

## PLUG IN GAPS

It is a bit intriguing that DGP JKP Dilbag Singh is admitting that Pakistani handlers were pushing terrorists into the Union Territory to harm civilians and disturb the prevailing peaceful atmosphere despite the fact that on record the Government led by PM Narendra Modi has given free hand to security forces to tackle the scourge of terrorism without any restrictions. The DGP JKP has said that over the past two weeks, the evil designs of terrorists once again came to light when they targeted Panchs and Sarpanchs in the Valley. Reportedly the JKP has cracked many cases of killings by busting the terror modules but the need of the time is to plug in the gaps and ensure that no innocent has to sacrifice his or her life after falling prey to nefarious designs of the insurgents entering India from Pakistani territory with ulterior motives. It is pertinent to mention that Sarpanchs Sameer Bhat and Shabir Ahmad Mir were killed in Srinagar and Kulgam districts on March 9 and March 11, respectively, while an independent Panchayat member, Mohammad Yaqub Dar, was gunned down by terrorists in Kulgam on March 2. It is an open secret that Pakistani handlers are pushing terrorists operating in J&K to harm innocent people by targeted killings and grenade throwing. There is no doubt that J&K Police has carried out over half-a-dozen successful operations recently to neutralize those involved in terrorist activities in recent past but what is required is that JKP should get the inputs about the probable terror attacks beforehand to avoid loss of life and property. Of course the terror mongers behind the killing of a Sarpanch in Kulgam, CRPF personnel in Shopian and an Army Jawan in Budgam have been arrested but there are umpteen number of cases wherein no breakthrough has been achieved yet and investigations are still underway without much progress thus making the journey towards peace tedious and tiring. There is dire need to continue with operations against terrorists so that the people can live in peaceful atmosphere and the killing at the hands of Pakistani terrorists and local terrorists at the behest of Pakistani agencies can be stopped henceforth.

## MOTHER OF ALL HEALING

Going by the history of healing sciences, Ayurveda seems to be one of the oldest ones with its presence recorded in the Indian sub-continent for the last 5000 years. It finds its roots in the ancient Vedic culture and was taught for many thousands of years in an oral tradition from accomplished masters to their disciples. Though not recorded, it is believed that the principles of many of the natural healing systems now familiar in the West have their roots in Ayurveda, including Homeopathy. Ayurveda bats for prevention and encourages the maintenance of health through close attention to balance in one's life, right thinking, diet, lifestyle and the use of herbs. Knowledge of Ayurveda gives a complete account of creating this balance of body, mind and consciousness and suggests lifestyle changes to bring about and maintain this balance. This ancient science advocates for balancing the three principle energies of the body. This healing system which came to light after thousands of years of experience and research identifies three basic types of energies that according to Ayurveda are present in everyone and everything. As there are no substitutes in English that can describe these concepts, generally original Sanskrit words Vata, Pitta and Kapha are used to define the various kinds of energies related to the basic biology of the body. To amplify the awareness about the Ayurveda and related healing systems prevalent in India, the Ministry of Ayush has taken up different initiatives. There is no doubt that what the government under PM Narendra Modi has done for the promotion of Ayurveda; no other government has the capacity to do something like this. It is considered the mother of all healing as it addresses all aspects of life including body, mind and spirit. Its principles suggest that everyone is unique and responds differently to different aspects of life, each one has a different strength and weakness and the knowledge gained by the saints, seers and other researchers of Indian-subcontinent in the last over 5000 years is so vast that it has panacea for all diseases with prevention remaining the best course for leading a healthy life.

## OFF 'D' CUFF

## Sri Ramakrishna: the Epitome of Devotion

Heart of the rippling holy waters of the Hooghly... the hearty hymns of divine love are in the air... What necessary voice! What ardent love for God!

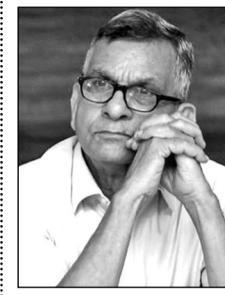
More than a century has passed. Yet, these enlightening words of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa echo in the garbhagriha of Dakshineshwar Kali Temple. On the blessed occasion of his birth anniversary, let us voyage through his oceanic devotion.

One may wonder how he could attain such a height of boundless love. What made him "Paramahansa"? Let us understand this through his teachings on devotion, cast into a conversation with his discourses...

