'RC DAILY DOSE'
Volume 32

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PASSAGE – 1

As we see the emergence of new forms of terrorism, it is important to stress that we are also witnessing a counter-current. Important organizations are now turning to political means and negotiation as a means of achieving their strategic goals. This is true for the Irish Republican Army (IRA) in Northern Ireland, in the wake of the "Good Friday" agreement; the Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) in Spain, which declared an unilateral cease fire in September 1998 that lasted a year and a half; the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) in Turkey; and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in Colombia. In addition, the Front Islamique du Salut (FIS) in Algeria and the al-Jihad and Gam'at al-Islamiyya in Egypt have declared cease-fires. More recently, there has even been a proposal of a cease-fire by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam(LTTE) in Sri Lanka. This trend is the result of the failure of the armed struggle to achieve the central strategic results expected by the organizations involved, and probably also the example they saw in the achievements of the PLO through the negotiations and the political process. But as in the case of the political process between Israel and the Palestinians, there are difficulties and crises in all the negotiating processes opened by these organizations. It is important to be attentive to this trend, to understand the motivations behind it and to learn the mechanisms that can be used on other front

Ideological terrorism, namely, the phenomenon that brought terrorism to the global stage via hijackings and bombings beginning around 1968, perpetrated by such groups as Red Army Faction, Red Brigades, Japanese Red Army, etc is nearing its end and is being replaced by a more virulent form that has its roots in religious and racial hatred.

The end of the Cold War has resulted in the drying of the well of support for anti-Democratic/anti-Capitalist, Marxist-based ideologically motivated political terrorists. Although there are a few of these ideologically motivated groups still active (particularly in Peru), the world will see these groups become extinct one by one, though possibly not without each one perpetrating one last paroxysm of violence before they disappear.

At the end of the Cold War, ideological terrorism lost its support and raison d'etre, however, the "depolarization" of the world has allowed several ethno-religious conflicts, some centuries old, to manifest themselves in terrorism, insurgency, regional instability, and civil war.

Ethno-religious terrorism will not die away, and could respond to several future stimuli. Examples of these stimuli include: an increasing US presence in the Middle East and Pacific Rim, Western development of the Caspian oil reserves, and flourishing Western technological development (and attendant cultural exposure) in the Middle East and Pacific Rim. Former Soviet Republics (especially Transcaucasus) might grow less stable as outside influences increase (economic, political and technological/media), Russia's ability to suppress insurgency lessens, economic conditions in those republics decline, and political power becomes a commodity for corruption and organized crime.

As stability weakens in Central Asia, and Islamic fundamentalism gains political power the result of "protest votes" in governments from Turkey to Indonesia but especially in Central Asia, relations among countries in the region could become more strained.

Relative to the above two other forms of terrorism (ethno-religious and ideological), single-issue terrorism will rise disproportionately, including groups oriented around or against technology (e.g. neo-Luddites). In the post-print age, groups, even nationalities, will organize themselves without geographic constraints, bringing diaspora together and uniting issue-oriented groups and religions through the course of globalization, which will paint clearer pictures of who and what has the ability to affect and influence masses of people.

This, coupled with the general evolution of state sovereignty (in which many super- and sub-state organizations, including corporations, could challenge the state-centered international system), will likely drive terrorism and guerrilla warfare into being more broadly rejectionist: attacking more than just the general legitimacy of states, but also Non-Governmental Organizations, Multi-National Corporations, etc. Furthermore, access to weapons and methods of increasing lethality, or methods targeting digital information systems that attract wildly disproportionate effects and publicity, will allow terrorists to be "non-affiliated" with larger, better financed subversive organizations or state sponsors.

This could result in terrorist cells that are smaller, even familial, and thus harder to infiltrate, track, or counter. Terrorism will be increasingly networked, with smaller and more self-sufficient cells, and will globally integrate parallel to digital global integration, and will permeate geographic boundaries and state sovereignties just as easily.

Also, keyed in with the rise in single-issue terrorism will be the rise in "true" guerrilla movements within the nation-state, that is, movements that seek the destruction of the national governments and undermining the sovereignty of the state, rather than movements that seek to influence government, a particular policy or population. This also includes movements that are geographically centered, rather than cellular and sparse, operating in rural areas rather than urban centers.

