

NATION STANDS WITH KASHMIRI PANDITS

The need of the time is that the Kashmiri Pandits (KPs) don't get misled by those who never want them to be back in Kashmir. The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar has aptly guided the KPs not to think of leaving Kashmir as the same was plans of terrorists and their masters sitting across the borders. There is no doubt that under the present scenario the situation is a bit precarious but leaving the Valley will help the anti-national elements to succeed in their nefarious designs which should not be the case under any circumstance. As Kashmiri Pandits are hurt over the barbaric killing of Rahut Bhat and protesting at various places across the nation but making it a turning point by becoming adamant over the issue is in no way good the for KPs as well as the nation as a whole because after much pain and sacrifice the situation has been created in Valley under which the dignified return of KPs and other migrants can be made possible. By moving out without showing any spine will serve the purpose of anti-nationals and undo all the work done by the BJP Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah including the abrogation of Article 370. In this context, what the IGP Kashmir has said is true to the hilt and should be followed by every single KP presently living in the Valley because this is significant to make the attempts of enemies of the country null and void. If the KPs leave the scene in Valley then no one else will stand and fight for their cause. It is for sure that everyone including police, army and even local people (including KPs) will have to fight against terrorism. Therefore KPs should not do anything that will make the plans of the enemies of the country successful. As the government has assured that the shortcomings in the security grid will be addressed very soon, it is time for the KPs and for that matter every single nationalist to repose faith in the government and wait for the peace to return completely. As far as KPs are concerned the entire country is standing with them at this hour of crisis.

PAK'S INTERFERENCE POINTLESS

The hard hitting response of India to Pakistan's unfounded interference in the internal matters of the country is precisely the most befitting one because the rogue nation has no locus operandi over the issue of Delimitation exercise held in the Union Territory of J&K. It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan has passed a resolution on the delimitation exercise in Jammu and Kashmir in its National Assembly. There is no second thought on the issue as the entire area of the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh has been, is and shall always remain an integral part of India. Pakistan's unprincipled stand on the issue is no doubt farcical as India has termed it while rejecting the same outrightly. There is no surprise element in the action by Pakistan in the matter as in many other cases in the past, the rogue nation has acted in a very similar manner despite India's objections and no takers in the entire world. Pakistan's every move with regard to the decisions taken by the India had boomeranged but the western neighbour of India is in no mood to mend its ways inviting shame for the country on every move it makes against India. Countries across the world know that the delimitation exercise in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir was a democratic exercise based on the principles of extensive stakeholder consultation and participation and whatever Pakistan has to say in the matter is baseless and unnecessary and there is no need to pay any heed to the same by India or for that matter any other nation of the world. As recently, voices have been raised in J&K about liberating the PoJK from the illegal occupation of Pakistan therefore the rogue nation has to focus on that aspect rather than creating scenes over the issues which are internal to India. It is advisable for the Pakistan Government and its army to look after the internal crises in the country rather than interfering in the matters of other countries as the same will be of no use for the country which is struggling to provide even the basic amenities to its people.



Arise! It is Time...

Earlier, scholars and religious leaders would constantly fight amongst themselves because of their ego; each thought that his knowledge was better than the others. 'My religion is superior because I have the solution to all problems; because I am a guru, I am at a higher position' etc. They all encashed their knowledge, making Maa Saraswati commercial. It is because of this sense of superiority that all acharyas, gurus and experts of divine infallible weaponry, 'brahmastras', perished during the Mahabharat war. Slowly they all were gone. Then, later the poison of living a topsy-turvy life resulting from blindly copying the West and alienation from Nature spread throughout Indian culture, something which even umpteen gurus and saints have not been able to erase. Even the blows of slavery did not drill any sense. Each one blowing their own trumpet, the gurus measured themselves on the scale of the number of seats, positions, akharas, seats and titles that they hold. Only a few gurus were able to become good role models. So small was their number that the devils of the time prevailed over them. Some were banished, some were shot, some were exiled from society, and all these visionaries were restricted to their own wells. Very few accepted to come

out openly at the cost of their self-respect, and work as slaves. But intrinsically, the work never stopped, it continued with the faith that truth is eternal, and will surface one day. It is now time for all sons and daughters of Maa Saraswati to join hands, putting aside all ill-feelings, with truthful hearts, listen to the cries of Bharat Mata and free this pure land once again from traitors like Jai Chand and Mir Jaffar. No bias of big -- small, male -- female, wise -- ignorant, religious fanaticism, discrimination, and resentment, all those with pure hearts should renounce their ego, become selfless and come forth to become co-travellers. We have to move ahead on the path shown by great souls. If there is martyrdom in the bargain, so be it. May the torch of truth remain ignited and if one falls, may the other carry it forth. Do not bend, do not succumb...now it is time to fight for soul liberation. Truthful humans, whose dharma is humanity, insanियat, karm -- dutiful right conduct at right time, and safe guarding the honour of Maa Bharati, all satya, karm and prem yogis -- 'lovelful', 'karmful' and truthful people should renounce this false notion that nothing can be done, politics is not the place for good people, nothing is possible without money and that truth, honesty, sincerity are worthless.

