

KPs' SAFETY ON ANVIL

The safety and security of Kashmiri Pandit employees has become the prime focus of the J&K Government as the divisional administration has assured that within one weeks time all the vulnerable staffers will be relocated to safer places to infuse a sense of security. In this regard, all the heads of departments in Kashmir have been directed to ensure that the Kashmiri Pandit employees serving in the valley are posted only in less vulnerable areas such as towns and district headquarters. This move has been taken to ensure their safety and security of the KP employees posted in Valley as recently one of the staffer of the community was killed by terrorists in broad day light just to spread fear psychosis among the hapless community which already faced lot of hardships as the members of this vulnerable section were forced to leave their homes and hearths in Valley in 1990s. The sordid story of KPs is unique one in the entire world as this community has faced exodus while living in its own country thus KPs lived a life of refugees while remaining in their own country. After the inception of BJP Government in Centre the things have started changing for the people of J&K including the KPs but recent spurt in targeted killing especially that of minorities has again created uncertainty and it is good that now the UT government has envisaged steps to provide safer postings to KPs living in Valley especially the PM package employees. Now the provision has been made that the Kashmiri Pandit employees be posted in less vulnerable areas like towns and district headquarters. The move comes in the wake of the killing of a Kashmiri Pandit employee, Rahul Bhat, inside his office in the Chadoora area of Budgam district by terrorists on May 12. The KPs have been protesting against the security issues and demanding transfers to safer places like Jammu. The administration has ensured that it will resolve the service-related matters concerning the Kashmiri Pandit employees within a week.

LOUDSPEAKER MENACE

The passing of resolution by the General House of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) to ban 'illegal' loudspeakers at religious places in the City of Temples is likely to go a long way in curbing the noise pollution which has taken toll by considerable increase in ailments among the citizenry with hypertension topping the list of diseases. In today's world, it becomes necessary for one and all to avoid doing things which can bother fellow citizens in one way or the other. It is strange that this people friendly decision has invited wrath of some councilors citing one pretext or the other. The resolution of loudspeaker ban was moved by BJP Councillor, Narotam Sharma of Ward No 3 and was seconded by another BJP Councillor Sanjay Baru of Ward No 41. It claimed that noise pollution in Jammu is responsible for causing several ailments to the citizens. Scientific Research has proved that noise pollution is responsible for several health problems including stress-related illnesses, sleep disturbance, high blood pressure, speech interference, hearing loss and also heart diseases. The Supreme Court had also issued guidelines for the usage of Public Address System and loudspeakers and therefore the decision taken in this regard is not at all bad. Already the District Magistrate Jammu has come into action and is removing all 'illegal' loudspeakers and Public Address systems from all places like Banquet Halls, Community Halls, Temples, Mosques, Gurudwaras, Churches, etc. where the loudspeakers are installed and are operating without any legal permission. It has also been passed that the District Magistrate Jammu should also be asked to ensure that from 10 PM to 6 AM no loudspeaker and public address system should be used at least within JMC limits barring those at community halls, banquet halls, organizations and religious places which have permission from the concerned authorities with undertaking to use the device within permissible decibel range and only within time allowed by authorities. Hopefully with the resolution getting the nod of the aforesaid House the menace of noise pollution will reduce considerably and the people will have a sigh of relief.

Dance for the grace of God

Are you dancing every day while choosing the happiness of God with every step? Or are you allowing your days to become a sad story of discontent?

This is an important question to ask oneself on a daily basis. Clearly, happiness is a matter of the heart. It is not found in acting in a certain way or in doing all the right things in life. Nor is happiness in the absence of troubles or difficulties.

Happiness can be found in remembering God in the midst of adversity, in seeking delight in the life God has provided, and in dancing to invite God's grace.

Life's journey is never easy.

Understand that life is never simple or straightforward. It is always full of obstacles, leaving you doubtful and, at times, despondent. Maintaining balance in the face of adversity, on the other hand, is a sign of commitment to God. Only then will you be able to remain calm and focused in life otherwise, you will not be able to be joyful or meditate.

In troubled times, remember God's grace even more.

When rain falls on the earth, we never see its origin. There is no lake in the sky full of water, yet when the earth is parched and when there is a downpour, the rivers overflow, bringing life to the earth. We all receive that which God gives, and He gives abundantly, sometimes even without asking.

