

# Editorial

Imphal, Saturday, August 6, 2016

## Fix it, time is running out

Consider a building with cracks in few windows. If the windows are not repaired, the tendency is for vandals to break a few more windows. Eventually, they may even break into the building, and if it's unoccupied, perhaps become squatters or light fires inside. Or consider a pavement. Some litter accumulates. Soon, more litter accumulates. Eventually, people even start leaving bags of refuse from take-out restaurants there or even break into cars. If the concept is to be applied to the law and order situation in our society with special emphasis to the prevailing system of administration and governance, one would find the same psychological response to the prevailing situation. This very social phenomena is termed the Broken Window Theory - introduced by James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling in an article titled Broken Windows, in the March 1982 The Atlantic Monthly following an experiment by Philip Zimbardo, a Stanford psychologist who tested the theory in 1969. Unsurprisingly for many, the test concluded that vandalism, or for that matter, most forms of social disturbances occurs much more quickly as the community generally seems apathetic. Similar events can occur in any civilized community when communal barriers - the sense of mutual regard and obligations of civility - are lowered by actions that suggest apathy. In other words, the theory posits that the prevalence of disorder creates fear in the minds of citizens who are convinced that the area is unsafe. This withdrawal from the community weakens social controls that previously kept criminals in check. Once this process begins, it feeds itself. Disorder causes crime, and crime causes further disorder and crime. A lot of social discrepancies - between the accepted social norms and the ground reality can be explained based on this theory. The snowballing effect of corruption, favoritism, unrest and elitism being increasingly experienced by the general public in the state can be understood more clearly and objectively when one understands the psychology behind the cause of such undesirable social occurrences. But understanding the cause is not the panacea to the festering problem, it is rather the beginning of a long and tedious process of reforms and redressals which should be pursued relentlessly. But the task at hand is easier said than done. The present system of administration and governance which has been consciously shaped and engineered to comply and conform to the interests of a precious few having access to power and connections, with the added bonus of having in place various mechanisms to protect and cover the nefarious activities and conniving characteristics of those fortunate few, needs to be pulled down and a radical system to administration and governance has to be drawn up to be implemented without further ado. In short, an overhauling of the deep rooted social evils and malpractices that has been inextricably intertwined with the present system is the need of the hour. If the present government does not have the gumption to own up and make the much delayed changes, the general public will be forced to act on their behalf. Time to fix the broken window is running out for the government.

## Japan marks Hiroshima bombing anniversary

**PTI Tokyo, Aug 6:** Japan today marked 71 years since the city of Hiroshima was destroyed by a US atomic bomb, as its mayor urged the world to unite in abolishing nuclear weapons. The annual ceremony came just months after Barack Obama became the first sitting US president to visit the western Japanese city, paying moving tribute to victims of the devastating bomb. American B-29 bomber Enola Gay dropped its deadly payload, dubbed "Little Boy", on Hiroshima at 8:15 am local time on August 6, 1945. Much of the city was incinerated by a wall of heat up to 4,000 C (7,232 F) — hot enough to melt steel — killing tens of thousands. About 50,000 participants, including Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and representatives of more than 90 countries and regions, observed a

minute's silence at the exact time the atrocity occurred some seven decades ago. During the solemn ceremony, Hiroshima mayor Kazumi Matsui recalled the visit by Obama in his peace declaration, citing the president's historic speech. "(His visit) was the proof that Hiroshima's strong wish not to tolerate the 'absolute evil' was shared by President Obama," he said. The mayor urged the world to take action towards the abolition of "the ultimate form of inhumanity, united and with passion". Obama in May embraced survivors as he made his visit to the city and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. "71 years ago, death fell from the sky and the world was changed," he said of the bomb, adding it "demonstrated that mankind possessed the means to destroy itself".

**By: Priyadarshi Dutta**

In the mid-1870s a light complexioned and handsomely built man in his 30s could be seen running through the streets of Pune with a *thali* (plate) and ladle in his hands. Striking the *thali* with the ladle, he would announce his forthcoming speaking engagement. "All should come to Shanwar-wada grounds this evening", he would call. "Our country must be free. The Englishmen must be driven out. The ways and means of doing it, I shall explain in my speech". The person was Vasudev Balwant Phadke, an employee of the Military Finance Office in Pune. Born on November 4, 1845 in Shirdivi (dist. Thane), his family hailed from Kelshi, a hamlet in Konkani. In 1862, he was amongst the early graduates of Bombay University. He worked in various government institutions like Grant Medical College and Commissariat Examiner's Office at Mumbai before coming to Pune in 1865. He was a family man. It was highly unlikely that such a person would propagate disaffection towards the government. But he was actually proclaiming it in the broad daylight. He was apparently the only person in those days calling for the ouster of the British. The nascent public life in western India exemplified by Bombay Presidency Association and Poona Sarvajanic Sabha etc was confined only to constitutional politics. His speeches at Pune created waves. People thronged to listen to him. He utilized his Sundays to Panvel, Palaspe, Tasgaon and Narsobachi Wadi to address the masses. He was apparently the first Indian to tour for political propaganda. His speeches,

