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## An Introvert Thought to Socio-Cultural Terrorism in Indian Society

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### Abstract :

I had started writing this research paper long back in year 2009-2010. But somehow couldn't complete it and make it public. I'm a very common man living peaceful life in a small village in India. I'm not related with any political party or not advocating or criticising any special cast or strata of the society in India or in the world but like any emotional sensitive human being on earth I'm also deeply hurt by the continuous news of war, killings, social hatred, communal violence, castism, violation of human rights, terrorism and so on... After so many years recently I was contemplating over the same issue of terrorism and concluded to myself that, the acts of terrorism are increasing in the every corner of the world and terrorist are executing their acts more sophisticatedly. Everyday there is someone on this earth that fears and loses his or her life due to terrorism. The word terrorism has got so acquainted with our lives that we are habituated to live under its trance. Terrorism has become a burning issue for every country in the world today. The problem of terrorism is not limited to the undeveloped or developing countries. The World Trade Centre of super power like America was also under the attack on 9/11 in 2001 and international community has realized the graveness of this problem thereafter. Along with the other nations - like Russia, China, America and Mid-Asian Countries - there is a serious challenge to the peace and social security in India too. So I have given a thought to the same topic again and after a good contemplation I'm adding few of the things in this research paper.

**Keywords :** Terrorism, Naxalite, Insurgency, Militant, Gnaws, Socio-Cultural Terrorism, Carnage, Implications, Victims, Abhangas, Notorious, Guardians, Brainwashing, Humanity, etc.

Talking in particular about the terrorism in India, which is primarily attributable to Islamic, Hindu, Sikh, Christian and Naxalite radical movements. The regions with long term terrorist activities today are not only Jammu and Kashmir but Mumbai, Central India (Naxalism), Seven Sister States, all states in South India (independence and autonomy movements). In the past, the Punjab insurgency led to militant activities in the Indian state of Punjab as well as the national capital Delhi. As of 2006, at least 232 of the country's 608 districts were afflicted, at differing intensities, by various insurgent and terrorist movements. Just to recap few of the terrorist attack in 2008 alone 9 bombasts in Jaipur, 26/11 Mumbai attack, 8 low intensity bombasts in Bangalore, 17 serial bombasts in Ahemadabad, 5 bombasts in Delhi market, 2010 Dantewada attack, In 2016 Pathankot attack, 2016 Uri attack, 2019 Pulwama attack, 2021 Sukma-Bijapur attack, and so on. As per the data available on the Wikipedia from 1970 till 2018 nearly 1202 terrorist attacks are recorded at different places in India, killing 19,866 people and injuring 30544 people. These figures are enough to show the seriousness of the problem of terrorism in India.

In August 2008, National Security Advisor M. K. Narayanan has said that there are as many as 800 terrorist cells operating in the country. It is the natural human tendency that we need somebody to blame on our incompetency, failure and justify or defend ourselves. We always blame others for terrorism in India. But...being Indians we need to turn little introvert and think a bit, what is terrorism exactly means to us? Who are the real culprits behind terrorism?

Terrorism is the act of unlawful violence and war. There is no agreed definition internationally for terrorism but the common definition's may include, the systematic use of terror, intended to create fear, meet ideological goals, spread of violence, war and many more acts of aggression. It doesn't say that terrorism comes only externally. Therefore, my dear Indians should stop referring terrorism totally towards neighbouring nation Pakistan, though we have ample proofs against it of boosting terrorism in India. It feeds off the personal suffering by luring governments into actions that abandon hard-earned freedoms of modern civilization. In a National Seminar on 'Terrorism and Human Rights' at Dayanand College of Arts, Latur on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2009, Adv. Ujjwalji Nikam, (Special Public Prosecutor, Mumbai) - who has argued on behalf of the state during the 26/11 Mumbai attack trial - has stated in his speech as a chief guest that, '...all terrorists assume themselves that they are freedom fighters and support their evil deeds...' This comment of an eminent person like him shows that, all terrorist acts are motivated by two things: one people choose terrorism when they are trying to right what they perceive to be a social or political or historical wrong - when they have been stripped of their land or rights, or denied these they start protest against this assumed social and political injustice through the means of terrorism. Another cause of stimulation to the terrorism is the belief that violence or its threat will be effective and usher in expected forceful change and justify the selfish ends. Many terrorists in history said sincerely

that they chose violence after long deliberation, because they felt they had no choice. Every soul under the sun wishes peace to take root, for peace nurture is an enabling environment that makes human progress possible. Though terrorism has now become a buzz word used mostly for political motives, yet terrorism gnaws an enabling environment. It ought to be discouraged.