So, even in your darkest moments, remember His grace, and remember it even more. The story of a Sufi saint conveys the same message.

Bitter Cucumber and the Sufi Saint

Once upon a time, a Sufi saint served as the king's aide. One day, the king found a bitter cucumber in his food and decided to give it to the saint to see his expressions and feelings about it.

The saint ate the same with love and was extremely grateful.

Shri Sudhanshuji Maharaj

Substratum of terrorism in Kashmir & selected killings

■ S K KHUSHU

This guiding sermon/dictum is central to our philosophy of life. Every Hindu draws inspiration from it to lead the life of piety, follow non-violence for meaningful co-existence and universal brotherhood, observe austerity, be compassionate and above all strive hard for the attainment of supreme consciousness. Religious tolerance, mutual trust, faith in social justice & equality are a part and parcel of our rich cultural heritage, deep rooted in mind & heart. We have inherited from our saintly ancestors the subtle aspects of human life that distinguish us from the rest. So, we are by our very nature, peace loving & greatly accommodating. Add to it the basic tenets of Hinduism that lays emphasis on ahimsa (non-violence) & advocate propagation of God's message of love & compassion. Shrimad Bhagwat Gita preaches exercising restraint in difficult & testing times but there is a clear cut dictat against tolerating injustice. It advocates a just & determined fight against perpetrators of oppression and persecution issuing from religious intolerance. It has been deemed necessary for the establishment of everlasting peace, social security and justice. Drawing from this we need to rise in revolt against those who are out there to annihilate us. After all, a secular way of life cannot be thrust upon Hindus. You cannot have different yardsticks on the issue.

The evil that men do lives after them; the good is often interred with their bones'. True but there is a difficulty of being good in hostile conditions.

Quite a number of books have been written on the atrocities committed on Kashmiri Pandits from time to time, spanning over a few centuries now.

The most exhaustive work on the subject that comes to my mind is that of Rahul Pandita's 'Our Moon Has Blood Clots'. It does throw light on the substratum of terrorism in Kashmir & invasion of Pak tribal on Kashmir.

What has prompted me to touch upon substratum of Islamic terrorism that has already spread its tentacles across the globe, is a sinister campaign being launched for dismissing it as a potential threat to India and the rest of the world. The threat to life & property Of Hindus in India in general & KPs in particular is being, very diplomatically, being down played. Unfortunately, the Jai Chands of modern India, blinded by their petty political interests, are deliberately indifferent to seeing the writing on the wall. They are least interested in countering this menace.

Instead, they see red in everything that the

nationalists do. The Pak sponsored terrorism in Kashmir with ample support from majority of indoctrinated local Muslims is not so much about usurping Kashmir i.e., wresting it from India as it for establishment of an Islamic state in Kashmir as a part of the broader plan to Spread Islam across India. Their religious intolerance issues from their firm conviction that non-Muslims are infidels. As a step towards the realisation of this sole objective, intimidating tactics like select killings of Hindus in general & KPs in particular are being resorted to. Ethnic cleansing through oppression & religious persecution must be seen in this context. They are being emboldened further by the morally corrupt & politically bankrupt, power thirsty opposition leaders who are shy of supporting anti-national elements. They try to grab any opportunity that comes their way to denounce Indian army counter strikes, nationalist leaders & well-meaning citizens who are committed nationalists working 24x7 for preserving national integration & sovereignty. The leaders like Shashi Tharoor, Digvijay Singh & their party leaders have no qualms of conscience. Their irresponsible statements on vital national issues, unfounded criticism of documentaries & films like Kashmir Files speak volumes of their political immaturity & poor statesmanship. They would do well to have a rethink on their political ideology & dedicate themselves to nation building. The sooner the better. Denial of truth & justice breeds ill will & grows seeds of dissension, culminating in total revolution.

Once the substratum is identified & understood through well directed & purposeful examination, the core of the cancerous problem is laid bare. In character & practice, the substratum is well planned & well organised indoctrination of Muslims by religious Zealots, emboldened by their masters in Pakistan for the universalisation of Islam. So, in the light of this truth, no reconciliation or conciliation whatever seems to be successful. However, it never means we should give up on our counter measures to eradicate this menace.

The abrogation of Article 370 & with it the automatic repeal of Art 35-A, two most important achievements of far reaching consequences with respect to national interests have added fuel to the fire dashing their hopes of affecting complete cessation of Kashmir from India but it has endangered the lives of the already vulnerable KPs particularly the young serving class, working in Kashmir. We all feel driven to ask the central as well as the state leadership as to how long these innocent people can be treated as sacri-

ficial goats?

