TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY: **VBSY'S IMPACT IN J&K**

mbarking on a mission of holistic development, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is leaving an indelible mark across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Enthusiastic citizens have warmly welcomed this journey, reflecting the Modi government's dedication to inclusive governance at every stop.

At its core, the Yatra is driven by the mission to saturate government schemes, ensuring that no genuine beneficiary is left behind. Spanning more than 3500 panchayats and involving over 2 million individuals, the Yatra stands as a testament to the collective commitment to see India 'viksit' (developed) by 2047. One key objective of the Yatra is to enlighten citizens about various public welfare schemes. This impact is visible as people from diverse backgrounds unite to take the Sankalp Pledge. The symbol of progress, embodied by the 'Modi ki guarantee wali gadi,' resonates with a warm reception wherever it travels. Over the past four years in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, a series of initiatives have been implemented to enhance social security and financial inclusion. The Modi government's endeavors have reached marginalized sections, ensuring their well-being and financial stability.

Advancing Financial Inclusion PM Jan Dhan Yojana: With 27.35 lakh new bank accounts, financial inclusion has become a reality for many in Jammu and Kashmir. PM Suraksha Bima Yojana: Enrolling 16.17 lakh people in J&K, the scheme provides crucial accident insurance coverage. PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana: With 6.57 lakh enrollments, PMJJBY offers renewable life insurance, bringing security to families.

Atal Pension Yojana: Over 1.77 lakh subscribers ensure a sustainable pension for the future.

PM Swamidhi Yojana: Providing over 32.54 crore as working capital loans, 15,633 beneficiaries in Jammu and Kashmir are now

Stories of Triumph Satpal Sharma - #PMSVANidhiYojana Success: From a street vendor to a successful recipient, Satpal Sharma from Udhampur shares how financial assistance revitalized his livelihood, offering stability and dignity.

Muhammad Hafiz - Empowered Street Vendor: Determined street vendor Muhammad Hafiz from Poonch narrates how the PMSVANidhi Yojna transformed his business, enabling expansion and self-reliance. He expresses gratitude to PM Modi for pro-poor

Mohd Imran - Thriving Entrepreneur: Starting with Rs 10,000, Mohd Imran's entrepreneurial journey, supported by PMSVANidhi, showcases the transformative power of the scheme. From a small roadside business, he now meets his family's needs, thanks to the scheme's support. Impactful Reach of the Yatra: Since its commencement, over 21 thousand people have enrolled in Suraksha Bhima Yojna, more than 8000 in Jeevan Jyoti Yojna, and over 3000 camps of PM Swamidhi Yojana have been organized across the UT. The Yatra's on-spot services have played a crucial role in reaching and benefiting a vast number of people.

In conclusion, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is not merely a geographical journey but a transformative odyssey that touches lives and fosters empowerment. As it continues to traverse the heart of Jammu and Kashmir, the Yatra embodies the spirit of collective progress and a commitment towards a 'viksit' and developed

Addressing climate change in face of record-breaking temperatures

SHIVANSHU K. SRIVASTAVA

s we stand on the precipice of 2023, a year poised to shatter records as the warmest in history, the world finds itself at a crossroads, grappling with the undeniable reality of climate change. The shocking revelation, with a 99% chance that the average temperature will breach the critical 1.5°C mark above preindustrial levels, serves as an urgent wake-up call, demanding a deep reflection on the consequences of our collective inaction. The forecast, delivered by California-based Berkeley Earth in its

November 2023 temperature update, marks a stark departure from earlier predictions, underscoring the volatile and unpredictable nature of our climate system. The initial estimate of a mere 14% chance of record temperatures in 2023 has given way to a disconcerting certainty, emphasizing the need for a profound reassessment of our approach to climate change mitigation.

While a single year's breach of the 1.5°C threshold does not automatically signify the failure of our climate goals, it serves as an alarming indicator of the precarious state of our planet. The Paris Agreement a landmark accord ratified by nearly every nation of Earth in 2015, established the 1.5°C limit as a crucial safeguard against the worst impacts of climate change. Now, in the face of the imminent breach, the urgency of our collective response cannot be

Beyond the statistics and forecasts lies a deeper truth - a truth about our dependence on fossil fuels, the relentless march of industrialization, and the insidious impacts of human activity on the delicate balance of our planet. The unprecedented warming of 2023 is not a mere anomaly; it is a symptom of a broader malaise that demands radical intervention.

