

NOT AGAIN

The spate in killings of civilians both from Kashmir and outside the Union Territory after abrogation of Article 370 is a dangerous trend as the number of those who lost their lives has swelled to two digit numbers with the horrendous acts not showing any sign of end to the vicious cycle of violence. In this context, the next victim was an unfortunate Government employee belonging to the Kashmiri Pandit community, who was killed by terrorists in Chadoora area of Budgam district. Reportedly, two gunmen did the ghastly act in Tehsil Office Chadoora. As the KP employee was injured in firing, all efforts to save his life proved fruitless as he succumbed soon after the incident. This cowardice act by the terror mongers is part of the plot to disturb peace in the Valley especially ahead of Amarnath Yatra as mentors of the terrorists sitting across the borders are focusing on disturbing ensuing Amarnath Yatra which will soon commence. Terrorist outfit Kashmiri Tigers has claimed responsibility for the killing of Kashmiri Pandit thus rubbing salt on the wounds of the people who are directly or indirectly being hit by the terrorism in Kashmir. The loss of life in this way is totally unacceptable and the government needs to provide security to the vulnerable section of people in the Valley because if the stringent steps wouldn't be taken the people will continue to suffer as the figures of the people killed have turned alarming with no respite coming to fore to save the common man from this threat as government and security forces seem to be helpless in controlling the terror attacks like the one which took place today. Reports are averring that around 14 people belonging to Jammu & Kashmir's minority Hindu community, including Kashmiri Pandits, were killed by terrorists between August 2019 and March 2022, which is a matter of great concern as things are getting out of control. The government needs to be offensive in the battlefield against terrorism because unless this should not be made a reality the terrorists will continue to wreak havoc, which should not be the case. Hitting hard the terrorists is the only option available with security forces and it is good for the country that sooner than later this policy should be implemented in Valley.

OUT OF CONTROL INFLATION

Bollywood film song 'Mehngayi Dayan Khaaye Jaat Hai' is proving to be true in context with today figures of retail inflation, which is all time high since last eight years turning life of common man into virtual hell as the household budget has been collapsed with nowhere to go to get a sigh of relief. The Government data is telling that the situation with regard to inflation in Rural India is more pathetic thus making it necessary for the government to take some extraordinary steps to cut down the skyrocketing price rise as essential commodities are getting out of reach of the common man which is a dangerous situation for one and all in the country. It is pertinent to mention that India's retail inflation surged to eight-year high of 7.79 per cent in April due to a sharp jump in fuel and edible oil prices. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation in April 2022 is the highest since May 2014, when it stood at 8.33 per cent. Retail inflation has risen sharply. It stood at 6.95 per cent in March 2022. April 2022 retail inflation data is almost double from 4.23 per cent recorded in April 2021. The price rise was sharper in rural India. Rural retail inflation rose to 8.38 per cent in April as compared to 7.66 per cent in the previous month and 3.75 per cent in April 2021. Urban retail inflation surged to 7.09 per cent in April as compared to 6.12 per cent in March and 4.71 per cent in April 2021, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Though sharp jump in fuel and food prices has led to a multi-year jump in inflation but government cannot allow the inflation to go out of control as the concerned ministry has some role to play to contain the ever increasing inflation especially due to the fact that people who are poor and destitute are already reeling under constraints and tight life. The government should look into all kinds of via-media or think of making trade-offs between taxes and commodities to stop unprecedented price hikes to bail out people from this crisis which is looming large and can be dangerous for the country in the coming days.

SIGN OF STRENGTH

harming someone but doesn't act on it, the very thought itself would constitute an act of violence.

Unaware people resort to violence in an attempt to shield their fears, weakness and inadequacies. Violence is a symptom of a lack of inner strength. It is caused by stress and tension, fear and insecurity or greed and anger. A sense of victimhood and a misplaced idea of righteousness and identity can also create violence. Most insurgent groups and guerrilla fighters resort to violence to implement their idea of justice and fairness.