Meena Om

J&K facing lack of buoyancy in political-will

■ ER P L KHUSHU



It can obviously be concluded after introspection about the past political ups and downs which took place in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir; that Jammu and Kashmir suffered for proper political wisdom and fore sight, which in particular includes the role of bigger icons of congress party, including the Nehru family, who ruled India for decades. The spurt of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, which reduced this erstwhile state to shambles in all spheres of its developments, when in particular; its direct impact on Kashmir valley has reduced Kashmir the so called 'Paradise' to a permanent hell now. It is a direct consequence of the lack of buoyancy in political maneuvering, while getting Jammu and Kashmir governed by particular political set-ups, with dynasty base, which made this erstwhile state a cognizable state of disputable identity. This was done by specific political parties and persons, with the patronage of the powers from Delhi, who always turned a 'Nelson's Eye' towards the real and a fair development of this state, as also the real issues involved in this border state of India, like any other state of India. Now Jammu and Kashmir is reduced to the status of a union territory. Thanks to all those who ruled the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir as off shoots of dynastic base politicians and that too through proxy. The present race of population of Jammu and Kashmir is virtually suffering for the same in all respects of their basic requirements of their development, their educational curricula, their professional standards, their employments, their future scopes of prosperity in life and the like. Apart from this a lack of buoyancy in the political stability in Jammu and Kashmir is fundamentally responsible for the spread of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Where did story start? In 1947, after India became independent, Jammu and Kashmir had the option to join either India or Pakistan or to remain independent. It is said that Maharaja Hari Singh originally was inclined to maintain his independence by playing off India and Pakistan. Jammu and Kashmir was a Muslim majority state when the raiders from the neighboring northwest frontier, subsequently known as 'Qabayeles', duly supported by newly created Pakistan, invaded Jammu and Kashmir under the impression that Maharaja Hari Singh would accede to India. Maharaja Hari Singh appealed to India for help for sending troops to fight these tribal invaders. Maharaja Hari Singh was advised to accede to India by the Government of India before India could send its troops. Hence, considering the emergency situation, the Maharaja signed the Instrument of Accession to the Dominion of India on 26th of October-1947. By executing this Instrument of Accession under the provisions of the Indian Independence Act 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh agreed to accede to the Dominion of India. In return the Indian armed forces were air lifted to Kashmir; by the Government of India, to fight back the Pakistan-supported raiders. While the Indian army had made successful advances in throwing the raiders back, a cease fire was declared at the asking of Pt. Jawaharlal, the then Prime Minister of India. As per this cease fire the western and northern districts presently known as Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan passed to the control of Pakistan. The rest of the area came under the control of India, which is presently the Indian-administered state of Jammu and Kashmir; now the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and the Union Territory Ladakh. To go for a cease fire at asking of Jawaharlal Nehru at that point of time, when the Indian forces had captured western and the northern districts of present occupied Kashmir by Pakistan, is as on date considered to be a herculean blunder. It is this region of Pakistan where the terrorists are nurtured and accorded trainings to launch terror attacks in J&K.

Maharaja Hari Singh in his Accession Offer to the then Governor General of India, Lord Mountbatten wrote, "I may also inform your Excellency's Government that it is my intention to set up an interim Government and ask Sheikh Abdullah to carry the responsibilities in this emergency with my Prime Minister." Lord Mountbatten accepted the accession after a meeting of the Defense Committee on 26 October 1947. In accepting the accession unconditionally, he wrote among other points, 'My Government and I note with satisfaction that your Highness has decided to invite Sheikh Abdullah to form an Interim Government to work with your Prime Minister.' The support of Mahatma Gandhi and Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru was a key factor in getting Sheikh Abdullah appointed as Head of the emergency administration by the Maharaja. It was the first bumper rider from the elite congress leadership from Delhi, to install Sheikh as the pseudo king of Jammu and Kashmir; thrusting a leader on the masses of Jammu and Kashmir. It was a move to undermine the political importance of Jammu and its people, while neglecting the importance of 'Dogras' of Jammu in political heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. Sheikh became the shadow monarch and raised a force of local

