

## **Beef up security**

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Sir: The first and the foremost step to stop terrorism and secessionism in Kashmir should be to beef up security along the border. Though a legislation had been enacted in Parliament five years ago with regard to the construction of a security belt along the borders of both Punjab and Kashmir why was it not done all these years? As terrorism in Kashmir is Pakistan-sponsored, the Indian army should be deployed in Kashmir Valley to bring the situation there under control, with immediate effect. The National Integration Council (NIC), which met on Oct.31 to discuss the Kashmir and Punjab problems, was successful only in pronouncing that Pakistan was involved in a proxy war against India. But the steps, which would be taken to stop the proxy war, were not clearly spelt out.

Apart from strengthening the security in Kashmir, the other steps, which ought to be taken, are: 1. Closure of all schools in Kashmir that teach Islam and spread hatred towards India. The schools are run with help of Pakistan-trained terrorists. 2. Article 370 of the Constitution should be abrogated as demanded by the BJP. This Article has been a psychological barrier between the Kashmiris and the citizens of rest of the country. The special status, which the Kashmir enjoys because of this, has helped in nurturing separatist tendencies among some Kashmiris.

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