Sometimes, when we look around, we find that violence and negative mindset have taken an upper hand. However, in the long run, this is not sustainable. The natural tendency of every human being is to be at peace. Conflict is not our nature; we just want to get out of it but don't know how.

This is where the knowledge of yoga, meditation, and other spiritual practices helps. Violence cannot happen in a state of heightened awareness. When you have a broader perspective about yourself and your life, ahimsa naturally flowers in you. Non-violence and patience are signs of great strength of spirit. A person with a violent bent of mind will never be able to love himself. And one who is not at peace cannot connect with the divinity within and around. Krishn says in the Bhagavad Gita: "Ashantasya, kuthah sukham." If you are unsettled, there is no happiness and violence is what unsettles people.

by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

Look at the sky. We are not alone. The whole universe is friendly to us and conspires only to give the best to those who dream and work.

-A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

EDITORIAL

Targeted killings of KPs continue

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

Unfortunately the target killings of Kashmiri Pandits continue unabated which is very deplorable and sad. The Pandits are becoming cannon fodders for the guns of the indoctrinated Islamist terrorists for no fault of theirs but for the only reason that these unfortunate people belong to a different faith and religion. It is very sad and disturbing that this time the barbaric brutes have again targeted the innocent youth of the minuscule Kashmiri Pandit community. The barbaric killing of a Kashmiri Pandit, working under PM Employment Package has sent shock waves. It is height that Rahul Bhat was killed in the crowded Tehsil Office where he was working as a Junior Assistant from last about eight years. Killing of Rahul has exposed tall claims of the government that the situation is normal. Day in and day out the soft targets are being killed with sadistic pleasure by terrorists. It is not the first time that a PM package employee has been killed by the terrorists, recently a migrant employee belonging to Kashmiri Rajput community was shot dead in his own house in Kakran village of Kulgam. Before this a renowned Chemist M. L. Bindroo, who had not migrated at time of mass migration and continued to live and serve the Kashmiris, was also murdered in broad daylight by terrorists simply because he was professing a different faith. The Congress government of Manmohan Singh had announced the special employment package for Kashmiri Pandits in 2006 for six thousand posts and the appointed youth have been asked to serve in Kashmir but they continue to be targeted by the enemies of humanity for no fault of theirs but for the simple reason of serving in Kashmir. These petty employees continue to be the eyesore of the Islamist fanatics and they serve in Kashmir under perpetual fear. The present barbaric and dastardly killing of the migrant KP employee has aroused fear and scare in the minds of the KP employees serving in the length and breadth of the valley. The unfortunate migrant KP employees are working in the valley under fear and duress. For their livelihood, these meek and unlucky youth are serving in threat to their lives in Kashmir. The government of the BJP seems unconcerned to the sad plight of the package employees and their pleas of adjusting them outside the valley falls on the deaf ears of the government of India and the LG administration. Umpenteen times in the recent past the Hindu minorities have been killed by the terrorists and the government is unmoved over the sad and unfortunate killings. The KP youth have been employed on petty jobs at the cost of their precious lives. The killers of Rahul Bhat should be arrested and given exemplary punishment through speedy trial and he should be provided justice very soon. The wife of the slain KP should be given government job outside the valley and his family should be given compensation of Rs 1 crore and expenditure of the education of his five year old daughter should be borne by the government. The migrant KP employees should be posted at the district headquarters and foolproof security should be given to them so that the confidence of migrant employees is restored. For this, it is important that the killers of the Rahul Bhat should be given stringent punishment so that such dastardly acts will not take place in future. Thus foolproof security should be given to the Package employees so that