

TERRORISM: A GREAT EVIL

Terrorism has become a global issue and is the most isolated of so many other socio-political evils associated with the country because it is "breaking away" from the main stream, a section of the people who resort to use the force of arms to overwhelm their opponent.

It is a challenge to the authority of the state and a revolt against the entire social-political order of the day in decisive manner.

Terrorism has created a panic situation in the whole world. It has 'grown of time' and not all of a sudden. There are so many social-political and economic factors responsible for the rise of terrorism.

Sometimes communal organisations use the unemployed youth for the purpose of spreading violence in society in order to disrupt the established social system. They do this to achieve success in their unlawful demands.

In India too, we have witnessed such a situation when once terrorists were promoted in Punjab by the then ruling party and its leader, which later on proved to be a suicidal step for the ruling party.

Terrorism has no boundary, no emotion, no feeling. It can occur anywhere anytime in any form against anyone no matter whether it is mosque in Karachi (Pakistan), Akshardham temple in Gujarat (India), World Trade Center (USA) or school children of Russia.

1995 was the year which can be said to be the period when terrorism emerged evidently as a major threat to modern civilization. For the first time it became clear that the new breed of terrorists see the entire civilized world, including moderate Muslim regions, as a threat to their global aims. It is not just countries like India that are a target.

Previously it was presumed that terrorist violence would be restricted to Kashmir only. But this presumption has been proved baseless and now it is clear that terrorism views all civilized countries with a liberal tradition as fair game for the spread of terror.

Attack on Parliament in New Delhi and J&K Assembly were the most horrible terrorist's attack.

In Jammu region, on December 28, 2022 four terrorists were killed as Indian forces averted a major terror attack in the city. A suspicious truck was stopped at Sidhra checkpoint in Jammu, when the terrorists who had made a cavity inside opened fire. The Indian forces then retaliated, converting it into a full-fledged encounter. Similarly after three day of the incident, four civilians were killed and many others injured in a suspected terrorist attack at upper Dangri village, about eight kilometres from Rajouri town of Jammu and Kashmir on New year.



OFF 'D' CUFF

No matter what the challenge in life, we always need to stay aware of the nature of thoughts that we harbour when things start to prove difficult: Do we think in defeatist terms and put ourselves down as losers? Or are we willing to take on any difficulty and build on the successes we have already achieved in life? We must be honest with ourselves and put things into the right perspective for the sake of our spiritual evolution.

As the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad states in 1.4.8: "If a man claims that something other than his Self is dear to him, and someone were to tell him that he will lose what he holds dear, that is liable to happen. Therefore, a man should regard only his Self as dear to him. When a man regards only his Self as dear to him, what he holds dear will never perish." The quote stands as a reminder of our priority when dealing with life's challenges: instead of worrying about winning or losing, we should keep our focus on the Atman as our true, eternal Self. If on the other hand, we pursue only winning for the sake of a limited ego expressing itself in terms of 'I' and 'mine', we will not have realised our full potential in life.

Therefore, we need to approach any problem as a unique chance for growth. By doing so, any difficulty will be transcended. Winning and losing might still be of importance, but we will be less attached to the outcome of our performance. The gain will be more of a spiritual nature rather than a material one.

As the quote emphasises, the Atman can never perish and we should view it as the only goal of all life. Through realising the self as Brahmn, which is the same everywhere and at all times, we will have gained insight into the eternal truth beyond everything. Within the Supreme Truth, winning and losing become relative terms, because judgement

Of winning, losing and realising our potential

only ever happens from the standpoint of a finite mind rather than of the Atman.

We are part of God and at the same time always one with It. The Divine's Lila is playing itself out through us, whether we are aware of it or not. Therefore, by looking beyond the immediate goals ahead, we become motivated to work for a higher cause: to realise the Self.

In the Bhagwad Gita, 3:18, Krishn characterises self-realised persons by giving a true definition of winning: "Having found the source of joy and fulfilment, they no longer seek happiness from the external world. They have nothing to gain or lose by any action; neither people nor things can affect their security."

Life is not about our performance in the outside world, but about keeping our focus on the Atman and always trying our best. In so doing we gain inner peace, strength from within and the will to always carry on. Why should we then still feel the need to fulfil finite and passing desires which do not make us happy in life?