The core teaching of our Shrimad Bhagwat Gita is reflected in the following: It is only the strong and virile alone who are fit for life of great consequence; Strength nurtures life, weakness wears it away; Potency drives away the disease, debility aggravates it. So our leaders & the members of our community must draw inspiration from the teachings to devise an effective strategy & later translate it into action to completely eradicate the menace, as necessary for an everlasting peace as also to save precious human lives of KPs who are true Indian down to the core. We cannot helplessly watch the KPs soon becoming endangered species like the famous Hangul of Kashmir.

Granting that in the present scenario, it is not possible to guarantee 100% fool proof security but the men at the helm of affairs are under constitutional obligation to protect the lives of its citizens alongside the ongoing operations against militants. All effective measures political diplomatic, military, social & economic, must be taken to cleanse Kashmir of militants & anti-national elements. The idea of training people of sensitive places like Kashmir must also be seriously considered. The workable & effective self defence mechanism needs to be put in place. The training in self-defence is the need of the hour. Also, the government authorities with the cooperation of men of substance from relevant fields must seriously plan & implement setting up satellite monitored safe zones for KPs. The practicality of this seemingly novel idea conceived and already put forth for serious consideration of the govt. must receive top priority. Well-meaning religious leaders, true nationalists, good statesmen, intellectuals, intelligentsia all need to be involved in the all-important eradication of international terrorism in Kashmir, without much bloodshed. The pseudo-secularists, people who are engaged in importing foreign ways of life, hobnobbing with their masters abroad, and frustrated politicians need to be kept at bay. They cannot be given a free passport endangering national integration & sovereignty. It is self-destructive to ignore the dangerous consequences of the trap being laid across the length & breadth of the country. To the so called & self-proclaimed leaders of the opposition who are engaged in the deliberate misinformation Campaign as also in dubbing select killings in Kashmir as an aftermath of divisive policies of the centre (an unfounded & wrongly coined slogan), I demand that they come out with a single incidence of the killing of a Muslim by a KP. The well-meaning Muslim is being encou-

aged to realise his potential to the maximum for his benefit & also for nation building. It is the misled Muslim indoctrinated to the core & engaged in anti-national activities that are getting killed.

Why should they question the veracity of Kashmir Files when they know nothing about the substratum of Kashmir terrorism, Leaders like Arvind Kejriwal has no right to ridicule the film makers or the KPs because he has done nothing worthwhile for the KPs except playing dirty politics. Such leaders are better advised to look inwards to listen to their inner conscience. We KPs have always lived up to high standards of morality & universal brotherhood. We broke Peaceful no sermons that are malicious & harmful. Peaceful co-existence has been our mantra.

What was the fault of late Rahul Bhat? Why should have they cut short his life?

An innocent gentleman solely interested in earning his bread put to death in the prime of his life is quite appalling. Paramilitary forces and the army Jawans doing their duty to guarantee peace in the terrorism borne Kashmir, risking their lives do not deserve to be killed the way they are. Will Arvind Kejriwal kindly offer his explanation? Instead of being foul-mouthed, he should try to see the alarming situation in Kashmir in the right perspective but he will not because he revels in creating Shaheen Bagh like incidents all over India. I have nothing personally against any such leaders but it does hurt us to see them ridicule Hindus & KPs in particular. We request them to undergo a change of heart for the betterment of the nation. Late Rahul Bhat is the latest victim of Islamic terrorism. The nation owes us the answer to questions on the future of our prodigies. Is it a crime to be a Hindu or a KP in India? How long must we be allowed to either?

Are we not compatriots? To conclude with, we pray to the almighty God for eternal peace to the departed souls. We pray to him for granting monumental strength to the immediate family, his parents and kith and kin to bear this colossal irreparable loss. We are all here to empathise with them in this hour of spine-breaking crisis. Let us hope we are not made to grieve the loss of any other Rahul Bhat. A fervent appeal to all KP organisations: Let us unite to put up a joint front against terrorism & divisive forces so as to ensure that this community of ours does not become a thing of the past. One leader and one single organisation is the need of the hour. May God save KPs. May God save India. Bharat Mata Ki Jai.