The 1.5°C threshold represents more than just a number; it signifies a line we dare not cross. Beyond this point, scientists warn of triggering tipping points, setting off irreversible chain reactions that could reshape our climate in ways we can scarcely comprehend. The melting of polar ice, disruptions to global ecosystems, and the intensification of extreme weather events are but a few of the potential consequences that loom large if we fail to address the root causes of our current trajectory.

As we confront the reality of 2023 breaking temperature records, it is crucial to scrutinize our own contributions to this crisis. The burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, and unchecked industrial emissions are the culprits driving this surge in global temperatures. The time for half-measures and incremental change has passed; what is now required is a radical reimagining of our energy systems, production methods, and consumption patterns.

Governments, industries, and individuals must unite in a collective effort to transition towards a sustainable and regenerative future. Green technologies must be embraced, and policies incentivizing clean energy adoption and penalizing environmental degradation must be enacted. The economic cost of climate inaction far exceeds the investment required for a transition to a low-carbon

International collaboration is no longer a luxury but a necessity. Climate change is a global challenge that recognizes no borders. The failure of nations to honor their commitments under the Paris Agreement exemplifies the inadequacy of isolated efforts. A coordinated global response is imperative, underpinned by shared responsibility and a commitment to leaving no one behind.

The warming of 2023 is not just a scientific phenomenon; it is a call to arms, urging us to reassess our values and priorities. The pursuit of unbridled economic growth at the expense of environmental degradation is a Faustian bargain that we can no longer afford. Sustainability must be the cornerstone of our development. with social and environmental well-being placed at the forefront of our decision-making processes.

In the face of the unprecedented warming predicted for 2023, we are confronted with a stark choice - to continue down the perilous path of ecological degradation or to embark on a transformative journey towards a sustainable future. The clock is ticking, and the window for meaningful action is rapidly closing. The events of 2023 should serve as a clarion call, a rallying cry for a global movement dedicated to preserving the only home we have - our planet. The time for rhetoric is over; the time for decisive action is now.

(The writer, poet and advocate, is pursuing Master of Laws (LL.M.) from Banaras Hindu University).

Atal ji was ideal man of Indian politics

TARUN CHUGH



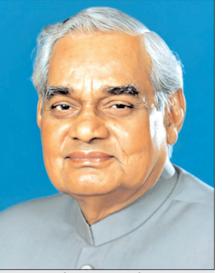
2 December is an unforgettable date for Indian politics. This is the same date on which the ideal man of politics. Indian Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee was born.

Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a symbol of honesty, decency and simplicity, is a symbol of purity in Indian politics, good governance in government and a universally accepted MP in the parliamentary system. Still alive as an established personality.

Ajatashatru Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji will always be remembered in the heart of the country. As a successful Prime Minister, his contribution to the economic development of the country and social welfare of the people has shown the way to 21st century India. Giving concrete shape to the same path, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi is building a prosperous and capable India.

Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee was truly the gem of India. He did politics by staving connected to the ground and made his place in the hearts of the people. Today, Prime Minister Narendra Modiji is continuously carrying forward his ideas and the flow of development of the country.

As a politician who established values and ideals in Indian politics, Atal Bihari Vajpayee is still present in the minds of the compatriots for instilling a sense of dedication among his supporters and winning the hearts of his opponents. Everyone respected Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji because of his spotless and clean public life.



99th Birth Anniversary

Even his opponents were his admirers. Whenever Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, who always considered the national interest supreme, used to present his views in the Parliament, even his opponents could not say anything. As a sensitive poet, Atal ji always kept attacking social evils through his

Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the man of the era, who traveled from the preacher of Rashtriva Swayamsevak Sangh to the Prime Minister, was born in Gwalior on 25 December 1924 Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji's BA education took place in Victoria College, Gwalior, currently known as Lakshmibai College. After graduating from Victoria College, Gwalior, Atal Bihari Vajpayee also obtained a master's degree in Arts from DAV College, Kanpur

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh since his student days. He also worked as a journalist in his life and for a long time edited many newspapers and magazines imbued with national sentiments like Rashtradharma, Panchjanya and Veer Arjun. Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji was a founding member of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh and worked for a long time with strong nationalist leaders like Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the National President of Bharatiya Jana Sangh from 1968 to 1973. In the 1957 Lok Sabha elections, he reached the Lok Sabha for the first time by winning as a Jan Sangh candidate from Balrampur Lok Sabha seat of Uttar Pradesh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who was the leader of the Jan Sangh Parliamentary Party from 1957 to 1977, influenced even the first Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru with his powerful speeches. Atal Bihari Vajpayee's personality was very sociable. Atalji had openly opposed the imposition of Emergency in 1975. After the 1977 Lok Sabha elections, for the first time in the country, a non-Congress government was formed under the leadership of Morarji Desai, in which Atalji was made the Foreign Minister. As Foreign Minister, he created India's image all over the world. As Foreign Minister, he became the country's first speaker to deliver a speech in Hindi at the United Nations.

