

BIG STATEMENT

The statement given by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh that if needed, Indian armed forces would go across the border to take action against the terrorists who are inimical to India is really the big one as reports emanating recently claimed that terror launch pads in PoK have once again activated with presence of terrorists in large numbers. It is good that India has become resolute on containing terrorism as the government has taken a firm decision on sending Indian armed forces across the border to take appropriate actions against the terror mongers active against the country. It is pertinent to mention that India has already shown its mettle by surgical and air strikes inside the enemy territory giving a befitting reply to Pakistani misadventures. The warning by the Defence Minister is quite significant especially after the change of guard in neighbouring Pakistan which is struggling on various counts including economy, political instability, hunger, infra, etc. The need of the time is that the country should give a resounding response to every action of Pakistan to create unrest in India. It is an open secret that Pakistan makes all efforts to destabilize peace in India but the new and powerful India under the dynamic Prime Minister Narendra Modi should adopt a simple solution to Pakistan's misadventures by hitting back real hard. Really the time has come that Pakistan should be given an apt reply in its own language and for this the statement given by the Defence Minister has weight and all the entities concerned with containing the terrorism should take it as cue to form upcoming strategies to teach Pakistan a lesson of life. It is good for India that the troops defending the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir should sustain tight vigil along the de facto border; thwart attempts of infiltration and give a strong and befitting reply to any misadventure from across by Pakistan. No doubt that the action by India inside Pakistan has shown the world the might of Indian security forces therefore it is good for Pakistan to refrain from doing anything against India in India or else things can take a bad turn for that country which is already facing a number of odd situations because of wrongs committed in the past.

PROVE METTLE

The frequency of encounters in Kashmir Valley is the testimony to the fact that security forces are upto something which they should have accomplished years before as scourge of terrorism has done much damage to the country. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement in Pelli Panchayat in Samba District that the upcoming generation will not face any difficulty in J&K like the earlier generations has much significance and shows the resolve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to set the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir free from the clutches of terrorism. The way the security forces are after the terror mongers it seems that the dream of people for restoration of peace and normalcy in J&K will soon become a reality as three terrorists were neutralized today only, including a 17 years old boy from Srinagar during an encounter in Pulwama. The pace with which the security forces are eliminating the terror mongers the days are not far when the entire J&K will be free from terrorism and people will live in atmosphere of peace and tranquility with no fear of guns and goons. Like in many other cases, the gunfight broke out as a joint team of police and army launched a cordon and search operation in the area amid reports about the presence of terrorists. The government efforts in this regard shows that ultimately terrorism will have to go as government's resolve makes it amply clear that sooner than later the terrorism will be rooted out from J&K with people enjoying once again those days of normalcy when summers in Valley was full of people visiting the paradise from across the world and winters giving unique kind of calmness with people enjoying traditional interiors of Kashmiri homes and warmth of Kangri inside Pirans. There is no doubt that instigated by the Pakistani mentors the terror mongers want to disintegrate the country but this dream of enemies of the nation will never come true because India is no more a meek nation as it has shown in the recent past to Pakistan about its strength, resolve and conviction to timelessly safeguard the interests of the country come what may.

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OFF 'D' CUFF

What are you accepting into your mind?

What do we do when someone expresses their anger towards us or speaks to us in a belittling way? The answer to this question can be found in this incident from the life of the Buddha.

Once Buddha went to beg with his disciple Ananda. When they approached a house for food, the lady of the house spoke harshly. "You lazy fellows! You are hale and hearty, why can't you work for your food?" she yelled as she chased them away. Ananda was enraged that the woman used such hostile words for his great Guru.

"Please permit me to teach that woman a lesson..." he pleaded with Buddha. But Buddha walked away in silence.

A little later, Buddha handed over his water container to Ananda and went to rest. After resting for a couple of hours, they resumed their journey. On the way, Buddha glanced at the water container and asked, "Whose is this?"

"It is yours, Guruji!" said Ananda. Buddha took it and looked at it once and returned it to Ananda saying, "No, I gifted it to you a little while ago...it is yours."

At night, Buddha pointed to the same water container and asked once again, "Whose is this?" Ananda now said, "Guruji, it is mine!"

Hearing this, Buddha said laughingly, "I asked you the same question earlier this evening and you said it belonged to me. Now you are saying, it is yours. How can

the same container be yours and mine at the same time?"