they will work and serve in the valley without fear and for this it is important that they should get a sense of security. However, it seems impossible to provide fool proof security to all the KP employees and therefore till the situation normalises in the valley they should be allowed to work from the home or in the alternative these unfortunate sons of India should be temporarily adjusted outside valley for such time till the normalcy returns to Kashmir. Under continues fear of gun of the terrorists, how will the innocent KP employees work and serve the people of Kashmir. These PM Package employees are working at the cost of their lives and so the government should find some via media to adjust these employees outside Kashmir where they will feel safe and sound. In Kashmir these employees are working under threat to their lives. One fails to understand that when the despicable crime took place in the busy and crowded Tehsil office, why people there did not intervene and saved Rahul Bhat. The killings of the Kashmiri Pandits by the terrorists has damaged the Kashmiriyat and Sufi culture of Kashmir beyond repair and it is a big jolt to the Hindu-Muslim unity. The majority community should not allow such happenings to take place. The Jehadi brutes have damaged the secular and plural tenets of the country and the union territory by their despicable acts. The target killings of the Pandits and other Kashmiri Hindus is a big loss to the age-old Kashmiriyat and Hindu-Muslim brotherhood for which Kashmir was once famous, but today that unity is nowhere found. How many people of the majority community have fought for the safety of Kashmiri Pandits and how many have emulated the qualities of Sherwani? As many as 14 people belonging to Jammu and Kashmir and Kashmiri Hindu community including Kashmiri Pandits have been killed in various parts of Kashmir between August 2019 and March 2022. The aim of the terrorists is to kill few and create scare among other employees so that they are forced to leave Kashmir. The Government of India should not allow the terrorists to kill the unarmed and innocent KP employees at their choice and will. A pertinent question arises as when the government is not in a position to provide required security to the handful of the package employees and then how will they be able to provide the security to the entire KP community on their return and rehabilitation. Therefore the policy of the centre and state government of the return and rehabilitation is hibbing and is not practical but utopian and therefore the KP's do not attach much importance to the plan of return and rehabilitation which if becomes possible will not be less than the eighth wonder of the modern world. The security forces should be given full powers to arrest and neutralise the terrorists who are bent to kill people at their will. No laxity should be shown towards terrorists as they are hitting soft targets in order to force PM package employees working in the valley to flee. In hay days of terrorism hundreds of Kashmiri Pandits were murdered by the terrorists who forced them to leave their homes and hearths and take refuge outside valley for the safety to their life an honour. Now same incidents of the killings of the soft targets is happening in Kashmir, the only aim of these target killings of the Kashmiri Pandits and other Hindu minorities is to scare the package employees so that they are left with no choice but to leave the valley. The government should not allow the subversive elements and terrorists to be successful in their nefarious designs. Therefore the security forces should built the pressure on the terrorists so that they are not able to target the Kashmiri Pandits and other minority Hindus of Kashmir. Moreover the non-local labourers should also not be targeted as many non locals have been killed and some have been wounded and all this is a slap on the Kashmiriyat and Sufi traditions and culture. Target killings of Kashmiri Pandits and other Kashmiri Hindus and non local labourers should stop as it has no place in a secular democracy. To conclude one can say that the government and the majority community should take required steps so that the target killings of the Kashmiri Pandits and other Kashmiri Hindus and non locals should not take place at all. Today the Sufi land of Kashmir is soaked with innocent blood of the people belonging to Hindu and Muslim faith. This time the savage terrorists have chosen life of a PM package employee which is very unfortunate and sad. These target killings must be stopped, as it is emerging as a big challenge for security forces.

