

SUFFERING KP COMMUNITY

The centre and J&K UT government is determined to rehabilitate the Kashmiri Pandits back in the valley but the ground situation is still not conducive for their return and rehabilitation. Therefore, no step should be taken by the rulers in haste for which we will have to repent, as the selective and targeted killings continue to take place in the Kashmir valley and all the tall claims of the government have been exposed. Thus, the return and rehabilitation should not done without proper planning and well thought but instead the government should think eleven times before embarking upon the plan of the return and rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Pandits. Since the situation in Kashmir valley is not secure for the return and rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Pandits as the killings of the soft targets and the selective killings of the minorities are unfortunately taking place despite the tall claims of the normalize in Kashmir and so the Kashmiri Pandits should not be forced to return to the Kashmiri against their wishes. The government is working to rehabilitate the Kashmiri Pandits and as a first step the KP youths are given jobs and are adjusted in the length and breadth of Kashmir but they are performing their duties under risk and threat to their lives as the conditions in the valley resemble the hay days of the terrorism of 1990. As such the Kashmiri Pandit employees especially those who are living in the rented accommodation have returned to Jammu to save their life as the threat perception to their life and limb is there as the minority Pandits and other minorities are the soft target of the terrorists and they are killed with sadistic pleasure by the terrorists. The plight of the PM Package employees is very grim and sad as they have to perform their duties under stress and strain and under the threat to their lives as day in and day out they are made the targets of the mayhem by the enemies of the humanity. Thus these unfortunate employees are performing their duties under the threat to their lives especially after the targeted killings of the Pandits and the migrant PM Package employees and so these employees should not be forced to join back their duties because the ground situation in the valley is not feasible for their return due to the targeted killings of the minorities. Those migrant employees who were given accommodation in the camps feel some security but after all they too have to perform their duties in the far off places and so they too are subject to risk to their lives but the threat perception to them is less as compared to those employees who are living in rented accommodation. However, the package employees living in the rented accommodation have no security and thus are exposed to the threat to their lives and they as such are performing their duties under threat and tension because of the threat perception. The majority of such PM Package migrant employees have fled the valley post targeted killings of the minorities. The insecurity and threat to their life and limb is very great and as such the majority of such employees have returned to Jammu for the safety to their lives. Since they have to do their duties under duress, threat and under very hostile conditions and so have they left the valley and returned to Jammu. It is the duty of the government to make conducive atmosphere for their return and for their safe and sound living and working in the valley. Thus until the ground conditions in the valley are not made normal for their return and for the performance of their jobs they should be allowed to work on line from Jammu and not forced to return to the valley and resume duties there. Therefore unless and until the normalize returns to valley, these unfortunate PM Package employees should not be forced to resume their duties in the nook and corner of the valley but allowed to work from Jammu for the time being. The best course is that the migrant PM Package employees should be given the option of working from Jammu till the normalize returns to the valley as in Kashmir they are subject to risk and threat to their lives since after the targeted killings of the minorities and PM Package employee. Since these unfortunate sons of the soil are working under the threat to their precious lives in Kashmir as they are the soft targets for terrorists and as such they have left the valley and have taken refuge in Jammu temporarily. The protection of life, limb and dignity of the people is the duty of the government and so the government is duty bound to protect the life and limb of the people and more so of the migrant PM Package employees and thus the government should provide fool proof security to the migrant employees working in the valley to perform their duties but the government fails in its duty to provide the security to all its employees and so the only thing is that the normalize is returned to the valley and an atmosphere of security and peace prevails in Kashmir so that all will feel safe and secure. But till now there is no normalize and security in the valley as the selective and targeted killings continue to take place in the valley and shake the confidence of the minorities and the PM Package employees. Thus for the safety of their lives they have fled the valley and have taken refuge in Jammu. So these employees should not be forced to resume their duties in the valley as the situation in the valley is not conducive for their return, rehabilitation and for performance of their jobs & allotted works in Kashmir. Therefore, there is great need to create an atmosphere of peace, security and normalize in Kashmir so that the migrant employees will feel safe and secure in valley and will voluntarily work in Kashmir. The need of the hour is that the rulers should sincerely make efforts for the normalize, peace and security so that all minorities especially the PM package employees will feel secure and safe in valley and work their voluntarily without any fear and threat to their life and dignity.

