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The myopia of hate politics versus the rule of law

People's Watch, committed to preservation, promotion and defence of human rights, unequivocally condemns the attack on Kannadiga establishments in different parts of Tamil Nadu as well as the attack on Tamils in Karnataka and especially the burning of over 40 KPN buses in Bengaluru – in both states by persons who have the least respect for the rule of law.

Despite the Supreme Court directive to the Government of Karnataka to release 15,000 cusecs water until September 20, 2016, it has failed to restore at least a semblance of respect for the apex court directive. Such mindless large scale arson, vandalism, violence and violations destroy the spirit of democracy in both letter and spirit and the rule of law. As citizens all of us have a moral and social responsibility to abide by legal directives and not arrogate to ourselves the entitlement and right to settle disputes and dissent with the might is right arrogance mindset. Such divisive tactics does not resolve; it divides fragments, and creates unbridgeable chasms.

Differences are to be resolved amicably by engaging in dialogue and conciliatory talks. Such gross and ghastly street based violence, myopic retaliatory tactics and parochial politics rents the fabric of a democratic society. We strongly urge the people of both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to stem the mindlessness that threatens to divide the people of both states on the basis of riparian politics. Basic needs of people can never be subverted to political shenanigans.

People's Watch is utterly shocked that without attending to these incidents with the seriousness it deserves, the two chief ministers are writing to each other! It is time to speak as a statesmen/stateswomen and not as a politician – either from Karnataka or Tamil Nadu. It appeals equally to the media to make sure that there is no exaggeration of any kind because it is this engineered media frenzy that ultimately contributes to greater violence in society. The police chiefs of both states need to prove on the ground that they know how to police and control mobs. The chairpersons and members of the State Human Rights Institutions have to get on to the ground and create that historic record of the violence that is spreading on and paying a heavy price on children, on women, on the poorest of the poor and other vulnerable sections of society.

A river is a source of nourishment and sustenance. Paradoxically, the Cauvery dispute is a painful reminder that even the beauty and eternal truth of a glorious legacy can be annihilated when consigned to the inferno of hatred, parochialism and divisive politics.

Sd/-

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