It is the performance of our actions in a spirit of Karmyog that will help us to be less attached to the outcomes in life.

Krishn makes us aware of the spiritual heights we may reach whilst acting: dedicate your life to loving and realising God and become free of karma. Then no experience of spiritual knowledge will ever be lost. Nothing in life and no one can disturb us easily any more. In fact, we will face difficulties with a more balanced mental outlook. Our spiritual truths once gained are truly the only game in life we should attempt to master. By performing our actions with love and dedication, God will realise itself. We can only win.

- John Hierl

Kashmiri Pandits Killings-Targeted killings of a particular community

■ ER. P.L KHUSHU



Targeted killing of Kashmiri Pandits should not be seen from prism of religion. This is what has been said by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha. Admitting to the targeted killings of Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu and Kashmir recently, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha advised that the country should stop viewing it from the lens of religion as people from other communities have also been killed in large numbers. "There are also labourers who come from Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand during the apple season and there were two-three incidents, but a (false) narrative is spread," he added. Such a statement coming from the highest office of the administration of Jammu and Kashmir is very much welcome for maintaining the secular balance of the country. But a distinct question arises, how long and why such killings from a particular community belonging to a particular religion of Jammu and Kashmir selectively only. Probably in all fairness it has to be accepted that such killings of KP's are the killings of particular community of a particular religion, planned well and schematically executed by the terror groups working in Jammu and Kashmir. There should be no doubt about it. Kashmiri Pandits have been very much secular always while living in Kashmir. But secularism is not a one way traffic. It needs response from the other end. Still KP's hold the banner of secular character while being in exile for the last about 35 years.

Austin a great philosopher says, "A page of history is worth a volume of logic". In the case of Kashmiri Pandits, history of last more than 35 years is privy to this fact that KP's were killed in the valley selectively in great numbers ever since the militancy erupted in the valley since 1989-90. These killings were pre planned when warnings were issued to the KP's about such killings, with a further dictum to leave the valley right from 1990 itself, which is being repeated now. It is being done with specific intentions to make the valley an abode of a particular community only, for pushing through the charter of terror in the valley, along with spreading of hate in Kashmir for Indian dominance. It is being done by the masters of this menace of terror and militancy which is planned and fomented across the border in Pakistan. Probably the wearer knows better where the shoe is pinching. KP's of the valley, where they were living from ages, have now been feeling such sad and genocidal pinching for the last almost 35 years. Such comments may suit the secular fabric of India for its local or national consumption, but it is a pseudo secular statement for the KP's, which may add more salt to the bleeding wounds of having been forcibly displaced, who are living as displaced persons somewhere else in their own country. Better said than done a famous saying.

KP's need healing touches of sympathy and warmth by the administration of all levels, including the central one, for the amelioration of their present plight of dismay and distrust due to the onslaught of militancy in Kashmir for the last 35 years. If enough cannot be done for their rehabilitation, which seems a dream under the circumstances, yet, such statements may hurt them more. KP's in Kashmir have been the victims of such pseudo secular statements from the dynastic rulers of Kashmir for decades including the congress party rulers from Delhi, which ultimately resulted in their present turmoil and displacement along with their mass genocide ever since 1990.

A brief abstract of the chronology of the killings of KP's in Kashmir.

