

WELFARE STATE

Whenever there is a crisis in the country the government emerges as a saviour for the countrymen proving the fact that India is a welfare state where interests of the people is prime and government is ever ready to take care of its subjects. Under the present circumstances when thousands of Indians are stuck in Ukraine due to invasion of that country by Russian army, the Indian Government is on toes to evacuate all its citizens safe and sound and for this the country has promised to bear the cost as well. As the skies in Ukraine have been declared no flying zones due to war, the government is making efforts to evacuate Indian nationals from Ukraine through its land border crossings with its neighbouring countries and they would then be brought back home. This is a difficult task under present circumstances but the Indian Government is resolute in accomplishing the job because saving the lives of countrymen is first and foremost priority. Though the families and friends of those who have been stranded in Ukraine are anxious but deep inside the heart every Indian knows that the Modi government will leave no stone unturned to bring back the last Indian in queue safely as was done in so many cases of similar nature. Reportedly, evacuation flights for the Indians are being arranged and the transportation cost will be completely borne by the government. Government is focusing on evacuating the Indians through Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Romania as the Ukrainian Government closed the country's airspace following the Russian military offensive. Government officials said Air India is planning to operate two flights to the Romanian capital Bucharest to evacuate some of the Indians. Pertinently there were around 20,000 Indians in Ukraine and of them, nearly 4,000 have returned to India in the last few days. The people should feel proud that the government is according the topmost priority to the evacuation of Indians and that teams of Indian officials are contacting Indians on different borders to shift them to neighbouring countries to ensure their evacuation subsequently.

BLOCKING 'PUNJAB POLITICS TV'

India is known as the biggest secular democracy of the world with people of different faiths and religions residing in an atmosphere of peace and brotherhood without any type of enmity. The Constitution of India also provides full rights to people for believing in any religion of their choice and following its customs without any restriction. The amity prevailing among the people is not a new thing but is one among several hallmarks of the country existing since decades and providing a unique identity to the nation in international forum. It is only due to the mutual brotherhood and interactive nature of citizens that the country is progressing leaps and bounds in every sphere of life especially during the past few years. But there are some anti-social elements present among us, who either for monetary benefits or some other reason, often make futile attempts to damage the secular fabric of the nation. But as the Government and law enforcement agencies have always kept a vigil on these anti-nationals, all their mischievous efforts are foiled as and when detected. In a recent action, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has blocked the website, social media accounts and apps of a foreign based organization 'Punjab Politics TV'. As per the reports, it was informed that the said organization is having links with the banned organization Sikh For Justice and was found to use social media accounts and other online platforms for disturbing peace and law & order during recently held assembly elections. The ministry further informed that as per intelligence inputs, it was noticed that the aforesaid channel was inciting people and its contents had the potential to spread communal disharmony and unrest in the state during elections. Taking a serious note of the situation, the ministry ordered immediate blocking of all the online platforms and accounts of the organization so that it may not get succeed in any such nefarious design. Pertinent to mention here that the Sikh For Justice was banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 in the past. This swift action of the Government is really laudable for safeguarding the secular fabric in the country especially at a time when polls are going on in five states.

OFF 'D' CUFF

Motivated people with strong willpower will always have a clear picture in mind about their future. They will be able to relinquish distractions in order to attain what they truly deserve."

To achieve anything in life, willpower is necessary. Without strong willpower, it would be impossible to reach anywhere. You can improve your life with the help of this inexplicable attribute that you have to develop within yourself.

Generally, willpower is the ability to resist short-term distractions in pursuit of long-term goals. It is associated with beautiful life outcomes like better performance in academic pursuits, higher self-esteem, financial security, avoidance of any kind of distraction or addiction, and of course, improved mental and physical health.

In fact, willpower impacts each area of life. So, always try to develop strong willpower and say to yourself: "I want to achieve it and I am ready to work hard for it."

Further, what you want must be clearly imprinted in your mind. You must understand what you seek from life; what type of life you want to lead; how you want to spend your days, where you want to reach, and after reaching there,

“War is never a lasting solution for any problem.”

-A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

EDITORIAL

SEHAT: People's movement for advanced healthcare

In order to provide best and advanced health care facilities to the people of Jammu & Kashmir, the government launched AB-PMJAY SEHAT scheme in convergence with the Central Government's AB-PMJAY scheme to provide free of cost 'Universal Health Insurance Coverage' upto Rs 5 lakh per family on a floater basis. After successful start of this scheme, the government launched massive public outreach campaign 'One Person One Golden Card' to raise awareness regarding this flagship scheme and enroll maximum people in it.

