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The characteristics of a wise person

“No man is really wise until he is gentle and humble in heart” A Pure heart is the truest wisdom" Bishop Lalachan Abraham

The quest for wisdom is an ageless pursuit that rewards the seeker with a lifetime of knowledge, satisfaction, and personal success. These are riches that never lose value with the passing of time.

James, the brother of Jesus (Matthew. 13:55) and leader of the Jerusalem church (Acts 15) have been asked this question and answered around A.D. 40. “Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.” (James 3:13)

James clearly establishes that wisdom is more than a matter of the intellect. Many have wrongly concluded that they cannot be wise because they do not have the superior intellectual capability. James, being a Jew, operated from the mindset that wisdom has to do with one’s moral and spiritual influence along with one’s choices. Wisdom is a matter of the will, not just the mind.

In fact, what James says about wisdom is very close to what Paul says about the Holy Spirit-filled life in Galatians 5:22-23. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things” Both wisdom and Spirit-filled living involve the believer’s submission, obedience, and dependence on God. An even closer parallel to James’ concept of wisdom is the emphasis of the book of Proverbs. Proverbs was written to give wisdom (Prov. 1:1–2). Wisdom is a gift from God (Prov. 2:5–6) and is given to those who fear Him (Prov. 1:7) and who earnestly pursue the knowledge of God (Prov. 4:7). Similarly, James tells us that wisdom is given to those who wholeheartedly pursue God and who ask for wisdom in the midst of trials (James 1:2–8). For James, wisdom is demonstrated by moral and spir-

YOUR COLUMN

Need to check misuse of sirens

Dear Editor,

Through the medium of your esteemed daily, I would like to highlight a new relatively new problem which people, especially those living near main roads and markets, are confronting with, in the City of Temples as ambulances and police vehicles often misuse sirens disturbing peace of mind especially in dead of night. The use of loud sirens during daytime is reasonable because ambulances and even the police vehicles have to pass through heavy rush of commuters on roads but there should be a check on deafening sound of sirens in the late night hours, when there are no vehicles on roads and it is quite easy to navigate. It seems that those drivers, who misuse sirens in the dead of night, are a bit eccentric or have sadistic tendencies to disturb people living near the places from where they pass. The new trend which the cops especially who are on duty at local beats have started is also strange as they make use of loud sirens to tell business establishments that it is their closing time and they should shutdown their shutters or close their businesses till next morning. This also is a big nuisance as every time cops are on ground, the people have to face the irritating activity wherein sirens are used as indication for closing time of markets. This should not be a case and there should be a proper set of guidelines for ambulances also because sirens, for sake of sirens, should not be allowed as the same are meant only for emergencies when traffic is high and moving fast is a necessity. Many people are victims of this illogical playing of loud sirens especially at night and are finding it difficult to get away from this menace. This act is disturbing their sleep and causing stress. Cops in vans and on bikes can be often seen honking sirens not to deal with any law-and-order urgency but to send roadside vendors away, which is highly objectionable because this is nothing but sheer noise pollution without any valid reason. What is to be considered in this case is that sirens on their own are not at all useful until cops accomplish their duty but just to show their presence in the vicinity this easy method is being used by cops. As far as ambulance drivers are concerned, there seems to be some sort of psychological issue behind using rather misusing sirens in the dead of night.

Pooja Dutta,
Jammu.

Army or Air Force, which is a better career option?

■ VIJAY GARG

To choose Indian Armed Forces as a career is different from other career alternatives. It is not an easy job. The majority of people that enrol in the Indian Armed Forces do that due to a certain view of nationalism and thinking about the initiative of the Nation. No matter if the person is a soldier, a clerk, a technical assistant, a cartographer, or even a tradesman in the Indian Armed Forces; the majority of them join this with the sense of nationalism. The Armed Forces include the Indian Army, the Indian Navy, and the Indian Air Force. All these three wings have their individual methods of admission and different structures. The Indian Army is in charge of defending the land, honour of the nation against all the external aggression as well as internal disturbances. During the war, the army is liable to protect the country against external violence, whereas, in the peacetime, it offers help to the national authorities in case of natural calamities, and also helps in maintaining law & order when necessary.