After the breakup of the Janata Party in 1980, Atal Bihari Vajpayee established the Bharatiya Janata Party with his fellow leaders and became the founding national president of the party. When Bharatiya Janata Party emerged as the largest party in the 1996 Lok Sabha elections, Atal ji

became the Prime Minister of the country. Unfortunately this government lasted only for 13 days. In 1998, BJP again emerged as the largest party for the second time and Atal Bihari Vajpayee became the Prime Minister of the country for the second time. But this government could last only for 13 months. In this short tenure of 13 months. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, while being the Prime Minister, showed strong will and by conducting nuclear test in Pokhran, he made the whole world realize the strength of

Many countries including America and European Union imposed various types of sanctions on India, yet India was successful in overcoming all kinds of challenges under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. In the 1999 Lok Sabha elections held after the victory in the Kargil war, BJP again emerged as the largest party under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and formed the government in the form of National Democratic Alliance by forming an alliance with 13 parties under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government completed its full five-year tenure. During this tenure, many dimensions of progress were touched in the country. Atal ji's government started the Golden Quadrilateral Project to connect the four corners of India by road and Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai and Mumbai were connected by highways. Atal ji has been honored with many awards in the country and abroad. In 2015, former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vaipavee was awarded Bharat Ratna, India's highest honour. Today, on his birth anniversary, I pay tribute to him.

> (The author is the National General Secretary of BJP).

Revolutionizing J&K: Beyond 370-A Tale of Transformation

ABHIJEET JASROTIA



n the wake of the abrogation of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir finds itself at a crossroads of historical significance. The political tides have shifted, challenging the long-standing dominance of

dynastic parties. The persistence of these parties, however, reflects a reluctance to fully embrace the transformative changes that have unfolded

The role of the Supreme Court as a bastion of justice, as evidenced by landmark decisions like the Shah Bano case, underscores the enduring importance of upholding the law in the face of political and societal challenges. The Amarnath land row serves as a poignant reminder of how political decisions can have profound societal ramifications, creating divisions that persist through the years. As the region grapples with these complexities, the resilience and evolving perceptions of the people stand out. The rejection of traditional narratives in favour of a more inclusive and progressive vision signals a yearning for change. Grassroots movements and emerging leaders further contribute to a dynamic political landscape that is no longer confined to the historical constraints imposed by dynastic politics.

In the chapters that follow, Jammu and Kashmir has the opportunity to script a new narrative-one that transcends traditional divisions and embraces a future defined by inclusivity, development, and representation. The journey towards this future, however, is not without its challenges, as the echoes of the

past linger in the political discourse. Yet, the resilience of the people and the evolving dynamics of the region suggest that a new dawn may be on the horizon-one that reflects the aspirations of a diverse and vibrant popu-

Historical Background and Political Transformation:

The abrogation of Article 370 marked a historic turning point for Jammu and Kashmir. The region, once characterized by special autonomy, witnessed a recalibration of its political landscape. Dynastic parties, long accustomed to wielding power, now face a paradigm shift as the people seek a departure from entrenched political structures. The Supreme Court, throughout India's history, has played a pivotal role in upholding justice and the rule of law. The Shah Bano case stands out as a testament to the judiciary's commitment to justice, transcending religious and societal norms. In Jammu and Kashmir, the Amarnath land row showcased the far-reaching consequences of political decisions, highlighting the delicate interplay between governance and societal harmony.

Societal Resilience and Evolving Perceptions: Amidst these changes, the people of Jammu and Kashmir display remarkable resilience. The rejection of traditional narratives signifies a collective yearning for a more inclusive and progressive future. Grassroots movements, often spearheaded by emerging leaders untethered to dynastic politics, contribute to a dynamic and evolving political landscape. The parratives propagated by dynastic parties, often rooted in historical grievances, face scrutiny as the people demand a fresh perspective. The dynamics between communities-Kashmiris, Dogras, Hindus, and Muslims-are undergoing a transformation, challenging preconceived notions and fostering a sense of shared

Challenges and Echoes of the Past:

While the region stands on the cusp of change, challenges persist. The echoes of historical grievances and political decisions reverberate, creating complexities that demand nuanced solutions. The Amarnath land row, a flashpoint in the past, serves as a stark reminder of how decisions made at the political helm can sow division and leave lasting scars on the social fabric.