Though Ananda was slightly confused, he replied calmly, "Guruji, you said that you had gifted this container to me, and I accepted it. Hence, I called it to mine now. When you gave it to me earlier, I did not consider it mine because I thought you had just handed it over to me for safekeeping. In my mind, it was still yours. That is why I said it was yours!"

Buddha smiled at Ananda and said, "Similarly, I did not take the harsh words of a lady like mine. I did not accept them. So, even though the words were spoken at me, they still belonged to the lady alone. They were not mine. That is the reason I said that there was no need to teach her a lesson."

This advice from Buddha to his disciple, Ananda expounds a very simple truth. If someone calls us lazy, we get affected by that word only when we take it to be ours. If we are clearly and firmly aware that we are not lazy, what that person says about us is just treated as nonsense. And 'nonsense' never affects us. In fact, we would not pay any heed to a person who speaks nonsense!

If someone calls me lazy and I am deeply affected, it only reflects on my true nature of being lazy. When this quality of mine is pointed out by others, it affects me. But if I don't have this quality, I do not need to accept it and I do not need to respond.

Swami Sukhabodhananda

No employees' union has right to hold people to ransom

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

No organization or union of employees has any right to put the general public to trouble, inconvenience and suffering. Thus no employees union or trade union has an inborn right to hold people to ransom. It is unfortunate and very disturbing that the PHE casual workers are planning to stop water supply to the general public to press and force the government to resolve the long pending demand of regularization, but threatening to stop or stopping the essential service of drinking water and even water for performing other chorus to the consumers is illegal and unlawful and also against the norms of the civilized society. The demand and grievances of PHE daily-wagers are genuine and they are within their constitutional right to protest for the resolution of their problem but they cannot and should not put general public to hardship, inconvenience and trouble because this is not only illegal but is also against the public policy and even morality. Therefore the PHE casual workers should adopt other democratic means to press their demands and impress the government to accept their genuine demands including the long pending demand of regularization. There are other democratic ways of protesting and the casual workers should not resort to stoppage of drinking water supply to the people. Water supply is an essential service and it should not be interrupted by the casual employees to press their demands because they have no right to interrupt the water and drinking water supply to the people. There are other democratic methods', ways and means to put forward their demands to the government. The norm of equal pay for equal work should be implemented in letter and spirit but the powers are lacking in providing the equal remuneration for equal work and many casual employees of different government departments are being paid daily wages which are very less and the law of equal wages for equal labor is violated with impunity by none else than the democratic government and it seems that the governments are democratic for the name sake only as the powers fail to translate the norm of equal pay for equal work into practice. In these days of skyrocketing prices the daily wagers are finding it very difficult to make both ends meet because they are paid meager wages which are not commensurate with their labour. The government should come to the rescue of the casual employees of PHE department which is now called Jal Shakti Department. The general public appreciates the deceit of the powers with the casual workers and knows well the difficulties and economic hardships faced by these employees. These workers have put in ten, twenty and even more years of the continuous service to the government

and so their demand is genuine and the government should devise the mechanism of their regularization and the powers should assure them that they will be regularized in time bound manner. It is true that the patience of the casual workers of the Jal Shakti Department is waning and they are losing patience because they had put in decades of work to the department and still they are not regularized. It seems that they are fed up with the shallow assurances of the powers. The casual employees should be assured of regularization in writing so that the morale of these casual workers is increased for their increase efficiency. This is also a fact that all the workers cannot be regularized in one go and thus they should be assured of time bound regularization. The general public has been hearing about the protests of the Jal Shakti Department for the last so many decades and the people are annoyed and also irritated by the daily strikes of the casual employees of this department but they have no other way to express their grievances and demands. But, daily-wagers of PHE should not take law into their hands and stop water supply to the general public. Water supply is an essential service and the casual employees or permanent employees of PHE department have no right to disrupt the water supply to the consumers. The general public, as consumers, pay water tariffs regularly and they should be provided adequate water in these days of severe heat and the casual workers should stop to threaten and intimidate the general public and should not resort to the extreme step of stoppage of the water supply which is illegal and unconstitutional and hence undemocratic. Therefore, the casual workers should not stop the water supply to the general public as it is against the public interest. Merely threatening to stop or stopping the water supply to the people is undemocratic and the casual workers should not take this extreme step. The stoppage of the water supply to consumers will earn the wrath and displeasure of the general public and the Public will stand against the daily wagers and they will have to pay heavily for their breach of trust. PHE casual workers should employ the democratic means to put forward and press their demand and should in no circumstance resort to the undemocratic and illegal means of stopping the drinking water supply as it is against the democratic norms and also is the negation of morality and public policy. Therefore the casual employees should try to enlist the support of the civil society and should not annoy and irritate the general public as it is bound to prove counterproductive as the people will be forced to resume the water supply themselves, but this should not happen. So the casual employees should provide uninterrupted water to the general public

