
RESOLUTION

Annual General Body Meeting



April 15 & 16, 2017
Forum for Awareness of National Security
Gurugram

Resolution-2

TERRORISM v/s TOURISM

Immediately after achieving Independence in the year 1947, when India was trying to integrate the princely states of India, it was attacked by its immediate neighbour Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir. Though India repulsed the attack and was about to take over its lost territory (so called POK), our government declared ceasefire, erroneously referred the issue to United Nations and also enacted Art 370, giving J&K a separate constitution. This has remained a bone of contention and bane of continuous conflict between India and Pakistan. This has resulted in very poor development of the state. India has since been attacked by Pakistan in the year in 1965, 1971 and 1999. Having been defeated in successive attacks, Pakistan waged proxy war and for over three decades has been engaged in terrorist activities against India. It destroyed properties in market places, places of worship, Parliament etc. At the same time Pak has been training separatists of Jammu & Kashmir, who infiltrate back into India and carry out disruptive activities. In order to win over in the plebiscite, they drove away non-muslim population out of J&K and committed unmentionable atrocities like loot, rape etc. These disruptive activities have held back the development of the state. The locals in the valley are opposing the AFSPA (Armed Forces Special Power Act). Recently they have started pelting stones on the defence and police personal, who are engaged in fighting the terrorists and killed them besides protecting the terrorists. All efforts for the safety, security and development of the state are thwarted by separatist elements. Irony is that successive governments have been providing security to these separatists. Art. 370 instead of assisting the development of J&K, has adversely affected the progress. It has also slowed down the tourism of the valley, which was an important and highly valuable source of revenue earning.

Besides J&K issue, there are other internal security problems. The then Indian government having failed to address the land distribution and management, in 1968 culminated into creation of Naxalism, an armed organisation working against the state. Supported by ISI of Pakistan and Mao's culture of China, including material, moral and weapon support, this organisation has spread its tentacles in more than 10 states. It destroys roads, Schools, temples and kills police personnel and any informer. The worst affected states are Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand. Kidnapping, killing, rape, destruction of government properties and other obstructive activities have held

up the development and tourism of these states. All efforts to bring the misguided youth into the main National development stream have so far not succeeded. Lack of basic infra-structure not only in these states, but elsewhere as well, has adversely affected the development of the nation. The original objective of Naxals to reform and manage the land has degenerated into disruptive and divisive activities and now they want to control and govern the nation.

It will be appreciated that any development, be it social, economic or political, requires security from these elements. It must be noted that all these places mentioned above, have strong potential for tourism, which can boost the economy of the state. Kashmir is a most beautiful state not only in India but in the world. It is called Jannat (Heaven). Residents must choose between terrorism and tourism. Likewise areas like Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand etc have many important historical educational and places of religious importance. Its well established norm that when persuasion, appeal and advice fails, other strong measures need to be adopted.

Resolution:

Following steps need to be taken;

- (a) Develop infrastructure like roads, educational institutions, job opportunities and creation of employment at all places mentioned above.
- (b) Stop protection to separatists and take disciplinary action against them.
- (c) While Indian constitution provides for freedom of speech, but it is not unrestricted. Strong action must be taken against anybody making anti-national speech or actions.
- (d) Advise the stone pelters about the consequences of retaliatory actions by forces being stoned.
- (e) Act decisively against those financing and instigating these people. Treat them as anti-national and give them deterrent punishment.
- (f) There should be prompt and strict action against those, who harass, intimidate and molest foreigners. An example needs to be established. Other countries have issued advisories to their nationals against visiting India due to above mentioned reasons. Our embassies and High Commissions must take actions to promote and highlight important visiting places in India, not restricted to Agra, Jaipur and places close to Delhi only.
- (g) Abrogate Art. 370 without waiting any further so that the development of J&K can start.

- (h) Tourism will boost economy of India. All officials whether government servants, hotel employees, taxi drivers, guides and anybody else connected with tourism must be properly trained and screened.
- (i) All states must be asked to develop and maintain tourist spots and provide proper safety and security to tourists. Tourism is an important source of revenue generation.