



Bharatiya Citizens Security Council

## “National Security Threats & Role of Mighty Media”

Seminar Approach Paper By: Capt SB Tyagi

**National Security Threats:** India remains the world's largest democracy and one of the fastest growing economies in the 21st century. The country is being recognized for its middleclass educated professionals, its cultural influence, diaspora, economic growth and global expertise. A 2010 joint study by the US National Intelligence Council and the EU declared India to be the world's third most powerful nation in terms of influence and growth. India also represents cultural and geographical diversity, socio-religious traditions (dating back to more than 6,000 years), and multiracial, multi-religious and multi-lingual societies. Every major religion in the world is practiced in India, and the roots of its secular and cultural traditions are embedded deep in India's glorified past. India's national security problems thus emerge from a number of factors such as its history, geography, colonial legacy, socio-cultural and ethno-religious traditions, population, and social and economic disparities.

**The Might of Media:** The media has become an important tool of the statecraft in the modern era. It is the 'fourth estate' which helps the state to further its interests, objectives and goals. Since the dawn of information revolution and the use of media for 'attaining war objectives by other means,' media is an important element in opinion making/building, creating heroes & villains, and creating monsters & enemies. What media can do...

*“The force of the newspaper is the greatest force in civilization.... newspapers form and express public opinion. They suggest and control legislation. They declare wars. They punish criminals, especially the powerful. They reward with approving publicity the good deeds of citizens everywhere. The Newspapers control the nation because they represent the people.”*

- William Randolph Hearst

**Media's Strength:** Media, the means of communication that reaches or influences people widely has a significant place in the statecraft machinery especially in the age of information revolution. It is the source of information for a society regarding any issue - be it local, regional or global, people rely and even trust on what is presented to them by media. Therefore, this dimension / value of media increases its significance as an influential and instrumental tool with regards to building confidence or promoting mistrust among people on issues related to national security.

*The media is the most powerful entity on earth. They have the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent, and that's power, because they control the minds of the masses.*

- Malcolm X, an African American Human Rights Activist (1925-65)

Media and politics have a strong connection in the contemporary strategic environment. The earlier role of media, as a source of information/communication between people and state, and between states, has been transformed and widened. Now the political actors work in the environment shaped by the media.

**Media's Role in National Security:** India has been grappling with national security issues for many decades with internal security being the major cause of concern. Terrorist attacks have attempted to destabilize the country to a large extent. Governments have attempted evolving a comprehensive National Security Policy to eradicate the scourge of terrorism as well as tackling the related challenges of sectarian, religious and ethnic clashes. While the government is inviting input from various stakeholders towards the conceptualization of the security policies, one essential contributor should be the media.



The media - print, electronic and social - has a variety of interests of its own and set goals to be achieved. It has its share of rogues, incompetents and avaricious vultures. Yet, at its best, the media provides the nation with a vital service it can get nowhere else.

The fact remains that the media is an essential component of national security and can play the role of a force multiplier for the security forces. Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the US, who also led his country through its bloodiest civil war in history, stated, "Public opinion is everything. With it nothing can fail, without it nothing can succeed."

".... it is well known that media are more devoted to conflict than to tranquility, and that war is routinely defined as news, while peace is not. What is good for the world, in other words, is not necessarily good for the news business".

<http://www.southasiaanalysis.org/paper407#sthash.nWLyhDek.dpuf>

**Media Apathy to National Security:** The Indian media in relation to coverage, discussion and analysis of India's national security matters has displayed a deplorable insensitivity to genuine matters of national interests and national security interests. In this respect the electronic media is more to blame with their attempts to encapsulate complex national security issues into thirty second "sound bites" so says Michael J O'Neill, former President of the American Association of Newspapers Editors.

<http://www.southasiaanalysis.org/paper407#sthash.nWLyhDek.dpuf>

**What can be done:** We need to emphasize with the media fraternity the importance of the understanding of India's national security needs, and the role it can play in maintaining a steady and efficient Government. We need to put forward need for an effective cooperation between the State and the media in India to counter threats to national security in a phased manner.

The tryst of Indian media with its contemporary security challenge and the role it plays in counter-terrorism strategies, makes the task of incorporating media in the national security strategy even more unavoidable. The aim is to theoretically analyse the role of the Indian media in conflict resolution through the theoretical basis of journalism and to lay a practical and implementable outline for the State and policy guides to actively involve the media in maintaining security, peace and stability in the region.

**Conclusion:** About two decades back Daniel C. Hallin wrote, "The behaviour of the media . . . is intimately related to the unity and clarity of the government itself, as well as to the degree of consensus in the society at large." This conclusion seems to be as valid even now.