It is quite probably that in the coming years leading to the millennium we will see a large increase in religious terrorism. Obviously it is going to be increasingly difficult to infiltrate terrorist groups in the future.

Cultural terrorist groups tend to be made up of members who know each other personally or are related, thus making infiltration difficult. Another idea to keep in mind is that while we here in the west are brainstorming new ideas for anti-terrorism and counter-terrorism, terrorist are looking for new ways to avoid being caught. Anti-apprehension if you will. Granted, some fanatics may not have the patience to methodically plan out a safe attack, but the one thing a terrorist wants to avoid is being caught.

Another thing to consider is improved technology and counter-intelligence measures. Terrorists who have the backing of their government are at a distinct advantage over those who do not. They have access to more weapons, more accurate intelligence, and greater support. With the advent of the computer age, a "computer smart" terrorist can literally vanish off the face of the planet. He could be observed faxing a memo in Srinagar, and eating lunch in London tomorrow. A computer literate terrorist can alter computer files and change dates of airline tickets, hotels, etc. All of which make tracking these criminals all the more difficult.

1. *The passage opens up with the fact that :*
   (1) terrorism has to be endured with no possible cure.
   (2) terrorism is caused by injustice perpetrated on an innocence person with the state, society and people around, being insensitive.
   (3) a counter current is being witnessed even though forms of terrorism are changing assuming newer ones.
   (4) terrorism is fuelled and ignited by disgruntled politicians.

2. *The counter current to curtail and remove terrorism has been caused by :*
   (1) the change of heart of the terrorists.
   (2) the realisation to arrive at the solution of the problem through peaceful means and negotiations.
   (3) the uselessness and the failure of the armed struggle to achieve the central strategic results.
   (4) all except A.

3. *The negotiating process opened by the organisations going the terrorist way :*
   (1) should be an easy-going affair and take place smoothly.
   (2) involves pre-conditions and prerequisites to be adhered to by the terrorists.
   (3) is replete with difficulties and crises.
   (4) will begin with a "bang and end in a whimper", turning out to be a damp squib.

4. *Ideological terrorism, as the passage states:*
   (1) 'globalised' terrorism through hijackings and bombings.
   (2) was intended to quash a politico - religious ideology.
   (3) arose out of the widening of the gaps between the haves and have-nots.
   (4) attracted the attention of the citizens and earned their sympathy.

5. *The current era has terrorism in its virulent form :*
   (1) having its roots in religious and racial hatred.
   (2) of an insurgency, regional instability and civil war.
   (3) having grown due to the 'depolarisation' of the world
   (4) All of the above.

6. *The world as seen today is :*
   (1) alive to the activities of the terrorists but has to sit and watch helplessly, not being able to do anything.
   (2) torn apart with relations amongst the countries becoming more strained, with the weakening of stability in Central Asia.
   (3) gearing up to tighten the international laws and seek the assistance of Interpol to nab the terrorists.
   (4) filled with unjust regimes which have alienated people made them turn against humanity.

7. *The passage express caution about :*
   (1) the economic scarcity affecting the current day world.
   (2) the urge of man to employ scientific inventions and technological marvels to use them to further the selfish ends, notwithstanding the harm caused.
   (3) the lack of concern of the government to curb terrorism.
   (4) the growth of religious terrorism.

8. *Tracking of the criminals indulging in terrorist activities is difficult because of :*
   (1) the lack of unity amongst the countries to nab the culprits, most of them being backed by their governments.
   (2) the awareness, exposure and skills in altering computer files and tampering with the information.
   (3) the connivance of the rulers and administrators in passing on sensitive information and providing access to more weapons.
   (4) all of the above.

9. *Computer technology has :*
   (1) aided in tracking down the culprits through an effective database.
   (2) been the cause for the increase in terrorism.
   (3) enabled a 'computer smart' terrorist to literally vanish off the face of the planet, through alteration of files and material alterations.
   (4) None of the above.

