



It's time to be more assertive

Says Ajit Doval
THE HINDU ONLINE

India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval said that deterrence was the credibility that a nation could show its strength when required. "The lack of will to exercise power is as good as not having any power. India has the mindset that where it punches, it punches below its weight. India shouldn't be punching below or over. India should increase its weight and punch in proportion," he said. Doval made these observations during the 21st Lalit Doshi Memorial Lecture titled "State security, statecraft and conflict of values". The lecture comes just a few weeks before Doval is expected to meet his Pakistani counterpart, Sartaj Aziz, to discuss issues relating to cross-border terrorism. The meeting is important in setting the early tone in the Modi government's engagement with Pakistan on security issues. Taking stock of the changing nature of statecraft he said, "The days of wars in the service of statecraft are coming to an end. Wars are no longer a viable mechanism for achieving political and strategic objectives in a cost effective way."



Soldiers check the body of that terrorist, who was killed after a gunbattle on the Jammu- Srinagar highway at Narsoo Nallah, near Udhampur, yesterday.

PHOTO: THE HINDU

'I came here to kill Hindus'

Says captured terrorist as India foils another 'terror attack from Pakistan'

AGENCIES

"Its fun doing this," said Mohammad Naved, a suspected Lashker-e-Taiba militant from Pakistan who was caught alive after the attack on a BSF convoy here yesterday that killed two constables. Naved and another terrorist from Pakistan killed the two paramilitary soldiers and wounded another ten after attacking their convoy in disputed Indian Kashmir yesterday, a senior police officer said. The militants fired on the convoy transporting Border Security Force (BSF) troops near the town of Udhampur, 250 kilometres south of the main city of Srinagar. Naved, who says he hails from Faisalabad in Pakistan, claimed before the media that he entered the Jammu region 12 days ago along

with a fellow terrorist identified as Momin Khan. Khan was killed in retaliatory fire by BSF.

This is the first suspected Pakistani terrorist to be captured alive after Ajmal Kasab, who was nabbed dur-



ing the dreaded terror attack in Mumbai in 2008.

"I came to kill Hindus," said Naved, dressed in a dark blue shirt and brown trousers, with a relaxed demeanour. He also alleged that Kashmiris were

being killed all the time.

"I am from Pakistan and my partner was killed in the firing but I escaped. Had I been killed, it would have been Allah's doing. There is fun in doing this," Naved said.

After his partner was killed, Naved raced into a village nearby and took a group of people hostage. After nearly four hours, the villagers overpowered the terrorist as he prepared to fire at a police party. One pinned him down and another took away his AK-47 rifle.

The attack comes a week after militants stormed a police station in neighbouring Punjab province, sparking an 11-hour gunbattle with officers that killed seven people.

India accused the militants of crossing the border from neighbouring Pakistan to launch the attack, the first in Punjab in more than a decade.

Turkey to start fight against ISIS in Syria

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Turkey will soon start combating Islamic State group militants inside northern Syria, its foreign minister vowed yesterday as he met US Secretary of State John Kerry in Malaysia. "Now we are training and equipping the moderate (Syrian) opposition together with the United States, and we will also start our fight against Daesh very effectively soon," Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told reporters at the start of the meeting with Kerry, using the Arab acronym for the militant group. "Then the ground will be safer for the moderate opposition that are fighting Daesh on the ground," he added. Washington has long been pushing Turkey to step up the fight against the so-called Islamic State, something Ankara had until recently been reluctant to do. That position changed after deadly attacks inside Turkey, some of which were blamed on Islamic State. Turkey has since carried out a series of air strikes, claiming they were targeting militants from the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in northern Iraq as well as Islamic State militants.

Pak top court backs military courts

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's Supreme Court yesterday approved controversial new military courts set up to hear terror cases, rejecting an attempt to have them ruled illegal. Lawmakers approved a change to the constitution in January to establish the military courts, as part of a crackdown on militancy following a Taliban massacre at a school which left more than 150 people -- mostly children -- dead. The move prompted concern from rights activists and in April a group of lawyers challenged the constitutional amendment that created them. But a 17-member bench of the Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed the petition by 11 votes to six, Chief Justice Justice Nasir-ul-Mulk said in a brief ruling before a detailed judgement expected later. Parliament has approved the use of the courts for the coming two years, and cases are referred to them by provincial governments. But some have called for the trials to be more transparent.

Greek early polls 'likely' in autumn

AFP, Athens

Early elections are "likely" in Greece in the fall, a government spokeswoman said yesterday as Athens races to hammer out a new bailout deal with its creditors by August 20. The radical government of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has seen its support dwindle in parliament after agreeing to a third rescue package containing more austerity cuts on July 13. He faces more revolts in his own party when the full agreement comes before parliament.

Afghan casualties hit record high: UN

AFP, Kabul

Civilian casualties in Afghanistan hit a record high in the first half of 2015, the UN said yesterday, as Afghan forces struggle to contain the spreading conflict six months after the Nato combat mission ended. The report said 1,592 civilians were killed, a six percent fall over last year, while the number of injured jumped four percent to 3,329. The figures represent an average of around nine civilians killed and 18 wounded every day.

