

## TAKE DECISIVE ACTION

Terrorism, in all its forms, is a direct assault on humanity, peace, and the moral fabric of society. The recent cowardly attack on innocent tourists in Pahalgam, Kashmir has once again jolted the conscience of our nation. It is no longer enough to condemn such attacks - it is time for decisive and uncompromising action.

The pattern is clear: whenever terrorists feel cornered or irrelevant, they resort to attacking the softest of targets - civilians, tourists, children, and pilgrims - to spread fear and disrupt harmony. This is not just an act of violence; it is an open challenge to our sovereignty, our unity, and our values.

Our response must be multi-pronged, firm, and relentless. Firstly, there must be zero tolerance for terror infrastructure within our borders. Intelligence agencies must be further strengthened and better equipped to track, neutralize, and dismantle terror modules before they strike. Counter-terror operations must continue with greater force and coordination, with enhanced surveillance, border control, and infiltration checks.

Secondly, we must target the ecosystem that fuels terrorism - from radicalization centers to fake charities and terror financing networks. The ideology that brainwashes young minds into becoming killing machines must be countered with education, employment, and engagement. At the same time, those who propagate extremist views must face the full might of the law.

Thirdly, and most crucially, Pakistan must be held accountable. Time and again, it has been proven that the soil of our neighboring country is being used as a launchpad for cross-border terrorism. Diplomatic efforts must now give way to strong and decisive international pressure. If a country continues to breed terrorists as part of its State policy, then it must be isolated economically, politically, and strategically.

India must take the lead in uniting global democracies to create a comprehensive international anti-terrorism protocol that includes sanctions, coordinated intelligence sharing, and punitive actions against nations sheltering terrorists.

## Monetizing Climate Research

■ MOHD YOUNUS BHAT

While climate change is real and climate research is urgent, there is a darker reality that cannot be ignored. The climate crisis has turned into a big-money industry that focuses more on appearances than real results. Leaders across the world have declared climate emergencies. Trillions have been pledged for adaptation and mitigation. Projects are approved in international summits, glossy reports are released with theatrical flair, and consultants fly from one sustainability conference to another. But the grim metrics continue unabated-carbon emissions rise, ice caps melt, and heatwaves grow more frequent and deadly. The promises grow louder while the planet gets hotter.

What has emerged is not just inefficiency-it is profiteering under the pretext of planetary salvation. Climate change has been commodified, repackaged as a billion-dollar business opportunity. At the heart of this system is an unholy nexus of bureaucrats, researchers, and policy brokers who monetize the crisis rather than solve it. Research projects that claim to "build resilience" or "develop frameworks for green futures" are routinely funded, with little or no field validation. And in most cases, what exists are verbose documents, animated presentations, and a trail of unspent or misused money.

Consider the Green Climate Fund (GCF), launched to support vulnerable countries in confronting climate change. Despite its noble intention, several funded projects have shown no measurable results on the ground. For example, in Senegal, a multi-million-dollar project aimed at coastal resilience faced criticism from civil society organizations for

failing to deliver basic safeguards or infrastructure improvements. In Peru, allegations emerged that a GCF-funded project was benefiting private interests, bypassing local stakeholders it claimed to support.

India, too, is no stranger to such systemic rot. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA), created to restore forests cleared for development, has repeatedly been misused. In several states, instead of planting trees or supporting forest communities, CAMPA funds were spent on administrative expenses like buying smartphones, laptops, and furniture. In Odisha, government auditors found that crores were spent on non-forestry purposes, raising serious questions about transparency and impact. The same pattern played out in Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand, where fund diversion became routine, and actual afforestation was poorly monitored or non-existent.

Jammu & Kashmir, a region highly vulnerable to climate extremes, has witnessed similar failures. A performance audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General revealed that nearly 25% of funds meant for disaster risk reduction were siphoned off to projects with no link to mitigation-ranging from construction of roads to unauthorized purchases. In several cases, documents listed climate training programs and awareness workshops that were either never conducted or grossly inflated in scope. The infamous Roshni land scam, although framed around economic upliftment, also touched the environment sector-land meant for forests and conservation was encroached and sold off to elites under the guise of "development."

Beyond India, in Uganda, climate funds disbursed through NGOs were found to be

embezzled using fake receipts and ghost employees. A forensic audit found no trace of several activities that had allegedly been completed. In the Philippines, the government's "Greening Program" claimed to plant over a billion trees. Later audits revealed that nearly 88% of those trees were either dead or never planted to begin with.