OFF 'D' Life has no CUFF

The most significant thing to remember is that life is not a business. It does not exist for any particular end. It exists for the sheer joy of existing. There is no goal as such. Hence, the moment you have achieved silence, meditativeness, awareness, prayerfulness - and you are capable of living the moment in total abandon - then there is no goal, no end. To live passionately in that moment is a blessing unto itself.

It is living your life joyously, playfully, totally, and with no purpose at its end, with no purpose in sight, no purpose there at all. Just like small children playing on the sea beach, collecting seashells and coloured stones - for what purpose? There is no purpose at all.

Osho

We live in a wonderful world that is full of beauty, charm and adventure. There is no end to the adventures that we can have if only we seek them with our eyes open.

-Jawaharlal Nehru

EDITORIAL

Remembering Indira Gandhi on her birth anniversary

■ G L KHAJURIA

As per a famous Bengali poem written by Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore and translated into English by Indira Gandhi, for awakening modern youth and the upcoming generations, 'If nobody listens to your call, walk alone, if in fear they cower mutely facing the wall, O hapless, open your mind and speak out alone, if as you cross the wilderness, they turn away and desert you, O hapless one, tread firmly on the thorns on the bloodline track and travel alone, if in the storm-troubled night, if they dare not hold aloft the height, O hapless one ignite your own heart with the lightening and pain and yourself becomes the guiding light.'

Indira Gandhi, the leading woman prime Minister of India was born on November 19, 1917. Priyadarshini Indira was the only child blessed to Kamla and Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru at Anand Bhawan in Allahabad, a city prominent for the confluence (Sangam) of three pious rivers, Ganga, Yamuna and under-flowing Saraswati. Anand Bhawan was the home town of her grandfather Moti Lal Nehru who was a leading advocate of Allahabad High Court. As we all know that he basically hailed from Kashmiri Brahmin family and had purchased this house in 1900 and named it Anand Bhawan, which means an 'abode of happiness.'

Anand Bhawan was quite often visited by several high dignitaries from far and wide prominent places. Moti Lal Nehru was blessed with only son Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru on November 14, 1889. Through his early education was held in Allahabad but later he graduated from Cambridge University and became a Barrister. At an age of twenty seven, he was married to Kamla Kaul on Panchami in November 19, 1917 and got blessed with a sweet child, named by her grandfather Priyadarshini Indira.

It was an eventful year when Indira was born. The Russian revolution had already started First World War (1914-18) and Gandhi had started Indian Freedom movement instilling a ray of hope amongst the people of India.

Indira stood by her father in the most intricate and crucial hours and took care of all important matters in the most magnanimous manner, thereby bringing greater fame to her father's name. Indira was too small to be involved in political matters. She had also spiritual inclination and regularly used to visit temples with her grandmother whom she fondly called 'Dol Amma' as she used to give sweets secretly hidden in a box called 'Dol'.

Indira grew up with love showered by her parents, grand-parents and all other family members. She had a strict and disciplined upbringing. She was strongly attached to her mother Kamla whom she loved the most. Indira shared and valued the real and special movements when she had her parents close by. She had written, 'Although I didn't see much of my parents and when my father sat by my side, he was never disturbed by other things.'

In the morning, all the three used to sit

together and her father and mother used to read great epics- Ramayana, Bhagwat Gita to get her well acquainted with her religion. Indira had a very unique and unusual childhood. She said, 'My public life began at a tender age of three when I have no recollection of games and my sole occupation was to deliver fiery speeches to servants who often pretend to be afraid of me while being perched on the tool or table delivering thunderous speech to them and her dolls.' When Indira was 5 years old, her education remained as a far off thing owing to political turmoil whereby it tantamount to uncertainty. Though she didn't attend any nursery school, a teacher, however, was appointed to teach at home. Even while being in studies, she was most often distracted by procession who at most of occasions entered into her house and take away all her valuables, to whom she was too much attached. His father always preached and encouraged to be very meticulous towards her health. Even when she used to run, she was told to be poised and graceful. Her father taught her swimming and later she realised swimming as only way out of tension. She also learned riding from her father as and when she had occasion to go to hill stations. She was told to be ever graceful on all occasions giving top priority towards regular exercises to ensure good health.