The Indian Air Force is liable for country's Air Defense, playing both defensive and offensive roles.

Work Nature: The Indian Army is primarily divided into the Combat Arms and other Services. The Combat Arms include the Artillery, the Infantry, and the Armored Corps and they are responsible for the real combat. The services include Army Ordnance Corps, Army Service Corps, Army Medical Corps, Army Postal services, Intelligence Corps, and Army Education Corps. These services are responsible to make sure continuous stream of essential supplies and ordnance, including food for animal and men, Fuel for the vehicles, ammunition, and tanks. Different branches of the Indian Air Force include Flying Branch, Ground Duty (Administrative), and Technical Branch. Postgraduates that enter into the Air Force are ineligible for the Flying Branch, however, can work in the Ground Duty Branch and the Technical Branch.

The Flying branch consists of Fighter Pilots that fly fighter planes or combat carrying missiles and ammunition; Transport Pilots that fly planes carrying men or materials and the Helicopter Pilots that offer air assistance to the moving Army. The Technical Branch consists of engineering sections and it is liable for the weapons systems and engineering equipment in the Air Force. The Administrative (Ground Duty) Branch consists of all the departments which offer Logistical, Educational, Meteorological, and Administrative help in the technical and flying branches.

Personality: A career being an officer or a soldier needs a special kind of character. The screening tests which the Indian Army organizes are mainly designed for checking a candidate's character. More importance is given to the candidate's character than his physical abilities. The SSB (Services Selection Board) tries and find out if the candidate is having the ability to handle physical and mental pressure. As the life

of an officer or a soldier involves war and the cruel realism of it, very few people can handle the physical and mental pressure. These tests, which the SSB organizes, are not physically demanding, but they are meant for evaluating the candidate's psychological character. A successful applicant needs to survive the mental and physical pressure. The courses of the NDA (National Defense Academy) or the IMA (Indian Military Academy) test candidate's ability to handle the pressure to the extreme. Punishments (that are the only type of ragging permitted in these institutions) are validated by including them as part of their training. They are intended to construct a future officer or soldier's capability to survive and not surrender under extreme physical or mental pressure. There are multiple ways through which one can enter the IMA. There is a Direct Entry system where one needs to apply to the advertisements in the March/April or October/November for the admissions in January or July correspondingly. One needs to have an age limit between 19 to 24 years in January/July (depends on the semester or term which you are applying for). One needs to have a degree from a recognized university (minimum Bachelor's degree) at the admission time (January/July). Then one needs to appear in the CDSE (Combined Defense Services Exam) and then go for the UPSC along with SSB interview. There is a university entrance system for the engineering students also. One needs to apply against the July advertisements for the admissions of subsequent July. The system is relevant for the pre-final year and final year engineering students. One has to be between the age limit of 19-25 years at the admission time if somebody is in the final year and between the age limit of 18-24 years if somebody is in the pre-final year. One needs to appear for the SSB interview and campus interview for this type of entry. The applicant isn't required to sit in the written test.

One may also apply whereas in the school, however rather than enrolling for the NDA, one may join in the IMA. It is only valid for the students having Physics, Mathematics, and Chemistry in the 12th class and needs a minimum of 70 per cent total for applying. One needs to reply to the advertisements in May/November for the admissions in January/July correspondingly and one should have an age between 16.5- 19.5 years in January/July. One needs to apply straight to the Recruitment Directorate. The SSC (Short Services Commission) permits the candidates to provide time duration of five years. When this tenure is ended, one may go to the Permanent Commission. Instead, one may also go for the 5-year expansion and may select to give resignation from the post during that period.

