Venkatesh and others were acting as asst. public prosecutors.

I am not aware of international channels but it was a spectacle never ever heard or seen earlier in India, that a news channel studio became a court room. Mr. Goswami, I think, has given a new dimension to ethics of journalism I would say fundamentals of journalism. Ethics are passé in journalism and Arnab does not bat an eyelid before indulging in character assassination of people whom he disdains or whom BJP wants to be disparaged.

Even when the debate was on, a reporter, was rushed to Shashi's house, who was shooed off by the guard. It seems Arnab was commanding some commando operation or a surgical strike against Shashi Tharoor. Shashi Tharoor and Sunanda were ridiculed by Modi when he addressed Sunanda as a 90 crore doll. No wonder BJP has a sinister and ulterior design to willify the Congress party

Mr. Goswami, there are far more pressing issues that the nation is facing. There is a crisis of governance which you will not debate as you are a stooge of Modi. In this mock trial, I see a larger design, Shashi's image is being truncated, mauled and lacerated, as the deep design is to malign the Congress as Shashi Tharoor is Congress MP. I think, Shashi should drag Arnab to the court for criminal defamation but I doff off my hat to him for having conducted the trial ex-parte and within an hour, he placed so much of evidence, fabricated one, and finally, Shashi Tharoor was convicted. Thank God, he did not pronounce any sentence, which I know, will be nothing short of death sentence.

During the course of debate, Arnab exhorted / dared Shashi Tharoor to come to the studio and defend himself. Arnab, you are not a demi God, how could you dictate someone to come to your studio and reply to your absurd and nonsensical accusations. You do not have any judicial or quasi judicial authority to summon Shashi Tharoor just because you want to berate that person in public. Sir you have a king size ego and hubris oozes from your face. No wonder, one day you will find dice loaded against you because you have strange kind of addiction to malign the people but somebody someday will break the glass ceiling of your studio as everyone knows, Times Now during your period had sold its soul to the BJP, though you left the channel and started with The Republic, still your sycophancy towards the BJP is gaining salubrity.

Crores in kitty - for Cricket , ISRO scientists, launch 104 satellites in one go, get fresh air and love as reward

We are a nation where peoples' representative have misplaced priorities, biases and our prejudices, whims and fancies, likes and dislikes, I'm shocked, appalled and aghast at the conduct of our executive which is appalling, at its nonchalant and insouciant attitude in ignoring the exemplary achievements of our scientists, even their performance needs to be applauded and duly recognized as heroic.

ISRO launched 104 satellites on 15.02.2017, in one go, the news was treated as some other news appearing alongside a news expressing concern over the ever rising pollution / dust level in Delhi and the most vulnerable point being Anand Vihar ISBT .

I think this customary ritual of the PM congratulating ISRO scientists does not gel with the weight and significance it carries, I would say our leadership undermines the achievements of our scientists. The indigenous missiles developed by ISRO, Agni and Brahmos, we are told, some countries have evinced interest and we may be exporting them, if we go by the conduct of our government, it seems, considers it as a feat of the politicians and not the scientists.

See the irony, when our cricket team clinches test series, from President to the PM to the ministers, CM's, announce slew of prizes with the lowest denomination of Rs. 10 lacs and there is a mindless scramble, each state vying with the other, to declare more than the other one . For 104 satellites launched, no cash prize, a kind of appreciation and a token but if a cricketer hits 104, which helps in winning the match or the series, there is ecstasy, bonhomie and unprecedented brouhaha in the whole country.

Newspapers are replete with so many information and details and huge appreciation heaped, accompanied by millions of Rs, the cricketers get and are rewarded with, which certainly is in crores, as if lac has gone out of style. We have Sachin, said to be a legendary cricketer, who has done India proud with his good game, see our government which always opens flood gates of freebies, bounties; conferred him with the highest civilian honour Bharat Ratna, he was nominated to RS,.

Sachin's attendance in RS is not even 10 %, in his term, till now, he has not opened his mouth, nor moved his lips and even when he is in the house, he seems lost. The Air Force also has conferred, him with the Honorary Title of Wing Commander, I do not actually remember, may have been awarded with honorary doctorate, as well from some Indian university, though he did not complete even his schooling.

What is so great about Sachin, may be, government felt it will be grave injustice to him if he is not conferred with highest civilian award and it did not find anyone else more deserving whose service was purely a service to the nation, so Sachin stole the thunder.

Sachin is a professional like any other cricketer, has earned and collected enough nuts for his next 20 generations, the amount of adulation which he has earned from cricket lovers and the government, which has a myopic vision, that it found and discovered his success and achievements outstripping all else in areas like social welfare, art, culture, education even the armed forces.

If we draw a list of legendary heroes in the Indian army, General Sam Manekshaw, Lt. General Jacob, Sipoy Abdul Hamid, who turned the Pak war tanks into a grave yard in 1965 war, in fact, he was the hero of India's victory over Pak in 1965, I believe few people know about his heroic deeds, any one of those mentioned above would have been appropriate and a right choice.

For the group of scientists, at ISRO, the PM could have announced a collective prize of 20 crores for all the scientists, a 5-10 lac per scientist. It is not the first time, I think, ISRO has established itself as space research institute comparable with any other space research centre anywhere in the world and ISRO has pulled out several feats and the success stories pour in day in and day out, as the newspapers are replete with the achievement of ISRO as also the electronic media.

In India, it is a dichotomy and an irony that those who really deserve the adulation are left out and the others, may be less deserving, or even not deserving get it, I don't see any sacrifice of Sachin, Dhoni and others, it's simply a game for them, it's their profession and where does the question of playing for the country arise? Government does not garner any revenue. Why cannot BCCI take up philanthropic activities / social services.

No controversies, if the cricket team wins series or a match, it does bring laurels for the nation, cricketers they are worshipped, adored and they rake in moolah, and government coffers are also opened to reward them with any amount, even they have some duty to return to the nation, what has Sachin done for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, he should adopt some area, say, where he has residence, to enjoin upon himself the responsibility to maintain it, it should be clean, no urination, defecation in the open, should develop parks and add to flora and fauna and no photo ops for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan which is all for public consumption.

We have seen people who enjoy the ultimate, we say for ladies lady of leisure and for men its said foot loose and fancy free, all spend any amount to add to their fleet of vehicles, wardrobe, jewellery but when it comes to indulging in some philanthropic activity they develop cold feet.