

5-G FOREST REFORMS

The Government has taken various reform/initiatives for securing forest for growth and livelihood, which are very precious for any society. While giving reply to a question in Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ashwini Kumar Choubey informed that the Ministry has issued Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Guidelines, 2016 and amendment dated 11th September 2017 to decentralize the regulatory processes concerning the wood based industries for the development of the sector in the country. To promote cultivation of bamboo in non-forest areas and to achieve the objective of increasing the income of farmers and green cover outside forest area, the Ministry has amended the Indian Forest Act, 1927 to exempt Bamboo grown in non- forest area from definition of tree, and thereby doing away with the requirement of felling/transit permit for its transport and economic use.

For seamless movement of timber, bamboo and other minor forest produce, the Ministry has also launched National Transit Pass System on pilot basis for issue of online transit permits. This system will help in monitoring and keeping records of movement of timber and issue of transit permits for inter-state and intra-state transportation of timber and bamboo and other minor forest produce from private lands/ government/private depot. The Ministry has developed web based Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications PARIVESH portal (Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive Virtuous and Environmental Single-window Hub), which is a single-window integrated forest and environmental management system for online submission and monitoring of the proposals submitted by the proponents for seeking Environment, Forest, Wildlife and Coastal Regulation Zone clearances from Central Government. It is a GIS based system and analytics platform that provides information to various stakeholders using Decision Support System functionality. Further, e-Green Watch portal of the Ministry is an advanced technology based platform designed to facilitate automation, streamlining and effective management of processes related to plantations and other forestry works taken up under CAMPA fund. Forest Survey of India (FSI) carries out analysis of geo-spatial data (polygons) of various plantations uploaded by the State Forest Departments on e-Green Watch portal for accuracy of location, area and year of plantation. Forest Survey of India has also developed Van Agni Geo-portal to provide user-friendly interactive viewing of the forest fire related data for continuous monitoring and tracking of large forest fires in near real-time basis. Van Agni Geo-portal serves as a single point source for the information related to forest fires in India.

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Genesis of Fear: How to Overcome It

Fear is the most primordial emotion. Life and fear are interrelated. If there is life it will be afraid because the survival of a living being is very much controlled by fear. It allows the life form to devise strategies and take all the necessary steps to survive and thrive. Thus fear is inbuilt in us.

Why do we want to survive? It is to procreate, keep our forms, and transfer our genes to future generation; all of these are cornerstones of evolution.

Since it is a matter of survival of living form, evolutionary forces made sure that we are hard-wired for fear. This emotion probably is the earliest and the most important one and hence may use every part of the brain when triggered. Pain is part of fear, and it helps trigger the fear emotion and thus both of them occupy the whole brain during the pain episode.

We still do not understand which neural pathways are excited during the fear episode but one can conjecture that almost the whole brain is involved consciously or unconsciously when a being encounters danger.

Hair raising experience I had an experience once of this type of fear in U.S.A. which resulted in the involuntary raising of hair on my neck. It was not by choice or thinking but totally reflexive. In 1987, I was walking in a forested area of Northern Minnesota, USA when I passed a house and out of nowhere three ferocious pit bull terriers and one Doberman came barking at me. I froze at the site of those ferocious dogs and for the first time in my life the hair on my neck stood up.

Those dogs jumped at me while barking frantically and for a moment I thought they will tear me up. However, instinctively I stood my ground and put my hands in the pockets of the heavy jerkin that I was wearing and faced them. They kept on barking and jumping at me. Then slowly I turned and started walking. The dogs kept on jumping at me and barking furiously but I just continued walking unhurriedly.

After a few minutes (which seemed like an eternity) two of the dogs stopped jumping at me and went away. One of the two remaining dogs kept on barking at me while the

fourth one just followed me. By squarely facing them probably I sent a message or a thought signal of not meaning any harm to them which removed their fears and made them not attack me. If I had run their chasing instincts would have been aroused and that would have resulted in a really dangerous situation.