What is worse is how this industry shields itself. The climate expert class-consultants, NGOs, international advisors-thrive in ambiguity. They use polished jargons like "resilience plans," "adaptability," "coping mechanisms," "mitigation measures," "Sustainability," "partnerships" to sound important and avoid clear answers. Peer-reviewed publications and conferences validate each other in an endless echo chamber, while the actual beneficiaries-communities living through floods, droughts, and heat-see no change. Paper-based success replaces physical impact. No one verifies whether claimed interventions ever happened. If you ask too many questions, you are labelled anti-science.

The media, unfortunately, has often served as an amplifier for these empty claims. Press releases are printed uncritically. Sensational headlines about breakthrough innovations circulate widely, only to be forgotten when those breakthroughs vanish into bureaucratic black holes. Investigative journalism into climate spending is rare, because access to documents is limited, and criticism is branded as obstructionist. Yet, silence is complicity. This systemic failure is not just about climate-it reflects how institutions worldwide function today. Governments treat sustainability goals like PR campaigns. Politicians invoke net-zero pledges while approving new

coal and oil extraction. Large-scale renewable projects often displace indigenous communities and forests, in the name of clean energy. Global climate talks promise justice, while elite consultants benefit from travel, contracts, and visibility. It is hypocrisy draped in the language of sustainability.

Even the world's most prestigious scientific body-the IPCC-has not been immune to criticism. Leading researchers have highlighted the misuse of emission scenarios like RCP 8.5 to justify extreme projections, fuelling panic, poor policy prioritization, and misaligned funding. Instead of serving as a neutral advisory platform, climate science has become intertwined with political narrative building.

The truth is, we are facing two crises. One is the ecological emergency that threatens life on Earth. The other is an accountability crisis-an industrial-scale grift exploiting fear, urgency, and public trust. Until we distinguish real climate action from performative metrics, we will keep funding the same problems we claim to solve.

This is a wakeup call-not against science or policy-but against silence. Journalists must dig deeper. Policymakers must mandate audits and demand field verification. Scientists must be willing to challenge flawed data and resist institutional capture. And citizens must demand outcomes, not just narratives.

The climate fight must be real, not rhetorical. The planet does not need another summit. It needs the truth.

Because the environment deserves better than bureaucratic theatre. And journalism, if it must remain relevant, must investigate-not just echo.

## Benefits of Biodiversity for Human Health and Well-being

■ DR. BANARSI LAL

Biodiversity plays a significant role in survival of the life on the mother Earth. Biodiversity provides us food, water and various other resources as well as services such as recycling of nutrients, climate control, pollination and flood mitigation. We have 7 continents on planet Earth. Every human being has only one dream which is to live better, to eat better and to consume better. But majority of them never care for the environment and planet Earth. Present population is more than 7 billion in the world but we have only one planet to live and survive. We have limited food, limited place and limited shelters.

If we keep on using natural resources as we are doing every day, a day will come when our own grand children shall be forced to live homeless with full of hunger. So it's better to consume the natural resources with care and responsibility. So, we should stop the wastage of natural resources and use them according to our need not on our greed.

Each of us knows the importance of nature. It consists of all the living beings on the earth, which are mutually interdependent on each other. But due to the excessive pollution caused by human beings, many species are becoming extinct and the global climate is also changing at a very rapid rate. The changing climate is inversely affecting our health and also going to give a long term effect on our future generations. We know that millions of people on the Earth depend on forest for their livelihood.

Every living being is dependent on plants and trees. Only the plants and trees can make our food. But, we people are degrading the forests in a rapid rate. Every year, pollinators like bees help three-fourth of the world's flowering plants and reproduce about 35 per cent of the world's food.

We observe many environmental crisis. Sometimes cyclones and floods create havoc and wash away many trees and infrastructure. Bushfires in Brazil, the United States and Australia, global COVID-19 pandemic and locusts attack in India and Africa indicate that human health is closely dependent with the environmental health. The current environmental crisis indicates that we must rethink for our relationship with the natural ecosystem. There is dire need to think on biodiversity. Ultimately human health depends on the ecosystem products and services. Loss of biodiversity causes the direct impact on the human health. Changes in the



ecosystem services can impact our livelihoods, rural migration and may cause other conflicts among the human beings. Loss of biodiversity may limit the research for the potential treatments of many diseases. Human actions such as deforestations, intensified agriculture, encroachments on wildlife habitats and climate change have pushed the nature beyond its limit. If we continue our activities in the same way then we can face the severe implications in future.

