

EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

Recent Developments on India-Pakistan border and Frequent fragment breaches of ceasefire by the Pakistani army is not only setback to confidence building measures, it signals a bleak prospects of normal peaceful bilateral ties between two major. South Asian actors i.e. India and Pakistan. It is undeniable fact that conflict and co-operation in South Asia very much depends on the nature of India-Pakistan relationship. It is quite ironical and unfortunate that regime in Pakistan cannot be absolved of adopting a dual posture vis-à-vis. Despite our repeated requests to try the terrorists involved in Mumbai Taj hotel rate and other terrorist activities, Pakistan has always evinced a non-serious attitude, instead of punishing the terrorists outfits Pakistan evades this issue and is continuously fomenting tension on the border. This attitude is very much buttressed by the act of chopping off the heads of Indian soldiers and transgressing the Line of Control. Pak troops frequently resort to unprovoked firing in Sambha sector injuring BSF Jawan. Subsequently in the month of July and October this year Pak troops targeted Indian posts across LOC in Poonch. Indian troops were forced to retaliate resulting in heavy exchange of fire which continued intermittently. It is quite unfortunate that such incidents are occurring when two governments are making endeavors towards improving the relationship. A few months back Pakistan proposed for initiating government level dialogues to be held in Islamabad in order to bolster peace process. India responded to this proposal favorably and suggested to have a meeting between Nawaj Sharif and Dr. Manmohan Singh during the UN General Assembly in New York. Sartaz Aziz, advisor on Foreign affairs of Pakistan proposed in a meeting with foreign Minister Salman Khurshid that the two Prime Minister meet in New York to fast track the CBMS and composite dialogue process. In addition to it Pakistan even submitted a list of dates for talks to put the peace process firmly back on the track after Sharif's ascendance to power. The former Pakistan foreign secretary Shararyar Khan was appointed as his Special envoy for reviving the track II dialogue process with India. On the other hand the Army of Pakistan resorted to unprovoked firing targeting Indian post along the LOC. The double standard of Pakistan compels India to deal strongly with it now. Perhaps owing to growing opposition of Pak's provoking acts in Indian media and political circles the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh raised the issue of infiltration of Pakistani soldiers and violating the LOC. He told Nawaz Sharif in Plain words that until Pakistan honour the LOC and stops the activities of firing and instruction, resuming the peace process dialogues is not possible. Even the American President Barak Obama asked Nawaz Sharif spade a spade to restrain their activities and normalize the relationship in accordance with the spirit of Shimla agreement.

But unfortunately Pakistan's inability to check terrorist activities and restraining its army is proving a formidable stumbling block in the peace processes. In fact, Pakistan's nefarious design to destabilize India by adding and abetting cross border terrorism is a strategy to overcome its military inferiority and to grab Kashmir knowing it well that Kashmir is an integral part of India and even military misadventure cannot dislodge it. After all why Pakistan is so soft in dealing with terrorists who are accused of spreading terrorism on Indian soil. India provide enough evidences if involvement of Pak trained terrorists in several incidents of terrorist attacks. Pakistani nationals Mohammad Harider, Hamza Raja and Rana along with Afzal Guru and other hatched a conspiracy to wage a war against India leading to attack on Parliament on 13 December 2001. Further, terrorist raid on hotel Taj of Mumbai, Delhi Bomb blasts, Kaluchak and Akshardham incidents proved the

involvement of Lashkare-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. The master of terrorism harbor in Pakistan and Pakistan always denies its hand in terrorists acts committed in different parts of India.

Now a million dollar question is how long we are going to be swayed and deceived by the double speak and dual standard of Prime Minister of Pakistan. In fact, it testifies the long cherished goal of Pakistan to grab Kashmir. Two major wars of 1965 and 1971 could not help fulfill their design even after acquiring nuclear weapon capability of failed to attain its objectives. Therefore Pakistan resorts to promotion of cross border terrorism considering it the safest mode of waging an undeclared war against India. It suits the rulers of Pakistan because anti India strategy helps them retaining power and divert the attention of the people from prevalent corruption, poverty, unemployment, maladministration, domestic disorder and malformed economy of Pakistan, In fact the domestic scenario is also a contributing factor towards anti India posture. A peep into history shows that no ruler can afford to ignore the ISI, Army and Mosque in the conduct of its foreign policy and strategy. All these institutions have a tight grip over the domestic as well as the international politics of Pakistan. Consequently the role of powerful army and its relationship with ruling political class cannot be ignored in any analysis of Pakistan's foreign policy towards India. Like army Islam plays equally significant role in domestic and external affairs. That is why rulers of Pakistan adopt a soft posture towards Islamic fundamentalists and its link with Taliban continues to prosper. Even Pakistan army is reportedly involved in training groups which are finally diverted towards India.

It is historic coin incidence that whatever Nawaz Sharif is in Power there is spurt in militancy. It was during his regime that Pakistan army crossed the line of control in Kargil sector of Kashmir precipitating a conflict situation whereas he had committed for initiating a peace dialogue during his meeting with Atal Bihari Vajpayee. This time also he is talking about reopening the dialogue on conventional CBMS but at the same time Pakistan army is opening fire on the border. What Pakistan believes in that by intensifying militancy and promoting cross border terrorism it would be able to force India to negotiate with it.

Now it is high time to talk Pakistan in firm words that dialogue of peace and fomenting tension through provoking acts cannot go together. India's policy of peace friendship and co-operation with neighbour particularly with Pakistan is being consistently misconstrued by Pakistan Now we need to review our strategy of benign response to their well planned misadventure and give a firm message to Pakistan that India is no longer prepared to endure its contemned efforts to destabilize in the subcontinent.

(Madhurendra Kumar)