

COMMENT

BEYOND BLAST

FIRST IN MALEGAON AND NOW in Hyderabad, the blame for the recent bomb blasts is being laid on the doorstep of “Islamic terrorists” like Jaish-E-Mohammed.

It is being suggested by the authorities that are looking into the bombings that the real purpose of “Islamic Terrorists” is to provoke communal riots. If after planting bombs in mosques in Malegaon and Hyderabad, the “Islamic Terrorists” could not provoke communal riots, they must be either naive or running out of options to tread the same path again and again to see yet another failure in achieving their objective of communal riots. The “Islamic Terrorists” risk demoralizing their cadres by their consistent failure in creating riots. If provoking communal riots is the objective of “Islamic Terrorists” then they could do better by studying Reports of Enquiry Commissions appointed by various governments like, Raghubar Dayal Commission (Ranchi-Hatia., 1967), Jagmohan Reddy Commission (Ahmdabad 1969), Madan Commission (Bhiwandi, Jalgaon and Madad, 1970), Krishna Rao Commission (Hyderabad, 1984), Ramanand Prasad Commission, (Bhagalpur, 1989) Srikrishna Commission (Mumbai 1992-93), and scores of other reports which have brought to the fore that those riots were not accidents but well planned and executed and it required days, if not months of continuous and sustained provocative and divisive speeches and publication of communal propaganda and collection of arms and ammunitions. Then a spark like throwing stone on a religious procession, hitting a cow, teasing a lady from other community or a secret marriage between a Muslim boy and a Hindu girl or some such triggering event can be used. Then rumour mongering like “the milk in the city is poisoned” or “drinking water has been poisoned” or “a huge mob of the ‘rival’ community is approaching to attack” or that “women have been raped and murdered by the “rival” community”. These rumours enhance the threat perception of an ordinary citizen and mobilizes him / her and even leads them to attack “rivals”. With India having “experience” of scores of communal riots in which thousands have been killed, the “Islamic Terrorists” might be fools not to learn how to spark a communal riot or to try a different path which is proving futile.

Reality is that the politicians who blame the blasts in mosques on “Islamic Terrorists” sound less convincing. The politicians even before visiting the site of the bomb blast have their statement of allegation on this or that organization ready. They may be advertently or inadvertently narrowing down options for the investigation agencies and may be allowing the real culprit to not only escape but also feel emboldened. □□□