

Preface

The threat of terrorism has become a worldwide concern with several parts of the world reeling under frequent terrorist strikes. With little concern for human lives, terrorists continue to strike with impunity, leaving a trail of death and destruction, wherever they choose to inflict their blows. Terrorism has emerged as a major threat to the unity and integrity of India. India is ranked among the top ten terrorism affected countries in the world. Terrorist activities have impacted India for the last many decades. The most impacted parts have been the Jammu & Kashmir, North East states and the naxalite affected states like Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. Such activities not only cause loss to lives and property but also create a negative impact on the economic development of our country.

Due to the growth and extended outreach of the internet and other communication facilities, anonymity element has benefitted these organisations massively. We have already seen that the perpetrators of the Mumbai attack in 2008 were not only being aided but also abetted by elements from across the border. Government and the Security forces are constantly updating themselves of the possible vulnerable areas and trying to anticipate the next steps which may be taken by such elements. However, gaps still exist.

Terrorist activities cannot be wished away or eradicated fully. The element of surprise attack exists, but, the bar can be raised high enough to deter the attacks. This can be done by strengthening the legal machinery so that the arrested perpetrators do not go unpunished and also by strengthening the security apparatus at the borders and within the country. Support of common man in this fight is of utmost importance.

Terrorism elements have been constantly upgrading their apparatus and finding newer ways to bring harm to our country. No one could imagine till the 9/11 attacks that aeroplanes can be used as missiles to attack the targets. These days there is a call from one of the organisations to poison the water and other edible items during the Kumbh mela to be held next year. There are many items of daily use in which we have to face adulteration at a massive scale, which are shown almost every other day in the media.

These items may be used by the disgruntled elements to cause large scale damage to the citizens in a concerted manner, at one place or at many places simultaneously. It may also cause economic harm to the items exported by the manufacturing units located in India. In case of such an eventuality, the country will have severe loss of face in the external world. It will also cause severe economic damage, loss of confidence in Indian food products and negatively impact employment opportunities.

There is also a serious case for pulling down such videos and content from the websites which are mainly hosted in the Western countries. Laws are being updated and the enforcement apparatus is being upgraded constantly, but it will succeed only with total involvement of the common man. We all need to join hands to tackle such elements and leave a better world for the future generations.