Dynastic parties, reluctant to relinquish their grip on power, find themselves at odds with the evolving aspirations of the people. The challenge lies in navigating the delicate balance between acknowledging historical grievances and forging a path towards a more harmonious and inclusive

Opportunities for a New Narrative: In the midst of these challenges, Jammu and

Kashmir stands at a unique juncture-an opportunity to script a new narrative. This narrative transcends the confines of historical divisions, embracing a future marked by inclusivity, development, and genuine representation. The region's journey toward this future, however, necessitates a concerted effort to address historical grievances and build bridges across communities.

The resilience of the people becomes a driving force, propelling the region towards a new dawn. Emerging leaders, unencumbered by dynastic affiliations, present a vision that resonates with a diverse and vibrant populace. Grassroots mov ments, reflective of the changing aspirations of the people, contribute to a political landscape that is responsive to the evolving dynamics of the

The Role of Institutions and Leadership:

As Jammu and Kashmir charts its course, the role of institutions and leadership becomes paramount. The Supreme Court, as the ultimate arbiter of justice, continues to be a beacon of hope. Upholding the rule of law and ensuring justice prevails will be crucial in fostering an environment where the aspirations of the people find resonance. Leadership, both emerging and established, must rise to the occasion. A departure from the politics of the past requires a commitment to inclusivity, development, and genuine representation. The region's leaders must navigate the intricate web of historical complexities, acknowledging grievances while steering the course towards a shared future.

A New Dawn on the Horizon:

In conclusion, Jammu and Kashmir's post Article 370 abrogation narrative is one of profound transformation and evolving aspirations. The challenges are substantial, yet the opportunities for a new beginning are equally immense. The resilience of the people, the evolving dynamics of the region, and the commitment of institutions to uphold justice collectively point towards a new dawn on the horizon. As the region navigates these uncharted waters, the story of Jammu and Kashmir becomes a microcosm of India's larger journey-a journey toward progress, inclusivity, and justice. The echoes of the past may linger, but the people, leaders, and institutions are presented with an unparalleled opportunity to shape a future that resonates with the spirit of a rapidly changing India. In this future, the law stands supreme, justice prevails, and the voices of the people find enduring resonance in the corridors of

(The writer is BJP Spokesperson).

Christmas-the birth Day of Lord Jesus Christ

BIRAJ CHAWALGAMI

he most significant holiday for the Christian world is the birth day of L Jesus Christ and it is celebrated across the world with great pomp and show not only by the people of Christian faith but by the non-Christians as well. Even being a traditional Christian holiday ,Christmas is widely celebrated worldwide ,including in non-Christian countries Some traditions of the season celebration are so old that goes up to pre-Christian era or secular origins Nowadays, the most common is the exchange of gifts and cards with beloved ones .Christmas dinner ,Christmas carols and other celebrations alongside local traditions bringing together each place's custom to this time of the year. Although Christians are a minority in India, Christmas in our country is celebrated with enthusiasm in all states and major cities. The country's famous adage "unity in Diversity "derives the whole festivity .In south India ,one of the most common Christmas celebrations is putting a burning earthen lamp on their roofs, symbolizing that Jesus is the world's light .In the northwest .Christians tell Christmas stories and sing carols in their dialects .In some places of northwest ,devotees fast from December 1st until December 24 and end it with a sumptuous feast at midnight on December 25.Christmas is celebrated on 25th December every year by the world Christian community .The day holds much significance for Christians as they believe that Jesus Christ was born on the same day at Bethlehem .It is observed as a public holiday in several Christian majority countries .Also ,in some countries were Christians are in minority it is still observed as a holiday. The festival calls for a grand celebration and is one of the major festivals. The preparations begin much in advance with the shopping enthusiastically for gifts and other articles .Children are happiest around the festival as they get lots of gifts and cakes .Families sing, dance and eat