10. *The author, in dealing with the passage, uses the technique of :*
    (1) reasoning   (2) describing   (3) praising   (4) criticising

PASSAGE – 2

Who are the poor in India and how poor are they really? The World Bank defines the absolutely poor as those having incomes of less than $ 1 per day per head, but by Indian standards this works out to Rs. 1300 per head per month, which is actually quite generous: a family income of Rs. 5000 per month would be considered a middle class income here. This is why UNDP data for the number of poor people in India- those with incomes of less than $ 1 per day, is a staggering 525 million people.

The absolutely poor in India are by no means the Indian "middle class" of Rs. 5000 per month family incomes. They are the landless agricultural labourers, the peasant with tiny land holdings, the rural and urban artisan engaged in the manufacture of no-longer-in-demand handicrafts, the rural and urban unskilled unemployed and semi-employed, the disabled and chronically sick of poor- family origins.

These people have a family income of $ 1 per day, or about 25 cents (about Rs. 11) per capita per day. This is about enough money only for food, and quite insufficient for other basic needs. We do not have an accurate estimate of how many people in India live on Rs. 11 per day per capita, but Government of India estimates, using a somewhat different yardstick based largely on calories intake, pegs the number at 330 million people. This is surely the world's largest concentration of the poorest of the poor.

India was once one of the world's richest countries. That was because it has vast arable lands, sunshine throughout the year, adequate to abundant rainfall over most of the country, hundreds of rivers, and untold mineral wealth. Today it ranks amongst the poorest nations in the world, ranking 132nd among some 150 nations for which measurements are available.

Economists have an abundance of explanations for why India became poor. Colonialism, rapid population growth, a retrograde socialist policy environment since Independence, land fragmentation, a lack of land reforms…. the list goes on. All these theories are unexceptionable as far as they go, but they obscure the fact that India need no longer remain one of the world's poorest nations. We have the means, the capital, the labour, the land, the markets, the natural resources, the knowledge, to be rich.

Theoreticians are generally uninclined to look at the big picture and to plan from a perspective of possibilities. Instead, they dissect the causes of poverty, and design incrementalist solutions that deal with one or more of the causes, yet staying very much within the framework of these same causes and mechanisms. Possibility Thinking offers an alternative approach to solving the problem. It thinks big, it looks at what is possible, even if seemingly impractical, and it bypasses the limits imposed by the current situation.

Even possibility thinking must recognise, however, that poverty alleviation is constrained not so much by a lack of resources, as by the deliberate efforts of a small but influential section of Indian society who benefit from poverty. As one rich landlord in Gujarat told a Catholic priest attempting to educate tribals in Gujarat (as conveyed to this author) , " If you educate these people, who will clean our shoes and our toilets, and milk our buffaloes and remove the dung? No, no, you are doing a bad thing and we will never let you succeed". Such rigid attitudes need to be confronted with all the force and might vested in the minds and hearts of ordinary Indians.

If vested interests thwarting the drive to eradicate poverty and bring prosperity to India's teeming millions are not isolated and neutralised, poverty simply cannot be removed within a short time frame.

Seventy percent of India lives in its villages, and they are mainly engaged in agriculture. Potentially, this could mean that India is an agricultural superpower, but in fact, Indian agricultural productivity is amongst the lowest in the world, accounting in large part for the grinding poverty of much of rural India.. The reason: missing technology, capital, knowledge, and market access. Possibility thinking says that it is possible to infuse the technology, capital, management, and market linkages needed to make India a world class agricultural power.

Likewise, India's industrial productivity is also amongst the lowest in the world. Reason: lack of skills and knowledge, poor nutrition and health, and poor management and marketing. Once again, possibility thinking says that it is possible to build the knowledge and skills needed to raise industrial productivity to world levels and thereby dramatically increase industrial wage levels.

In both rural and urban areas, inadequate knowledge is a key to low productivity and low incomes. This is not surprising : India hosts the world's largest population of illiterates, numbering some 400 million people. Even among the literates, educational levels are on average very low- more than half of all children who go to school in India drop out before they complete Class 8, leaving them with little more than the basic ability to read and write, but without the wherewithal to process information on technology, modern work practices, and requirements for quality and hygiene.