Her father always inspired her to have a good collection of books and built regular reading and writing skills and she came to the expectation of her father. Further she was advised to go through the writing of Rabindra Nath Tagore, Shakespeare, Barnard Shaw and Charles Dickens and many of their elks.

Indira was a nature lover, the forest, wildlife and the environment. She has had immensely contributed towards preservation and conservation of natural assets. She was of the opinion that we should do have developments but not at the cost of destruction. As such, she always emphasized on all occasions while deliberating in world conferences, seminars and conventions.

She was the pioneer in the introduction of the Department of Environment in Nov. 1980. Also, she inculcated wildlife protection act 1972. She introduced and established department of ocean development in 1981 as she wanted to give impetus to department of ocean and science and technology. She had great love for wildlife and this department was also introduced by her, apart from tiger, elephant projects when she came to power as the prime minister of India.

Indira had her education in India and abroad. She was immensely motivated at Shanti Niketan Academy which was being run by Gurudev R N Tagore. She actively participated in freedom movement and at most of the occasions was jailed also. Indira married Feroze Gandhi on March 28, 1942, where after she was called Indira Gandhi. Jawahar Lal Nehru was in prison when he got the news that he had been blessed with a grandson on August 20, 1944, who was named Rajiv Gandhi. It was, of course a

delightful experience for Indira Gandhi to become a mother. She gave birth to the second son in December 1946 who was named as Sanjay. Since she had been deprived of much care, so she diverted her maximum time in caring and upbringing of both children and sent them to boarding in Dehradun.

With the passage of time Indira and Feroze devoted maximum in service of the nation. It was September 8, 1960 when Feroze had a heart attack and he expired. Indira was utterly shocked by untimely demise of her husband. Still she kept a big heart and actively associated with her father working day in a day out in shaping modern India. In May, he along with his daughter flew to Dehradun in view of ailing health. Despite utmost care he expired on May 27, 1964.

Indira was shocked and so was the entire nation in June 1964, Lal Bahadur Shastri was chosen as the 2nd Prime Minister of India and Indira Gandhi held the charge of Minister for Information and Broadcasting in his cabinet.

In September 1965, Pakistan invaded India and in dealing with challenging situation, Shastri hit hard and the entire nation stood as one man. After 22 days, ceasefire was called on September 23, when Shastri had to attend an agreement at Tashkent on January 1966 and he had to sign the agreement to withdraw Indian forces and areas that had been occupied by the valiant Indian Jawans. Shastri could not bear with signing of this agreement and expired very soon. A gloomy scenario prevailed over Indian horizon.

After the demise of Shastri, Indira Gandhi was sworn in as the Prime Minister on January 24 and she took responsibility with utmost courage and worked from sixteen to eighteen hours continuously for the nation and her tempo of work remained excelling with the revolving wheel of time. In the ongoing process, she had to face defeat in polls in March 1977. Morarji Desai became the Prime Minister but shortly his Government could not continue owing to some internal differences. So, a care-taking government under Choudhary Charn Singh remained in power till 1980 election when again Indira Gandhi came back to power. She did a lot for the betterment of the nation. She brought many changes on social and economic fronts.

On May 18, 1974, India's first peaceful nuclear explosion at Pokhran in Rajasthan was demonstrated. On the occasion, Indira said, we have no intention to make nuclear weapon, we want our desert bloom and not to make the world a desert. In the field of space research, the Indian space Research Organisation (ISRO) designed 1st space satellite and was launched from Russian cosmodrome on April 12, 1975.

Similarly, at Sriharikota, she blasted the second experimental satellite launch vehicle (SLV-3) and entered into space age for the exploration on peaceful grounds. In December 3, 1971, a war ensued by Pakistan and here too India showed her outstanding leadership. Indira said,

'Aggression would be met and the aggression must be met and people of India will meet with fortitude, determination and with discipline and utmost unity.' Indira augmented 20 point programme in July, 1975. It was aimed for benefit of landless labourers, slum dwellers and other weaker sections of the society. She also struggled for worldwide battle against poverty, inequality and hunger.