I have often thought about that hair-raising experience and thus this essay is a small attempt in trying to understand fear.

I feel that hair acts as an antenna to broadcast the fear signal. All life forms puff up when confronted with extreme danger: Sociologists call it “becoming big response” but I feel the raised hair sends the signals to nearby beings about the danger. We still do not understand the exact mechanism.

Body Map There is a strong possibility that life forms are born with the body maps in their brain. Since survival is the most important thing hence this map of the body is the first memory and the genesis of fear and psychological knots.

As we age other memories are formed when inputs from the environment are received through the senses. But the primary focus is survival and to keep the form intact. These memories in turn lead to all other emotions like jealousy, greed, hoarding, anger, anxiety, etc. and are parts of the fear complex.

For example we hoard for rainy days; we have greed for resources and other things so that we do not suffer hardship or pain in future and thus these emotions form a part of our survival strategies.

It can also be conjectured that this original memory of form that we have at birth could also have embedded memories from past births and could be the genesis of reincarnation. Patanjali has written that pain of death is eternal, and the living form remembers it and may inherit it in new body form.

Reduction of fear If we can reduce fear – we cannot eliminate it as we may end up losing our form and body; then we can do lots of great things. Fear reduction decreases the psychological knots and makes available the released neural pathways for increasing the processing power of the brain.

-Anil Rajvanshi

Omar Abdullah, where is document which says J&K got Article 370 on permanent basis?

■ PROF HARI OM



Former Chief Minister (CM) and National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah on Thursday, Dec 15, 2022, sprung a big surprise by claiming that J&K was permanently granted a special status within the Indian Union under Article 370. "His party has been saying right from the first day that whatever happened on August 5, 2019 was wrong. That was a deception with J&K. The promises made with us had no time limits. Nowhere was it written that it was for 10 years or 20 or 30. It is clearly mentioned there that till J&K is a part of India, J&K will have this special provision (in this case Article 370). But they (read Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah) snatched it from us illegally, unconstitutionally. We are fighting for its restoration," he told reporters in Anantnag.

"We will get justice," asserted rattled and sulking Omar Abdullah said, when asked about Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud's December 14 remarks that the Supreme Court would consider plea for early listing of petitions challenging the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370. "We hope that the case is listed sooner and hearings take place. I am of the belief that our case is strong and God willing, we will get justice for the people of J&K from the court," he also said. Now that Omar Abdullah, who was both Chief Minister and Home Minister for six years, claimed what he claimed, it's time to ask him to put in public domain that official document which provided for a special status for the solitary

J&K State on a permanent basis. We as students of history have not seen any such document either at the State Archives Repository, Jammu, or at the National Archives of India, New Delhi. We have seen only three documents and one statement made by the Indian Prime Minister, J.L. Nehru, in the Parliament and J&K Wazir-e-Azam, Sheikh Abdullah, in the J&K Constituent Assembly, which the NC leadership and other Kashmiri leaders wrongly misinterpreted as "Delhi Agreement of 1952".

The first authentic document is the October 26, 1947 Instrument of Accession, signed between J&K Maharaja Hari Singh and the Dominion Government headed by Nehru and ruled by the British Governor-General, Lord Mountbatten. Hari Singh, who alone had the prerogative under the Indian Independence Act of 1947 to decide the political fate of his princely state, nowhere laid down a condition that he would throw in the political lot of his state with the Indian Dominion only if a special status was conferred on his state on the ground that J&K was a Muslim-majority State and the people of Kashmir were a race apart. Omar Abdullah may put in any amount of effort to find if the Instrument of Accession or even what Lord Mountbatten wrote while endorsing the accession offer said what he claimed, he would come out of the exercise minus everything. On the contrary, he would find that the Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh was 100 per cent similar to the one signed by 560-odd other princely states as it was the Indian State Department (read Home Ministry) which had drafted it. The other authentic record is the proceedings of the