## Vasudev Balwant Phadke

however, did not produce desired result. Unlike what he expected, the people did not rise in rebellion. Thereafter he abandoned giving public speeches. He began to contemplate secret organization. He frequented *akhada*, or indigenous gymnasium, in order to train his physique. Pune was dotted with locales associated with Maratha history. Torna or Prachandagad, one of the first forts to be captured by Shivaji was not situated far from the city. Phadke started a physical training camp at Guletki Hill near Pune. A well-structured revolutionary organization was Phadke's priority. He created four groups. The first group organized meetings of school boys without the knowledge of their teachers at secret locations outside the school. A spokesman of Phadke's organization preached the message of independence amongst the students. The second group consisted of roving bands that went round the city in the morning singing patriotic songs. The third group, an evening choir, went round singing songs satirizing the British rule and bemoaning the plight of India. The fourth, or the core, group consisted of members plotting revolutionary activities. Phadke evolved a new method of public communication. He concentrated on emotional and spiritual connect to rouse the innate patriotism of the people. Until this point Phadke proved himself a pioneer. He developed a public culture of patriotism long before Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai and Bipin Chandra Pal. Then the great famine struck Maharashtra in 1876-77. He travelled across the affected districts in disguise to see the devastation for himself. He blamed

the ordeal of people on flawed British policies. He also decided to take a leap of faith into revolution. There also he proved a pioneer - the father of Indian revolution. At the dead of the night on February 20, 1879 Phadke and his colleagues like Vishnu Gadre, Gopal Sathe, Ganesh Deodhar and Gopal Hari Karve declared the birth of their 200-strong militia outside Loni, eight miles north of Pune. This was possibly the first revolutionary army of India. Phadke acknowledged that banditry would be a necessary evil to sustain his rebellion. He said their time for leaving homes to join the struggle had come. "We shall secure many more weapons and much more money after our first raid. We shall fight against the police and the Government", he said on the occasion. All the while he had been living dangerously. To mobilize money and weapons, Phadke's party undertook some daring looting operations in the vicinity of Mumbai and later in Konkani region. It sent chill down the spine of the British. Phadke's name inspired awe in the entire region. In May, 1879 Phadke issued his famous proclamation denouncing the exploitative economic policies of the government and warning them. Copies of the proclamation were posted to the Governor, the Collectors and other Government officers. It created sensation throughout India. His rebellion arguably had indirectly affected the plot of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's novel Anandamath (1882). The Times, London on June 3, 1879 carried a long editorial on the Phadke phenomenon. It advised

government to revise its land assessment policy to contain agrarian unrest. The British, however, were tightening the grip. Phadke's short lived career was almost over. He fled Maharashtra to go to the temple of Shree Shailla Mallikarjuna, a Jyotirlinga in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. In the second part of his autobiography finished on April 25, 1879 he sought forgiveness from all Indians for his failure. He wanted to sacrifice his life at the holy site, once visited by his icon viz. Chhatrapati Shivaji but was prevented by the priest. He tried to reorganize a fresh revolution with Rohilla, Sikhs and Arabs in Nizam's forces. He sent his emissaries to different parts of India. But his plans were not destined to succeed. It ended with his arrest in a village of Devar Navadgi, on July 20, 1879. The trial in Pune court awarded him transportation for life sentence. The people who gathered on the occasion raised deafening cheers for him with agony and pride. In prison he was detected with tuberculosis, which in those days had no cure. Phadke preferred death to a lifelong sentence. What else could be expected of a freedom fighter? The death came on February 17, 1883 at the age of 37. It was later that year Veer Savarkar was born in Maharashtra. Phadke's revolutionary career might have been short. But he paved the way for organized armed movement for freedom of India. (Courtesy PIB Feature) The writer is an independent researcher and commentator. Views expressed in the Article are personal.

