

1993

**Dingiri Banda Wijetunga** became president of Sri Lanka automatically after killing of **R Premadasa** in LTTE bomb explosion



1994

Three-time Formula One world champion **Ayrton Senna** is killed in an accident whilst leading the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola.

1995

**Croatian War of Independence:** Croatian forces launch Operation Flash.

1999

The body of British climber **George Mallory** is found on Mount Everest, 75 years after his disappearance in 1924.



The ideological reasoning suggests terrorists are rational actors who engage in political violence for social reasons, a sense of belonging or money, among others.

According to Mr Braddock and Mr Horgan, a terrorist ideology is a set of beliefs that convinces members and guides their actions. Education means, as Mr Horgan states, not simply "an attempt to help an individual reinterpret hadith", for example. That is "far less important than understanding the meaning of their involvement, the factors that mobilised them into action in the first place, and what led to their disengagement".

On psychology, detainees might experience or witness violence in a different way from most people. But it is important to create a safe space for subjects to express their emotions. At the Institute for Multicultural Development in the Netherlands, where youth programmes have been created to prevent radicalisation and recruitment into terrorist groups, participants are encouraged to express grievances with no restriction or fear of retribution. The

programme focuses mainly on neighbourhoods in Dutch society with high levels of unemployment and a mixed population, which could be fertile breeding ground for recruitment.

Then there is opportunity. After detainees are released from prison, they might feel rejected by society. This can increase their sense of alienation and lead to them getting involved in terrorist activities again after their release as they search for identity and acceptance, and aim to boost their self-esteem and sense of belonging. Prison terms should be followed by reintegration programmes to ensure an effective transition back into civic life, with opportunities to obtain housing and a steady income.

Efforts to deradicalise and rehabilitate terrorists after detention should focus on using the very mechanisms used to recruit them in the first place. Targeting a person's state of mind and emotions to counter radicalisation as well as offering opportunities to reintegrate into society are effective tools. It is critical to assess each person individually, as well as examine their route into radicalisation. Taking those three main elements - ideology, psychology and opportunity - into consideration should help develop much better deradicalisation techniques but just as terrorist recruitment mechanisms evolve, we should be constantly alert to an ever-changing threat.

(Maitha Sabah is a presenter for Sky News Arabia.)

## Global knowledge economy



We have to deal with reality and learn lessons from different circumstances. Every country has its own regulations and legal procedures, so we must accept it.

in our little island at the middle of the Middle East to make it a global high-tech portal for MENA region. To satisfy my curiosity in global economy and culture, I have studied an elementary course in Chinese language by Confucius Institute at the University of Bahrain. The centre was opened after a visit by His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa to China, so they provide Bahrain with a good foundation for cultural understanding with opportunities for studying and doing business also.

A friend of mine, who visited China through an educational programme sponsored by Huawei Technologies, said it was an amazing trip, the society is open-minded and all procedures are smooth and straightforward without any doubts or xenophobia issues there. He visited the Great Wall of China, which was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, but Chinese people understand it cur-

rently as a historical landmark and they no longer maintain any real walls to isolate themselves from other countries.

Comparing that journey to my experience after a long process to get a US visa, I have completed an additional paper called "DS-5535" around six weeks ago. According to NAFSA website, the new form has been announced in 2017 by the administration of Mr. President Donald Trump to collect extensive information such as: travel history during the last fifteen years; social media platforms and identifiers used during the last five years; and phone numbers and email addresses used during the last five years. I have found an article from the New York Times newspaper titled: "Who Needs a Border Wall When You Have DS-5535?" The author had been waiting more than 13 months to get a visa for his fiancée. For different reasons, there are several similar stories on the Internet by business travellers from many countries around the world.

We have to deal with reality and learn lessons from different circumstances. Every country has its own regulations and legal procedures, so we must accept it. I hope all global powers keep their fair and open values to continue playing leading roles and to gain bigger economic relations with our country and every country, especially the US as a strategic ally to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

(Ahmed Almadhoob is an information technologist based in Manama. He can be reached at i@madhoob.com.)