Indian Constituent Assembly, which are available with all libraries and also with the legislative assembly library of the erstwhile J&K State. Just look at the proceedings in the Constituent Assembly, which took place on October 17, 1949. It was on this day that the Constituent Assembly adopted Article 306-A (read Article 370) without any discussion ignoring the warning of one of its members, Maulana Hasarat Mohani, that "grant of special status to Kashmir" on the score of religion "would enable it to assume independence". And, it was adopted on the unambiguous assurance held out by none other than the Minister of Kashmir Affairs Gopalaswami Ayyangar that Article 370 was a purely "temporary and transitional" provision. Even a superfluous study of what transpired in the Constituent Assembly on October 17, 1949 would make even a naive to conclude that nobody in the Dominion Government, not even Prime Minister Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru, held out any promise that J&K State shall enjoy special status as long as it remained part of India. The third authentic document on the subject is what the Kashmiri leaders of all hues call "Delhi Agreement of 1952". Leave aside for the moment the fact that there exists no such agreement as the Delhi Agreement on J&K State. It was a mere statement on the discussions which took place between PM Nehru and Sheikh Abdullah during June 14-July 24, 1952 in New Delhi. The statement was made in the Parliament by Nehru on July 24, 1952 and Sheikh Abdullah in the J&K Constituent Assembly on August 11, 1952. These statements nowhere said what Omar Abdullah claimed.

It needs to be underlined that both

Nehru and the Sheikh had arrived at an agreed solution only as regards the aims and ideals and bare outlines of the new constitution. Numerous matters, which will form the basis of Centre-State relations, had been left undetermined as proper subjects for further discussion and explanation. Some of these issues such as the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, jurisdiction of the Election Commission, emergency powers, fundamental rights and the question of finance were yet to be clinched. These were never clinched because Nehru had the Sheikh dismissed and arrested on August 9, 1953 on the sedition charge. And, the fourth authentic document is 1974-75 Indira Gandhi-Sheikh Abdullah Accord, under which the deflated Sheikh was brought back to power in February 1975 after a long gap of 22 years, did empower the Sheikh to review the Central laws introduced in J&K after August 1953 considered harmful for the state and its people. But his Deputy Chief Minister D D Thakur in his report said that all the Central laws had "benefitted the state and its people" and "the needles of the clock cannot be turned back". The Sheikh accepted the Thakur report in its entirety. Not just this, both the Sheikh and his successor Farooq Abdullah applied almost two dozen new Central laws in J&K. This is the whole truth. Omar Abdullah would do well to put in public domain the document, if any, that says "till J&K is a part of India, J&K will have this special provision" (Article 370), failing which it shall be presumed that he is only murdering history and misinterpreting and misrepresenting the sacrosanct facts to mislead his constituency in Kashmir.

Vakari Greh-Retrogression of planets & their impact

■ ER P L KHUSHU



Commonly enough fear is created about the 'Vakri Grehas', 'Retrograde Planets', by immature astrologers, when the situation is not so. To obviate such fears a detailed analogy of the 'Vakri-Grehas' is given below about it, so that a common person shuns such fears which are only man made. Astrology and its postulates need always to be taken liberally and not literally. No doubt Astrology is a super science, analyzing the situation of the stars in heavens, which govern our destiny, yet this destiny of ours is our own creation as per our own 'Karmic' actions. These 'Karmic' actions of ours are linked to our day-to-day deeds and actions both past and present. Thus we can improve our state of destiny to a better state of being, with the performance of good and pious day to day deeds. It does not cost anything, but a strong will to perform such good deeds, abandoning the lure for the lust of amassing and shunning of desires to the extent of just our basic requirements only. Desires are to be restricted to the need base only and not to the desire base. If it is done with devotion, one can conquer 'Time' the 'Kaal', which inflicts miseries of sorts. 'Kaal Hi Baghwan Hai'. It is the 'Time' only which needs to be worshiped.