Bhartiya Citizens Security Council" also referred as BCSC is a voluntary study-group working with the primary and immediate objective of making all Indian citizens, irrespective of caste, creed or community, aware of the ground realities, especially relating to demographic changes, that we feel will adversely affect the multicultural, secular and age-old pluralistic society of India as also the integrity of the Indic civilization as a whole.

The BCSC has chosen to remain apolitical, non-communal and nationalist in all its activities. The societal changes envisioned by us due to empirical threats emanating from sources such as ISIS, Taliban or generic jihadis have guided us to work out plans and strategies to secure our great society, culture and Nation! We will also be circulating the regular updates through mails. Any detailed study can be done by using the hyperlinks wherever provided in such mails.

**Our Web-site:** <http://bcsc2024.wix.com/bcsc>

**E-mail:** [bcsc2024@gmail.com](mailto:bcsc2024@gmail.com)

**Google Group of Bhartiya Citizens' Security Council:** <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/bhartiya-citizens-security-council>



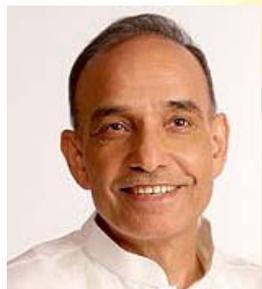
Bharatiya Citizens Security Council

## Speakers' Profiles



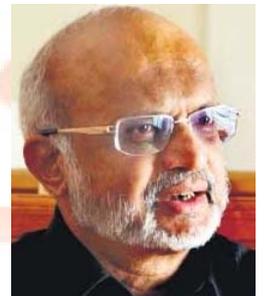
**Arif Mohammad Khan** is a former state minister who started his political career as student leader. He was elected to Lok Sabha in 1980 and 1984. In 1986, he quit Indian National Congress due to differences over the passage of Muslim Personal Law Bill piloted by Rajiv Gandhi in the Lok Sabha. He is the author of best-selling book "Text and Context: Quran and Contemporary Challenges". Now he actively involves in writing the articles and columns related to Islam and Sufism. He has advocated abolishing of Muslim Personal Law Board the right to maintenance of a divorced Muslim wife absolute.

**Lieutenant General Syed Ata Hasnain, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM (BAR), VSM (BAR)** is a retired Indian Army General Officer. His last assignment in service was as the Military Secretary of the Indian Army. Prior to that, he commanded an Army Corps in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, amongst other appointments. General Hasnain is an alumnus of the Asia Pacific Centre for Security Studies (APCSS), Hawaii, USA and the Royal College of Defence Studies, London, and has also completed a postgraduate degree in International Studies from King's College, University of London.



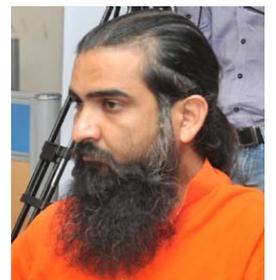
**Dr. Satya Pal Singh**, Member of Parliament is the former Police Commissioner of Mumbai and Member of Parliament (MP) of the Bharatiya Janata Party from Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh for the 16th Lok Sabha. He has secured a MBA from Australia and also has a MA in Public Administration and PhD in Naxalism from Nagpur University. Before joining the I.P.S, Singh wanted to become a scientist. A scholar of Vedic studies and Sanskrit, Singh regularly delivers lectures on spirituality, religious extremism, inter-religious harmony and corruption

**Madhav Das Nalpat** is an Indian academic and columnist. Currently Editorial Director of The Sunday Guardian and Vice-Chair of Manipal University's Advanced Research Group, he has been the Coordinating Editor of the Times of India. He became Editor of the Mathrubhumi, a Malayalam-language newspaper in 1984 and continuing ever since. Shri Nalpat writes extensively on security, policy and international affairs. His columns are also published in The Pakistan Observer and Organiser, the in-house publication / newspaper of Rashtriya Swyam Sevak Sangh.



**François Gautier** is French political writer and journalist based in India, since 1971. He has served as the South Asian correspondent of Le Figaro newspaper. He stopped writing for a while and focussed on activities like meditation and gardening. He became interested in Indology when he began to travel outside Auroville. Gautier wrote the book "The Wonder That Is India". Following this, Gautier wrote several other books. Gautier has worked on a book about the martial art Kalaripayattu. In 2003 he was bestowed Nachiketa Award & Bipin Chandra Pal Award. He donated the money to FACT.

**Swami Vishalanand** is a Program Coordinator on Prison Reforms representing Divya Jyoti Jagrati Sansthan and is also its Chief Spokesman. Deeply spiritual and well-read Swami ji extensively speaks and writes on Hindu Dharma, spirituality and vaidic philosophy. A regular on various channels and print media – specially 'Speaking Tree', he is working on prison reforms and reforming prisoners and is passionate debater on matters relating to Patriotism, Nationalism and Defence of Motherland!



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