Devotees had gathered around him when Sri Ramakrishna was absorbed in divine rapture. A devotee interjected, "What I wanted did not happen. How can I immerse myself in devotion when it is harming me? People are beginning to consider me insane..."

Sri Ramakrishna explained, "People remain bereft of true devotion due to such constricted thinking. Cast away your doubts and love God unconditionally. Love for the sake of love without any expectation, desire, or motive. Rise above conditional love. Appreciate the different shades of love, different forms of expression. Then you shall attain the

## Explained: How delimitation report further dis-empowers already neglected Jammu



■ PROF HARI OM

**U**nfortunate are people of Jammu, the backbone of the nation in this highly strategic northern region. No government at the Centre ever appreciated their splendid contributions to the process of national integration and nation-building. The supreme sacrifices they made all these years of the state's accession to India while defending and promoting further the national cause in the region too were never appreciated by the rulers in New Delhi.

**Biased Centre:** The truth is that all the successive governments at the Centre, without any exception, ignored the people of Jammu province in their desperate bid to pamper, appease and please the Kashmiri leadership. Kashmiri leadership which never missed any opportunity to challenge and question the state's otherwise legal accession to India; threaten, browbeat and blackmail the powers-that-be at the Centre in the name of religion; exploit, fleece and drain the resource-rich Jammu province; and humiliate, rigorously exclude from all spheres and dis-empower the inhabitants of this great region. It exploited to the hilt the Kashmiri's unjust, excessive and preponderant share of representation in the legislature that discusses and decides questions of supreme importance to the happiness and welfare of the people. As a result, the people of Jammu province suffered immense socio-cultural and politic-economic losses with their very identity also under grave threat.

**Kashmir-centric delimitations:** The worst part of the whole situation was the negative attitude of the successive delimitation commissions towards the people of Jammu province. Like Valley-centric rulers at the Centre, these commissions also never considered the people of Jammu a factor in the state's political situation. They only considered Jammu province a Kashmiri's colony and its people as subjects of Kashmir rather than citizens of the state. None of the commissions thought it prudent to follow in letter and spirit the parameters - population, land area, nature of terrain and accessibility -- as enshrined in the Representation of People's Act while delimiting the assembly constituencies in the state.

Seshan's dumbfounding U-turn: Jammu province was, and is, two-time that of Kashmir and it all through housed a population more than Kashmir, a fact the Kashmiri-centric and biased census authorities and delimitation commissions never took into consideration. The delimitation commissions also willfully ignored the fact that the bulk of terrain of Jammu province was difficult, nay treacherous. The result was that

the people of Jammu province were denied due representation in the assembly on day one.

In 1951, the privileged Kashmir grabbed 43 seats in the 75-member assembly and Jammu given only 30 seats. The delimitation was done in a secretariat room in Srinagar. The discriminated against Jammu cried, protested and fought against this injustice again and again for 44 years but with no result. They were left to fend for themselves with 30 seats till 1971, with 31 seats between 1971 and 1976 and with 32 seats till April 27, 1995, when the delimitation commission increased the number of assembly seats from 76 to 87 and allotted 46 seats to Kashmir and only 37 to Jammu. They again cried but none listened to them. Even the then Chief Election Commissioner T N Seshan, who was otherwise known for his honesty, integrity and fair play, took a dumbfounding U-turn by accepting the delimitation commission's report he himself repeatedly rejected in 1992, 1993 and 1994 as a 'deceitful, fraudulent' document and a fraud on the constitution and declared the commission's recommendations null and void. He dumbfounded and disappointed the people of Jammu province in April 1995, when he described the same report as 'well-balanced and flawless'. That Seshan finally did what he did should clear many cobwebs of confusion and establish that even the Election Commission was under some baneful influence.

**Hope again belied:** On August 5, 2019, the Narendra Modi Government introduced revolutionary reforms in the terrorist-infested, mismanaged, misgoverned and bloodied and convulsed J&K. It read down seditious Article 370, abrogated discriminatory Article 35A, freed Ladakh from the Kashmiri oppressive yoke and granted it UT status, converted the remaining state into another UT -- UT of J&K -- and recommended 90 seats for the J&K UT assembly. The cheerful people of Jammu province welcomed the reform scheme and expressed hope that their 72-year-long night of discontent and despair would soon draw to its close and they will be duly compensated for the very heavy losses that they suffered during all these years of the accession at the hands of the New Delhi-backed Kashmiri leadership.