JUBILANT J&K

Administration employing e-measures for transparent, responsive governance

Jammu and Kashmir government, led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, is taking comprehensive electronic measures for ensuring a transparent, accountable, and responsive governance system. The UT administration has given Information Technology Department the mandate of completing end to end digitization of all services, integrating all public services on a single platform besides developing a feedback mechanism for the same in the given timeframe.

More services were brought on the Rapid Assessment System (RAS) platform to continue top performance on NeSDA and become number one performing UT among all states and UTs of the country. J&K has launched many e-governance initiatives to promote transparency, accountability and responsive working culture in departments. In this regard, Mobile Application 'Satark Nagrik' and Departmental Vigilance Officers (DVO) Portal of J&K Anti-Corruption Bureau have been launched by Lieutenant Governor which are combating corruption to a great extent.

The 'Satark Nagrik' application has been developed with the purpose to facilitate seamless flow of information about corruption and enable citizens to submit their grievances with ease and mobility. Any citizen having an android based device can download the application from the play store. A unique ID number will be allotted at the time of registration of grievance which later can be used to track the status of the grievance. Similarly, the DVO portal has been designed to enable an online communication channel with the DVOs of various

departments. In certain cases, the complaints are related to ongoing works, current recruitments and payments yet to be made against contracts etc. By referring these matters to DVOs, violations and shortcomings can immediately be rectified and loss to the state exchequer can be prevented. Other measures of this system included an Electronic Vigilance Clearance System for furnishing vigilance clearances through electronic or online mode for all the government employees.

Also, Umang unified mobile application for new-age governance is a multi-lingual mobile platform for providing 'anytime-anywhere governance'. In sync with the vision of 'Apka Mobile Hamara Dafta' the Government of J&K is committed to provide citizen-centric services through the mobile mode. This will enhance the accessibility of services and add to the convenience of citizens while availing these services. The services on the UMANG platform are end to end digitized and provide a one-stop solution to the citizens starting from application for a service and it's processing to receipt of certificates/permissions. The services being provided have been integrated with an online payment gateway and Rapid Assessment System (RAS) of digital feedback. Several popular services like birth certificates, death certificates, rehri licenses, marriage certificates, income certificates, character certificates, dependent certificates, SC/ST RBA certificate and related documents can be accessed by the public at <https://web.umang.gov.in> or by downloading the mobile app 'UMANG' which is available on 'Android' and 'iOS' platform. With adoption of e-office, a sim-

plified, responsive, effective and transparent paperless working culture across all the departments is being achieved. With the implementation of e-office initiative, the disposal rate of files has touched an all-time high of 96 percent. Besides, 305 Head of Departments are now on e-office and E-files are accessible to all officials irrespective of their locations. J&K is first among UTs in e-office disposal of files. Currently, 180 services are online which have been linked with a feedback mechanism. All HoDs have been brought on e-office portal while the 'Annual Performance Reports' of JK Administrative Services (JKAS) officers have been shifted to online mode on SPARROW Portal. The ranking of UT of J&K has improved significantly and has achieved number one rank among all the UTs in the NeSDA-2021. The UT Portal has higher compliance to the assessment parameters like accessibility, 'Information Security and Privacy', 'Content Availability' and 'Ease of Use'.

Further, J&K Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (JKIGRAMS) have been developed as an e-Governance initiative to provide 24x7 platform to the citizens for redressal of their grievances. The JKIGRAMS Portal has been integrated with the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) of Central Government. Moreover, under 'Mulaqat Programme', the citizens can interact directly with the Lieutenant Governor for seeking redressal of their grievances that have been filed on the JK grievance portal.

Clamour for electricity-coal & its reality

■ R K SINHA

At present, an atmosphere of shortage of coal and electricity is being created. The main intention behind all these conspiracies is to make people stand against the Modi Government of the Centre. This is incidentally instigated by the maximum coal reserve states like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Odisha. All these states have non-BJP governments. Let's make a note of it before moving forward. States giving election freebies like electricity are mostly being ruled by non-BJP governments. Has the electricity consumption in summer increased this year only or is a general trend or there an electricity shortage this year only? Definitely not. Power cuts in Delhi are nominal. But Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal is politicizing the entire issue. He is making an issue about the coal shortage and making people frightened. Now he has started a new game out of it. Kejriwal stated that Delhi cabinet has decided that from 1st October 2022, subsidy on electricity will be optional means people will have an option to give up the subsidy. Why would anyone opt for it? On the matter of the announcement of free travel for women in DTC buses, he said in a similar manner that women willing to purchase tickets may do so. Ask any of the female travelers of DTC buses if they buy tickets? She will reply in negative. The power crisis in Maharashtra is deepening. The path of development of India passes through Maharashtra. This kind of situation is really unfortunate. Central Electricity producing companies has lakhs of crores of dues on states like Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Delhi and Punjab etc. Maharashtra government has even lost the case in Supreme Court and has to pay the dues at any cost. Still states are consuming the electricity and denying payment. It is known to all that electricity producing