China's rapid ascent to economic power-house status is clearly linked to its dramatic success on the educational front: most Chinese children get 10 years of school education, accounting for the fact that Chinese workers in both agriculture and industry surpass their Indian counterparts in productivity.

Solutions for Poverty in India must inevitably concentrate on the worst end of the problem: rural poverty. This is not only because three fourths of India's desperately poor live in rural areas, but also because it is more cost effective to remove rural poverty. Rural poverty has complex causes, but one common thread runs through the matrix of such causes: illiteracy, ignorance, and a lack of knowledge which could create income generating possibilities. The centre-piece of the solution to rural poverty must necessarily be education and skill development.

11. *According to World Bank standards, poor people are those whose :*
    (1) income level is Rs.5000 per month per head.　　(2) income level is $5000 per month per head.
    (3) income level is Rs. 1300 per month per head.　　(4) income level is $1300 per month per head.

12. *The cause behind India's poverty is :*
    (1) over population.　　(2) lack of land reforms.　　(2) retrograde socialism　　(4) all of the above.

13. *The passage describes possibility thinking as :*
    (1) that which think big, examines all possibilities of a problem and transcends the limits imposed by the current situation.
    (2) that which dissects the causes of the problem and does not believe in planning from the perspectives.
    (3) that which sticks to the conventions of he tradition and does not believe in modernity.
    (4) all of the above.

14. *The main hurdle experienced in the alleviation and removal of poverty is :*
    (1) hostile economic conditions caused by inflation an lack of control on the price rise.
    (2) stoppage of economic aid from the western powers.
    (3) political instability resulting in the scrapping up of economic policies and programmes with change in government.
    (4) the deliberate prevention of drive to eradicate poverty by vested interests and influential sections of the society who seem to benefit from it.

15. *India's low agricultural productivity is on account of :*
    (1) the vagaries in weather and unpredictable changes that have taken place.
    (2) the lethargy and laziness of the Indians.
    (3) missing technology, capital, knowledge and market access.
    (4) the lopsided policies of the government of the day.

16. *India's industrial productivity ranks amongst the lowest in the world because of :*
    (1) lack of skills, knowledge, poor management, marketing, poor nutrition and health.
    (2) the anti labour policies of the government.
    (3) the ceasing of trade relations of India with SAARC countries, exports becoming hampered in the process.
    (4) other countries have progress on account of upgraded technology, better professionalism and sound management.

17. *The productivity and income of the Indians can be increased through :*
    (1) hardwork and discipline.
    (2) upgradation of knowledge and the ability to process information on technology.
    (3) providing employment under various schemes.
    (4) rationalising the export - import policy.

18. *China's turnaround in the economic progress is caused by :*
    (1) tight controls and regulations which are binding on all the countrymen.
    (2) plentiful rainfall and favourable climate for the past decade .
    (3) the shedding away of the outdated ideology by the government and coming out with a flexible and an open policy.
    (4) the success on the educational front.

19. *Poverty eradication, as per the passage, is essentially :*
    (1) promotion of education and skill development.
    (2) the removal of vested interests who do not want to see the upliftment of the poor people.
    (3) seeking economic aid from America and Europe.
    (4) All except 3.

20. *The passage is likely to be extracted from :*
    (1) a chapter on Indian economy.
    (2) a speech of the Finance Minister presenting a Union Budget.
    (3) an article in a science journal.
    (4) the publicity material of a corporate House calling for public subscription.

Detailed Solutions

1. **Ans.(3).** The passage through the opening paragraph, describes the deadlier forms of terrorism. Terrorism is by itself feared and dreaded the world across. Innocent people suffer, huge property and resources get destroyed, economy gets crippled and terrorism leaves behind scars that are difficult to heal. Haunted by these possibilities, there is a growing awareness across the world to find solutions to situations leading to terrorism. The relevance of arrival of solutions by political means and negotiations is felt by organisations abetting terrorism. The paragraph comes out with several illustrations to strengthen this observation. This leads to option (3) being the correct option and getting the tick. Options (2) and (4) are true in themselves and instances, be they in India or in other countries, are a plenty where a victim of injustice gets hardened and becomes a terrorist with hate towards the community, society, administration and the country, at large. But they are not mentioned in the passage and are not true. Even option (1) is not stated or implied in the passage. Hence they are incorrect.