India is concentrating much of its force, army personnel and money on the issue of terrorism since post independence, without an amicable solution losing millions of lives, since independence, on both sides. Due to the Indian Politician's inability for past decades there have been several so called terrorist outfits formed within India, which is supported by both inside India and by the termed enemies externally of India. While the politicians have been busy amassing wealth and fortune for themselves the Indian people have been living in a total state of misery and over half of the population on poverty lines.

Major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkatta, Chennai and Bangalore have succumbed to corruption and disintegration of law under governments whose leaders freely advocate communal violence, crime and the presence of minorities. Bribe, bureaucracy and red-tapism is gone very high in all the cities and I guess its all because of use of socio-cultural terror against its own citizens and as a result citizens loosing complete trust in the Police. Secularism is now only in books. The religious attacks on minorities in the name of preserving traditions are only vote bank schemes of the politicians. I wonder why the politicians are not termed as terrorists, aren't they spreading fear, violence and terror around the nation. They show pride in killing anybody - Hindus, Muslims, Christians, burning holy places and raping nuns. How can such acts of violence be ever justified? When the communal cards are over?

We can find literally thousands of examples that show that the our country, which prides itself by calling the birthplace of so many apostles of peace and nonviolence - Mahavir, Buddha, Gandhi, is deeply mired in socio-cultural hatred and violence. If a Rajput finds anything that ever so slightly hurts his / her feelings in the film Jodhaa Akbar, he does not wait to protest peacefully, just gather a crowd and burns the theatres where the film is being shown. If one feels that showing the reality of the miserable life of the widows in Varanasi in a film is an attack on Hindu values, organize a mob riot and burn the set, force the actors and filmmakers to run for their lives and shoot the film somewhere else. Their purpose is not to correct the situation or try to give a better life to the miserable ones. In fact to admit that there exists a problem itself hurts the feelings of Hindus. If you don't like the conclusion of a historian about any of your favourite historical figure, don't fight it with any solid argument, just burn his book, ask the government to ban it. Issue a fatwa against the author. Even the famous Bhandarkar library in Pune, the pride of the nation which contains rare manuscripts, becomes the target and is burned to the ashes, simply because the author did his research work there. If paintings of an artist hurts your feelings, burn them, his house and force him to flee to some other country. If the thoughts of a writers seem to be anti-islamic, just make his or her life hell, as in the case of Salman Rushdie and Taslima Nasrin. We can't welcome stray remarks by and on Muslim celebrity tennis player Sania Mirza. The brutal murders of Hindi speakers in Assam and in Maharashtra, the act of MNS to throw away the north Indians out of the state, beating them, destroying their property and tear down the posters of the north Indian freedom fighters during the Republic day celebrations in a school, etc. are all not less than terror activities and are the examples of socio-cultural terrorism.

I've read in history and heard from my teachers and grandfather - a freedom fighter, that there was a time when people gave up everything including their lives in order to help India attain freedom and prosperity. Now it seems to me that they are only interested in grabbing whatever they can. Many of those who did nothing or even helped the enemies to suppress the freedom movement are cashing in on their imaginary sacrifices or the sacrifices made by their fathers. Today the only patriotic thing seems to be to promote their self-interest by creating dissension among the masses resulting in bloodshed and destruction on a grand scale. Whatever can make them rich and powerful seems to be legitimate to them, which has caused the birth of socio-cultural terrorism in home itself. Terrorism is home grown now, we don't need to import from Pakistan or China or Bangladesh anymore. Now this is what we have reached after gaining our independence from the British. India is my country, but not like this and terrorism in India has reached its full potential.

Can we ever think of a society free of such violence? Can the government ensure a peaceful society? What are the goals that the perpetrators of terror activities seek to achieve? Are we losing the war against jihadists? These are some of the issues which need deep discussion on the terrorism. In a scholar's language, terrorism is a sort of violence that is aimed to achieve some goal. These goals are generally those, which the government denies to the perpetrators of the terror activities. These monstrous activities have been ramped up in the recent months, in India. This calls for a strident response on the part of the government. Terrorism is more awful than the war. When there are the indications of war, we have the room for the tackle mechanisms. But the terror attacks leave no room for such mechanisms. Moreover the response of the Indian government has been not to the extent that it can be ensured that such activities are the past story.

