

THRILL NO MORE

The way the security forces have changed their strategy in the Valley, the thrill which the terrorists used to have during their tenure as violence monger has now ended and only those are joining terror ranks who succumbed to pressure of their masters sitting across the border. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a free hand to security forces to eliminate terrorism from the Valley and the SFs are doing the job with extreme precision as reports emanating are claiming that 62 violence mongers have been eliminated in till date starting from January 1, 2022 in Kashmir. This figure is the testimony to the fact that survival rate of terrorists in Kashmir has decreased drastically thus forcing those who intend to join terror ranks to think hundred times before joining terror outfits or toeing the line of violence. Though the mentors of terrorists are mounting pressure on young lot to do something big on the Indian soil as two foreign mercenaries were deputed to Jammu ahead of PM's visit but the alert troops foiled their plans and neutralized them with the first light of the day in Sunjwan area of Jammu's outskirts. The terrorists which are new to the 'business' under the pressure of foreign forces who want to disrupt peace are targeting non-locals as the common man is easy to target. It is however the dexterity of the security forces that every single terrorist involved in the killing or attack on common man was either eliminated or put behind bars by using intelligence network. Reportedly, the colossal loss has been inflicted to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) because majority of terrorists of this organization have been shown the doors of the other world by the security forces. Reports averred that out of 62 terrorists killed so far in the current year, 32 got neutralised within just three months of their joining terror ranks. Of the 62 slain violence mongers, 47 were local and 15 were of foreign origin. As the security forces have tightened noose around the terror mongers life of terrorists has become very difficult as compared to 1990s, 2000s, etc. Now survival has become a major issue for the terrorists and that is the reason the people sitting across the borders are finding it difficult to lure more youth towards terrorism.

TACKLING CRISIS ADEPTLY

The power scenario in the UT of J&K is no doubt unprecedented as the region or for that matter the country has also not seen such a level of dearth of electricity in recent times. The reasons are many and the people who are unbiased and quite reasonable know it well that government is not at fault because at times things go out of control and such problems do arise. The people who are protesting and creating mayhem in and around Jammu should rather try to cooperate with the government at this crucial juncture by using the electricity judiciously and also asking others to follow the pursuit so that problem gets mitigated automatically. The power has occurred due to sweltering heat in the month of April which has broken 122 years record and the decrease in power generation due to low level of water in rivers as in April the snow melts in slow progression. Besides, dearth of coal has affected power generation in thermal plants across the country as supplies have been affected due to Russia-Ukraine conflict. What is good for the people is that the government has compensated the dearth of power by seeking help from the central pool and the power scenario has improved drastically as compared to other states where the situation is quite grim. After intensifying the efforts to rationalize things as far as power distribution is concerned, the PDD has come up with a schedule of daily six hours power cut. It is likely that this curtailment will help in resolving the crisis as far as erratic power cuts are concerned but it has to be seen that whether this schedule will work or not as weathermen have predicted more severe climatic conditions in the coming month. As the power crisis has affected the normal life, the PDD should educate common man by starting awareness drives and telling the people how they could reduce the dissipation of power which is the main reason behind load shedding as excessive load is the root cause of the circuit breaking and additional power cuts. It is likely that power outage problem will be controlled in the coming days but the people should learn from this crisis to save electricity and water whenever it is possible because humans are so much dependent on these entities that living without them has become impossible.

OFF 'D' CUFF

In life, always stay productive

Life is not less than a school. You keep learning different lessons throughout your journey. But there is a difference between life and school.

In school, you receive education first, learn various lessons and after that you are expected to take a test. On the other hand, in real life you go thru endless tests and then learn valuable lessons after the fact. In life, you face challenging circumstances and then you will be asked, what you have learnt? Sometimes, the exams can be exasperatingly challenging. Therefore, you have to be cautious at every step of life so that you learn all the lessons life wants to teach you. As long as you are learning, you will be productive and as a result you'll be cherished, respected and blessed. So, never stop being productive.