Kashmiri volunteers to patrol Srinagar and take control of administration after the flight of the Maharaja along with his family and Prime Minister Mehar Chand Mahajan to Jammu even before the Indian troops had landed. Sheikh Abdullah was then appointed as Prime Minister of the Jammu & Kashmir State as the post of Chief of Administration was subsequently abolished in March 1948. This happened with the constant intervention from Jawaharlal Nehru to Maharaja Hari Singh that Sheikh Abdullah should be made the Prime Minister and power of administration transferred to him fully. With this appointment the die was cast with the constant intervention of an apex congress leader of that time from Delhi, through Jawaharlal Nehru, when the first imbalance in the political buoyancy of governance was allowed to take over the true democratic norms of representative governance by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The inherent political interests of Jammu region were mocked and allowed to be thrown to dust. The seeds of political discontent and love for Pakistan in a bigger section of the majority Muslim community in the valley emerged with the Sheikh's taking over the reins of governance of Jammu and Kashmir. With the mass rigging in the elections by the Sheikh government during assembly elections of that time particularly in Jammu, a vibrant commotion amongst the people arose across Jammu, came to surface, which was led by 'Praja- Parishad', led by Pt Prem Nath Dogra and other prominent leaders. Sheikh's rule as per his classic terminology of 'Kashmiriyat', was actually the embedding of seeds of 'Pseudo Secularism', viz half truths about the real concept of true secularism' in Jammu and Kashmir; for which the main suffering population of Jammu and Kashmir were the Kashmiri Pandits. It was in this time only when the Land to Tiller laws were enforced which in particular made Kashmiri Pandits the main targets as most of the Kashmiri Pandits were well established 'Zamindars' and their agricultural lands were snatched from them and given to the tillers who were Muslims, with a biased base of communal tinge. Apart from this enough of partialities occurred during that time when KP's were refused proper representations in the government jobs, educational trainings, etc. This is the period when the first mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits occurred towards the plains, for earning their bread and butter with dignity and honor. Equally was the fate of Jammu and its people, which was discriminated in all facets of its development, like employment sector, education sector agriculture sector; road sector, irrigation sector; tourism sector, etc. The representation in the legislative assembly and legislative council were deliberately kept far below the Kashmir province for the Jammu province. These thorns are still continuing for Jammu and its people till date.

Sheikh Abdullah continued to be the Prime Minister till 8th August 1953. It is said Sheikh became a turn coat and started defying the government of India, when he started to be much bigger than his size, by trying to become the absolute ruler of Jammu and Kashmir. He was dismissed from the position of Prime Ministership on August 8, 1953 and Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad was appointed as the new Prime Minister. Sheikh Abdullah was immediately arrested and later jailed for eleven years, accused of conspiracy against the State in 'Kashmir Conspiracy Case'.

The apex congress leadership ruling India at that point of time should have visualized the barren mistake committed by them in appointing Sheikh to rule Jammu and Kashmir. This was a flagrant incompetence in the political buoyancy to allow him to rule undemocratically, which ultimately resulted in his dismissal and going to jail. This event left a poignant imprint on most of the majority Muslim population of Kashmir to seek either independence or ask for Pakistan. It was all a fluid state of political affairs and liquid state of things in the political buoyancy on the part of political administrators from Delhi, when the situation was exploited badly to the complete disadvantage of any type of political stability in Jammu and Kashmir. Several chief ministers were appointed to Jammu and Kashmir; belonging to the then national conference and Indian national congress like Bakshi Gulam Mohammad, G M Sadiq, Syed Mir Qasim, when all of them failed to deliver being the direct recruits of the ruling clan of India, which was again linked to the failure on the platform of lack of political buoyancy at the right time, in controlling the strategically situations in Jammu & Kashmir; which had got compounded due to the two wars which India had to fight with Pakistan during this very period.

Contrary to the ground situations on 8 April 1964, State Government dropped all charges in so-called 'Kashmir Conspiracy Case'. Sheikh Abdullah was released and returned to Srinagar where he was accorded an unprecedented welcome by the people of the valley. After his release which was at the behest of Nehru, Sheikh again reconciled with Nehru and started seeking solutions to the so-called Kashmir problem created by him, abetted by the silent non-buoyant political vision of Nehru about Kashmir. It may be called as a policy paralysis on the part of the ruling clan in Delhi which was the Indian National Congress, mostly headed by the Nehru. He requested Sheikh Abdullah to act as a bridge between India and Pakistan and make President Ayub Khan to agree to come to New Delhi for talks for a final solution of the Kashmir problem. President Ayub Khan also sent