The Indian Government has to take accountability and take advantage of their rivals slip ups, even though the country is all messed up, they really do need to take stock of things and get their act together and they need to act quickly before the tide turn and the country is completely blown up by a few trained killers, looking more closer at the carnage and its implications, I notice that all the damage came from a very small number of suspects. For example 26 November 2008 to 29 November 2008 terrorist attack on Mumbai - coordinated series of attacks killing at least 171 was executed by 10 terrorists, 2016 Uri attack killing 23 executed by 4-8 terrorists, Pulwama attack by suicide bomber killing 46 executed by only 1 or 2 terrorists. What would happen if they had another two hundred trained killers all over India and attacked municipal buildings, there would be an ethnic cleansing of anyone who got in their way? It would be total devastation. Are all Indians willing to sacrifice the total demolition of the country they were born and raised in?

Enough waiting has been done for someone to do something. We must lead ourselves to spread awareness among the people as well as measure certain provision to arrive at logical and practical solutions for building a strong and stable India. Government should be strict and terrorists should be hunted down and brought to justice, no matter where they are from, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Afghanistan or India itself, they are like drug addicts coming back to painful habits, unless the government put their foot down and stamp out these cruelties, terrorist attack are like ceaseless troubled waters, they keep stirring up one problem after another and we see no sign of happiness emerging, nor do we see any real heroes standing up for the cause of righteousness. We can support others by educating our neighbourhood, connecting and communicating with the government leader at our workplace, community, area, generating funds, donations if required rallying, creating agenda's, taking up community service, supporting the victims/casualty's family, etc.

The brutal fact is that today, India is so much in the grip of bigotry, narrow mindedness and socio-cultural terror. After bedding the heavy-heart farewell to India 2022 and on the verge of welcoming India 2023; there is an urgent need to go back to

our great thinkers who taught us to be fearless in our thinking before stepping in a new day of a new year with a new sprite, new hope and a new thought. As great Saint Tukarama from Maharashtra has mentioned in one his *abhngas* (spiritual poem) regarding the same that,

मऊ मेणाहुनी आम्ही विष्णुदासा कठीण वज्रास भेदू ऐसे  
भले तरी देऊ कासेची लंगोटी नाठाळाचे माथी हाणू काठी (Tukarama,  
Online)

As per the above *abhanga* Tukarama says that God worshipping people in India are so soft like wax but when it is high time they can become so hard and cut *Vajra* (weapon made of hardest Iron) into pieces as well. He adds further in second line that, we will give everything to those who are good to us but punish those who will be notorious, cheat or defraud us. We have shown to the world after the surgical and air strikes in 2015, 2016 and 2019 that in the years to come every citizen will have a right to think of himself. We do not need the self-appointed guardians to tell us what we can read, what we can wear, what we can eat or drink. We should be free to worship the way we want, to believe what we want, whom and how we should love.

In one of the occasion, when Dayanand Saraswati went to his guru Birjananad and wanted to be taught by him, Birjanand asked him whether he could forget all what he had learnt earlier. I wish that right to be given to everyone to forget all the hazards of terror imprinted on mind and start thinking again of himself with fresh air. 'Be your own lamp,' Lord Buddha said to his pupils, as he departed for the other world. Not be bound by any book, by any sect, by any brainwashing, but just to be free to logically think and act again freely. This is the need of the time if we have to survive as human beings. It is very important to break the chain of this social and cultural terrorism suffocating us all around. Finally, I want to pay my sincere homage to all those who had lost their lives in terrorist attacks. I express my deepest condolences to the families and friends of the victims and want to assure them that they are not alone; this entire nation is equally depressed at the loss of their lives. Put a brave face against the enemies of humanity and do not let them succeed in their motives of terrorising us and show them that as in one of my poems 'Once I'll Be' I've quoted that -

Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Isai,  
we all are brothers,  
our only task is  
to save our borders. (Chavan S.P.)

Here I wished to imply that when we say this proudly at that time we need to save our mental borders first, broaden our thoughts and accept each person in India as an Indian and not Maharashtrian, Tamili, Assami, Punjabi, Gjrathi, Rajasthani, Kannada, Kashmiri or Bihari. Only then we can guard the physical borders of our nation from external force and say even more proudly to our motherland that,

My love, my mother,  
my dear India,  
I'll live and die,  
for your respected area... (Chavan S.P.)

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