The dark night of January 19, 1990, shivering with cold, is remembered by all of them, as it was the worst nightmare for the Kashmiri Pandits living in the valley. Screaming from loud speakers and crowded streets was a message for KP's living in Kashmir, which said, Ralive, Tsaliv, Neti- Galiv. (It meant that either convert to Islam or leave Kashmir and in the alternative face death). Even after about 31 years, Kashmiri Pandits shiver remembering the night which forced them into exodus and a life of exile within their own country. Jehadi cum communal speeches from mosques were put on loud speakers meant for "Azan & Nimaz", which would say "Yeti- Bani Pakistan, Bhatov Bhegeer the Bhatenen-San", meaning there in that the Kashmir will become a Pakistan without male Kashmiri Pandits, but including women folk of Kashmiri Pandits. What followed thereafter is the mass genocide of KP's. The prominent press in this regard among Kashmiri Pandits were the persons of immense reputation, writers, community elders, legal luminaries, press and media personalities, government officers/officials who were on prominent positions in the state administration or were known prominently. The spurt to militancy had actually given birth in the year 1989 itself, which was taken very lightly by Pandits of the valley, presuming that the brother hood and compassion between the majority community and the Pandits had never received any serious jolt in the past. But it was a myth. On 14 September 1989, Pandit Tika Lal Taploo, who was a lawyer and a prominent leader of KP's, was murdered by the JKLF in Srinagar. Prominent lawyer Sh. Prem Nath Bhat was gunned down on 27th December-1989 in South Kashmir. Soon after Taploo's death, Pt. Nilkanth Ganjoo, an imminent judge who had sentenced Maqbul Bhat to death, was shot dead. On 29 April 1990, Sarwanand Kaul Premi, a veteran Kashmiri poet was gruesomely murdered. His young son was also killed gruesomely. On 2nd February 1990, Satish Tikoo, a young Hindu Pandit social-worker was murdered near his own house in Habba Kadal. On 13 February 1990, Lassa Kaul, Station Director of Srinagar Doordarshan, was shot dead.

This is only a small tale of KP's who were killed brutally, because of being Kashmiri Pandits. In March 1997, terrorists drag out seven Kashmiri Pandits from their houses in Sangrampora village and gunned them down. In January 1998, about 23 Kashmiri Pandits, including women and children were shot dead in cold blood in Wandhama Village. In March 2003, about 24 Kashmiri Pandits, including infants, brutally shot dead in Nadimarg Village. More than 4, 00,000 Kashmiri Pandits left the Valley and took refuge in Jammu and elsewhere, leaving their entire properties and belongings in the valley to the mercy of militants and Jehadi's. One can understand the agony of this exodus along with travesty of having lost everything in life, like one's property, one's belongings, agricultural lands and orchards, commercial establishments, means to earn a living honorably and above all our own culture which was unique for all of us and was very much dear to us. The administrative set ups both at the central government and the state government levels never bothered enough to address seriously such a devastation of the KP's till date. Reason being that we the Pandits are not a vote bank entity for anybody or any political entity in Jammu & Kashmir or outside Jammu & Kashmir.

The killing of a Kashmiri Hindu pharmacist in Srinagar is a bizarre attempt of a timid and coercive acts of impious Jihad and thus an anti Islamic act as per the settled cosmic norms of Islam conveyed through Holy Quran. Gunmen stormed into the Government Boys Higher Secondary School in Srinagar's Eidgah area and shot two teachers at close range, after identifying these as non Muslim teachers. These victims were members of the region's minority Sikh and Hindu communities.

Yet another brutal killing of a young non-Muslim teacher Rajni Bala, 36, who belonged to Samba district and was posted at a government school in Gopalpora, was shot dead by terrorists earlier in the day. Bala's is the second killing of a non-Muslim government employees. Similarly, earlier so many non-Muslims working in Kashmir working to earn their bread and butter, belonging to the other parts of India, were similarly killed mercilessly by the terrorists. Kashmiri Pandit Rahul Bhat, working in the office of Tehsilad Chaddora, in the district Badgam of Kashmir. He was shot dead inside the main office premises of the Tehsil Office at Chaddora, district Budgam, Kashmir on 13th May-2022, in broad day light, under the very nose of others working in that office, of course being mostly the Muslim employees. The lured terrorists barged into the Tehsil office Chaddora and shot from a close-range Rahul Bhat, working under Prime Minister's Rehabilitation Package (PMRP), as a clerk. Another brutal killing of such a nature was of a Kashmiri Pandit Sh. Rakesh Pandita, the President of Municipal Committee Tral, which was done by Jehadis at Tral Kashmir, on 2nd June-2021, after

another gruesome killing of Ajay Pandita a Kashmiri Pandit and a sarpanch at Larkipora, Anantnag, who was shot dead by unidentified terrorists at Lokbawan in Anantnag on 8th June-2020. Prime Minister's Rehabilitation Package (PMRP) for the KP's has become a death trap for Rahul Bhat, who was working just as a clerk under this rehabilitation scheme of the Prime Minister of India for the migrant Kashmiri Pandits. What can be a better proof other than this when KP's belonging to particular community were killed on the community card linked to a particular religion and being true Indians.