Indira inaugurated the second UNCTAD conference in New Delhi. On the occasion, she said, 'We bear the mark of the storms and have met with courage. I hope you will also recognise the spirit of our country, who have seen countless difficulties, calamities and manmade complexities. It is the spirit alone that has inspired our great men through the ages, some of our problems are centuries old and some are new and we have faced and continue to face with dedication and determination.'

Throughout her life, she encountered countless upheavals and so were the years of emergency and ensuing Punjab problem which being very complex and compelling and she faced with utmost courage keeping body, mind and soul in togetherness and people of integrity associated with her whole-heartedly. The people never expected that Indira could send the army to the sacred shrine temple (Golden temple) but she was utterly helpless. Ultimately she took a bold step and handed over the responsibility to Lt General Tanjeet Singh Dayal to initiate any action, who daringly gripped the situation when 83 Army Jawans were martyred apart from 793 other persons and terrorists, who were badly injured. It was October 31, 1984 morning that she was shot dead by his own Sikh security guard when she stepped out of his official residence to give an interview to Irish TV filmmaker Peter Ustinov, when suddenly air was rent with gun shots. She was assassinated by her own Sikh security guards who were hiding under the cover of hedge.

Her body received sixteen gun shots. The grand lady fell down and her body lay profusely bleeding. She was immediately taken to All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Her son Rajiv was in West Bengal, who immediately rushed Delhi, the doctors operated on her to extract bullets and blood was administered. Despite all efforts made by doctors to save her, she was declared dead at 2:30 PM after a long operation for four hours.

Indira had long desire that after her death, her ashes must be sprayed on the Himalayas and so such her wish was fulfilled. On November 3rd, her funeral took place which was attended by all the high and low around the globe. The Samadhi of Indira was built on Yamuna River site and till date named as 'Shakti Sthal' which symbioses strength and power of the most prominent bold lady ever to born. Amongst Indian masses and globe her name shall remain glittering till sun shines, Moon soothes and stars twinkle in the cosmos.

(The Author is former Deputy Conservator, J&K Forests).

South Korea's investment in India

■ R K SINHA

Adjacent to the capital of India-New Delhi, Gurugram is becoming increasingly established as a lucrative business destination for South Korean citizens and companies. Thousands of Korean citizens, including professionals, engineers, entrepreneurs, etc., are residing there. All this attests to the cordial ties between India and South Korea. The two nations are brought closer due to their shared love, respect, and belief in Lord Buddha. Dozens of renowned South Korean companies like Samsung Electronics, Huawei, LG Electronics, Doosan Heavy Industries are running operations in India. Corporations like LG Electronics, Moser Baer, and Yamaha of South Korea have established huge factories in Greater Noida. Even during the COVID era, when the entire world was confined to restrictions at their homes, 66 South Korean companies knocked on India's door. South Korea's investment in India in the last four years has reached Rs 2.69 billion as compared to Rs 1.39 billion in 2017. This information was recently stated by the South Korean Ambassador in India, Jay Bok.

It should be remembered that the message of South Korean companies' continued investments in India is spreading far and wide. This will motivate those companies to invest in India, which have not yet taken a final decision on whether or not to invest here.

If India is to pursue rapid growth, then we have to bring in foreign investment. Apart from this, there is no other way. Nehru thought that factories should be

set up with government capital and Indira Gandhi thought that all industries, mines, and banks should be nationalized, but only some people benefited from it. The country, however, has suffered a tremendous loss. Of course, India is extremely appealing to foreign investors. That is why several Chinese companies also invest heavily in India. However, the Chinese government remains embroiled in border disputes with India. South Korea and the rest of the world view India as the top player in the world in many respects. The successfully completed vaccination drive in India to protect its citizens against COVID-19 made us a shining example for the entire globe. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had once said that India, along with friendly nations like South Korea, is emerging as a major hub of electronics manufacturing. The trend of Korean companies heading towards India has increased exponentially. Till a few years ago, the companies there used to invest heavily in alternate countries like China and Indonesia. After the COVID era, they started approaching India instead. However, some Korean companies are still heading to Vietnam rather than India.