Sadly, however, the Union Government dashed all their hopes to the ground. The reason: It established a new delimitation commission under the J&K Reorganization Act, 2019, to delimit the proposed 90 assembly constituencies. The fundamental flaw in the Act was that it put a condition that the commission shall delimit the constituencies based on the 2011 census figures. The people of Jammu province and political parties, especially Ikkjutt Jammu, repeatedly urged the Union Government to delimit the constituencies based on the latest census figures, saying 'the 2011 census figures were fudged

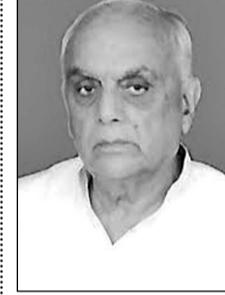
figures'. They repeatedly said, "People of Jammu province will get a minimum of 50 seats in the 90-member house if the delimitation was done on the basis of latest fair census figures". They again and again told the Union Government that 'delimitation based on the fudged 2011 census figures will only reestablish the Kashmiri rule' and only help the rulers in Kashmir to further destroy Jammu province politically, economically, socially and culturally. They did make a valid point. It must remain a matter of concern that the powers-that-be at the Centre again ignored the Jammu voice.

**The result:** The delimitation commission has proposed 47 seats for Kashmir and only 43 for Jammu, which also include 13 reserved seats for the SCs and STs, as against just three reserved seats for the STs in Kashmir. It must also remain a matter of concern that while the otherwise very pleased Kashmiri leadership has been attacking the Union Government and the delimitation commission for allotting 47 seats to Kashmir, the Jammu leadership, especially those belonging to the ruling party, are patting their back and terming the delimitation exercise 'fair, transparent and commendable'.

**Jammu State the only solution:** Reports suggest that elections to the J&K UT assembly could take place anytime after October. What would be the political status of Jammu province after the elections? What would be its share in the 9-member ministry, including the office of Chief Minister? Jammu province would again be a Kashmiri's colony. Jammu province will hardly have any representation in the council of ministers. It would be an all Kashmir ministry with all the 47 legislators from Kashmir belonging to one particular religious denomination. They will reign supreme; they will play all the shots. Just imagine what will be the fate of Jammu and the people of Jammu under an all-Kashmir ministry. It doesn't require a rocket science to understand the serious implications for the people of Jammu province of what I have suggested.

It is hoped that Narendra Modi Government would ask its think tanks to re-examine the nature of relationship between Jammu province and Kashmir as well as the nature of Kashmiri leadership and its ideology. Such an approach is imperative to find a lasting solution to 75-year-old Jammu problem. The nation needs a strong Jammu and its separation from Kashmir alone could make it secure and strong. Any failure on the part of the Union Government to recognize the highly strategic Jammu province as a very important factor in the political situation in the region would simply mean the negation of the reform scheme introduced in J&K on August 5-6, 2019 and a massive victory of those who were dethroned that day.

## Flora of Congress decaying with its own seedlings



■ ER P L KHUSHU

**T**he supposedly great Indian National Congress is unfortunately being made to decay under its own weight of the hypocritical family fiasco, when it is claimed by a self-selected few, presently in the congress hierarchy, as a legacy in their heritage. After a two-month-long high-octane campaign, by all the prominent political parties of India including the Congress party, in the elections of the five states

viz, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa and Manipur; the performance of Congress in all these states shows that Congress has now lived its life and is almost an archive of the past. BJP turned to be the super star winner in the four states by getting praise worthy majority, when AAP has flooded Punjab extracting roots of Congress in Punjab from its base. Congress lost badly in all these state elections. It was in power in Punjab and lost not only power, but also its existence and identity as a national political party almost across the whole country. The often-repeated slogan 'Congress - Mukt- Bharat, since 2014, by the majority of Indians, when congress lost its elections and the government badly, is probably now coming as a truth and not a fallacy. It was looking like a joke at that point of time, when one could hardly visualize that the condition of the congress party will be so much implacable that it cannot even have a full-fledged congress president and functions with adhoc president at its helm of affairs. Unfortunate for the nation about such a party, which is as old as the independence movement of India and supposed to deliver better, as a prudent and reliable opposition party, both in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha?