because it is not the people who are becoming an obstacle in the fulfillment and resolution of their demands. The general public has every sympathy with the daily wagers of the PHE department and it is in the best interests of the casual workers that they should enlist the support of the general public and therefore the casual workers should not take any undemocratic step which will precipitate their grievances and compound it further. So it is in the interest of the casual employees of the PHE department that they should allow adequate water supply to the consumers and not resort to unwanted and undemocratic stoppage of the water supply to press for and protest for meeting their demands. After all it is the general public who will have to experience the hardship, inconvenience and suffering if the casual employees will resort to the stoppage the essential service of water. Therefore casual employees of the Jal Shakti Department should not take any undemocratic and anti people step which will alienate and isolate them. Therefore it is in the best interests of the casual employees that they should allow the uninterrupted water supply to the masses and their leaders should realize that the general public is not the cause of their long pending demand but instead it is the public which feels the pinch of the sufferings of the casual employees and for their meager wages. Thus, the leaders of PHE daily wagers union should adopt the pragmatic and democratic means to put forward their long pending demand of regularization and not resort to the blackmailing the government and holding the general public to ransom as this will definitely prove counterproductive and the genuine demands of the casual workers will remain unresolved. The casual workers union and its leaders should not incite the PHE workers to take the undemocratic and anti human and extreme step of holding back the water supply to the general public. The threatening to stop the water supply to the public and blackmailing the government will not lead to the resolution and fulfillment of their demands and as such the daily wagers should desist from taking the undemocratic and anti public step which instead of the fulfillment of their demands will compound the genuine demands further. Thus without wasting their time and energy the leaders of the daily wagers union should cancel their undemocratic means and methods of stopping the essential service of water supply to the general public. In short it can be opined that the daily wagers of PHE department should cancel their undemocratic and anti people way of pressing their demand and should not held the general public to ransom for fulfillment of their demands.

(The author is a Columnist and Social Activist).

Politically bulldozed polity

■ M R LALU

India in the recent days witnessed and discussed violence aplenty. No country, for that matter, would appreciate the enormity of violence into which it sinks. What makes India the most vulnerable is its multitude of cultural expressions which are, if not often, but in conflict at different levels these days. Multiple religious ideas are sure to remain a reality in a secular country like India. What makes them conflicting is the way we approach them. With different religious ideas weaving the garment of diversity in India, we must have enough space for a hearty laughter and a reason for congenial coexistence. What derail such coexistence are the exclusive ideals that we hold on to be true and deliberately authorize to mar the essence of collective humanitarian wellbeing. India has a long story to tell about invasions and their inimical scars that are still engraved in the minds of generations. Its acrimony, mistrust and gruesomeness stay for long and take generations of efforts to eradicate completely. Post-independence, the political welfarism with which the country moved taking a one-sided appeasement approach also contributed to the collateral damage. India was communally divided and emotionally dampened, which was an outcome of a colonial intervention that, when the British vacated the country, left it with deep cuts and bleeds. Religious affinity in India was a personal matter for a long period. But it came to the forefront recently as a political tool capable of collectively enticing a large cohort for electoral gains. The role of religion in a person's life is spiritual upbringing at a personal level. What made it acrimoniously outrageous was when it was tightly tied to the ugly intentions of politics. Of course, the communal violence erupted in different states at small localities should make us ponder seriously on the damage that it can cause to what we call, the national conscience of the country. We have umpteen historical evidences for small skirmishes subsequently turning into volatile riots causing severe damage and bloodshed.