telegrams to Nehru and Sheikh Abdullah with the message that as Pakistan too was a party to the Kashmir dispute and any resolution of the conflict without its participation would not be acceptable to Pakistan. This paved the way for Sheikh Abdullah's visit to Pakistan to help broker a solution to the Kashmir problem. Another dictatorial error on the part of Nehru to involve same person in so-called Kashmir problem, who was hidden and abetting person for the same. Nehru again made a historical mistake in this regard. Sheikh Abdullah went to Pakistan in spring of 1964. President Ayub Khan of Pakistan held extensive talks with him to explore various avenues for solving the Kashmir problem and agreed to come to Delhi in mid-June for talks with Nehru as suggested by him. Even the date of his proposed visit was fixed and communicated to New Delhi.

On 27 May while he was enroute Muzaffarabad in Pakistani Administered Kashmir, news came of the sudden death of Nehru and the Sheikh after addressing a public rally at Muzaffarabad returned to Delhi. On his suggestion President Ayub Khan sent a high level Pakistani delegation led by his Foreign Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto along with him to take part in the last rites of Jawaharlal Nehru.

Indira Gandhi took over as the Prime Minister of India after the death of Jawaharlal Nehru, when after Nehru's death in 1964, Sheikh was interned from 1965 to 1968 and exiled from Kashmir in 1971 for 18 months. The Plebiscite Front was also banned. This was allegedly done to prevent him and the Plebiscite Front which was supported by him from taking part in elections in Kashmir, due sometime around that period, when G M Sadiq became the Chief Minister. G M Sadiq was a tough politician with Statesman like qualities and a committed politician for Kashmir; who wanted Kashmir to be a part of India, of course within the ambit of Article 370. But he had a clear vision about Kashmir; when he would say that Jammu and Kashmir can grow only with the Indian Union. He adopted a tough posture towards Sheikh in all respects. But after his death after the Bangladesh war, Indira Gandhi again picked up a soft thread towards sheikh like her father. On February 27, 1975, after signing the Kashmir Accord with Government of India, commonly called as 'Indira-Sheikh Accord', he regained his power back and took over as the Chief Minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir after twenty-two years of his political wilderness. This was probably the last nail in the political coffin of Jammu and Kashmir; when again a politician with a dynasty base was trusted as the sole leader to rule Jammu and Kashmir again. The unrest in the democratic process of governance of Jammu and Kashmir started again and the dynastic rule became the roost to rule. To add insult to the injury, after the demise of Sheikh Sahib, when Indira Gandhi who was the prime Minister of India that time attended the funeral ceremony of Sheikh, declared his son Farooq Abdullah as his successor. This was done in a most undemocratic manner; which irked the masses of Jammu and Kashmir; considering such a step as the continuation of a colonial rule through a particular dynasty which has a notion that Jammu and Kashmir is their domain only. It led to mass resentment amongst the masses of Kashmir in particular who had been nurtured by Sheikh and his political coterie itself when these leaders were asking for a plebiscite in Kashmir of which Sheikh was the perpetrator. A strong resentment was shown by the people of Kashmir; when all such disgruntled sections of the society in Kashmir particularly the members from the Muslim forums, wanted to take active part in the elections of 1987. These elections were rigged badly, and the members from the organized Muslim forums taking part in these elections were treated badly, which alienated all such faces of the Muslim majority members from the main stream of governance. The rulers from Delhi were as per circumstances evident, full partners in all such riggings and mal practices in elections. This became the base for the start of terrorism Kashmir; when Pakistan took the benefits of the slack and dynastic rules of Kashmir; with the government of India, becoming a helpless and a silent spectator to all such happenings. Much water has flown down the river Jhelum and Chenab since then and Jammu and Kashmir is still suffering from the onslaught of terror and terrorism on a bigger scale as a proxy war. The present government has to weed out the infra structures of the terror rugs and hideouts from Kashmir to its extinction, although enough work laudable has already been done in this regard by the present dispensation of administration, be it at the administration level of Jammu and Kashmir level or at the level of central government. Much more needs to be done in this regard, to contain the divisive elements like the erstwhile dynasty rulers who are busy in their job to create bad blood between the various sections of the society in Jammu and Kashmir; by harping on issues like the delimitation, abrogation of Article 370 and 35 A, terror attacks on Kashmiri Pandits, non-Kashmiris working in Kashmir; the security forces. All such elements of dynastic base elements have lost empires of power and are thus blowing hot and cold in the same breath without any recognition from the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

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JUBILANT J&K Govt creates Rs 500 cr Film Development Fund for 5 years

Jammu and Kashmir government has created Film Development Fund (FDF) in the Information department for the fiscal year 2022-23, for disbursement of subsidies envisaged in the J&K Film Policy 2021. To effectively implement ambitious J&K Film policy, the government last year allocated Rs 500 crore to be payable in the next five years for financially supporting the development of a vibrant film ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. This policy is valid for 5 years from the date of notification.

