

Religious Fanatism & Law of the Land

Capt SB Tyagi



Introduction:

Religious fanaticism is uncritical zeal or with an obsessive enthusiasm related to one's own, or one's group's, devotion to a religion – a form of human fanaticism which could otherwise be expressed in one's other involvements and participation, including employment, role, and partisan affinities.

All across the globe, Muslims have been openly declaring death to the countries they live in and also announce that Islam will dominate, implement sharia law, and kneel the other religious people to Allah. Few minutes of watching TV these days one cannot escape looking at the signs and banners by hundreds and thousands of Muslims such as “freedom can go to hell”, “Islam will dominate the world”, and “Shariah law – the true solution”, “death to democracy”, “Islam is coming to Denmark”, “Islam is coming to America”, “Behead those who insult Islam”, as well as many other similar tag lines. They do not respect the majority views and take advantage of freedom of speech to over through the country that hosted them.



History of Religious Fanatism:

Two religions have the concept of ‘crusades’ and have been known to have hard-line about their religion and also for their beliefs in conversion - sometimes surreptitiously and with questionable methods! The concept of crusades – holy wars is in Islam and Christianity! Ever since Christianity was established, some of those in authority have sought to expand and control the church, often through the fanatical use of force. Fanatic Christian activity, as Catholicism, continued into the Middle Ages with the Crusades. These wars were attempts by the Catholics, sanctioned by the Pope, to reclaim the Holy Land from the Muslims. The Crusades - were very much holy wars waged to maintain Christianity's theological and social control- On their way to conquering the Holy Land by force of arms, the crusaders destroyed dozens of Jewish communities and killed thousands because the Jews would not accept the Christian faith. Jews had to be killed in the religious campaign because their very existence challenged the sole truth espoused by the Christian Church. The Cristian crusades were notorious for killing and plundering counties ruled by non-believers but stopped by 13th century.

The crusade or the holy war for Muslims called ‘Jihad’ is continuous and ongoing process. These are to be fought ceaselessly till there is even on Kafir – non-believer is left on earth! Islam gives only two options to non-believer – come under their flag or come under their sword! This unchanging stance desired by Islam is posing despicable conditions all over the world which is witnessing mindless mayhem and most-gruesome violence! The so called ‘religion of please’ is laden with the religious obligations to all Muslims to continue their war of annihilations till the last kafir!

Indian Landscape:

Where entire world is facing such expressions, India is seeing a strong polarisation on religious lines and it is 'us' versus 'them'! Fundamentalists seem to be ruling almost all the religions! Fanatism appears to be guiding principles driving all the faiths today. However there are certain defining differences! One can accept and live with the fundamentalism and fanatism of Hindus but same coming from other religions and most importantly from Islam is very difficult. Even while Hindu fundamentalists or Hindu fanatics will resist any attempt to change the religious practices and beliefs and would like to keep them unchanged as is the wont of 'Sanatan Dharm' (सनातन धर्म), they pose no existential threats to other religion as there is no life threatening punishments prescribed to non-believers (नास्तिक), renunciators (धर्म-त्यागी) or non-Hindus (विधर्मी) in Sanatan Dharm. On the contrary Islam and Christianity prescribe dreaded punishments to those who defile and defame their religion and its renunciation!

On September 3, 2014 Ayman al-Zawahiri, head of Al Qaeda, formation of an Indian branch known as Qaedat al-Jihad. This group would fight for an Islamic state and impose sharia laws across the Asian region including India, which they consider "was part of the Muslims' territories before it was occupied by the infidel enemy". Their mission is to "raise the flag of jihad and the return of the Islamic rule in the subcontinent, which one day used to be part of the land of the Muslims until the infidel enemy took it over and divided it."

On July 28, 2015 USA Today newspaper which has the document entitled "A Brief History of the Islamic State Caliphate (ISC), The Caliphate According to the Prophet, found this sentence: 'Accept the fact that this caliphate will survive and prosper until it takes over the entire world and beheads every last person that rebels against Allah ... This is the bitter truth, swallow it.'" The document also warned that preparations are underway for an attack in India and predicts that it might provoke an apocalyptic confrontation with USA. Bruce Riedel, a senior fellow with the Brookings Institution who served more than 30 years in the CIA said striking in India would magnify the Islamic State's stature and threaten the stability of the region, and "Attacking in India is the Holy Grail of South Asian jihadists."

How much India is affected?

According to a saying attributed to Prophet Muhammad, the "End of Time" battles would start after victory in the East, which then meant Khurasan. Geographically, Khurasan included part of modern Iran, Central Asia, Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan. To these, ISIS has included not only Iraq, parts of Syria as well as Gujarat in India.