Exclusive behavior of religions has always caused danger to societies. Bloodshed in abundance across the globe was not only due to the hostile behavior of politics, but the politics in religions or religions being made into political tools. This was also due to certain religions being incapable of either abandoning or renovating their exclusive ideals in the direction of strengthening humanitarian values. Friction to the level of severe commotion and destruction was the result of such ideals. Constantly questioning the reliability of other religious views and being in scrimmage with them, exclusive religious beliefs always made the human endeavor of spiritual progress calamitous. Certainly, no religion holds the spiritual power to claim to be completely apolitical without a dark spot in its integrity. Bulldozing the dreams of ordinary people may be a temporary solution to the tumult that the repulsive elements in each religion create. But such administrative actions are incapable of stopping the fire of hatred. Of course, bulldozers may temporarily douse the discontent. Political parties have probably understood that religious beliefs are the weakest chain link that in India the societies are impulsively fastened on. And to break the link by divisive political intentions is the easiest task and the only solution is to go beyond the self-styled unambiguous exclusive mindset and the confinements of religions. Situation in India is so precarious that a person with an impartial perspective on the current social atmosphere is sure to get perplexed, unable to distinguish between a religious and political procession in the streets. This is because the slogans raised in all these processions are almost the same, putting religion and politics in the same basket. Undoubtedly this trend needs to change. Names of Gods dragged into political platforms appear to be the easiest way to get public support.

Violence becoming a new normal with religion and politics accelerating discontent among people is horrific. Processions in the name of religious ceremonies with names of divinities shouted should not be disputed with

acrimony. India has a variety of religious forms offering multiple practices significantly capable of diluting disagreements. Unlike the Islamic republics in our neighborhood, India offers a congenial impetus to everybody to be appreciably expressive. This does not mean that religions motivated by radicalized beliefs can pounce on one another aggressively with sufficient political patronage jumping into their rescue. The distance with which the Indian state has drifted from the universal spiritual ethos that it once preserved and propagated is ghastly irrevocable. The question relevant at this juncture is, can India survive and progress as a powerful nation when trifling frictions easily shake the country with volcanic violence erupting across the length of it. Bigotry of religions is probably hijacking the collective conscience of people. Sanatana Dharma which has nothing to do with the saffronised political motives of BJP, is purely inclusive and that held the power to bind the country together when it was shattered by the brutality of invasions. Political ideologies intellectually invade the people's mind by moulding them to be submissive to their dubious intentions, undoubtedly define the present context of political discourse. It is time for India to decide the course that it has to take helping the diversity to remain unified and unperturbed. But unfortunately, it seems to be a tough task. Political parties need to stop the euphoria that they have so far been successful in injecting in the polity. Instead of bulldozing the fortunes of people, the administration should find ways to curb aggressive agitations. It appears that a trend of political bulldozing in the BJP ruled states is politically countered by the same bulldozing in Congress ruled states. The only difference is that the communities that got bulldozed were different. Parties politically strategize to satisfy the vulnerability into which the polity is plummeting and the dividend is sure to bounce into their electoral exchequer. But does the nation have the patience to suffer more?

YOUR COLUMN

False information can harm society

Dear Editor;

The government on April 23 advised television channels to refrain from broadcasting 'violative' content, 'provocative headlines' and videos of violence, as it cited coverage of the Ukraine war and recent violence in northwest Delhi as well as in Khargon Demolitions. Some channels had provocative headlines and videos of violence that could incite communal hatred and disrupt peace and law and order. TV channels should refrain from publishing and transmitting any content which is violative of the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act 1995 and the rules. No programme should be carried in the cable service that offends good taste or decency, contains criticism of friendly countries, attacks religions or communities and contains anything, obscene or defamatory, the advisory said.

The ministry had issued several advisories to the satellite TV channels to adhere to the Programme Code read with The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. "Sub-section (2) of Section 20, inter alia, provides that the

Central Government may, by order, regulate or prohibit the transmission or retransmission of any channel or programme, if it considers it necessary or expedient to do so in the interest of sovereignty or integrity of India; or security of India; or friendly relations of India with any foreign State; or public order, decency or morality," said the ministry. For reference I quote a few examples more in this regard. The ex Chief Minister of MP posted a photograph which was of Bihar state but presented as if it pertains to Khargaoon and later picture was deleted when the reality came to knowledge of common man. Similarly after abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir the president of Cong party made a statement that many deaths occurred in the state and the same statement was presented in United Nations and the Indian government had to contradict the statement. During the farmers agitation there was reporting of death of a farmer due to police firing whereas the death was due to over speeding of vehicle and the reporter was penalized by the channel. We are also aware that Iraq war was fought on false information that Iraq had Mass Destructive Weapons whereas the reality was otherwise and Iraq had no MDW. From the above it is clear that how a false information can harm to the society.