The Air Force focuses completely on the aerial missions, including flying fighter aircraft or offering aerial support to the land-based troops. Though, Air Force officials could also be associated with the launch of rockets and satellites into space for intelligence objec-

tives. Enrolled Air Force persons are normally assigned practical roles like information technology or weapons maintenance services. Both the enrolled persons and officers have to be mathematically expert and technical-minded, despite the positions they assume.

The Army offers possibly the widest range of roles in all the military branches. Officers could take a profession path as infantry, armour, artillery commanders, or aviators. Enrolled troops will have similar roles, even though they won't take flight unless they step forward to warrant the official status. Having the right credentials and education, you may also become the Army physician or attorney counselling commanders and protecting soldiers at the courts-martial. Majority of Army roles are on the battlefield, taking the direct fight with the enemy to secure vital strategic locations.

The Air Force provides "Army-like" positions with special operations like a "Tactical Air Patrol Party Specialist". These experts work on the grounds, entrenched with the Army or Marine forces. Their main role is communicating precise information and coordinates so that pilots can offer precise air support to the ground troops. The Air Force Para Rescue Jumpers are sent to the unfavourable territory to find downed airmen, with the help of battling skills to take everybody home safely. The special troops of the Army include the Special Forces. These units can get assignments, anything from arresting enemy places like an airport or assassinating higher value targets.

With both branches, getting promotions involves the exhibition of leadership and competence to commanders and supervisors. You are suggested for promotion after passing through the preliminary enlisted ranks, whereas the majority of promotions are automated. Officers have to display adequate leadership and control capabilities to keep progress. In all the military branches, getting passed more than twice for the advancement is the signal that you wouldn't be considered for higher rankings any further. The Air Force and the Army employ panels for the non-commissioned officers, and their achievements are assessed to decide advancement opportunities.

The remuneration with other reimbursements available to the officers may be seen in the Army Pay and Benefits and Allowances. As you can see the compensation is significant both with cash salaries and also additional benefits. The Army and the Air Force both are gratifying career paths. The Army and the Air Force are having both differences and similarities and a few of them might not be clearly evident. For instance, even though you could think about the Air Force like a military division, which focuses only on aviation, you may also associate with the land-based special operations. If you compare career path alternatives, educational requirements, and average "day in the life," then you can take a more well-versed decision about which is a better career choice for you.

SMGS Jammu suffering revenue loss of crores

Carried out by STATE TIMES on November 10 under Editorial about unabated revenue losses to Radio Diagnosis Department of GMC Jammu due to non-payment of USG and Colour Doppler investigations in SMGS Hospital, Shalamar Jammu, a committee submitted report on November 12, 2020 which clearly vindicated our report of continuous revenue loss. Committee viewed that instructions issued by the Administrative Department vide Circular no 02 - HME of 2018, ".....to follow strictly the rate structure being followed in SMHS Hospital, Srinagar till further orders", should be followed in letter & spirit. Committee also recommended that in order to cover cost of machinery, equipment and consumables the rates of various laboratory and Radiological investigations in GMC Jammu and Associated Hospitals may be reviewed periodically.

As highlighted by STATE TIMES despite clear cut instructions to charge various patients in SMGS under various departments of Skin, ENT, Paediatrics and Gynae & Obstruction, cashier and other staff refused to collect fee despite repeated communications to the Medical Superintendent and Principal GMC Jammu and it is going on for years now with lakhs of tests done free of cost causing losses of crores. It is to be noted that cashier comes under the administrative control of Medical Superintendent and all free reports have to have prior sanction from MS in writing. No accountability fixed, no disciplinary action taken despite losses to tune of crores and despite clear cut report by constituted committee. Till date collection of payment has not been started. HoD Department of Radio Diagnosis& Imaging GMC Jammu has written almost 10 letters since September 2020 intimating higher authorities of revenue losses but no action has been taken despite clear cut vindication by constituted committee, copy of which is available with STATE TIMES. On one hand GMC has no funds to procure new equipment like MRI machine and on other hand yearly revenue losses to the tune of crores are being caused despite highlighted by department repeatedly.

