

AN APPEAL

It is with great anxiety and painthat we wish to make this appeal to all those who are responsible for the safety and collective welfare of the people of West Bengal and those who are custodians of the Constitution. It has come to our notice that our motherland, this holy land of West Bengal, is facing a period of unmitigated violence, utter lawlessness since the election result was declared.Undemocratic forceslike lawless instigators and fanatical extremists who do not respect the democratic rights of the people of West Bengal are running amok across the state.

It is the constitutional right of every citizen to espouse her or his political preference and to vote according toher or his choice. Elections are the way of expressing the people's will. Oncethepeoplehave expressed their will and a government is in place, why or how or where this present violence is being generated from? We have seen how the just concluded Assembly elections in West Bengal were conducted amidst unchecked violence against those underprivileged sections of our society. There are three other states and one union territory which went to assembly elections at the same time. Not a single incident of electoral violence has so far been reported from any one of them. It is only in our state that houses are being burnt, political opponents are being lynched andmarauding mobs, comprising inhuman elements mostly from a particular community, are on the rampage.

The present scenario onlyreminds one of the levels of viciousness that the people of Bengal witnessed during 2018 panchayat elections in West Bengal. Criminal mobsconducting riots, raids and genocide of the Hindu population of West Bengal cannot be part of India's august democratic traditions. We have seen the Naxalitemovement exert far-reaching consequences on the economy of the state and several rounds of politicaland communal violence during the thirty four years of Left Front rule in the state. We do not wish to relive the same by any means.

It is our appeal that concrete steps are immediately taken to restore the rule of law in West Bengal. Weappeal that all fanatical and violent forces engaged in destroying our democratic values are reined inandput them under the law of the land. We pray to the government of this country that all those victims who were subjected to attack, loot and rapein West Bengal over the past few daysare immediately be provided with full security so as to get them back to their homes and normal lives, besides compensation for their losses. In addition, all those who have been killed in this political violence should be recognised as martyrs.

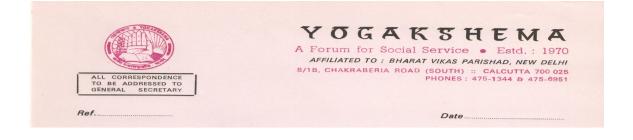
It is regrettable that criminal political and fanatical extremists have blotted the glorious name of Bengali culture and tradition. India is no such space where one can do what one desires in the name of an electoral win, because even an elected government is answerable to the people of this country for every single act and gesture of theirs.



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