Mechanics of Retrogression: Planets move along the zodiac from West to East, around the Sun and when seen from Earth, their motion sometimes seems or appears to be occurring in a reverse direction. This is called as retrogression of planets. This phenomenon of retrogression has special significance in the predictive Astrology in various manners. Retrogression period of a planet is the period of time during which a planet in our solar system appears to be moving backwards, as we see it against the fixed back drop of the stars. This phenomenon is entirely due to our Earth based perspective only.

In our solar system, the planets are classified as Inferior & Superior planets. Inferior planets are those planets whose Orbit is between Sun & Earth. These planets cannot go far away from the Sun. Mercury & Venus fall in this category and these are also called as inner planets. Superior planets are those planets whose Orbits lie outside the Orbit of Earth, and are also known as outer planets. Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn fall in this category of planets. The superior planets only appear to turn retrograde, when they are about to oppose the Sun. Earth is then posited between the Sun and the planet. The inferior planets only appear to turn retrograde when they are about to conjoin the Sun. The planet is posited between the Earth & the Sun at that time. The point in common between all

these planets is that they are closest to Earth, when retrograde. As far as inferior planets are concerned, Mercury goes away from Sun by a maximum of 27 degrees and Venus goes away from Sun by a maximum of 47 degrees. Due to shorter sidereal period available to these planets, these planets race past the Sun & after going ahead they become retrograde. Mercury becomes retrograde when it is between 15 degrees to 27 degrees ahead of Sun. Venus becomes retrogrades, when it is between 27 degrees to 47 degrees ahead of Sun and becomes direct when it is approximately equivalent in degrees behind the Sun. Thus generally, Mercury becomes retrograde, when it is in 2nd house from Sun & becomes direct when it is in 12th house from Sun. Similarly, Venus in 2nd/3rd house from Sun becomes retrograde & in 11th/12th house from Sun becomes direct. Superior planets, Mars, Jupiter & Saturn the outer planets, become retrograde when they are generally 120 degrees to 240 degrees away from Sun, or when they are almost in 5,6,7 or 8th houses, away from Sun.

2. Behavior of retrograde planets (General Observations): Erin Sullivan in his Book 'Retrograde planets' writes that 'If we substitute for 'introvert' the 'retrograde planet' and for 'extrovert' the 'direct planet', we come closer to an understanding as to how a retrograde planet operates as an individual within its society. Thinking in terms of planets as individuals in a family or social system, a retrograde planet operates as an introvert. Where as a direct planet, interacts with the other planets, demanding recognition, expecting and delivering challenges, relating & accommodating, adjusting & compromising, and the retrograde planet operates in a sphere of its own, either so alienated from (in the case of the superior planets), or so fused, with (in the case of inferior planets) the solar agent, that it has no perspective beyond its own integrity. It requires greater conscious efforts to prevent the dilution of its energies, with the undifferentiated cosmic, rather than personal meaning. A retrograde planet develops according to some mysterious inner Principles, completely disregarding the social rules, established by the other members of the Solar system'. The learned author further mentions 'the interior world of retrograde planets is neither good nor bad, healthy nor unhealthy, sane nor neurotic. It is a way of seeing life in an intensely personal and self creative way'. Its ego finds a way to support the planet, rather than the other way round, protecting it from invasion or attack and because of this, a great deal of the un-conscious energy, is invested in defense, rather than development'. Thus a retrograde planet's contribution to the whole personality might not be as assertive, as the direct planet, but, this does not mean

that it is not as authoritative or influential, as it should have been. It creates and resists as well, because it has an obsession and ego as well, and thus becomes strong as well, on several occasions depending upon other astrological circumstances of its placements etc. Various learned scholarly astrologers of classic books of astrology have mentioned different results of such 'Vakiri-Grehas'. Because of shortage of space here, these cannot be detailed here. However the following will be the results of retrograde planets during their Dasha periods mostly:-

Mars: There will be great fear from thief, fire, serpents. The person may reside in forests and also face repulsion (fall from position).