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



If President Trump designates the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist org, it will be the biggest hit to the global Islamist movement. MB has the most organized network of institutions, politicians & banks. This will shake their empire. Do it. Asap.

@Imamofpeace

02



On designating Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist group, @PressSec says: "The President has consulted with his national security team and leaders in the region who share his concern, and this designation is working its way through the internal process."

@W7VOA

03



If the Democrats don't give us the votes to change our weak, ineffective and dangerous Immigration Laws, we must fight hard for these votes in the 2020 Election!

@realDonaldTrump

04



Our military alliance accomplished a great deal in destroying the caliphate, but ISIS is evolving into a global threat without a territory. We must deal with this new danger strategically and combat not only the fighters, but the ideology.

@SenAngusKing

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

### Wide Angle

## The importance of Indian elections 2019



JOEL INDRUPATI

Only after 23 May will the world know if India's Prime Minister Modi will continue in that position.

Some say, his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will definitely win again. Some say it won't.

But we must wait till May 23 to know the people's verdict. And the verdict is not going to come easy.

After all, India is like no other country. It is large. It is complex. And it is unpredictable.

It is an amazing amalgamation of cultures and sub-cultures, religions and sects, languages and dialects. And its eclectic populace range in diversity, from mountain tribes to desert clans, from rural poor to the urban elite, from experienced old to restless youth.

The sheer numbers can stagger us. The complexity is such that these elections, to the lower house of the Parliament, are being held in 7 phases, over 40 days!

On Monday, 29 April, Phase-4 got completed. Three more phases are yet to go.

If I say there are 900 million registered voters, in all, it may not mean much. But, what if I say that it is equal to the entire populations of USA, UK, and the European Union, put together?

If I say that 11 million government employees are overseeing the elections, it may not mean much. But what if I say that it is like all the population of Cuba? Or Greece? Or Tunisia?

Just the number - of election officials - is more than that of the populations of countries like Portugal, Sweden, Jordan, UAE or Ireland, individually.

These 900 million voters are selecting from over 8,000 candidates, who belong to 2,293 regional and national parties, for 543 seats (Out of the full 545 seats, 2 are nominated seats).

No other country in the world has elections of this astounding scale and magnitude, like India. While China is a bit larger, in population size, it has no electoral process of

this type.

Okay. These are the numbers. But what is at stake, politically?

In 2014, BJP had swept the polls with a massive mandate while the earlier coalition government led by the Indian National Congress (INC) party was defeated.

Congress was then mired in corruption charges and was being criticised for its party's dynastic leadership. Its two-term Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, a soft-spoken but a path-breaking economist who had liberalised India's economy, was criticised for not taking bold decisions.

He was accused of being glaringly silent while taking directions from his then party Chief Sonia Gandhi.

BJP, with 268 seats out of 545 seats, now has a 51.5 per cent control on the legislature. If it increases its control to 66 per cent, in these elections, it can even alter the constitution.

Many BJP leaders had in fact openly touted they would win, and take away the word 'secular' from it. BJP, which draws on the ideology of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a right-wing, conservative Hindu nationalist non-political party - did very little to alleviate the fears of Muslims, Christians and some other minorities, who believe that the secular fabric of India must be preserved.

Rahul Gandhi, the leader of the Congress Party and the main challenger to Modi, has been running a fierce campaign - despite being ridiculed for his many mistakes, in numbers, and despite being accused of even having British citizenship under another name.

He says BJP has been corrupt in its defence deals, incompetent in tackling unemployment, deviant in manipulating independent institutions, and arrogant in suppressing the truth in the media, when the truth was against it.

Many other parties have joined hands with Congress vowing to not let Modi win. But, will they succeed? Will it be BJP again, or a coalition?

That is a question we can answer, only on May 23.