

Maoist Obsession

The opposite of war is revolution. But there is no immediate possibility of maoist revolution in sight in this hapless land. Yet war-cry against maoists and their supporters acquires colourful twists and turns with every passing day, albeit there lies no sharp boundaryline between conflicts among states and the wars waged by ruling elites against their own people. Creating 'maoist menace' has been a popular passion in the mainstream media for quite some time. What they want to convey in so many ways to the world is how impoverished millions can be good without maoists. Also, they never get tired to ponder over why maoists are growing in strength across they country, particularly in most backward regions. Interestingly, 'backward people' everywhere subscribe to forward thinking.

At a recent panel discussion on maoists organised by a national daily, before 'a highly appreciative audience' in the third week of September one of the mainspeakers, a retired general, virtually went berserk to demonise the maoists and falasify history while providing a new perspective to maoist violence when he accused China of aiding and abetting the maoists by giving them arms, ammunitions and funds routed through Pakistan and Bangladesh. A triangle of 'evil regimes' is taking shape and it is definitely a food for thought to the policy-makers in New Delhi. He went a step further to add flavour to the maoist danger by way of unravelling links between naxalite upsurge and India-China border war in the sixties.

True, the Chinese Communist Party's moral and ideological support to the naxalite movement and subsequent rupture with the CPM worked as a catalyst for the quick spread of the movement but at no point of time the naxalites or maoists utilised China-made missiles against the state. They always depended on traditional weapons used by tribals in their day to day existence and crude bombs to execute their 'revolutionary war'. Even now when their armed actions are somewhat sophisticated and at higher levels, they do not import landmines from China. Also, the Chinese Party has now party-to-party relationship with the CPI (marxist), not the CPI (maoist). In truth the Chinese communists these days maintain party-to-party culture with India's all major political parties, including right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party.

At one stage when insurgency in the north-east was at its peak, insurgents might have utilised the volatile and porous India-China border for strategic gains to fight Indian security forces. But Naga rebels were not maoists. They were nationalists and to this day they are no less so. Chinese are good traders no doubt but they are hardly interested in exporting revolution, even of their kind. In some countries they are seen as merchants of death because they provide the concerned governments they trade with arms and ammunitions in exchange for hard cash, of course, to surpress revolutionary protest movements. China has no communist international agenda and there is no communist international either. On the contrary its great leap forward to become a global economic and military power within a short period can be achieved only by helping pro-Chinese market forces. Also, most naxalites including the CPI (maoist) no longer treat the

Chinese Party as a genuine communist party. Mao is irrelevant in post-Mao China.

The axis of evil theory involving China-Pakistan-Bangladesh, designed to destabilise India, sells well Indian market because India's ruling elites can silence any voice of dissent under the pretext of destabilisation game. And clubbing maoists with them means they are actually hatching a plot to isolate the maoists from the broad masses. As the seminar took place in the wake of alleged Chinese border incursions into Indian territory, which, however, the external affairs ministry tried to downplay by describing them as routine incidents reflecting variations in perceptions about the Line of Actual Control, China factor came handy to browbeat the maoists.

Hard reality is that India had no border problem with its northern neighbour so long as Tibet was Tibet, not an autonomous region of China. On the India-China border question the naxalite camp as well as the official communist establishment of India, are sharply divided. In practice and theory as well they think it is a secondary issue. Or just they pretend 'as if nothing has happened'. But to say the Chinese are financing maoist projects in India sounds ludicrous. Then it is a well orchestrated ploy to whip up jingoism and chauvinism. It is a good diversion and there are many takers for it.

Despite their so many mistakes and wrong strategy in relation to massline, they are with the people struggling for a totally new way of life and not with status-quoism fighting to perpetuate itself.

Finally panel speakers of the all important seminar reached the business as usual conclusion : 'maoism will remain as long as the system fails to deliver'. And there is every reason to believe that this system cannot deliver. No basic change for the better can come about until this system remains unchanged. Lies about maoists abound. The point is how to break the unspoken code. □