The 'One Person One Golden card' campaign targets the distribution of 58 lakh Golden cards under AB-PMJAY & AB-PMJAY-SEHAT health insurance schemes, among the beneficiaries by organizing special camps at the Panchayat level. The aim is to cover the poor families from rural background and ensure greater coverage with easy access to affordable healthcare facilities during health emergencies. Among the 10-point cam-

paign, specific focus has been laid to step up the targeted delivery of healthcare schemes for the poor and to ensure 100 percent saturation of eligible beneficiaries in a mission mode.

Even though State Health Agency is presently organizing 'Gaon Gaon Ayushman', wherein 'Golden card' generation drive is closely monitored right from the Panchayat level, the 'One Person One Golden Card' campaign fixes a tangible target for covering the remaining 58 Lakh population in the scheme. Under AB-PMJAY SEHAT scheme, a Ayushman Golden Card, is provided to the beneficiary through which the government and private hospitals selected under the scheme can get free treatment upto Rs 5 lakh. There is no cap on family size and age as this health cover is inclusive for all. Moreover this scheme holds women, children especially girls and those over 60 in special regard. The scheme provides those in need to get secondary healthcare benefits offered by specialists

like cardiologists and urologists. Moreover, advanced medical treatment like that for cancer, cardiac surgery and others is also covered. Primary health care is people's movement and their participation and mobilization to access the benefits is a key to make this campaign a huge success. SEHAT is a unique health scheme which does not discriminate and brings out the spirit of social equality in the health sector. Good health and well-being of people is the ultimate aim of the government. J&K is one of the first UTs to implement the 'Universal Health Insurance Coverage'. As per the data available, till date 60 lakh Golden cards have been generated and 16.36 lakh (80) families have been registered with at least one family member verified under PM-JAY and AB-PMJAY-SEHAT Scheme. Removing burden out-of-pocket expenses, PMJAY aims to make the entire process of paying for healthcare cashless. All public and empanelled private hospitals have been directed to not charge any extra pay-

ment for medical care from all PMJAY beneficiaries to reduce corruption or delay in services. Under AB-PMJAY and AB-PMJAY SEHAT, during the current policy period, 147582 cases have already been benefited amounting to Rs. 221.66 Cr; out of which Rs. 129.83 Cr have already been paid to the hospitals by the insurance company, thus ensuring free of cost specialized treatment to all. Additionally, the beneficiaries under this scheme can seek treatment across India. This scheme covers pre-existing illness and makes mandatory treatment in all public hospitals. Since the scheme covers such a large population, it will be purchasing services from private healthcare providers. This scheme also encourages the production of more affordable healthcare equipment and drugs. As health insurance is a financial necessity for everyone, this scheme will certainly improve the quality of life of the weaker sections of the society by ensuring they get timely care and finances to tackle their health issues.

Ukraine caught in America's deception

■ KUMAR RAMESH

When a standup comedian was made the President of one of the largest countries in the European continent, he could not have imagined that more people would make him cry in his political life than in professional life. Seeing his defeat close today, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is ready to come to the negotiating table with Russia. On February 24, President Zelenskyy learned how United States and the NATO had used him and his country. He kept pleading for help, showing fear of people's lives, yet none of the countries that provoked him came forward to help him. By way, in this decade of 21st century, when the countries of the world are establishing their narrative with high-tech AI, information and psychological warfare, even in that era, seeing this level of conflict is like a dream for billions of people, or it can be said that the opposing countries have publicized it with full bottom line, because such a density did not show readiness on the invasion in Ladakh by China, Armenia-Azerbaijan war, Yemen war and Israel-Hamas war. However, Russian President Vladimir Putin has announced a Special Military Operations in the name of national security, due to which thousands of soldiers and civilians of both countries have been killed so far, but it would be more appropriate to go beyond and discuss that these circumstances whose gift is it? Protecting our sovereignty as a country is certainly a primary duty for every nation, included Russia. Since 2014, Russia has been

warning Ukraine not to pose a threat to them by joining NATO, but no one took Putin seriously. As a result, he captured the strategically important Crimea from Ukraine. I am even more surprised to learn that the leader of this crisis, Joe Biden and the Secretary-General of the UN, believed that Putin would never jump into a direct fight with this scale. Rather, Putin, who once wanted to join Russia in NATO, has today demolished the Iron Curtain under the guise of same group, while NATO countries including America, fled in hiding.

Because everyone knows, Russia can never be defeated without ruining itself, that too when Russia has developed Hypersonic missile technology leaving America behind, and already has the most nuclear weapons, perhaps that's why so many countries are imposing sanctions on Russia and its leaders, because that's the only option they have. Recently, Pakistan President Arif Alvi said in a programme on South Asia that I had mistakenly assumed that America would have learned something after fleeing the Vietnam War and it would not fall into any trap again, but I was wrong. By the way, not only Vietnam, US has been directly involved in more than half of the wars in the world.