2. **Ans.(4).** The opening paragraph comes out with the realisation by the terrorist organisations that armed struggle has not succeeded in achieving the expected central strategic results. It is felt that the peaceful methods through negotiations and the political process would go a long way in addressing to the needs and grievances of the organisations which had gone the terrorist way. Hence options (2) and (3) are correct as explained above. The change of heart of the terrorists is nowhere mentioned in the passage nor is it implied. Hence option (1) is incorrect. But (4), a combination of (2) and (3) is the perfect one and is the option to be ticked for the correct answer.

3. **Ans.(3).** The path of negotiations and political processes to resolve the problems, grievances of the terrorist outfits is full of difficulties and crises. The process of negotiations is easier said than done. The case of the political process between Israel and Palestine is a pointer. There are several ifs and buts to the successful conduct of a negotiating process. Hence (3) is the correct option which best represents what is stated above. Options (1), (2) and (4) find no mention in the passage, nor is any implication made. They are not the correct options and can be ignored. Hence option (3) is to be ticked.

4. **Ans.(1).** The second paragraph is explicit in describing ideological terrorism as one that brought terrorism to the global stage and was manifest in the form of hijackings and bombings. It began in 1968, perpetrated by groups known as Red Army Faction, Red Brigades, Japanese Red Army and has outlived its effect. Thus option (1) best represents this fact. The passage does not single out any particular ideology that had to be quashed through the ideological terrorism. It is silent on haves and have-nots, not to talk of the gap between them and its widening. No citizen would sympathise with the terrorist and their organisations, although 'support' to the terrorist movement may spring out of fear than out of a genuine feeling.

5. **Ans.(4).** The second and the third paragraphs have stated that ideological terrorism has been replaced by terrorism promoting racial hatred and religion based discrimination. These are felt in acts of insurgency, situations of regional instability, and civil war. The fall of the Soviet Union, collapse of communism in East Europe has made the world 'depolarized'. The Marxist based ideology than motivated political terrorism have their sympathisers dwindling. The ability to suppress terrorism decreases, economic conditions in those republics decline and political power is the is via media for corruption and organised crime. Hence options (1), (2), (3) are correct. However, (4), a combination of (1), (2) and (3) is the ideal one and is the option sought.

6. **Ans.(2).** With the weakening of stability in Central Asia, Islamic fundamentalism has gained ascendancy and political power relationship amongst the countries in the region could become strained. Hence option (2) is the apt one and can be ticked. Other options (1), (3) and (4) are correct in themselves but irrelevant to the passage. Hence they are incorrect.

7. **Ans.(4).** The passage expresses concern and cautions about the rise in religious terrorism. Terrorism based on racial and religious hatred is the most dangerous one. While the world is unified as a single village thanks to globalisation, the disruptive forces of religious terrorism threatens to tear them apart. The rebellion against the established authority or the state is not caused on ideological lines but has its base on an irrational and a blind hatred of race and religion, which is highly damaging and is against the principles of humanity. Hence option (4) is to be striked as the correct answer. Other options (1), (2) and (3) are incorrect, as the passage does not accommodate them directly or implicitly, although by themselves, they may make sense.

8. **Ans.(4).** The last paragraph of the passage comes out with a vivid account of the difficulties involved in tracking down a criminal. Each of the options could be the reasons for the government to experience difficulty in tracking down the criminals indulging in terrorist activities. But the best option is (4), a combination of all the three.

9. **Ans.(3).** The passage has not ruled out the 'contribution' of computer technology in curbing terrorism. Rather it has increased it with a computer professional or wizard indulging in terrorist activities through skilful handling of the technology, albeit for a wrong cause. The last paragraph is explicit in this direction. Hence option (3) best matches the observation and is the correct one. Option (1) is incorrect as the passage makes no mention of it. Option (4) is incorrect, too. Option (2), though correct, pales out before option (3).