Japan PM calls for probe into US spying

AFP, Tokyo

Japanese leader Shinzo Abe told US Vice President Joe Biden he would have "serious concerns" if WikiLeaks claims Washington spied on Japanese politicians were true, and called for an investigation, a top official said yesterday. The whistleblower group said Friday it had intercepts revealing years-long spying by the US National Security Agency (NSA) on Japanese officials and major companies.

India drops ban on porn after backlash

AFP, New Delhi

India has reversed a controversial order banning hundreds of porn websites, a government official said yesterday, after accusations of heavy-handed censorship in the world's largest democracy. On Saturday, telecommunication authorities had directed Internet service providers (ISPs) to block 857 websites on "morality and decency" grounds and to curb child pornography, the first major crackdown on online pornography in the country.

Remains of 17 missing trekkers found in Nepal

AFP, Kathmandu

Locals have recovered the remains of another 17 people who were killed in Nepal's Langtang trekking region in April when an earthquake triggered a massive avalanche, a senior official said yesterday. Searchers have now recovered the remains of 124 individuals from the area, while a number of people also feared killed in the same disaster remain unaccounted for.



FLOODS IN MYANMAR Desperation mounts as death toll climbs

AFP, Yangon

Tens of thousands of people huddled in monasteries and other makeshift evacuation centres in remote areas of Myanmar cut off by deadly floods yesterday, as rescuers struggled to deliver desperately needed aid. Heavy seasonal downpours have caused devastation across large parts of South and Southeast Asia in recent weeks, claiming hundreds of lives and displacing millions. In Myanmar, international aid efforts accelerated yesterday to meet the widening crisis following an appeal from the government for help. Tens of thousands of people remain stranded in Myanmar's rugged and mountainous western border regions after relentless rains caused flash floods and triggered landslides swept away homes, roads and bridges. The official death toll rose to 69 with more than 260,000 affected, Phyu Lei Lei Tun of the ministry of social welfare told AFP Wednesday. The floods severed communications across large areas of the country, which is roughly the size of France. In cyclone-battered Rakhine state, where at least 41 people have died, whole communities remain cut off even after floods retreated, with waterways clogged with debris and roads waterlogged.

HUMAN-TRAFFICKING

Kerry urges Malaysia to do more

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Secretary of State John Kerry yesterday told Malaysia's leader his government should do more to stop people-trafficking, a US official said, a week after Washington controversially praised the country's efforts. The State Department on July 27 raised Malaysia from its lowest Tier 3 ranking on trafficking to the "Tier 2 Watch List", drawing allegations that President Barack Obama's administration was trying to curry favour with Malaysia to gain its support for a regional trade pact. The State Department report last week had said Malaysia exhibited "significant efforts" in fighting trafficking. But the assessment sparked outrage from human rights and anti-trafficking groups, particularly as it followed the discovery in May of brutal human trafficking camps in Malaysia near the Thai border. The State Department said its annual evaluation of Malaysia was completed before those revelations emerged.