According to Film Policy, "starting from fiscal year 2022-23, a separate head of account shall be created as Film Development Fund, in the Information Department and an annual budgetary allocation of Rs 100 crore for the remainder term of the Film Policy shall be made by the Finance Department for disbursement of subsidies to the eligible beneficiaries/ film makers who have applied for the same". Jammu and Kashmir Film Development Council (JKFDC) would be the single point of contact for supporting development of a vibrant film ecosystem in the UT and will exclusively oversee the implementation of the Jammu & Kashmir Film Policy. To ensure effective implementation of Film policy and make available relevant facilities to film makers, a Film Promotion and Facilitation Committee headed by the concerning District Magistrate (Deputy Commissioners) has been constituted at the district level.

The committee has the mandate to monitor shooting related activities and ensure stay facility in the government guest house/tourist lodge on payment basis and issuance of time

bound certificate from the office of the District Magistrate (Deputy Commissioner) in respect of shooting days after the shooting is over. It will ensure prompt disposal of the grievances directed at the district level offices. The committee takes necessary action by calling a meeting of the Film Promotion and Facilitation Committee within 7 days of receiving directions from the JKFDC regarding the application. Post grant of permission by JKFDC, a Nodal Administrative Officer will coordinate with the Committee to facilitate shooting of the film till its completion.

In yet another significant move of the J&K government, Srinagar city is all set to witness a first of its kind National Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir (NFFJK), a grand event to be organized by J&K Film Development Council (JKFDC) in association with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) from June 15 to 20th June 2022. The idea behind this film festival is to highlight the film, music and creative ecosystem of J&K along with its natural and socio-cultural magnificence to the world. Notably, J&K Film Policy clearly states that the Jammu & Kashmir Film Festival would be organized with an aim to encourage the production of films of Aesthetic and technical excellence and social relevance. The Film Festival will also aim at encouraging the study and appreciation of cinema as an art form. The government of J&K intends to bring in a system of awarding films and film makers. Over 40+ awards will be given as part of the award ceremony during the festival including special awards for J&K regional films.

Where there is peace, there is progress, happiness

■ VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

May 16 is celebrated as the International Day of Living Together in Peace. It was officially recognised by General Assembly of the United Nations in December 2017. Living together in peace is all about accepting differences and having the ability to listen to, recognize, respect and appreciate others, as well as living in a peaceful and united way. Peace and Harmony is the basic requirement of any nation. The citizens of a country feel safe and secure and can prosper only if a peaceful environment is maintained.

With a new vision, we can collectively generate and convey a profound change to build the society of tomorrow and propose a tool to express, loud and clear; this will to learn better living and doing together. The more numerous we are to choose 'living better together', the more our commitment will change the world. Though the people of our country live peacefully with each other, often the peace is disturbed owing to some political, social, economic and religious factors. Price rise and unemployment also creates unrest among the people. People often come forward to protest against these issues due to which the normal functioning of the society is disrupted. Equal respect to all the religions is a way of promoting peace and harmony in the country. The concern of the humankind for peace can be assessed by taking into account the fact that all religions, all religious scriptures and several religious ceremonies are committed to the cause of

peace and all these advocate an elimination of war. People belonging to different religions rejoice each other's company and celebrate all the festivals with equal zeal. In schools, at work places and various other places, people study and work together harmoniously. One elementary way of defining peace has been to say that peace is absence of war. While it was successful in preventing a global war, we have failed to prevent local wars and in fact gave rise to several tensions, stresses, strains and crises in international relations.

It is only when each citizen recognizes the dangers of disunity, would there be complete peace and harmony in the country. The Day aims to uphold the desire to live and act together, united in differences and diversity, in order to build a sustainable world of peace, solidarity and harmony. The purpose of observing this day is to promote peace through a harmonious living together regardless of nationality, gender, language or religion. Peace and harmony are the building blocks of any society. Only if there is peace and harmony in the country would there be growth and development. We must remember that the government cannot be held responsible for maintaining peace and harmony in the country. Each one of us should take it as our responsibility to nurture feelings of brotherhood with fellow citizens. In contemporary times, the most urgent and important international objective has been to preserve protect and defend peace against terrorism.