

A statement by Gandhian fraternity

The most tragic incident of Nov.26 which lasted 60 hours in Mumbai has left us all shattered and sent a shock wave across the world. Naturally, we all are concerned with the current trend of violence and its extremely brutal form. Our heartfelt prayer goes to all those families whose family members have become the victim of this senseless violence. Loss of lives of so many innocent people in this incident make it essential for us to oppose unitedly cult of violence. We highly appreciate and admire the brave men of police, armed forces NSG and duty conscious staff of Taj and Oberoi and salute them for their courageous role in saving many human lives and combating the terrorists without caring for their safety. It is a matter of great satisfaction the way the people of Mumbai and rest of the country showed remarkable sense of national and communal unity.

We feel relieved that in spite of such a provocation leadership of India and Pakistan have maintained required restraint and diplomatic dialogue and communication. We believe that it is important to keep the option of peaceful dialogue open between India and Pakistan while promoting the people to people contacts in order to build bridges across the region. It is equally important to support and nourish the democracy and democratic process in both the countries. We believe that civilized world can find civilized ways to resolve the problems rather than using the means of violence and war.

Terrorism has no caste, class, colour and creed. This is done by those people who want to create fear and hate in order to promote their own interest by dividing people in the name of religion. While the violence of terrorism must be tackled at its manifest forms; the seeds of violence and hatred can only be tackled in the minds of people. We need to find answer to the cult of violence. As fire can be extinguished by water and not by patrol; similarly violence can be extinguished by nonviolence and not by greater violence.

It is a wakeup call for all of us to stand together with a resolve that we will work unitedly for promoting nonviolence, peace with justice and equality. We also have to promote a model of development that will reduce all kinds of discrimination, poverty and sufferings of people at large.

Any escalation of tension between India and Pakistan will serve the propose of none-other than the masters of the terror-strikes in India and in Pakistan, and the powers that benefit out of regional strife between India and Pakistan. We need to exhaust all the possibilities of dialogue with Pakistan. War-mongering must be curbed at all cost. That will be a most dignified and meaningful tribute to the brave people who made highest and willing sacrifice saving others' lives in Mumbai.

This is a statement issued by many Gandhians in India, shared with us by Mr. PV Rajagopal, President of EKTA Parishad.