Be Productive, Be Happy! When you are not creative, your mind becomes lethargic leading to unhappiness. When you don't see yourself moving forward in life, you get nervous and invite stress. That's why it's so important to stay productive but how?

Here are some strategies that will help you stay productive and creative:

Value your time
Identify activities that are

Shri Sudhanshuji Mahareji

Protecting rights of agricultural warriors



International Workers' Day



■ DR PARVEEN KUMAR

Agriculture is a crucial sector of the Indian economy contributing to about 17 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and about 50 per cent of the population depending directly or indirectly on this sector. The farming community is a class of agriculture workers that constitute the backbone of this sector; that toils day and night in the intense hot and chilling cold to ensure that the countrymen do not go to bed hungry. In the country, those working in farms are not confined to a particular gender. If we analyze the data, we see that in 2001, of the 100 cultivators in India 67.1 were male and 32.9 were female and within a decade in 2011 the male went up to 69.7 and female came down to 30.3. Similarly of 100 agricultural labourers in India in 2001, 53.7 were male and 46.3 were female and a decade later in 2011 the number was 57.3 for males and 42.7 for females. The agriculturists, the health practitioners, the policemen and all other workers have been in the forefront in giving lives to billions and saving lives of billion others. Some of them even died saving others.

These workers all over the globe are rightly acknowledged as 'warriors' who lead from the front. They have proved their metal in testing times and whenever they are tried. They are the ones who work round the clock without caring for themselves and their families ultimately for the welfare of society. Despite all this, there are frequent reports of the agriculture workers being harassed by landlords and owing to the apathy from respective governments, some of them are leaving agriculture and some others are committing suicides. All this comes as a shock to all of us. In an agrarian country, such things should usually not happen. Farmers' who produce everything on this planet should enjoy certain exclusive rights related to agriculture that must be upheld to give due recognition to them in their efforts to produce food for all of us. This is also necessary to save them from the unnecessary harassment from different sources. Now these producers working in fields have also been given rights to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed and propagating material, their rights are to be recognized, rewarded and supported for their contribution to the global pool of genetic resources as well as to the development of commercial varieties of plants, and to participate in decision making on issues related to crop genetic resources.

Agriculture- a dangerous occupation: Let us take the case of United States where agriculture is also called the backbone of the country. A few years ago, agriculture ranked eighth as one of the most dangerous occupations. Today agriculture ranks as fourth dangerous occupation. According to the U.S Bureau of Labour Statistic, fatalities and injuries among agricultural workers are on the rise. Farm workers are 800 per cent more likely to die on the job than in other industries. The National Safety Council of the U.S reports that of the about 3.1 million peoples who work on America's 2.3 million farms and ranches, 1300 die each year and 120,000 are injured. This means for every 100,000 farmers. About 25 die each year and equipments injure another 243 and five per cent of these injuries result in permanent disabilities.

History: Workers today enjoy full rights and cannot be discrimi-

nated on any basis. Unfortunately the condition of workers was not the same. Working conditions were severe and it was quite common to work 10 to 16 hour days in unsafe conditions. Any shortening in the no. of hours was accompanied by the consequent cut in wages. Death and injury were commonplace at many work places. Such inhumane treatment given to the working class inspired many writers to write books. In the late nineteenth century, the working class was in constant struggle to have an eight hour working day. As early as the 1860's, working people agitated to shorten the workday without a cut in pay, but it wasn't until the late 1880's that organized labour was able to garner enough strength to declare the 8-hour workday. This proclamation was without consent of employers, yet demanded by many of the working class. At this time, socialism was a new and attractive idea to working people, many of whom were drawn to its ideology of working class control over the production and distribution of all goods and services. Workers had seen firsthand that Capitalism benefited only their bosses, trading workers' lives for profit. Thousands of men, women and children were dying needlessly every year in the workplace, with life expectancy as low as their early twenties in some industries, and little hope but death of rising out of their destitution. Beginning in the late 19th century, as the trade union and labour movements grew, a variety of days were chosen by trade unionists as a day to celebrate labour. May 1 was chosen to be International Workers' Day to commemorate the 1886 Haymarket affair in Chicago. In that year beginning on May 1, there was a general strike for the eight-hour workday.