Can all such killings of KP's in Kashmir be called as "Secular" killings. If yes, "what should be then called as communal killings". The point is to make Kashmir an Islamic hyperbole with the sole aim to ensure that no one other than a fanatic Muslim lives there. Such an unholy epic has its seeds in Pakistan which want that Kashmir must be non-Muslim free, to further its anti-India activities in Kashmir. This conspiracy of evicting the KP's from Kashmir along with their genocide has apparently a hidden go ahead from most of the fanatic Muslims of Kashmir believing in the establishing of "Nizame-Mustaffa", the pure Islamic Rule in Kashmir.

After passing through a protracted turmoil of almost more than three decades, the displaced Kashmiri Pandits are presently facing a piquant situation for them. Kashmir Fight blog, the mouth-piece of The Resistance Front (TRF), Pakistan's new terror outfit, established in Kashmir and an offshoot of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) group, has issued threats and released a 'hit list' with the names of 57 Kashmiri Pandits, who are working as government employees, under the Prime Minister's Rehabilitation Package in the Kashmir Valley. In an open letter, the Islamic terror organization pledged to continue targeting Kashmir's Hindus. They ranted about how the non-locals and Kashmiri Hindus were stealing employment and land from Kashmir. The terror group further stated that Delhi is imposing a 'fascist' Hindutva ideology on Kashmir and Kashmiries, which they will not tolerate. TRF also vowed to continue attacking Hindus who are "maligning the atmosphere of the valley." "We once again want to warn such elements not to become pawns of Delhi Regime and don't become the carriers of their filthy and fascist agenda," read the threat letter.

What can such a threat noise or warning be called as, when such terror groups have already executed their some of such threats. Is it a secular warning? Why to KP's only. No political party including the BJP, wants to antagonize the majority population of Muslims both in Kashmir and the other Muslims in India. Let the government act and save the innocent KP's as pigeons before cats. Who comes to their rescue is a million dollar question. (The author is a retired chartered civil engineer as also a displaced Kashmiri Pandit, who loves his motherland the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir).

Technologies and Rural Development

■ DR. BANARSI LAL

Socio-economic equality, better productivity, sustainable growth and harmonizing modern technologies are the pillars of any nation's progress. Agriculture is the backbone of the rural economy. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has rendered great service in the scientific farming and also bridging the gap between lab and land. With the improved agricultural implements and modern machines, farmers are able to increase their agricultural productivity. Assistance for purchasing the modern agricultural machineries is also provided to the farmers. The use of agricultural machines is not uniform as the improvements have mostly seen in the states of the Northern India and in a few other states where irrigation facilities have been developed. We have a technology mission on oilseeds that has achieved a major breakthrough in its production. We have developed more than 600 high yielding, early-to-very early, late maturing, dwarf, disease and pest-resistant varieties of paddy and wheat. In India wheat contributes around 36 per cent to the total food grain basket. More than 260 high-yielding, disease and pest-resistant wheat varieties having good quality grains suitable in different climatic conditions have been developed. We are at number two in fruit and vegetable production the world after China. We are at number one position in production of mango and banana in the world. Research has led to the development of regular-bearing, dwarf mango hybrids, resulting in increased production and export of mango. We are at number one in milk production in the world. Now drudgery has been reduced in agricultural sector due to availability of quality farm implements for interculture, spraying, harvesting, thrashing etc.

We are so much obsessed with the political somersaults such as rise and fall of governments, insurgencies, various film stories, sports such as cricket, modern fashions etc. that we tend to bypass the changes in rural India. We can't deny that technology triggered the Green Revolution that brought spectacular results in the agricultural field. Science has made tremendous impact on agriculture. In present era we talk of integrated pest and disease management, integrated land and water management, organic and natural farming, low-cost housing and sanitation etc. in the use of modern agricultural appliances for greater productivity. We can't ignore the myriad achievements of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) set up in 1942. Almost one-fourth of the technical grade pesticide production is based on CSIR technology. CSIR has produced specific pesticides and also biological methods of pest control for cotton and sweet potato and also neem based insect antifeedants. It has also promoted technologies suited to local resources endowments