companies (Genco) have a heavy dues of Rs 7918 crore on many states specially Maharashtra, Rajasthan and West Bengal, and are facing coal supply shortage. Just see the shamelessness of these states where they are complaining about coal supply but not saying anything. On their payment due to Genco. Why are they not clearing the dues of Genco? At many occasions they have sold the electricity purchased from Genco at double the cost to the consumers of their state and has recovered most of the bills also. Then how will the situation be improved? From where will Genco get the required capital to operate? The conspiracy regarding the coal supply shortage was known many months back, you may not believe it but it is also a part of a preplanned toolkit, to create an atmosphere against the Modi government. When they haven't succeeded in all these manoeuvres, they started new agendas to incite riots and to allege the central government for shortage of basic necessities. Incitement of riots will lead certain sections of voters to distance themselves from BJP, as the nature of voter and new voters will be disappointed to come with BJP due to such propagandas. Now let's talk about Punjab, the announcement of Chief Minister Bhagwant Man to give 300 units of free electricity every month to every household will add an additional cost of Rs 2000 crore in state government power subsidy. After his announcement, the bill is expected to surge to Rs 6000 crore. Debt-ridden Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) will have to pay heavily in order to buy imported coal to run their thermal plant as the central power ministry has advised Punjab and other states to purchase imported coal. Despite all these, the Punjab government is not thinking while giving freebies. Indeed, their single point agenda is to allege

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World Migratory Bird Day

■ VINOD CHANDRASHEKAR DIXIT

Every year, World Migratory Birds Day (WMBD) is celebrated twice in a year. Firstly it is held on the Second Saturday of May and again on the Second Saturday of October. It is observed to spread awareness for the need to conserve migratory birds and their habitats. The day originated in 2006, when the United Nations decided the need to make the global population aware of the migratory linkages between regions all over the world. Since then around 118 countries have participated and hosted the event. In fact, birds are very important to life on earth. They help to pollinate plants, spread seeds, and have been part of human life for thousands of years. Unlike rats and mice, birds are not pests.

Over the past few decades, the world's governments have endorsed many international agreements relevant to the conservation of biodiversity, demonstrating their willingness to cooperate in tackling important environmental issues. The challenge now is to harness this commitment and ensure that concrete actions are taken where they are most needed. In several countries, the engagement of civil society and indigenous peoples' organisations has resulted

in impressive progress. There are signs of increasing action in the private sector, too.

Birds can be found everywhere: in cities and in the countryside; in parks and backyards, in forests and mountains, and in wetlands and along the shores. They connect all these habitats and they connect us, reminding us of our own connection to the planet, the environment, wildlife and each other. Through their seasonal movements, migratory birds are also regularly reminding us of nature's cycles. In other words, birds are nature's ambassadors. So, it becomes imperative to restore the ecological connectivity and integrity to boost the natural movements of the migratory birds. These are important to ensure migratory birds' survival and well-being. The number of migratory birds is decreasing with each passing day due to various threats including illegal killing, destruction of natural habitat, and toxins released in the environment. As migratory birds connect nations, people, and ecosystems, World Migratory Bird Day highlights creating more measures for their conservation. Its aim is to safeguard breeding, non-breeding and ensure a healthy bird population. Today

one in eight bird species is threatened with global extinction, with 189 species.

Migration is a perilous journey and involves a wide range of threats, often caused by human activities. Climate change, habitat loss, plastic pollution are just a few of the diverse threats that the birds face. As migratory birds depend on a range of sites along their distribution area, the loss of wintering and stopover sites could have a dramatic impact on the birds' chances of survival. Most birds migrate at night. They have been doing this for eons, as a night sky typically means calmer air space and fewer predators. Nocturnally migrating birds include ducks and geese, plovers and sandpipers, and songbirds of all kinds. These birds may travel thousands of miles between their breeding and non-breeding grounds. World Migratory Bird Day 2022 is therefore not only a celebration of birds, it is also an important moment to reflect on our own global relationship with nature and to highlight our collective desire to do more to protect birds and nature in a post-pandemic world. Bird day is not just a day, but we should treat every day as Migratory Bird Day.

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