The 1904 Sixth Conference of the Second International, called on all Social Democratic Party organizations and trade unions of all countries to demonstrate energetically on the First of May for the legal establishment of the 8-hour day, for the class demands of the proletariat, and for universal peace. On May 1, 1886, more than 300,000 workers in 13,000 businesses across the United States walked off their jobs in the first May Day celebration in history. In Chicago, the epicenter for the 8-hour day agitators, 40,000 went out on strike with the anarchists in the forefront of the public's eye. In 1887, Oregon was the first state of the United States to make it an official public holiday. By the time it became an official federal holiday in 1894, thirty US states officially celebrated Labour Day. Thus by 1887 in North America, Labour Day was an established, official holiday but in September, not on 1 May. In 1889, a meeting in Paris was held by the first congress of the Second International, following a proposal by Raymond Lavigne that called for international demonstrations on the 1890 anniversary of the Chicago protests. May Day was formally recognized as an annual event at the International's second congress in 1891. May Day is an official holiday in 66 countries and unofficially celebrated in many more, but rarely is it recognized in this country where it began. Over one hundred years have passed since that first May Day. This day reminds us of our fundamental duty to protect the rights of the workers and our commitment to safeguard the interests of all such working class who are shaping the future of their respective nations ultimately benefiting the humanity globally.

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Reviving & revisiting Saffron Roots

■ OKMAR DATTATRAY

BJP is doing everything possible to revive and revisit Bhargava roots of the country and is making great strides in the direction of gaining space for its Hindutva philosophy. The latest in this list is the plan and program for the inclusion of the treasure Bhagavad Gita in the school curriculum in the BJP ruled states of Gujarat perhaps on experimental basis. Since the assembly elections in Gujarat are round the corner and the saffron party does wants to bounce back to power and as such it is taking such issues and agendas which it thinks will make it possible for the BJP to again win the elections and as such the party has started to implement its plan of including Bhagavad Gita in school syllabus so that the young generation comes to know about the teachings of Gita and becomes conversant with this spiritual treasure. Thus has the Gujarat BJP made up its mind to include the Bhagavad Gita in the school syllabus just before the assembly elections so that the party is in a position to once again win the elections and also the Hindutva agenda is followed and implemented in letter and spirit. It is not that only in Gujarat state only the Bhagavad Gita will be included in school curriculum but in all the BJP ruled states the school children will be taught lessons on the treatise of Bhagavad Gita so that the young generation will know its roots and be conversant with the philosophy of Hindutva and Hinduism and revive and revisit its roots.

The beginning for the inculcating the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita to school children will be started from the BJP ruled state of Gujarat and other BJP ruled states will also include Gita in the school syllabus and fallow suit. The inclusion of the Bhagavad Gita in school curriculum should not stir a political controversy in the country as has happened on the subject of the school uniform and dress code in Karnataka and later spread to the length and breadth of India. Bhagavad Gita is not a religious book of Hindus only but it is a spiritual treasure for whole universe and has universal applicability and it is a way of life and is a book of philosophy. There is no harm in including the Gita in