India faced with rising Muslim population projected to gain majority status in 2050, is declared battle ground for Muslim jihadis claiming the 'Gazba-e-Hind' – the last Muslim crusade before world dominance will be fought in India. India is also the largest country with highest population of Kafirs (non-believers) who need to be defeated to bring 'Khurasan' to reality. The term 'Khurasan' refers to a region that encompasses large areas of Afghanistan,

Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Iran. Jihadists consider the Khurasan to be the area where they will inflict the first defeat against their enemies in the Muslim version of Armageddon. The final battle is to take place in the Levant – Israel, Syria, and Lebanon.”

Another deadly group known as Islamic State, popularly known as ISIS, has been planning to take over large parts of the world, including almost the entire Indian subcontinent, within the next five years. Andrew Hosken showed an alarming map in a new book entitled “Empire of Fear: Inside the Islamic State ISIS” about this most dreaded terror group. According to the map, the Indian subcontinent which would be known as ‘Khurasan’ would be taken over within the next five years. They have written a 268-page manual describing the methods of extreme brutality and inhuman violence to achieve a vast Islamic State as envisioned by Isis leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi: “Rush O Muslims to your state! Yes, it is your state. Rush, because Syria is not for the Syrians, and Iraq is not for the Iraqis. The earth is Allah’s.” He further goes on to say that “Islam never was for a day the religion of peace ...[but] of war. Your Prophet ...was ordered with war till Allah is worshipped alone.” The author concludes that “Every atrocity, torture, assassination and they are simply a means to one overpowering obsession – to destroy nation states, seize territory and build a caliphate from the ashes.”

Islamic Fanatism – Threat to other Religion:

As late as January 31, 2016 Tamil Nadu Thowheed Jamath (TNTJ) vowed to end Idol worship and Hindu practices and all others which are not according to ‘real Islam’. ISIS like organizations are sprouting all across the country. Anti-Shirk Conference declared that it is sin to worship idols and they should be destroyed. All the speakers pledged to enforce Sharia law across India. They said they will use three weapons to destroy Hinduism: Shirk, Sharia and Jihad. Since the idol worship is against Islam, they said it should be banned. They even posted many banners criticizing Idol worship near many Hindu Temples.

How much uncompromising and unaccommodating Islam is can be seen by following –

- Criticizing or denying any part of the Quran is punishable by death.
- Criticizing or denying Muhammad as a prophet is punishable by death.
- A Muslim who becomes a non-Muslim is punishable by death.
- A non-Muslim who leads a Muslim away from Islam is punishable by death.
- A non-Muslim man who marries a Muslim woman is punishable by death.

IS Designs on India:

The ISIS is preparing to “to trigger a war in India” to provoke an “Armageddon-like ‘end of the world’” according to a document found in Pakistan. ISIS has been working tirelessly to unite dozens of factions of the Pakistani and Afghan Taliban into a single army of terror, the daily said. “It includes a never-before-seen history of the Islamic State, details chilling future battle plans, urges al-Qaeda to join the group and says the Islamic State’s leader should be recognized as the sole ruler of the world’s 1 billion Muslims under a religious empire called a ‘caliphate’.” The ISIS document explicitly mentioned about the Dadri lynching of 50-year-old Muslim by Hindus over suspicion of eating beef accusing Modi as a “right-wing Hindu nationalist who worships weapons and wants a movement to kill cow eaters.” Now ISIS is planning to use this incident and create chaos by staging some protests and also killing cows and eating beef. ISIS is planning to protect those Muslims who allegedly were being beaten by Hindus for eating beef and carry on the movement against Hindus who may have killed Muslims who ate beef. They are going to orchestrate the whole scene to create this beef controversy and take the law into their own hands by rampaging on Hindus. They are hatching

a number of schemes to create mayhem forcing the two religions to engage in a war like situation.

Prognosis:

In November 2015, Madhav Nalapat, based on a number of sources, wrote that India was “very much within the target list of ISIS because of the informal and clandestine connections between that terror constellation and ultra-Wahhabist mid-level officers in the ISI”, who are eager to ensure a major strike in India “so as to do further damage to the social and economic fabric of the country”. His sources stated that, “it may become necessary for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take personal charge of the defenses against ISIS”, including by having the security services and the military “work out swift responses to a possible mass terror attack” by ISIS.

Fanatical Secularism:

It is not too difficult to see that predatory proselytization is seen as a competition and threat by the affected communities. A diverse country like India cannot afford this threat. When fanatical secularism is invariably seen to favour one set of groups and when these groups flourish at the expense of others, discontent brews. When fanatical secularism refuses to address this discontent, it manifests in unpredictable ways, including violence. As you can see from the Wikipedia entry religious competition has threatened peaceful coexistence of various communities in India. Fanatical secularism aids religious competition favouring one set of groups at the expense of other. Fanatical secularism drives a wedge between communities and it is a threat to our national integrity.

