***I  will never allow patriotism to triumph over humanity for as long as I live - Rabindranath Tagore , Nobel laureate for literature***

*“Gar Firdaus bar-rue zamin ast, hami asto, hamin asto, hamin ast.”* – A famous quote by Mughal Emperor Jehangir(1569 -1627) when he visited Kashmir in the 17th century is often cited by many when they visit Kashmir. The quote when roughly translated into English means ‘If there is heaven on earth, it is here, it is here, it is here’ (1). That heaven in one of the most beautiful mountain- ranges ,the paradise of valley of flowers and crown of India is under seize now for close to three months(2). Due to nefarious war -mongering mindless design of our neighbour and blessing of its arms- dealer supporters, terrorists are playing their gory bloody -bath for several decades there. And as our incumbent ‘strong’ Government of India -enjoying brute majority- wants to rapidly control situation there ,it’s subduing its citizens for want of a better strategy in his war- room to selectively target terrorists and their organised -crime- syndicates; operating both inside and across our international border.

These punitive measures of our elected and democratic government don’t distinguish between hardened/ seasoned/ trained criminals backed by their organizations/ handlers and an average citizen, e. g. a woman in labor pain(3) and a terminal CKD patient - needing a regular dialysis just to see another sunrise(4). By deploying a blunt weapon of severance -of- connectivity, it wants to isolate everybody regardless of their status/ demands/necessity and position. One does not need to be an expert in order to understand the plight of a snake bit victim if he does not reach hospital in time and does not get anti snake venom and then succumbs to illness ,which could have been easily treated had these blockades not been artificially erected to achieve its illusive goals.

Patients and their attendants are reportedly forced to go to Delhi as public hospitals are running out- of- stock of essential drugs. A urologist was arrested when he tried to raise concerns about the plight of his patients (5). A senior famed Cardiologist- a former Professor at AIIMS, New Delhi- was summoned merely on the suspicion of helping a terrorist (6). When the Cardiologist stated and explained that the terrorist was brought as a patient by Government of India to him, and he was merely doing what he was supposed to do, the investigative agencies stopped their mission. But another person- an average Kashmiri- may not be so lucky as to explain everything so quickly and may be facing prolonged music.

On reference number 6 and 7, the authors point that a team of doctors wants to visit the valley and its application is still pending for approval at Union Home Ministry. Hence we believe that our Government needs to either rapidly complete that formality or explain to its citizens as to what stops it from allowing the visit by those professionals. Under Hippocratic oath we are supposed to compulsorily play the role of life -saviours regardless of status or other characteristics of a patient. And when scores of our patients are suffering, how can we ignore their collective plight! All of us want lasting/ enduring peace, harmony, coexistence inside and even outside our borders, but in the process no innocent should suffer.

 This land of Buddha, Ashok and Akbar has been a continuous source of teaching in the disciplines of non violence and unity- in- diversity for the world for several centuries. Today we need to follow path shown by them to walk through the mist. Mahatma Gandhi used to say that purity of means is also important to achieve a noble goal. For him purity of means were as important as ends. On the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of that great soul, when our popular and beloved Prime Minister writes an editorial in his memory in New York Times(7), we need to remember his life and message and follow his teachings- not only in intention but also in action.

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We accessed all the webpages at the time of submission of this letter.