Mercury: The person gets wife, children and wealth. He listens to Puranas and bathe in the sea. He engages himself in charities and ritual sacrifices.

Jupiter: The native becomes financially comfortable, gets wife and son or gains from them, victory in war, close friendship with king and possesses decent goods and clothes and is saintly. He enjoys interesting talks.

Venus: The native gets respect and gains from rulers. He gets royal power and a good post in cabinet of the king, while moving accompanied by drums. He moves with conveyances and paraphernalia of rank and position. He wears colourful clothes. He own ornaments, political powers and influences.

Saturn: The person gets disappointments and failures in work. He suffers loss of power. He gets sorrow from brothers and money. It can thus be inferred that a retrograde planet is not always weak or more repressed. What a retrograde planet needs is a good obsession. It is further observed that anger is another feature of retrogression. Erin Sullivan mentions in his Book that, 'There is a natural rage inherent in the retrograde planet, which needs to become outrage'. This concept of outrage makes the retrograde planet to work better at times for its own efficacy and defense.

1. When a planet is retrograde, it possesses strength provided it is not malefic.
2. Benefic planets in retrogression bestow good honor like kingdom (the present day political power) but the malefic planets as retrogrades, bring sorrow & pain.
3. Retrograde planet if debilitated or in inimical sign in the main birth chart, or in Navamsha , will produce good results in its Dasha & Antardasha.
4. A retrograde planet in 6, 8 & 12 houses shall produce bad results.
5. A planet retrograde in its own sign shall produce good results.
6. Retrograde planet if exalted will produce the results of debilitated planets & reverse shall be the case with debilitated planets if retrograde.

(The author is Jyotish Acharya from Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan, New Delhi).

PROGRESSING J&K

J&K first among many states, UTs to achieve significant growth in aspirational districts, towns, blocks & Panchayats

J&K is the first among many states and UTs in achieving Aspirational Districts, Aspirational Towns, Aspirational Blocks and Aspirational Panchayats which has led to remarkable development across J&K from grass-roots level.

Apart from this, J&K is the only one in the entire country to tread this developmental path and establish Panchayat Development Index, Block Development Index and City Development Index in parallel to these to achieve the pace of rapid development and growth. More so, the J&K Administration has also created a third element in the shape of 1250 Deliverables through which achievement in implementation of different government schemes and welfare measures is fast tracked and checked.

Notably, Planning Development & Monitoring Department recently organized a UT-wide workshop on Sustainable Development Goals for Jammu Kashmir in collaboration with NITI Aayog, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, who spoke on the occasion, called the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) a very powerful tool to measure development in general and sustainable development in particular, and added that the governments have to measure development to improve further. "If we do not measure development, we do not improve. If we do not measure with consistency, it is just anecdotal. The SDG tool will be a

very powerful tool to measure development in general and sustainable development in particular," he said and directed the departments to utilize the SDG mechanism to chart a plan till 2030.

The Sustainable Development Goals or the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development is a global consensus signed by India and 190 plus countries of the world in 2015. It includes 17 Goals and 169 global targets, which cut across social, economic and environmental dimensions.

In India, NITI Aayog, in close coordination with MoSPI, monitors the progress on the global goals at the national as well as at the level of States and Union Territories. The SDGs have brought the focus on development-related outcomes and not just financial

expenditure and physical progress.

An official said that the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and NITI Aayog, in technical partnership with UNDP, have entered into an agreement to establish a Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC) at the Planning, Development & Monitoring Department. The partnership will seek to strengthen the monitoring system of J&K, derive actionable insights from data analytics, promote gap-based targeting and build capacities. It is pertinent to mention that J&K has been a frontrunner UT scoring better than many States/UT's in majority of sectors like health, agriculture production, education, renewable energy, providing civic amenities, enhancing forest cover, and ensuring gender equality especially during the last two years.