Solutions to Fanatism:

There are two ways of looking at the worldwide plague of Muslim Fanatism or terrorism. One is to treat every Islamic conflict with Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Hindus and a dozen other religions as being due to some local political grievance of recent vintage. The other is to understand them as local expressions of a historical religious war and the continuation of the wave of conquests that made Islam into a worldwide religion.

There is no political solution to a supremacist conflict. Solutions begin with truth. The truth is that Islamic violence is not recent or exceptional. The murder of Jews by Muslims, whether in Israel or Belgium, is not any different than the Muslim butchery of Christians, Hindus, Buddhists and even minority Muslim splinter faiths. These conflicts cannot be resolved through appeasement. They can only be addressed through resistance.

There can be no peace until Muslims understand that the Mohammedan conquests were a genocidal atrocity that destroyed entire peoples and cultures. Only then can they honestly condemn IS for trying to repeat those atrocities. And only then will they be able to live in peace with the rest of the world.

The world cannot do anything about this, and especially by demonizing Islam - as the West sometimes tend to do. This is an issue internal to Islam and will be addressed only when enough Muslims begin to see the dangers to themselves and their faith from this”, and the current one, appears striking. One expert states, “It is the conquerors that must come to terms with the horrors that they have inflicted through a campaign of colonialism and ethnic cleansing and seek the forgiveness of their victims”.

Other section of experts on the subject advocates that these conflicts cannot be resolved through appeasement and can be addressed only through resistance. Therefore, we are faced with what action, if at all, lies with us. We do not see, notwithstanding a very limited few among them exposing the faultiness of Islam, realistic possibility of any significant percentage among those enlightened section in that community, prevailing upon their brethren to think out of the boundary laid-down by their Prophet.

The big powers, which had formally called off the "war on terror" and started addressing the Islamic insurgents as only extremists, have not yet appeared in the scene effectively – specially USA - may be because of the lessons learnt in Afghanistan or Iraq. Some are also busy in managing their home turf, having an ostrich-eye view all these years.

Fanatism & law of the land:

The emergence of terror outfits motivated by religious fanaticism should not be allowed to destroy the basic structure of the Constitution, the Supreme Court said while suggesting better governance and law enforcement to tackle it. On 21st March 2013 dealing with the issue of rise in terrorism globally, a bench of justices P Sathasivam and B S Chauhan said India has been a "victim" of terror attacks and stressed that it cannot be curbed unless everyone puts in sincere efforts. The bench said "better governance and law enforcement is the real need of the hour" and "we must formulate long term as well as short term strategies to combat terrorism." Since definition of terrorism has not been made in India, any effective solution to Fanatism driven terrorism is difficult to be found. The "National Policy against Terrorism" is a must to draft strong legislation to curb Fanatism and terrorism in India and is not seen any way near the reality!

Recommended Solution:

The situation unfolding in India now, with The Islamic State having called upon all Muslims to join them, is too close for us to be comfortable, with Gujarat being specifically included in their scheme, to ignore its full significance and ramifications. We do hope security strategists, both in the government and outside, are breaking their heads over this.

Following needs serious consideration and quick implementation –

- Presence of positive forces needed in social media. Need to use social media which the ISIS has been very fruitfully doing.
- Arab World will have to be firmly told that violence cannot be supported by lies and that to curb the ISIS was beyond our capability.
- Ideology of IS needs to be challenged and it is time for revolution in Islam.
- Muslims must remove bad interpretation of Islam and interpretation of Jihad in Islam must change. For this remove Islam from time warp.
- It would be good to influence the Urdu Press against the ISIS.
- Need to encourage moderate Muslims, who are living in a state of denial.
- Educating the Muslims - reforming the Madrassa education is long overdue.
- To try de-radicalisation programme on the Austrian model.
- To strengthen the security architecture, followed up by adequate legal framework. Also revamping of security architecture is needed to face IS threats.
- Modernization and strengthening police force.
- The de-radicalisation programme will have to be very carefully chalked out. Otherwise, it may boomerang. That is, counter-de-radicalisation will also have to be planned.
- Need to check/control free flow of finance to the ISIS jihadis.

- There was now a great need for getting educated Muslim ladies in this movement to counter the ISIS. That it would be a long term affair.

Epilogue:

For tackling the problem, it would be a good strategy to work in small areas first and then expand. Perhaps, there is need for another prophet to emerge! Or, will the "true believers" continue to prove their nuisance for a longer period of time? Whatever be their ability, they cannot ultimately prevail. We Believe In That!

The seriousness of the situation has to be taken to the members of the public, not only in the cities but to the rural areas as well. Sad to say but it is true more patriots are found in villages than among educated elites and so-called intellectuals. In any case and on the whole, public opinion has to be built up to remain on the look-out for already identified/banned or not, outfits, spies and fifth columnists in all walks of life as also the "sleeper cells" suddenly becoming active. Coming times, friends, will be very trying. We should not be found wanting in our response. We have been warned! There is still time to prepare or we perish!