Be it the Middle East, the Korean Peninsula, South-East Asia or Eastern Europe.

Millions of lives have been lost in this American campaign to restore democracy in the world. At such a time, I remember former US President Donald Trump, who may be fool of personal capacity but

the president was unmatched, he played an important role in ending the ongoing conflict in many areas of the world out of the box. Through Abraham Accord and in efforts to make peace with North Korea nuclear program, he has been in the forefront, perhaps the current US President Joe Biden is in pain that his popularity is falling behind even the former president. As soon as he came to power, he made the biggest blunder in Afghanistan, leaving power in the hands of the Taliban. America also had to run away from Syria and now the war in Ukraine has left the US President wondering what his legacy will be.

The US President has axed his own leg in an attempt to weaken Russia, and I fear that his allies may not part ways with NATO in the years to come, because even in such a terrible war, there is no consensus in the organization.

This NATO group, by dreaming of heaven, has put Ukraine's existence in jeopardy today. A similar dream was shown by America and NATO to Georgia, but in 2008, Georgia itself broke into 3 countries such as South Ossetia and Abkhazia. It is a different matter that so far most countries have not recognized Abkhazia and South Ossetia, but Georgia's defeat was due to this American allure, whose pain Ukraine is facing today. When the Soviet Union established its nuclear missile silos in Cuba in 1962, America was left in awe. Even then, the threat of a nuclear war was looming on the entire humanity, but through diplomacy, both the countries understanding each other's

security threat, had removed the silos from Europe-America. Today, even after the end of the Cold War, but the battle for supremacy is not over. The fear that America felt during that time in 1962, today Russia has declared war with Ukraine as its last option, showing the same threat to the whole world, so that the country can be made safe, but ultimately humanity is being tested. If we talk about the conclusion, then this war is being fought completely under Information Warfare. Ukraine is claiming to have killed more than 1000 Russian soldiers and 7 fighter jets by distributing weapons to its 18000 citizens; Russia is assuring the world on second side that it will not occupy Ukraine. While the Russian army has destroyed 220 Ukrainian military bases, including the capture of several strategic installations like the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant, Kiev airport and so many others. In the meantime, the fearlessness and spirit of President Zelenskyy should be saluted; he is performing with stability.

Many countries, including India, are appealing to immediate stop the war for world peace, but due to Putin's advance and large army, in the end Russia will win, Zelenskyy will have to step down and Luhansk-Doneck is recognized as an independent country. In this way, along with Ukraine, these regions will also become like a buffer state for Russia and the world's trust in American hegemony will once again decrease.

(The author is a foreign affairs analyst).

World war averted

■ OKMAR DATTATRAY

We must thank the Almighty that the world war III was averted and the world was saved from the catastrophe. People of the world still remember the sad memories of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The horrors of world war are very devastating and people prayed for no world war and the God also accepted the prayers of the people.

Since the super power Russia did not heed the advice and the warnings of America and other European and invaded and attacked Ukraine and bombarded and destroyed many cities and the capital city of Kyiv.

The president of Ukraine went underground but he had been saying that the government of Ukraine will fight the war and defend the sovereignty of the country.

It is a sad commentary that those powers who were warning Russia of serious consequences if she thrust a war on Ukraine are now silent.

Thus America, European countries, other super powers and the NATO countries and the Group seven countries all left the Ukraine in lurch and alone in the war. The Ukraine is thus facing war alone and the countries which were pledging have kept themselves away jumping in the war. So these countries did not give any help to Ukraine to fight the war with Russia and save its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Thus America, NATO and other world powers which were earlier talking of supporting Ukraine in its fight with Russia have all backtracked and left Ukraine all alone to face mighty Russia due to which Ukraine is now bearing the brunt of war imposed by Russia all alone.

The NATO has now said that it cannot be at war with Russia and cannot support Ukraine as it is not its member country and therefore cannot give any direct support to Ukraine. The NATO has said that it can jump in war against Russia only when she will attack any of its country as it is bound by its international agreement.

Thus Ukraine is now facing Russia alone and it has suffered enough human and material losses in the invasion by Russia.

The world super powers excepting China have isolated Ukraine and are not supporting it because no country wants to take a risk because the armies will suffer

great human losses as a result of siding with Ukraine and as such these countries have maintained safe distance from Russia and Ukraine.

The effect is that the Ukraine is left alone to fight with Russia. It is a fact that Ukraine is no match for Russia in war and otherwise also.

So none of its allies are now siding with Ukraine in war and all their promises of helping fell flat and the Ukraine is facing the invasion of Russia alone and single-handedly. Ukraine has suffered enough losses in terms of the men and materials as Russia has bombarded many installations and cities of Ukraine, and it is very unfortunate.

