

## **THE WHITEWASHING OF TERROR**

A strange phenomenon is being observed now in the electronic and social media in the wake of the Pahalgam attack. The crime seems to have been committed NOT by the Jihadis, but by the Government of India/the Home Ministry/the Army and the security establishment. Why did Pahalgam happen? SECURITY LAPSE! That's the reason why it happened. Who is to be blamed? Not terrorism, not Jihad – but security lapse! Of course, it was a security lapse! EVERY terrorist attack is a security lapse. 9/11, 26/11, the Parliament attack, Pulwama attack, Indira Gandhi's assassination, Rajiv Gandhi's assassination and even Benazir Bhutto's assassination were nothing but security lapses.

Terrorist attacks happen because NO NATION can provide 100% foolproof security 24/7 to its citizens. There's only one way to ensure it. Provide a personal commando to every citizen when he steps out into the streets. That's the only way you can ensure that there are no security lapses. Even then your safety cannot be guaranteed. Because when the lunatic at the other end of the rifle barrel believes that he is going to enjoy 72 virgins in paradise if he dies trying to kill you, then even your "personal commando" may get killed! Kashmir was under President's rule for the last 5 years. That didn't stop terror attacks from happening. Countless soldiers of the Indian Army have laid down their lives in Kashmir in the last four decades. So much for security and security lapses.

Though the occasion is most inappropriate for humour, here I can't resist the temptation of telling a Mulla Nasrudin joke which highlights the situation in an apt manner:

Nasrudin's wife had gone to her parents instructing Nasrudin to take good care of the house in her absence. When she came back she found that the house has been burgled. Taking advantage of his wife's absence, Nasrudin had a good bout of drinking and went off to sleep without locking the door. The wife and the neighbours were all blaming Nasrudin. Your carelessness is to blame. Your drinking is to blame etc. etc. Nasrudin heard all of this silently and responded: "Yes, I am to be blamed but don't you think the thief is also to be blamed?"

My favourite joker has put his finger smack on the button! If a bunch of people have made it the mission in their lives to kill people without caring for their own lives, no nation in the world can guarantee 100% protection to its citizens. There are going to be security lapses – because you only have so much resources and you can't bring every inch of your land under the range of your gun. So let's not fall for this red herring of "security lapse" and redirect our focus on Islamic terror and the Jihadis.