## National & International News

### Singh's visit escalates Pak-India tension

**The Nation Islamabad, Aug. 6:** The whirlwind visit of Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh to Pakistan only resulted in worsening the Pakistan-India tension instead of providing a respite amid the bloodshed in Kashmir. At the onset, the visit looked far from friendly as India had ruled out bilateral talks on the sidelines of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation moot for the interior and home ministers here. The two countries had differed on the agenda of such talks as India wanted to restrict this engagement to security and terrorism related issues while Pakistan was adamant to discuss Kashmir, citing the new wave of state-sponsored terrorism in the held territory. Singh left early for home as Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan tried to expose the human rights situation in Kashmir. The Interior Minister later said Singh had told him he would only attend the lunch if it was attended by Khan. "I had an important meeting so could not attend the lunch. But he should not have left like this," the minister said. India claimed Singh's speech in Islamabad on terrorism was not broadcast by local media and Indian

crews were not permitted to film it. "This is the Pakistan model of democracy," retorted Union Minister Venkaiah Naidu in Delhi, after the Home Minister returned home. Singh was attending a session of SAARC, which brings together eight South Asian countries, and he used his address to further India's allegation of Pakistan 'inciting' the recent unrest in Kashmir. Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan said: "We have seen brute force against unarmed civilians. Shouldn't suppress freedom struggle in the name of fight against terror." Officials said India's claims about the 'blackout' of the Home Minister's speech was a misleading as conventionally, addresses at SAARC summits are not filmed, except for the opening remarks. But tension was a consistent theme. Khan and Singh did not shake hands, and neither of them attended the lunch for the SAARC visitors. Singh's visit - the first by an Indian leader after terrorists attacked the air force base in Pathankot, killing seven military personnel - was important, New Delhi had said, because it was for a regional multi-lateral summit and not bilateral talks with Pakistan at a time of highly strained relations. US States Department Deputy

spokesperson, Mark Toner, meanwhile said Pakistan and India must work together to combat terrorism. "Terrorism is obviously a reality in both countries, and Pakistan and India need to work together in order to effectively confront it. And that's something we've long encouraged," Mark Toner said. He said that Pakistan needed to do all it can to confront all terrorists operating on its soil. "We've seen it make progress; we want to see more progress on its part," he added. Foreign Office spokesman Nafees Zakaria said Kashmiris should be given their birth right to self-determination, adding Pakistan wanted end of tension with India and talks for long-lasting peace. "Pakistan wants to resolve all issues with neighboring countries through peaceful means. Kashmir is the fundamental issue between Pakistan and India, which should be resolved according to UN Security Council's resolutions," he said. Zakaria said Kashmiris should be given their birth right to self-determination as promised in the UN resolutions. Defence analyst Air Marshal Shahid Latif (ret'd) said Pakistan

needed to call a conference of Islamic countries in order to pressurize India to stop its brutalities and violation of human rights in Kashmir. "Although the Prime Minister has highlighted the Kashmir dispute in a very effective way yet the incumbent government has to work hard to convince other countries to put efforts for resolving Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN resolutions," he added. He said the Indian minister ran away from talks as New Delhi was not ready to accept Kashmir as a dispute.

### One killed in landslide in U'khand

**PTI Dehradun, Aug 6:** One person was killed in a landslide triggered by rains in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district, even as the Chardham Yatra remained affected today with the highways leading to the Himalayan shrines of Badrinath and Kedarnath blocked at several points. Daan Singh died after being hit by boulders in Bangapani area of Pithoragarh district last evening. State Emergency Operation Centre said today. Rishikesh-Badrinath national highway continued to be blocked by landslide debris at Lambagad while Joshikath-Malari border road was choked at Suraihotra. 386 pilgrims are stranded at Badrinath and 258 at Hemkund Sahib. Traffic is yet to be restored for their return journey, the centre said. The Rishikesh-Kedarnath highway is also blocked for vehicular traffic at three points including Munkatiya, Dolia Mandir and Gaurikund en route to the shrine. However, the trek route to the shrine is open with a total of 32 yatis having embarked on their journey this morning for the temple from Gaurikund, Bhimbali and Linchauli, it said.

### Curfew continues in many parts of Kashmir

**PTI Srinagar, Aug 6:** Curfew continued today in many parts of Kashmir, a day after fresh violence left three persons dead and 150 injured, while normal life remained paralysed for the 29 consecutive days. "Curfew remains in force in six police station areas of Srinagar — Nowhatta, Khanayar, Rainawari, Safakadal, Maharajgunj and Batamaloo — as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order," a police official said. He said curfew was also in force in four towns of Budgam district — Chadoora, Khansahib, Magam and Budgam, Anantnag town and

Khanpora area of Baramulla district. "Restrictions on assembly of four or more people continue to remain in effect in rest of the Valley," the official said. He said the curbs on movement of people had to be extended today in view of fresh violence in some parts of the Valley yesterday which left three persons dead and over 150 others injured. 54 people have died and more than 6,000 injured in clashes between protesters and security forces following the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani in an encounter on July 8. Normal life remained disrupted due

to the curbs imposed by the authorities and the separatist sponsored strike. Schools, colleges, business establishments, petrol pumps banks and private offices remained closed while public transport remained off roads. The attendance in government offices was also thin, the official said. Mobile internet services continued to remain snapped in the entire Valley where the outgoing facility on prepaid connections is barred. The separatist camp has extended the shutdown call in Kashmir till August 12.

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