Yash Pal Ralhan.

Health & Education Departments showcased achievements through exhibition during PM's visit

Advanced interactive technology used to highlight departments' accomplishments

Health & Medical Education Department, Jammu and Kashmir showcased its achievements and progress in various schemes through an engaging and interactive presentation during Prime Minister's visit to Jammu & Kashmir. Focus area for the exhibition was Health and Wellness Centre, Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, COVID vaccination and TB Elimination program. Advanced and interactive technology was used to highlight the successes of the department which attracted the Prime Minister's attention. The Health & Medical Education Department exhibition area was the only stall where Prime Minister entered and spent time.

Health & Wellness Centre: UT of Jammu & Kashmir has surpassed the target of making Health & wellness centres functional for the Financial Year 2021-22. Against the target of 2029 Health & Wellness centres, 2209 Health & wellness centres (HWCs) in UT of J&K have been made (HWCs) operational. 75,43,933 people benefitted from the HWC. This number included Wellness sessions and Tele-Consultations at HWC.

AB-PMJAY-SEHAT Scheme: Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) was launched on 1st December, 2018 to provide health insurance coverage to about 5.97 lakh BPL poor families. With a view to provide Universal Health Coverage across the UT, AB-PMJAY-SEHAT Scheme has been conceived and rolled out in the UT in convergence with AB-PMJAY from 26.12.2020 which provides health insurance cover upto Rs 5.00 lakh per family on floater basis to all families of Jammu and Kashmir.

Till date, approximately 90 per cent families of the total 20.54 Lakhs families have been registered with at least one family member verified under PM-JAY and AB-PMJAY-SEHAT Scheme to avail benefit of the scheme. Now National Food Security Act (NFSA) database is being used for the implementation of AB-PMJAY SEHAT to address the beneficiary identification challenges and other data fidelity issues in Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC)-2011.

COVID 19 pandemic: After achieving 100 per cent Coverage of COVID Vaccination for 18 and above age group in January 2022, UT of Jammu and Kashmir has achieved 100 per cent coverage (national coverage 74 per cent) for first dose and 85 per cent (national coverage 55 per cent) coverage for 2nd dose of COVID-19 vaccine in the age group of 15-17 years. COVID 19 Vaccination for 12-14 years category has started on 16-03-2022 and till date 71 per cent of population (national coverage 54 per cent) in this category has received 1st dose of COVID 19 Vaccine. Total Capacity of Oxygen generation enhanced from 14916 LPM to 120000 LPM (9 times) since August 2020 by making 173 OGFs functional.

TB elimination programme: Three District of Jammu & Kashmir namely Anantnag, Pulwama & Kupwara awarded in Gold while District Baramulla claimed Bronze in National TB Elimination Programme for its fight against the disease. The award was conferred by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India under "Sub - National Certification of progress towards TB Free Status" during a function held at New Delhi on 24th of March 2022 on 'World TB Day 2022'.

Health Infrastructure Development: More than 400 Health Infrastructure Projects/works worth Rs. 7177 Crores are coming up in Jammu & Kashmir which includes: 2 New AIIMS with the project Cost of Rs 4000 Cr (Rs. 2000 Cr each)- One each at Jammu Division & Kashmir Division. 7 New Government Medical Colleges being established with total Outlay of Rs. 1595 Cr. 10 New Nursing Colleges being set up with an approximate cost of Rs 60 Crore. Two State Cancer Institute's (one each at Jammu Division and Kashmir Division) being established with total cost of Rs. 212 Cr. (104 Cr Jammu & 108 Cr for Kashmir) Bone & Joint Hospitals also coming up for both the divisions of UT of Jammu & Kashmir. Out of 140 projects with total outlay of Rs. 881.00 Cr, under Prime Ministers Development package (PMDP) 108 projects have already been completed and rest of the projects are likely to be completed shortly during this year. Besides, 274 Health Projects/ works worth Rs 401.00 cr have been initiated under Capex Budget 2021-22 out of which 155 works have been completed.