together with family and friends on

Christmas .It is the most important festivals of the Christians and also most awaited one .The popularity of the festival could well be ascertained from the fact that every year in the month of December .gifts and other items worth billions are sold across the world, mostly in western countries .Christmas is indeed a festival of great significance for Christians and is celebrated with much gaiety and fanfare by the people especially by the Christians .It is observed to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ whom the Christians believe to be the son of God .The festival calls for a grand celebration and is one of the major festivals .Christmas means Feast day of Christ .Christmas is the festival of joy .It is about sharing and helping others. On this day people remember Jesus Christ and his lessons of life .This festival encourages us to make merry and be happy .Its sole aim is to teach us that the light of the Lord always guards us and thus we must follow the message of Jesus Christ and remember him. Christmas is the Christian festival celebrating the birth day of Jesus Christ .Since the early 20th century, Christmas has been a secular family holiday observed by Christians and non-Christians alike ,devoid of Christian elements ,and marked by an increasingly elaborate exchange of gifts. In this secular Christmas celebrations ,a mythical figure named Santa Claus plays a pivotal role .The early Christian community distinguished between the identification of the date of Jesus birth and the liturgical celebration of that event .The actual observance of the day of Jesus birth was long in coming .In particular ,during first two centuries of Christianity, there was strong opposition to recognizing birthdays of martyrs or for that matter of Jesus Numerous church Fathers offered sarcastic comments about pagan custom of celebrating birthdays when in fact .saints and martyrs should be honored on the days of their martyrdom -their true birthdays from Church's perspective .The precise origin of assigning December 25 as the birth date of Jesus is unclear .The New

Testament provides no clue in this regard .December 25, was first identified as the date of Jesus birth by Sextus Julius Africanus in 221 and later became the universally accepted date. One widespread explanation of the origin of this date is that December 25 was the Christianizing of the dies solis invicti nati (day of the birth of the unconquered sun).a popular holiday in the Roman Empire that celebrated the winter solstice as a symbol of the resurgence of the sun ,the casting away of the winter and the heralding of the rebirth of spring and summer .Christmas is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed primarily on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world. Christmas is a public holiday in many countries and is celebrated religiously by a majority of Christians as well as culturally by many non-Christians, and forms an integral part of the holiday season surrounding it .Indeed .after December 25 had become widely accepted as the date of Jesus birth ,Christian writers frequently made the connection between the rebirth of the sun and the birth of son .One of the difficulties with this view is that it suggests a nonchalant willingness on the part of the Christian church to appropriate a pagan festival when the early church was so intent on distinguishing itself categorically from pagan beliefs and practices .A second view suggests that December 25 became the date of Jesus birth by a priori reasoning that identified the spring equinox as the date of the creation of the world and the fourth day of creation ,when the light was created ,as the day of Jesus conception that is March 25 .December 25 .nine months later became the date of Jesus birth .For a long time the celebration of Jesus birth was observed in conjunction with his baptism celebrated January 6.Christmas began to be widely celebrated with a specific liturgy in 9th century but did not attain the liturgical importance of either Good Friday or Easter ,the other two major Christian holidays .Roman Catholic churches celebrate the

first Christmas mass at midnight, and protestant churches have increasingly held Christmas candlelight services late on the evening of December 24.A special service of "lessons and carols" intertwines Christmas carols with scripture readings narrating salvation history from the Fall in the Garden of Eden to coming of Christ .The service inaugurated by E.W.Benson and adopted at the university of Cambridge has become widely popular .None of the contemporary Christmas customs have their origin in theological or liturgical affirmations, and most are of fairly recent date. The Renaissance humanist Sebastian Brant recorded ,in Das Narrenschiff (1494 -The Ship of Fools) ,the custom of placing branches of fir trees in houses ,Even though there is some uncertainty about the precise date and origin of the tradition of the Christmas tree .Towards the end of the 18th century the practice of giving gifts to family members became well established .Theologically ,the feast day reminded Christians of God's gift of Jesus to mankind even as the coming of Wise Men or Magi ,to Bethlehem suggested that Christmas was somehow related to giving gifts .The practice of giving gifts ,which dates back to 15th century, contributed to the view that Christmas was a secular holiday focused on family and friends .In European countries ,gifts are exchanged on Christmas Eve ,December 24 ,in keeping with the notion that the baby Jesus baby was born on the night of December 24. The morning of December 25, however has become the time for the exchange of gifts in North America .Given the importance of Christmas as one of the major Christian feast days ,most European Countries observe ,Christian influence December 26 as second Christmas Day .In short let us follow the teachings of Lord Jesus Christ and live a life of contentment and resolve to be guided by the life and teachings of Lord Jesus Christ.