10. **Ans.(1).** The passage uses reasons to describe various situations, the 'causes and effects' that mark events across the world. Option (1) is the best one and matches evenly with the passage throughout. Options (2), (3) and (4) do not represent the method with which the author deals with the passage.

11. **Ans.(3).** The passage opens with the definition of poverty. Poverty is a relative term and relates to the conditions which vary from country to country. However, World Bank has defined certain standards worked on the basis of data given and within the conditions or constraints prevailing in the country. The poor people are defined to be those whose income is less than Rs.1300 per head per month. Hence option (3) is the correct one and deserves the tick. Other options (1), (2) and (4) are erroneous as the same are not stated in the passage.

12. **Ans.(4).** The fifth paragraph cities the reasons behind India's poverty. The rising population has been the main cause for India's poverty. The socialistic pattern of society was not suitable to Indian needs. It aggravated the situation instead of alleviating it. Unequal distribution of land with the powerful usurping it left many rural people landless and made them poor and victims of feudalism. Hence options (1), (2) and (3) are all correct, however, (4), a combination of all the three, is the ideal one.

13. **Ans.(1).** The sixth paragraph defines possibility thinking as that which offers an alternative approach to solving the problem. It thinks big by and examines all the possibilities, even if they seem to be impractical. It differs from conventional thinking in that it does not probe into the causes of the problem but concentrates on the solutions. Hence option (1) is the correct one. Options (2), (3) and (4) are erroneous as the same are not appearing in the passage or are negated.

14. **Ans.(4).** The passage is forthright in its view point that poverty eradication is in the wishful stage not due to lack of resources but due to the obstacles and hurdles deliberately caused by vested sections of the Indian Society, who wield considerable influence and who benefit from poverty. The removal of poverty would be a distant dream if vested interests thwarting the drive to eradicate poverty and bring prosperity to India's teeming millions are not isolated or their efforts frustrated. Thus option (4) is to be considered as the correct answer. Other options (1), (2) and (3) are not the context of the passage and hence are fallacious.

15. **Ans.(3).** India had the potential to be the superpower in agriculture but strangely, agricultural productivity is the lowest in the world. This is despite the fact that India has vast arable lands, plenty of sunshine, abundant rainfall and hundreds of rivers. The passage ascribes the main reason to the lack of appropriate technology, capital, knowledge and market access. Other countries have progressed as they are advanced in these fields, even through, the natural resources are scanty as compared to those of India. Thus option (3) best represents the above facts and is the correct one sought. The remaining options are out of the purview of the passage and can be rejected.

16. **Ans.(1).** The passage ascribes the poor industrial productivity of the country to lack of skills and knowledge, poor, management and marketing, poor nutrition and health. This leads to option (1) being selected as the best one. Options (2), (3), and (4) find no mention in the passage and are irrelevant. Hence they are eliminated.

17. **Ans.(2).** The passage towards the end cites inadequate knowledge as the prime reason behind low productivity and income. It suggests knowledge as the way to eradicate poverty and in raising the standards of living. Thus if knowledge can be inundated enabling one and all to use the technology to process the information, nothing better is needed. Hence option (2) best fits in as the correct option. Other options (1), (3) and (4) do not fall within the purview of the passage and are incorrect.

18. **Ans.(4).** The passage towards the end quotes the example of China whose ascent to the economic power house and that too, in a short time, is due to the remarkable success on the educational front. Children are given 10 years of school education which accounts for the Chinese workers registering high productivity in agriculture and industry. Hence option (4) is the correct one. Other options (1), (2) and (3) are erroneous and find no mention in the passage.

19. **Ans.(4).** Option (3) is incorrect, as no mention of it is made in the passage. The correct option is (4), a combination of (1) and (2) which by themselves, are correct ones.

20. **Ans.(1).** Option (1) is the apt one. Other options (2), (3) and (4) are not true representations but are figments of one's imagination. Hence they are rejected.

Answer Keys

11.(3)	12.(4)	13.(1)	14.(4)	15.(3)	16.(1)	17.(2)	18.(4)	19.(4)	20.(1)
1.(3)	2.(4)	3.(3)	4.(1)	5.(4)	6.(2)	7.(4)	8.(4)	9.(3)	10.(1)