

THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS MAGAZINE

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REACTIONS**No appeasement**

By Venkat Nagarajan , Toronto, Canada




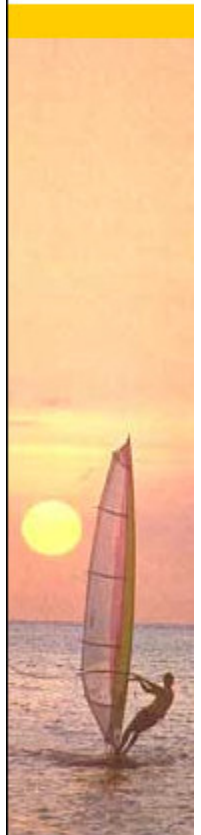
In the aftermath of the recent terrorist attacks in Ayodhya and London, it is important to reassess India's policy with respect to dealing with radical Islamists (Commentary, "Great games," 11 July 2005).

The Indian government has bent over backwards to appease radical Islamists. Muslims have been given the right to practice Sharia law and, recently, a *fatwa* even decreed that a Muslim woman raped by her father-in-law must leave her husband and live with her rapist, going against all norms of civilised society. Books and movies deemed "offensive" to Islamic audiences have been banned, and massive subsidies for Islamic pilgrimages and mosques are given despite the strain on the country's treasury.

This appeasement has not reduced terror: on the contrary, the US state department reports that India has suffered the largest number of terror deaths over the last decade.

In the last decade, Hindus have been ethnically cleansed from Kashmir. More recently, Hindu temples have become the favourite targets of radical Islamist terrorists. In 2002, Islamic terrorists killed many innocent Hindus devotees in two separate barbaric attacks on the Raghunath temple in Jammu and the Akshardham temple in Gujarat.

These examples clearly indicate that appeasement does not pay dividends with Islamic terrorists.

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