

Post-Pulwama: Unity need of the hour

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On 14 February, humanity witnessed one of the deadliest terror attacks in three decades of Kashmir's insurgency. The entire nation was left dumb-struck when Jaish bomber Adil Ahmed Dar crashed an SUV loaded with 350 kilograms of explosives into one of the buses carrying 35-40 troopers out of a 78 vehicle CRPF convoy.

Mordant images sold out in the forefront as funeral processions threaded their way in different districts after the attack that killed 40 CRPF jawans, enveloped wails wafted from the houses of these jawans with the helplessness that can never be vindicated. Heart-rendering stories about these families added to the sense

of national outrage with the unwanted entry of some sly elements that politicised the incident and took advantage of this collective outrage which targeted a few vulnerable students residing in corners of our country. Several assaults are extremely unfortunate which are nothing but outcome of thoughtless aggression. But to spare the horror, amidst families mourning their irredeemable loss, India has been supported by the United States in its concerns regarding Pakistan's role in this unofficial war. A total of 48 countries like the US, China, France and Russia shared their sincere condolences with the families of the jawans and strongly condemned the attack and the heinous level of brutality humanity has stooped

to. With India's withdrawal of the "most favored nation" status from Pakistan to the action of its largest paramilitary force in best exhibition of the country's defence mechanism, India forms a watchtower of bravery and challenges the contradictory narrative strategized with political purpose. The selflessness of the CRPF was demonstrated when they used an existing helpline to coordinate with the distressed students. Also in order to maintain the dignity of the post which demands full devotion, the CRPF jawans did not commute dedication and still continues to protect the Pakistan Embassy in New Delhi, which houses Pakistani Diplomats, out of sheer responsibility during their stage of absolute terror and helplessness.

Days after the deadly Pulwama attack, voices have been raised on the efficacy of providing special status to the militancy affected state. Many have considered that it is time to re-visit Article 370 or provide more autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir within the framework of the Constitution. However, India has not and will not forget its original charter in its moment of grief and indignation. To stay united and act with calm and composure in the wake of provocation from within and without, would be the suitable medium to prove the democracy we are part of.

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