Democracy and its intrinsic values demand that for a better governance, by ruling party particularly with a sizeable majority, that there should be a healthy and a meaningful opposition party to serve as a watch dog for the ruling party, in its disposition of various policies and programs for the welfare of the people of the country. But unfortunately it is squarely missing because of the dissent, chaos, fusion and confusion in the congress party, which was supposed to be a leading opposition party. The high command of Congress during Nehru era used to be an elite conglomeration of prized politicians of highest political and democratic wisdom. It was carried forward for a major time by Indira Gandhi as well, to a larger extent till she succumbed to the lure and lust of adhering to political power through the arm of dynastic web, when she imposed emergency in the country for remaining in power perpetually, after her election was declared null and void by the high court. In this process of trying to stick to the political power perpetually, she throttled and choked the voice of media, along with circumventing the constitution to her taste of retaining the power and got almost each and every political entity and member of the opposition parties tied to jail for longer durations beyond imagination. It was a havoc unleashed across the country during that period of the imposition of emergency across the country. Nevertheless, it did not last long. She lost the reins of power miserably when the elections were held subsequently, reducing the Congress party to a big minority.

People not only expect love in return for love, but also expect to be loved in the same style and manner that they have loved others. Some may feed the other to express their love; some may give respect to the other as a token of their love; some may offer flowers, while some may offer their time and attention out of love. Love has many forms, and everyone has a different way of expressing it. However, when one wants others to reciprocate their love in the same manner, such love becomes conditional. "True love does not come with any conditions attached. When love is devoid of conditions and stipulations, it is boundless. Such love brings about transformation within us. This is 'unconditional devotion'."

One may wonder how he could attain such a height of boundless love. What made him "Paramahansa"? Let us understand this through his teachings on devotion, cast into a conversation with his discourses...

## YOUR COLUMN

## Govt's apathy towards education system

Dear Editor,

A nation can only thrive and prosper if it upholds education as its top priority. Failing to do so makes it destined to confront downfall and catastrophes in the shape of economical woes, social injustices, colossal ignorance, and so on. Education instills a sense to distinguish and discern between what is ethical and by extension what is not. In essence, it enables humans to identify and embrace their responsibilities with sheer honesty. The indispensable need of having an education can be seen from seeing how whichever country has so far touched peaks in the world has first managed to strengthen and bolster its education system. Education empowers nations and individuals. And just as prominent have been all those places where education is not considered a top priority because they suffer from all repercussions. The nations that are deprived of education are deprived of appealing living standards.

No need to look for an example of this beyond India as we have the most justifying example in Bihar. Unfortunately, India is

in fact, the die was first cast during that period only which saw Congress mostly declining from time to time, when it has now been routed from its base in this country. The present Congress high command is reduced to just three creatures of mother and her two progenies, viz the Queen, the Raj Kumar and a Raj Kumar.

Congress is facing a countrywide identity crisis with the party not having come up with enough numbers to even qualify as an opposition party in the polls. They are reduced to just almost fifties in the parliament. Congress party has this time an interim Congress President, as this party is in turmoil due to internal bickering and is not able to find a full-fledged President for its party. Six years after the party's electoral rout pushed it into a continuing downward spiral, 23 senior leaders of the Congress, including five former Chief Ministers, many Congress Working Committee members, sitting MPs, and several former Union Ministers, have, in an unprecedented pushback, sent a letter to party chief calling for sweeping changes, from top to bottom. The letter, learnt to have been sent some time back, details a reforms agenda that is, in effect, a stinging indictment of the current leadership. This letter of dissent mentions that the revival of the Congress is 'a national imperative' fundamental to the health of democracy. The letter, sources said, underlines how the party's steady decline comes when the country faces its 'gravest political, social and economic challenges since Independence.' It is now a situation of leadership crisis in the Congress, which is now manifesting in a farcical battle of the generations. The fact, India's Grand Old Party seems unable to look beyond 'the family' for the top party post, when in recent months a few leaders have openly expressed dissatisfaction with the manner in which the party is run. The cognizant group of 23 senior Congress leaders, including former chief ministers, Union ministers and party general secretaries, are calling for ideological clarity, an overhaul of the party's organization and addressing the leadership vacuum. In the recent Congress Working Committee meeting, these issues were not discussed; rather those pointing them out were accused of undermining the party. This is the time for the Congress to rethink. The winner takes it all. So is the case with the, 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha elections when Narendra Modi tsunami dismantled the entire opposition barring a couple of states where regional satraps still rule the roost. The mandate was not only for Prime Minister but also a referendum on Rahul Gandhi's leadership and acceptance as a leader who cannot replace Modi. The mandate shows that people not only rejected Rahul Gandhi but also the top brass of the Congress. Has the Raj Kumar of Congress party, Rahul Gandhi become a liability for this grand old party? With this degree of performance, can Rahul Gandhi continue to successfully function as the leader of the biggest opposition party? Should he quit and make way for some other deserving candidate? Will the mother, son and the daughter trio allow it to happen? It is question bigger than its size. This election was an electorate mandate of the people of India between Narendra Modi and Rahul Gandhi. While people invested faith in Modi they also opted for rejecting the Congress candidate Rahul Gandhi as the Prime Ministerial candidate. The mishandling of the congress situation in Punjab and the other states of the country, by the so-called aspirants of the prime minister's posts speaks volumes about the incom-