To where Jammu & Kashmir is moving?

■ ANJU DEVI

The erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir got divided into two different Union Territories; one is Jammu and Kashmir, and the other is Ladakh, since Modi government abrogated Article 370 and took away the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. Many people supported this step by the central government as they hoped that there would be a huge development in Jammu and Kashmir. But it is unfortunate that we haven't experienced any change so far. Every day, we hear about the martyrdom of our brave soldiers as well as killings of other innocent civilians. No change has been found yet, even though situations are becoming more alarming day by day.

An Experimental lab: It is hardly an exaggeration to say that Jammu and Kashmir has become an experimental laboratory for politicians. Last year, a new experiment was also conducted in Jammu and Kashmir; that of the DDC elections. As far as the development of Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, we haven't seen any change till now. As we are moving ahead towards a smart city Jammu, but in the name of a smart city, we are still with potholes in roads everywhere in Jammu city, inviting accidents. We want our city to be a smart city, not only in paper but practicality as well.

Digital Divide, COVID-19 and people of Jammu and Kashmir: However, if we just go few times back, we will notice that, on the one hand, our Government was shouting for Digital India and, on the other hand, people were struggling for mobile networks and internet connections. Yes, I am talking about Jammu and Kashmir's people who suffered not only for a few months but whole 18 months they spent without proper internet services. Who were the sufferers? Obviously, the lower middle class and poor class people because they didn't have other options for internet facilities like broadband connections. Meanwhile, COVID-19 entered, and again a new challenge began for those who were already in a distressed phase. Studies of students suffered a lot during this period. When the whole nation was studying and learning online, we were looking for the internet and thinking about our children's future. But, we were still not agitated as we had been informed that the internet was blocked due to some security issues. So, when the security of one's country comes, every citizen becomes ready to sacrifice his/her comfort. Agitations, hunger strikes and protests. As for other issues are concerned, people are agitating and putting up their demands in front of the government/administration. Amongst agitators, daily vagers are on the top who have been protesting for a long time. They even opted for hunger strikes, but nothing has been done till now from the government side to give them permanent relief. Some have also retired from their jobs while demanding permanency. Nowadays, it seems like strikes and agitations are nothing more than the daily routine of students as well as employees (daily vagers) to get their demands fulfilled in Jammu and Kashmir.

COVID norms, politicians and poor: One thing which is quite amazing in Jammu and Kashmir, though it is true throughout the nation, is that whenever there is any kind of function organised by an ordinary person, our administration shows very much concern about the health of the general public and instructs people to invite a few people and follow all COVID norms. Here, I just want to ask one thing from the administration of Jammu and Kashmir as well as the administration of the whole nation. Are these rules and regulations meant for only commoners? Why don't you show such courage to stop political rallies of so-called politicians where thousands of people are assembled at a time, where nobody bothers about masks or following COVID protocols? I am not supporting anyone for not wearing a mask, whether they are in rallies or at any other place, but my point is that if you are doing a fine to a poor person for breaching COVID norms then why don't you dare to raise your fingers against those to whom our people follow, the so called Netas (Politicians) of our society. I didn't find any case where our administration has shown enough courage to fine a single politician for violating COVID norms. Is fine is only for poor?

Unemployment and Youth of Jammu and Kashmir: Apart from the above-mentioned things, unemployment is another menace facing educated youth of Jammu and Kashmir. The youth of Jammu and Kashmir is facing another level of stress and insecurities regarding their employment. Recently, in the month of September, data regarding the unemployment rate has been released by the Centre for Monitoring India's Economy (CMIE), in which it was shown that Jammu and Kashmir has the highest unemployment rate amongst all states and Union Territories of India. Thousands of well-qualified degree holders are waiting for jobs in the field of higher education from the past so many years, hoping that their wait will end soon.

(The author is a Ph.D Research Scholar in University of Jammu).