for low cost housing, semi-mechanised brick making, construction of rural roads, grain and water storage bins, cultivation of medicines and aromatic plants, extraction of oils etc. The Department of Atomic Energy has also contributed a lot in the area of agriculture and food preservation. Its nuclear energy programme covers development of high yielding crop seeds, fertilizers and pesticides-related studies and radiation processing of food items. The research efforts at Trombay in the field of crop improvement has led to the development of more than 22 high-yielding varieties of pulses, rice, oilseeds etc. One of important achievements in radiation-induced mutation is the development of a green manure crop-sesbania rostrata. This method of green manuring is very cost effective. This can help in boosting the organic farming. Presently a stress on natural farming is also given to produce the quality food by minimizing the cost of cultivation. Department of Space has produced rich dividends for the Indian farmers. Remote sensing applications now cover diverse fields of crop acreage, yield estimation, drought warning and assessment etc. Centre and State Governments get advanced acreage and production estimates for crops such as wheat, paddy, sorghum etc. In India different extension agencies are also trying their level best to bridge the gap between rural and urban India.

In April 2016, the Indian Govt. Launched e-NAM (National Agricultural Market), an online platform for farmers that integrates agricultural markets pan-India with a theme on one nation, one market. The platform aids farmers and traders to view all Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) related information, commodity arrivals and buy and sell trade offers. India is a land of villages and about 70 per cent of India's population lives in villages. It is hoped that India's all the 6 lakh villages will be having e-connectivity in the coming years. With the support of Tata Trust, a Jamsetji Tata National Virtual Academy for Rural Prosperity has been established at the M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) for training and selecting one million rural men and women as fellows of the society. They will be the torch-bearers for the rural people. The ISRO-MSSRF Village Resource Centre programme has already been launched in our country. These kinds of centres will help the villagers to meet their basic needs in education, health, farming, nutrition etc. This satellite based project seeks to achieve digital connectivity to remote villages for providing services such as telemedicine's, tele-education and remote sensing applications through a single window. Unless the benefits of science and technology are taken to the rural areas, the country would not be able to eradicate poverty and illiteracy problems. The concept of VRC was given by ISRO

and implemented through a partnership with the MSSRF-ISRO's capabilities in satellite communication and satellite-based earth observation to disseminate a variety of services emanating from the space systems have been integrated with other information technology tools to address the changing and critical needs of the rural communities. The Village Resource Centre (VRC) works on an interactive Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) network. According to an imminent agricultural scientist Dr.M.S.Swaminathan, the rural economy can flourish if Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are used to create new livelihood opportunities. These technologies could be used in the areas of agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, sericulture, food processing, rural handicrafts etc.

Important services such as education and health care can be delivered through ICTs in the rural areas. Computers can be provided in the rural schools and doctors from government hospitals can offer online services to the rural people. The drinking water is becoming the scarcest commodity and countryside, alternatives like desalination though costly method now is being resorted with the purpose of providing drinking water for the rural and urban areas. Department of Atomic Energy is showing the way in this regard. Chennai which is said to be the most water starved city in India is now having Rs.1000-crore desalination plant. As far as fresh drinking water is concerned, the plight of people in the countryside needs to be taken care of. Around 296 villages in Ramanathapuram District in Tamil Nadu are getting their quota of drinking water Naripaiyar Desalination Plant. Many studies on renewable energy sources have been conducted and a large number of solar gadgets such as solar grain dryer, solar water heater, solar fruit and vegetables dehydrator, improved cooking stove, multi-rack solar dryer etc., have been developed. Wooden-based gasifiers have been developed for the production of producer gas. India is among the prominent countries that have developed renewable energy sources, especially for the rural areas. The major sources that have been tapped in this regard have been solar energy, biomass and wind power. Although all these are technological breakthrough, but still more efforts are needed to develop rural India. This indicates that full benefits of the technology have yet to reach to the rural people. Education, health, communication need to catch up with the advancements in the science and technology and their implication in rural areas.

(The writer is Sr. Scientist & Head, KVK, Reasi SKUAST-J).