petent and inexperienced state of their political acumen and vision. So is the case with UP, when another byproduct of dynastic progeny of Congress, reduced the position of Congress in UP to a disgraceful equation, when UP would once upon a time used to be the pride for Congress.

Jitin Prasada's, Jyotiraditya Scindia's and RPN's exits are a major setback to the Congress leadership and existence. Veterans in the party having been sidelined are on the fence watching the doom of their party due to dynastic holds of this party. 35 per cent MPs/ MLAs who switched parties between 2014-2022 joined BJP, when prominent defectors were from Congress party. Kapil Sibal a vocal and a prominent member of G-23 said that he wants a 'Sab Ki Congress' and expressed that the 'Gandhis' should step aside. "Leadership is in cuckoo land. I want a 'Sab ki Congress'. Some want a 'Ghar ki Congress'," Sibal told the media, adding that Gandhi should step aside and give some other leader a chance to lead party.

These remarks come after the Congress Working Committee (CWC) met just a few days back and after almost five hours of deliberations, urged Sonia Gandhi to continue to lead party and initiate changes to strengthen it. Well understandably, the veterans within the dissenting congress leaders are negating these deliberations as cooked tales of the sycophants working around the Trio based Mother, Son and Daughter combination that is representing the Congress High Command now. Demoralized, leaderless, the Grand Old Party of yester-years is now a pale shadow of its former self. Not quite dead yet, but life is ebbing away little by little with nobody seemingly in a hurry to call for help within the trio so called CWC, till it's perfect doom and extinction, which is the writing on the wall for the Congress party across the country.

The point is, what to save it from whom? The Congress party is its own biggest enemy, bogged down by dynastic ruler ship with an organizational dysfunction, a pathological aversion to change, for reasons to retain power on dynastic legacy, apart from a culture of sycophancy. With much of its traditional support base heavily eroded and nobody new coming on board, Congress is playing to an empty house. The truth is that the party is absurdly out of touch with the new political landscape and it is not even trying to get its head around it seriously, hoping that the electorate believing in congress are still the same ignorant lot who will get them back in their laps. It has not worked so far; and it is not likely to work in future. What is often forgotten is that no party, whatever magnificent its ancestry and history be has a divine right to exist forever, let alone continue to reign supreme and remain unchallenged without making any effort to change. The flora of a garden gets its shine of worth and a smell of ecstatic aroma with the garden gets it is planted with. Once such seedling is mutilated and out of functional base, such a garden is thus going to prove as a liability for its worth, as it has no charm of attracting others. That is the case with the present Congress, when the seedlings which are adorning it are either foreign to it or are of weak genetic formation to grow to a full size to magnify the glory of this garden, to its original grace.

**(The author is a Chartered Consultant Civil Engineer, passionately attached and devoted to his motherland - Jammu & Kashmir).**

stands out. Overuse of mobile phones, that too in a meaningless manner, is undermining the pursuit of education. In order to come out of this egregious woe, the country needs to take substantive steps like inflating allocation of budget to education as it is not up to the mark. It must also work on making the recruitment process transparent and meritocratic so that only the candidates with a requisite stature can be inducted into the teaching arena. More importantly, the system of nepotism should be uprooted on an immediate basis, which is regrettably a prevailing reality in the country. Other than these, all the fundamental necessities and needs should be fulfilled and provided such as good and sophisticated infrastructure in schools and other educational institutions as well as financial assistance to destitute students. The indispensable need for an education can be seen from seeing how whichever country has so far touched peaks in the world has first managed to strengthen and bolster its education system. If the education system continues to be overlooked, without any argument, India will keep lagging behind and struggling to become a formidable country on all fronts, especially its economic state. In a nutshell, India must bolster its ramshackle education system and it must leave no stone unturned in this pursuit.

**Mool Raj**