Impasse & woes of PM package employees

■ VIVEK KOUL

Even after the 32 years of forced exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the valley, the ground situation is same as that of the hay days of terrorism during 1990s. The BJP government's tall claims of normalcy in Kashmir have fallen flat amid deteriorating security situation and selective killing of minorities. The perpetrators of violence and hatred in Kashmir are operating with the same mindset as it was operating during 1990s when prominent personalities of Kashmiri Pandit community and other hundreds of innocent KPs were targeted mercilessly. BJP's balloon of normalcy has punctured as the terrorists are continuously targeting Kashmiri Pandits and other minorities in Kashmir thereby making the valley total unsafe for the minorities living there. After the recent barbaric killing of a PM Package employee Rahul Bhat (a Clerk in the Revenue Department) in the office premises by the terrorists at Chadoora, Budgam have sent shock waves across the valley and now the PM Package employees are feeling total unsafe and insecure in the valley. The BJP government must understand this fact that PM package employees are not scapegoats/ sacrificial goats and cannot serve in Kashmir now at the cost of their lives. It was not the first instance of targeted killing, earlier a PM Package employee Deepak Chand was killed by the terrorists in the school premises on the line of duty. A lady Sikh Principal Supinder Kour from the same school was also killed in the office premises while on duty after being singled out by the terrorists. A famous pharmacist Makan Lal Bindroo was also brutally killed by the Islamist terrorists in his shop last year at Srinagar which evoked lot of anger and resentment among the people all over India. Further a number non-locals poor Hindu labourers were also shot dead by the militants in Kashmir which is very sad, disturbing and deplorable. A Rajput Hindu driver was shot by the derailed terrorists in his house at Kakran, Kulgam that too in front of his wife and three daughters. And there are number of such incidents of targeted killings of minorities in Kashmir and the government totally failed to control such barbaric incidents. However, warning letters against Kashmiri Pandits directing them to leave the valley or face death, from some terrorist organisations have also been circulated on various social media platforms. Now the package employees couldn't serve in Kashmir under the fear of gun and there is fear psychosis among them. The BJP government is only experimenting with PM package employees and Kashmiri Pandits continue to be an unheard voice & the reason being a simple one: Kashmiri Pandits are not a vote bank. It is very disturbing phenomenon that LG's administration and the BJP government

is habitual of giving hollow promises to PM Package employees but on the ground zero they have completely failed to safeguard the interests of KP community. It is pertinent to mention here that Late Rahul Bhat was working at the Tehsil headquarters and despite of that he was shot dead by the terrorists in the office. This shows even district and tehsil headquarters are not safe in Kashmir. It is not feasible to provide security to each and every PM package employees. Furthermore, the police personnel are being killed by the terrorists day in day out which itself shows the deteriorating law and order situation in Kashmir. How police personnel can ensure safety and security to all PM package migrant employees that too when these security personnel are not safe in Kashmir? The situation is total out of control and the government's claim of normalcy in Kashmir seems to be utopian. We are seeing daily protests by the PM package employees across the valley demanding the government to transfer all package employees outside the Kashmir valley. These unfortunate Package employees don't want 'Roti, Kapda and Makaan', now they are rightly requesting the centre Government to adjust them outside the Kashmir valley as they are not feeling safe and secure in the valley. It is in place to mention here that J&K is now a Union Territory (UT) like Delhi UT and when the employees of Delhi UT can get transferred to other states then why couldn't these PM Package employees be transferred outside the Kashmir valley. The rules and regulations of transfer are same for the UTs then why the centre Govt is showing step motherly treatment towards Kashmiri Pandits? Further during the Congress rule, when the special employment policy was framed for KPs, a 'bond to serve in Kashmir till retirement' was made the main condition to getting employment. "This clause is in violation of the Constitution of India and a grave human rights violation meant to give them bad sense of being bonded labourer' not an employee. So the centre government must immediately repeal this bond as this bond is un-constitutional and arbitrary. In Kashmir, there is no unity in diversity and terrorists are killing the innocent Hindus unabatedly without any fault of theirs. Kashmiri Pandits and other minorities are becoming the soft targets of these brute forces who are dancing on the tunes of Pakistan. The Rehabilitation of around 7-8 lakh KPs back in the valley is a big plan by providing mere 6000 jobs is not going to rehabilitate KPs back into the valley. PM job package for KPs is a different thing so it should not be seen as a rehabilitation process. The issue of employment is an issue of economic subsistence, the resettlement is a political issue that needs its final solution politically. It is only