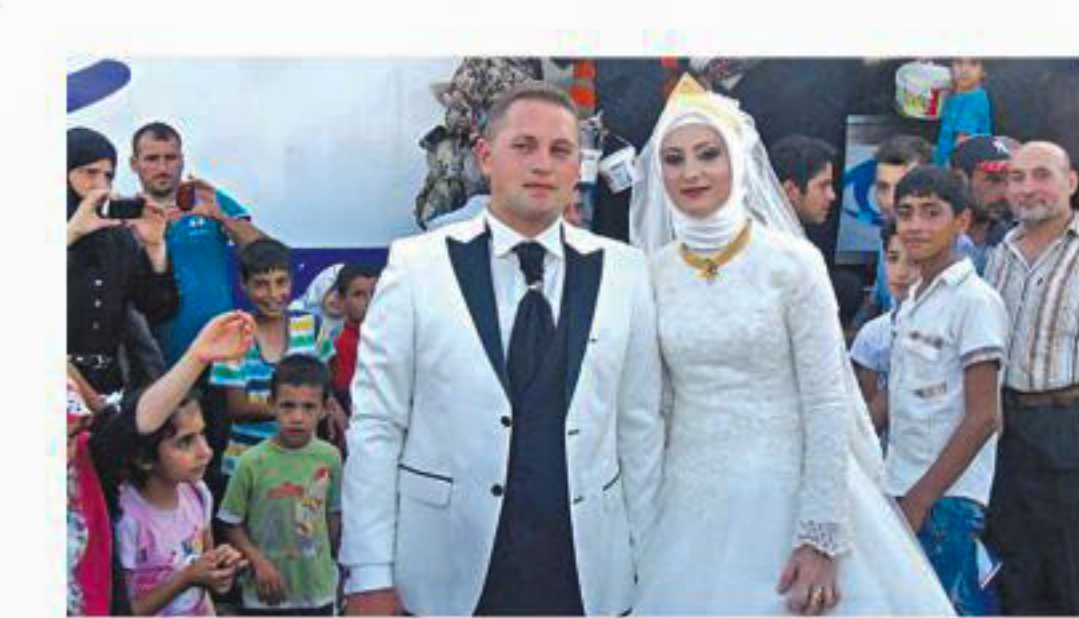
PHOTO: REUTERS

(Top) A boy holds a paper lantern in front of the Atomic Bomb Dome during a procession commemorating the victims of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima, western Japan, yesterday. Bottom, A combination picture shows the gutted Hiroshima A-Bomb Dome on August 20, 1945 (top), and the same location on July 28, 2015. Japan will mark today the 70th anniversary of the attack on Hiroshima, where the US dropped an atomic bomb on August 6, 1945, killing about 140,000 by the end of the year in a city of 350,000 residents. It was the world's first nuclear attack. The Atomic Bomb Dome, or Genbaku Dome, was the only structure left standing in this district of the city and has been preserved as a peace memorial.

Court issues warrant for Lalit Modi

AFP, Mumbai

A special court in India yesterday issued an arrest warrant for exiled former cricket boss Lalit Modi over allegations of money laundering linked to a lucrative television deal, an official said. The court in Mumbai granted the non-bailable warrant after Modi failed to answer a summons ordering his return from London to face corruption allegations. Modi was instrumental in founding and overseeing the money-spinning Twenty20 IPL in 2008 before fleeing to London two years later when tax and financial crime authorities raided his premises. Modi has more recently been embroiled in controversy with Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj who is under pressure to resign over her role in helping him gain a passport in Britain.



A unique wedding feast

THE DAILY BEAST ONLINE

A couple in Turkey swapped out lavish nuptials with their friends and family for the bread line with thousands of Syrian refugees. Last Thursday, Fethullah Uzmüncüoğlu and Esra Polat doled out food to 4,000 Syrian refugees for their wedding reception on the border town of Kilis. The bride wore an elaborate white dress, with a tiara perched on her headdress, and the groom sported a white tuxedo with black trim. They stood behind large food trucks distributing meals to hungry Syrians. The couple had decided that instead of hosting their friends and family for a traditional banquet reception, they would feed the victims of a bloody civil war next door. The bride was shocked at first when her husband told her about the plan. But she agreed eventually. So, they arrived at KYM's distribution center on Thursday to spend the day serving food and taking photographs with their grateful recipients. "Hopefully this will also give the start for other wedding dinners to be held here with our brothers in Syria," the groom told local news.

SOUTH CHINA SEA ROW US, Asean mount pressure on China

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

China came under mounting pressure yesterday over its land reclamation in the South China Sea with both the United States and Japan criticising it for militarising the disputed waters. US Secretary of State John Kerry raised the issue during a meeting with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of a regional diplomatic gathering in Malaysia that has been dominated by tensions over the Chinese moves. "Secretary Kerry reiterated his concern about rising tensions over disputed claims in the South China Sea and China's large-scale reclamation, construction and militarisation of features there," a senior State Department official told reporters. "He encouraged China, along with the other claimants, to halt problematic actions in order to create space for diplomacy." China has sparked alarm by expanding tiny reefs in the flashpoint sea and constructing military posts on some of them to try to shore up its territorial claims. The United States and Southeast Asian nations have called for a halt to such activities. China has so far refused, but on Wednesday Wang said land reclamation had "already stopped". "China has already stopped. You look, who is building? Take a plane and look for yourself," he said to reporters.

MIGRANT TRAGEDY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN Hundreds feared dead

AFP, Rome

Hundreds of migrants attempting the perilous journey across the Mediterranean were feared to have drowned Wednesday after their overcrowded fishing boat capsized off Libya. The boat ran into difficulty some 15 nautical miles off Libya and sent out a distress call, which was picked up by the coastguard in Sicily. Two vessels -- the Doctors Without Borders (MSF) ship Dignity One and Irish patrol vessel LE Niamh -- were immediately dispatched to the scene, but the boat capsized after the migrants all rushed to one side in anticipation of being rescued, the coast guard said. "Boat carrying 600 capsized off Libya. So far, 250 rescued, 16 dead. Worried for the others," UNHCR chief spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said on Twitter. Three other ships have been sent to the area to search for survivors. Nawal Soufi, an Arabic-speaking Italian based in Sicily who is often contacted by migrants in distress, told AFP she had received a call earlier on Wednesday about a

boat in trouble with more than 600 people on board. Soufi said she was called at 9am (0700 GMT) from someone onboard who said the fishing boat, carrying men, women and children, was in trouble because its engine room was flooded. Coastguard spokesman Filippo Marini confirmed it was probably the same boat but it was too early to say how many people may have disappeared below the waves. "The boat overturned and sank quickly because it was made of metal," Federico Fossi, spokesman in Italy for the UNHCR told AFP, adding that "we fear many (people) were stuck inside" when it sank. More than 2,000 people have died trying to cross the Mediterranean to Europe this year, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), while around 188,000 people have been rescued. The latest shipwreck was set to shift the focus in the immigration debate back to the struggles of those fleeing war zones, after weeks of complaints from France and Britain over the disruption caused by asylum seekers at the Channel Tunnel.