Technologies have made our lives comfortable but deteriorated the environment. When we destroy the nature, we destroy the system that supports us. Presently about one million species are facing extinction. There is dire need to re-examine our relationship with nature. Although we are having numerous technological advancements but still we are completely dependent on healthy ecosystem for our food, clothes, shelter, health, water, medicines, fuel, energy etc. There is dire need to conserve the biodiversity for the benefits of life on the Earth. It is fact that nature acts as the solution of our many solutions. Nature is closely associated with the cli-

mate change, food security and health. Biodiversity is badly affected due to our short-sighted activities including infrastructure development, chemical farming, deforestation, mining etc. All these activities have degraded the ecosystem and have created the pandemic like situations. All the nations across the globe are affected by COVID-19 pandemic. There is urgent need to work together for the resilient and sustainable global economy. The exploitation of renewable and non-renewable energy resources and rapid increase in the urbanization are severely affecting the biodiversity. Sustainable development is the only way to mitigate the needs of our present and future generations. It also ensures the health of the planet Earth. It has been observed that around 25 per cent of all animals and plants species are threatened with extinction. We should create awareness on preserving the endangered habitats among the people.

Biodiversity is the foundation for our food and health and plays a key catalyst to transforming food systems and improving human health. A wide range of events

are organized globally to increase the understanding of the important role of biodiversity for our present and future generations. The biodiversity we observe today is the outcome of over 3.5 billion years of evolutionary history, shaped by the natural processes. Biodiversity is the foundation for the life and for the essential services provided by ecosystems. It plays as a key catalyst to transform our food system system and thus improves the human health. It underpins peoples' livelihoods and sustainable development in all realms of socio-economic activity, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism etc. Biodiversity is a global asset. Biodiversity forms the web of life of which we are an integral part and upon which we are fully dependent. Biological diversity is the natural biotic capital of the earth which affects all of us. Human beings derive the supply of food, medicines, energy and many industrial products from biological resources. The environmental crisis is an existential threat. Pandemics are related to the environmental crisis, helping to nurture and host novel germs. Even in present era many people are not aware about some serious environmental issues-from air pollution to toxic dumps to pesticides to loss of biodiversity. There are enormous challenges but there are also vast opportunities on environmental action. Environmental protection is considered as the biggest challenge for the mankind. India is one of the richest nations in the world in terms of biological diversity. India has about 15,000 species of flowering plants, 969 species of birds, 389 species of reptiles and 317 species of mammals. India has relatively large number of frogs, salamanders and their kith and kins. Brazil is the most biologically diverse nation in the world. India stands 10th in terms of biological diversity. Some parts of the country are very rich due to a variety of natural causes in biological diversity and some are less. The Loss of biodiversity across the globe has increased alarmingly and many wildlife and plant species are on the verge of extinction. Strenuous efforts are needed to protect the biodiversity. We all need to understand that biodiversity is the foundation for our life and ultimately it ensures our livelihoods and sustainable development. We need to protect the environment by changing our lifestyles, by shutting the use of plastics, growing the plants and using the alternate sources of energy. It's time to build a better planet.

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## PM Narendra Modi Ji Ka Shukeryana

■ PUPUJI KOUL

It is not for nothing and without valid reasons that there is reverberating slogan 'Modi Hai To Munkin Hai.' It is in fact Modi and his NDA government which is achieving impossible feats one after the other and after the abolition of triple tlaq ,abrogation of controversial Article 370 of the constitution, and construction of a grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya and the consecration of the Lord Rama there ,now Modi has again created history by getting passed the most controversial piece of legislation called Waqf(Amendment) bill 2025 in both the houses of the country's parliament. PM Modi and his government deserves a pat at their back for getting the controversial legislation passed in the parliament and thus Modi has once again created history and his name will be written in the golden letters in the history of the nation. Muslim leadership barring some fanatic organizations and leaders have welcomed Modi's bold and correct decision of passing a bill called Waqf [Amendment] bill in both the houses of parliament. Muslim community by and large has paid thanks /Shukerayana to Modi and his government for the opportune and bold decision of ensuring the passage of the Waqf[Amendment]bill 2025 in parliament. In fact it is Modi who had done what congress could not do during its

long stint as the ruling party and now Modi has achieved unachievable and furthered the interests of the Muslim community. The Waqf-Amendment Bill 2025 has been passed for the proper, democratic governance and management of the Waqf board so as to serve the Muslim community rather than furthering the interests of those who are in command of the Waqf Board. Transparency, efficient management and accountability and responsibility of all those will be fixed who are at the helm of affairs of the Waqf Board and its properties will get proper and lawful registration and the chances of unnecessary claiming the lands and properties of other communities will get stopped once the Waqf -Amendment Act 2025 is implemented in letter and spirit. Waqf-Amendment Bill 2025 is not against Muslims and Muslim Religion as it has to do nothing with these ,but rather it is a bill to control and govern the Waqf Boards and its properties and ensuring that such properties and their yearly incomes are used in the welfare of the Muslim community. The Muslim widows, divorcees, orphans and women will get justice once the bill is implemented. Thus Modi has ensured that Muslim Waqf properties are and their income is used for the welfare and betterment of the Muslim community and all arbitrariness of those managing the affairs of