because of earning livelihood little percentage of KPs went back to Kashmir on temporary basis for these jobs and these unfortunate sons of soil are living in fear, distress, agony and are being treated as bonded labours by their bosses in Kashmir. Most of the PM Package employees have developed now mental health related ailments like anxiety, stress, bipolar disorder, depression etc due to the non-conducive working environment. But very unfortunately our government seems to be less interested over the issue of targeted killing of KPs and other minorities in Kashmir. The government is habitual of giving false and fake assurances every time when such untoward incident happened. It is the fate of PM Package employees that their genuine demand of transfer to Jammu province has remained unaddressed till date. It is very ironical that even the LG has not listened to the issues of protesting PM Package employees of Budgam, Anantnag, Vesser and many other locations of the valley. Moreover it is very sorry state of affairs the PM package employees who were peacefully protesting for the justice of Rahul Bhat in Budgam have been lathi-charged and beaten up by the police personnel. Even the cops hurled tear gas shells on PM package migrant employees and injured many Kashmiri Pandits who were on peaceful Dharna. It was a heating touch by the government instead of confidence building measures. This is total murder of the democracy. The BJP government has totally failed to rehabilitate KPs during last 8 years of rule. Even this job package for Kashmiri Migrants was given by the Congress government under the Prime Minister-ship of Dr. Manmohan Singh. The transit accommodations at the various places for PM package employees in Kashmir were also the gift of Congress government. BJP government has done nothing good in favour of Kashmiri Pandits and is only playing politics over this issue of rehabilitation of KPs. It is high time now that the JK UT government and centre government must pay attention towards the genuine demands of protesting package employees. The centre government must immediately pass the KP genocide bill in the parliament and one time settlement for all KPs must be implemented soon. Then and only then, rehabilitation of the whole KP community is possible. If the centre and JK UT government is really serious about safeguarding the interests of the Package employees then their long pending demands need to be fulfilled by the government. To cut a long story short, all PM package migrant employees must be adjusted in various departments outside the Kashmir valley till the situation normalizes and one time settlement project of all KP community be put in place.

Celebration of World Bee Day

World Bee Day
May 20



The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India is celebrating World Bee Day on May 20, 2022 at Tent City-II, Ekta Nagar, Narmada, Gujarat. The World Bee Day celebration would be graced by Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The MoA & FW is celebrating this significant day to promote beekeeping for the benefits of small farmers of the country for which the GOI is committed to processed which under the guidance of Prime Minister.

The UN General Assembly declared 20th May as World Bee Day in order to create awareness on the pivotal role of bees and other pollinators in keeping people and the planet healthy and address many challenges in this context. The Union Agricultural Minister will be Chief Guest of this event. Kailash Choudhary and Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Agriculture Minister, Govt of Gujarat, Sushri Mateja Vodeb, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia, Sushri Konda Reddy Chavva, FAO representative of India, senior officers of MoA&FW, GOI and Government of Gujarat & all related stakeholders associated with honey production would participate in the programme. During this celebration, many stalls will be set up by Beekeepers, Processors and different stakeholders of beekeeping sector in the Exhibition to showcase the diverse varieties of honey bee and different products in beekeeping sector. A stall will also be set up by the Indian Bank, the implementing agency for 'Madhukranti' Portal for the live Registration of Beekeepers on the Portal during this event. Technical sessions on 'Production Technology and Research & Development of Scientific Beekeeping-Experience Sharing and Challenges' and 'Marketing Challenges and Solutions (Domestic/ Global) & Discussion' will also be organised to upgrade the scientific knowledge of beekeeping among the farmers/beekeepers.

The programme is aimed at promoting and popularizing beekeeping nation-wide National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) of the Govt. of India under Aatmanirbhar Bharat. The NBHM is implemented through the National Bee Board for overall promotion of scientific beekeeping & entrepreneurship among small & marginal farmers, infrastructure development for postharvest management and support for research & development and to achieve the goal of 'Sweet Revolution'. The Union Agriculture Minister will also inaugurate Honey Testing Lab & Processing Units to be setup in J&K in Pulwama, Bandipora and Jammu, Tumkur in Karnataka, Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh, Pune in Maharashtra & Uttarakhand in virtual mode from Gujarat.