India has to change this trend. Indian industries need to see why Vietnam remains the first choice of Korean companies. At present, mutual trade between India and South Korea is much higher than that of China. But, India-China trade has reached \$90 billion during the first nine months of this year. There has been an increase of 49 percent in comparison to the same period last year. This information was officially given by the

Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, Harsh Vardhan Shringla. So, it is very clear that mutual trade is increasing between India-China, which has occupied a large part of India. India will have to try to ensure that its mutual trade with Korea rises but decreases with China. If we want to successfully attract more investment from South Korea, then along with the central government, the four state governments will have to take concrete initiatives on their part. Look, foreign investors will come only when they get better options to work. The strong development of states like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Haryana has been possible only because; they attract huge private sector investment every year. Punjab is constantly lagging because there is always some protest going on there. There is a so-called agitation of farmers going on nowadays. The Central Government releases a ranking every year that establishes which states in the country are easiest to do business and which are the most difficult. The government has named it 'Ease of Doing Business'. In this, the first 5 places are dominated by the appropriate states.

The ranking is aimed at introducing competition among states to improve the business environment and attract domestic and global investors.

Those states will have to take a lesson from this ranking, where domestic or foreign investment does not come. If we talk about Bihar, then the investment of South Korean or other foreign or small companies of the country will come there only

when Bihar will create a stable business environment. The states where foreign exchange inflow is low will have to be reformed. They will have to introduce a single-window system to invite foreign investors so that all the issues of the investors are resolved there. Electricity and water supply will have to be arranged. Roads have to be improved. The public transport system has to be improved. And most importantly, the law and order situation has to be improved.

South Korea's attitude towards India is also one of gratitude.

A Korean War Memorial is being built in the capital. It is being built at Thimayya Park in Delhi Cantt. In the war between South and North Korea in the 50s, 22 countries, including India, supported South Korea. The impression of Korea will be visible in its architecture.

There is also a sculpture of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in it. Tagore is a very popular poet in Korea. He also wrote a poem on its glorious history in 1929. Korean War Memorial is being set up in Thimayya Park after thoughtful consideration. General Kodandera Subayya Thimayya had given frequent inputs to South Korea during the terrible war. One more thing is that South Korea is a country that believes in Buddhism. India will have to make efforts to bring foreign as well as South Korean citizens from different parts of the world for tourism in places related to the life of Lord Buddha. With this, our tourism will also boom in several regions of our country.

(The writer is a senior editor, columnist, and former MP).

YOUR COLUMN Adjust PM package employees outside Kashmir

Dear Editor,

The recent killings of the minority community members have created fear, suspicion and uncertainty in Kashmir valley as the conditions are very sensitive and they resemble the hay days of terrorism of 1990s. Thus, there is all round fear and mistrust in Kashmir after the dastardly act of the gunning down of the members of the minority

communities. These minority killings have created an unprecedented situation in Kashmir where it has become impossible to work in such an atmosphere.

The conditions in the valley are not conducive and feasible particularly for the working of the PM package employees and there is all likelihood of further threat to their lives. Thousands of Package employees are still living in rented accommodations without any security cover. There is so much fear psychosis and threat among all such unfortunate package employees since after the killing of one PM package teacher by terrorists in Srinagar. We are in favour of the return and rehabilitation but all talk of return is humbug till the conditions in the valley are not normalized. Therefore till the situation

in the valley becomes peaceful and normal, the PM package migrant employees should be posted outside valley if the government is really interested in the welfare of the migrants. The ground conditions in Kashmir are not feasible for the return of the Kashmiri Pandits yet and the migrant PM package employees should not be made sacrificial goats at the altar of the secular democracy of the country.

Therefore, it is impressed upon the LG's administration to kindly intervene in this matter and order the temporary adjustment of the PM package migrant employees outside Kashmir valley till the situation becomes normal.

Ashok Kumar,
Udhampur.