The inhabitants of Ukraine are migrating from cities to villages for safety of their lives as many innocent and precious lives have been lost in the devastating invasion which has been thrust on Ukraine.

Indian Prime minister has advised Vladimir Putin not to engage in war with Ukraine and counseled her to hold the dialogue to sort out the differences with Ukraine. But Russian president Putin is not heeding to the same advice of Prime minister of India.

At this juncture when Ukraine is impounded with bombs and rockets and as a consequence is suffering many losses, the United Nations should intervene and use its good offices to stop Russia from the invasion so that Ukraine and its people are saved from the devastation of war.

Thus the secretary General of the United Nations should intervene and force Russia to stop war so that the people of Ukraine and the armies of both countries will be saved. So there is urgent need for the intervention of the United Nations so that the war will stop and cease for the sake of humanity and peace and tranquility. Therefore there is need for peace in the war ravaged Russia and Ukraine so that peace will prevail and the sufferings of the war affected people will stop. There is suffering and turmoil in the war ravaged Ukraine and the war should stop for the sake and interest of the people of both Russia and Ukraine.

The president of Ukraine has made an offer of talks and dialogue to Putin for the end of the stalemate and war. But unfortunately Putin has not accepted the dialogue and has declined to talk for the end of the war.

The UN as well as the super powers of the world should make sincere efforts to persuade Russian President Putin to stop the war so that the armies and

the people of the both the countries will be saved from the curse of the war which is going between the two countries. Since all wars are fought for peace and therefore there is no use of the war and therefore the war should stop for the cause and interest of the people so that people are saved from the devastation and horrors of the war.

But since the war between the Russia and Ukraine is going on and much sufferings have accrued to Ukraine and its people due to the invasion of Russia on Ukraine and the war should now stop for the sake of and interest of the people.

Therefore there is urgent need for the stoppage of the war between the two countries of Russia and Ukraine so that the sufferings will come to an end.

Thus Russia and the Ukraine should engage in a dialogue so that the war will come to an end so that people will be saved from the pitfalls of the war. Thus, what is needed is that the war should stop to usher peace and tranquility in the war ravaged Ukraine.

But super power and mighty Russian president Putin is not paying heed to the advices of the world powers and is thus continuing war with Ukraine and it is a serious issue and war should stop for the interest of the people of both the countries.

It is hoped that the better sense and sanity will prevail upon Russian President so that he will end the war at once for the interest of the people of both the countries.

Thus Russia will stop the war for the sake of people of Russia and Ukraine. So what is needed is the holding of the much needed dialogue for the sake of the cessation of the war.

Therefore both the countries at war should see the sanity and end the war at once for the sake of peace and prosperity. Since the Ukraine president has made an offer of talks to Russian president and it is hoped that the sanity will prevail upon Russian president Putin so that he will stop war and hold the dialogue for the good of the two countries.

It is a matter of some satisfaction that the war has been confined to Russia and Ukraine and it has not spread to other countries and the possible third world war has been averted. Let us all thank the God as the world war was averted to some extent.

(The author is Retired Education Officer and Columnist).

JKPSC when we received the shock of our lives in the form of SAC decision. When the advertisement notification for 05 posts of Travel and Tourism was published by JKPSC in 2014 and then again for 10 posts in 2017 along with 40 other subjects, our joys knew no bounds, as it was the first time that posts for travel and tourism subject were advertised. We applied enthusiastically along with thousands of other aspirants. The process for written tests/ short-listing began in 2018 and concluded with issuance of selection lists and appointment orders for almost all the subjects with the exception of two to three subjects including our Travel and Tourism which was entangled in equivalence issues for more than half a decade. Thanks to the hectic efforts of aspiring candidates the issue was finally resolved

in 2020. However, due to COVID-19 the process for recruitment process couldn't be set in motion by the JKPSC for some months. Finally, in October 2021, the shortlist was published and subsequently interviews conducted in December 2021. We were now anxiously counting days for the selection list to be published when the SAC decision gave us the setback of our lives. We request the LG to please take a review of this decision on humanitarian grounds and consider our plea and direct JKPSC to complete the process within limited timeframe as delaying the process for more than half a decade is not our fault. We are hopeful of a positive response from your good self soon.

Aspirants for post of Assistant Professors, Travel & Tourism.

YOUR COLUMN
An Open Letter to Lieutenant Governor

Dear Editor,

The recent SAC decision regarding the withdrawal of posts referred to JKPSC and JKSSB prior to August 2019 has come as a big shock to thousands of aspirants in J&K. We are the aspirants of Assistant Professors, Travel and Tourism in higher education department who were now counting days for the selection lists to be published by