school syllabus but the teachings of the spiritual treasure of Gita will elevate the young generation to spiritual heights besides making them aware about their roots and culture and so it should be taught as a discipline in the schools throughout the country but the beginning has to be made by the BJP ruled states which will then be replicated in other states as well. The teachings of the Gita will help the children to become duty conscious as they will learn to work hard without the looking to the fruits of the work and as such people will become true Karanyogi and this will help the nation in achieving great strides in works and endeavors. Thus the teaching of Gita in schools will help the children to become true patriots and nationalists and they will understand and appreciate the principle of work is worship and will become duty conscious. The including and teaching of Gita will attach children with their roots and culture and the love and attachment for ones roots will be made possible. Thus reviving and revisiting ones culture and roots will become practical by the inclusion of Gita in school syllabus and thus it should not be made a subject of controversy. We should not be far away from our roots and culture and the modern English education and the Macaulay's model of education distances us from our roots and rich cultural heritage and so is the BJP ruled states going to introduce the Gita in school syllabus. The Macaulay's system of education only makes good 'Babus' and does not lead to the all-round development of the multifaceted personality, but the teaching of Gita will enable the society to have balanced men and women to man the positions. However everything is politicized in our country and so the inclusion of the Gita in school syllabus is also bound to stir political controversy which is uncalled and unwarranted as well as untenable and should not happen in our society. But the so called secular and liberal lobby will create political controversy on the theme of including the Gita in school curriculum. The inclusion of Gita in school syllabus will in no way damage the secular and plural ethos but it will instead develop humanity and universal understanding and it will also help the chil-

dren to understand the principle of 'Vasudev Kutumbkam' or one world family and then how will the inclusion of Gita in school syllabus lead to communal disharmony. The teachings of the principles of Gita will further mutual brotherhood and communal harmony and in no way it will lead to disintegration. The Gita unites and does not lead to disunity in the secular and plural society. Therefore the teaching of Gita in schools will lead to essential unity in our diverse society and thus unity in diversity will be further strengthened. So there should be no noise on the important subject of including the Gita in school syllabus. It will revive and help to revitalize our cultural moorings and will help to bind and connect us with our roots and rich culture and so Hindutva will be made a practical Philosophy and therefore there should be no objection to the inclusion and teaching of Gita in schools. The inclusion of Gita in school curriculum will make us noble and practical persons by developing our individual personalities. Since the Gita teaches us that the whole world is one family and so the inclusion and teaching of Gita will inculcate the feeling of oneness and so the question of disharmony and disunity does not arise at all. Some time earlier there was a political and religious controversy over the subject of dress code and uniform in the schools of Karnataka and the controversy spread to other states of the country as well. The super secularists used the Hijab controversy to gain political mileage and dividends and it spread like wild fire. The Hijab controversy reached to the High court of Karnataka and it pronounced its verdict and opined that the Hijab is not compulsory in the religion of Islam and so the children and students should come in the uniform of the institution and not in Hijab. It is very unfortunate that a trifle issue was magnified by the secularists and so called liberals and it haunted our society for so many days. Now that the Judiciary has given its verdict on the Hijab issue the controversy should stop and all should respect and accept the court's decision. There should be no fresh controversy on the subject of including Gita in school syllabus as Gujarat government has ordered to

include Gita in school curriculum and all should welcome it and embrace the inclusion of Gita in school Syllabus. The BJP should not impose its version of extreme Hinduism but there is no harm in teaching soft Hindutva to school children as it is all inclusive and all embracing and there is nothing communal in it and so the children should be taught the principles of Gita and encouraged to connect and embrace its roots and culture. Thus going back to our culture and heritage and embracing the principles of the Karma-Yoga, Jana-Yoga and Bhakti-Yoga and selecting one from these philosophies should be our endeavor and this will help us to become balanced personalities. Therefore it is in the fitness of things to say that the philosophies enshrined in the treasure of Bhagavad Gita will essentially make our children's personalities balanced and practical and therefore no futile noise should be made by the secular-liberal lobby. Thus the Gita should be made a part and parcel of school syllabus throughout the country and the beginning in this direction has been made by Gujarat state and other BJP ruled states and others as well should fall in line in the days to come. The Bhagavad Gita is a spiritual treasure and treatise and it has got universal applicability and it is not the book of Hindus only and as such it should be included in school syllabus. Even Gandhi had said that religious education should be imparted to children in schools to make them noble citizens and so there is no harm in inclusion of Gita in school syllabus. There is difference between religious education and the education about the religions and the latter should be given in the schools. In short the BJP is doing well to include the Gita in school curriculum in the states ruled by it and the beginning in this regard is done in Gujarat and it is hoped that others will also follow it. It is a good attempt by BJP to do Bhagavakarnor saffronisation and revive and revitalize our roots and embrace our rich cultural heritage and so no one should have any reservation about it.