the Waqf properties will come to an end once this bill becomes a law and is implemented in the interest of the minority community and the interests of the government will also be safeguarded. Parliament approved the Waqf [Amendment]bill 2025 ,with Rajya Sabha giving its nod in the early hours of April 4,2025,Friday following a 12 -hour marathon debate. The legislation was passed in the upper house with 128 votes in favor and 95 against. There are many benefits which will accrue to the Muslim community once this controversial bill is implemented. According to the Waqf [Amendment]Bill ,Waqf tribunals will be strengthened ,a structured selection process will be maintained ,and a tenure will be fixed to ensure efficient dispute resolution. As per the bill, while Waqf institutions mandatory contribution to Waqf boards is reduced from 7% to 5% .Waqf institutions earning over Rs 1 lakh will undergo audits by the state-sponsored auditors. A centralized portal will automate Waqf property management, improving efficiency and transparency. The bill proposes that practicing Muslims for at least five years can dedicate their property to the Waqf ,restoring pre-2013 rules.It stipulates that women must receive their inheritance before the Waqf declaration ,with special provision for widows,divorced women and orphans.

The bill proposes that an officer above the rank of collector investigate government properties claimed as Waqf.It also proposes that non-Muslim members be included in the central and state Waqf boards for inclusivity. Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi ,the National President of All India Muslim Jamaat ,has expressed his strong support for the Waqf -Amendment Bill ,2025,calling it a significant step towards improving the socio-economic conditions of Muslims in India. The Bill,which passed through will ensure that they benefit the marginalized Muslim communities. In his first public statement after the passage of the Waqf bill,MaulanaShahabuddian hailed the effort of the Modi government and emphasized that the Waqf -[Amendment] Bill would be a boon for the common Muslims ,stating that it was in no way harmful to them."The Waqf Amendment Bill does not harm common Muslims,it will benefit them.The only ones who stand to lose are the Waqf land mafias who have illegally occupied valuable land.Common Muslims will not be affected by this," he clarified. The Maulana further explained that the primary objective of the was to safeguard the interests of the poor and vulnerable sections, within the Muslim community. He elaborated that the revenue generated from Waqf land would be directed towards

enhancing the socio-economic status of impoverished Muslims, with a focus on those who cannot afford quality education for their children."The income from Waqf land will be used for the benefit of poor Muslims ,helping children from low -income families get a better education ,and assisting orphans,and widows in their development," Maulana said. PM NarendraModi lauded the passage of the Waqf [Amendment]Bill ,2025 ,in both the houses of parliament ,describing it as a "watershed moment." In a post on X,Modi emphasized that the legislation would particularly benefit marginalized sections of society."The passage of the Waqf[Amendment]Bill and the Mussalman Waqf -Repeal Bill by both Houses of Parliament marks a watershed moment in our collective quest for socio-economic justice ,transparency and inclusive growth.This will particularly help those who have long remained on the margins,thus denied both voice and opportunity."The prime minister thanked parliamentarians for their participation in discussions and acknowledged public contributions to parliamentary committee." For decades, the Waqf system was synonymous with lack of transparency and accountability. This especially harmed the interests of Muslim women,poor Muslims, Pasmanda Muslims. The legislation passed by the parliament will

boost transparency and also safeguard people's rights,"Modi said.The government defended the legislation as a "historic reform"aimed at benefitting the minority community and promoting inclusive growth .Modi stressed that these changes would help build a strong, more inclusive and more compassionate India."PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti has strongly opposed the passage of the Waqf Bill saying it is the conspiracy against Muslims. Congress president Kharge labeled the Passage of the Waqf Amendment Bill as unconstitutional and against the Muslims. But all progressive Muslims and their leaders have thanked Modi for the passage of the Waqf Bill. In short the waqf Amendment Bill will reform, transform and revolutionize the management of the Waqf Boards and its properties and will also ensure transparency, accountability and guarantee that the income of the Waqf Boards is used for the welfare of the Muslim community.Thus there should be no misunderstanding about this important legislation as its purpose is the reform and modernize the Waqf Boards so that its properties are managed efficiently for the benefit of the common Muslims. By and large Muslim leadership and community is expressing Shukerayan to Modi Ji for his bold and just step to revolutionized the waqf law for the good of the Muslim community.