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JUBILANT J&K
Paradigm shift in growth trajectory of J&K

Overview of pace of development

The most striking benchmark of public service and governance for any Administration is the timely completion of projects. It not just minimizes the cost for the public exchequer but also strengthens the faith of citizens in the administration. In J&K, after its transition into a Union Territory, an unprecedented improvement in the pace of development is being witnessed which led to greater transformation. The implementation of several path breaking central legislations after revocation of Art 370, like Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2007, The Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1954, among others, is poised to herald a new era of progress and development in J&K. Project Completion-Speed & Social Responsibility: With steep reduction in construction cost and fast tracking of work execution, project completion has been enhanced by almost three times in J&K. No wonder that the number of developmental projects being completed has leapfrogged from 9229 in 2018-19 to approximately 40,000, expected to be completed in 2021-22. Under PMGSY, J&K has ranked at fourth place at national level in terms of road length with 2353 PMGSY projects covering 16,448 km, connecting 2033 habitations completed since inception. Till 15th of March 2022, 2480 PMGSY roads have been constructed resulting in blacktopping of 6625 km. The highest daily macadamisation, a stark shift from an average of 6.27 km/day during 2019-20 to an average of 21.92 km/day is being achieved during current financial year, bears testimony to the speed, efficiency and quality of project completion in J&K. Government has started several tunnel projects like Z-Morh Tunnel which is an under-construction tunnel, 20 Km away from Zojila Pass, on Srinagar-Kargil-Leh highway. The 6.5 Km long tunnel will connect Gagangir directly to Sonamarg in Kashmir. Zojila Tunnel is another under-construction tunnel located to the north-east of Srinagar, on the Srinagar-Leh section of the NH 1 with a 14.2 Km road tunnel between Baltal and Minamarg. 4 tunnels on Akhnoor - Poonch section of NH 144A will also be constructed. 10.30 Km Singhpora-Vailoo tunnel under Srinthan Pass on NH-244 has been approved and shall be completed at the earliest. Smart Cities Mission: The capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar have been brought under the ambit of Smart Cities Mission with around 276 approved projects. Procurement and operationalization of approx. 200 e-Buses, creation of 2 Unified Metropolitan Transport Authorities (UMTAs), Light Metro Rail Transit System for Jammu and Srinagar; and several other projects are set to transform the quality of life and convenience for citizens in these cities. Smart Cities Mission along with AMRUT will transform the urban landscape of J&K. These centres of growth shall prove to be the true growth foci and induce the forward and backward linkages for multifaceted progress of the UT of J&K. Rail Connectivity to Kashmir: Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) Project, set to be completed by 2023, will link Kashmir with the rail network of the country. The ongoing progress on the Chenab railway bridge, set to be the highest in the world, Anji-Khad bridge, the first cable stayed railway bridge in India, among several landmark tunnels and bridges being built under USBRL is a fitting tribute to the development journey that J&K has embarked upon. It will not be an exaggeration to state that the fusion of Emotional and Physical integration of Kashmir with the rest of the country is a watershed moment in the history of our UT and the nation. Power Generation: Powering the dreams of 1.25 Cr residents of J&K. In last 70 years, J&K had been able to harness only 3500 MW of power generation. Now the generation capacity is set to be doubled in 3 years and tripled in 7 years. Combined with the huge leap in power transmission capacity, with 150 per cent leap between 2019 to 2021, and reforms in power distribution, the goal of 'a light to every home' is not a distant dream anymore. This paradigm shift in the growth trajectory of J&K is a result of several governance and institutional reforms coupled with historic devolution of powers to local bodies. Reinforcing the trust of masses in the capacity and efficiency of government institutions forms the cornerstone of J&K's growth story. Citizen Centric Governance and Accountability, discernible from these transformative changes, is an apt tribute to the epithet 'Badalta Jammu & Kashmir'.