

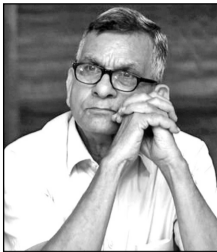
There is a magnet in your heart that will attract true friends. That magnet is unselfishness, thinking of others first; when you learn to live for others, they will live for you. -Paramahansa Yogananda

MAKING YATRA SAFE

The government has come up with slew of measures to enhance the safety of devotees visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Cave Shrine in Reasi District especially after the tragic stampede that snatched away lives of several people during the dawn of the first day of year 2022. In this context, already many steps have been taken to ensure that tragedy as described should not occur again in future. Going a step further, the concerned Shrine Board is now coming up with Radio Frequency Identity Cards (RFID) for pilgrims planning Yatra to Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine to keep a check on flow of devotees and ensure all necessary steps in case of emergencies. This is a good step to enhance safety of the pilgrims as real time assessment will become a reality with this facility. Besides the work on 'Durga Bhawan' capable of housing nearly 2k devotees was also being expedited to prevent any congestion at the revered temple complex as lately the number of devotees visiting the Shrine has increased considerably. For sure, the measures come in the wake of a stampede on New Year's Day in which 12 people lost their lives while 16 others received injuries. This is quite necessary step as the same will ensure that devotees' rush be managed scientifically by monitoring the same through RFID signals. This is part of physical and systematic improvements required after critical examination of the entire Yatra ecosystem. Other key factors which can enhance safety include augmentation of infrastructure, decongestion of the entire track, appropriate use of technology for effective crowd and queue management and proper usage and RFID tracking. Till date highest turnout of pilgrims was witnessed in 2012 when 1.04 crore devotees paid obeisance at the Cave Shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi in Katra. As the COVID-19 pandemic has gone, it is likely that the number of devotees will increase considerably in the coming time and for ensuring the safety of the visiting devotees, it is necessary to take maximum precautions and the aforesaid seems to be the most important one.

13 years of President's rule: What's Jammu's fault?

■ PROF HARI OM



The state of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) came into being on March 16, 1846. That eventful day, Kashmir became part of the mighty Dogra Kingdom under the Treaty of Amritsar, and not the vice-versa. The Treaty was signed between the British East India Company and the Dogra ruler, Maharaja Gulab Singh. The strategic trans-Himalayan Ladakh was already part of the Dogra Kingdom. The Dogra rulers, Gulab Singh (1846-1857), Ranbir Singh (1857-1885), Pratap Singh (1885-1925) and Hari Singh (1925-1947), tried their best to provide a fair, responsive and people-centric administration, notwithstanding the sinister conspiracies the canny imperialist Britons hatched from time to time to destabilize the Dogra rule and promote the London's geo-political interests in the region by befriending and promoting the anti-Dogra communal forces in Kashmir. The Dogra rule continued till October 26, 1947, when the then Maharaja Hari Singh exercised the power vested in him by the Indian Independence Act of 1947 and acceded J&K to the Indian Dominion.

Maharaja Hari Singh's fundamental objectives were two. One was to enable the Nehru Government defeat the newly-created Pakistan's evil design to grab J&K and secure this highly strategic northern region for the nation. The other was to obtain a status the people of Jammu province deserved in the Indian polity. Jammu, unlike Kashmir, was an overwhelmingly Hindu. Did Maharaja Hari Singh, who in the larger interest of the nation and in the interest of the people of J&K suffered huge personal losses, achieve his objectives? The answer is a big NO. The Nehru administration failed the Maharaja. On the one hand, it virtually helped Pakistan annex Ladakh's Gilgit-Baltistan, parts of Jammu province and a part of Kashmir division; cause Hindu and Sikh migration on an unprecedented scale through rape, murder, abduction and oppression; and convert all these areas (PoJK) 100 per cent in no time (October 1947-December 31, 1948) by not allowing the advancing India Army to bring the on-their-run Pakistani invaders - regular and irregular -- to the India's knees. On the other hand, it transferred the state power from Jammu to the Kashmiri's Sheikh Abdullah whose anti-India, anti-Dogra, anti-Kashmiri Hindu and ultra communal credentials were too well-known. The fact is that the Nehru administration jeopardized the nation's interests and threw in the lot of the minorities in the state, including Hindu, Buddhist and Sikh, with the Kashmir's

Sheikh Abdullah and his essentially communal and secessionist National Conference (NC). What happened in J&K after 1947 is too well-known. Suffice it to say that the policy-planners in New Delhi bungled in J&K again, again and yet again. The result was the rise of a situation in Kashmir that left the Narendra Modi Government with no choice but to bring down the Mehbooba Mufti-led PDP-BJP coalition Government in J&K on June 19, 2018 and read down the fundamentally separatist Article 370; abrogate illegal, unconstitutional and discriminatory Article 35A; and bifurcate J&K into UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh on August 5/6, 2019.

Explaining the reasons behind these historic changes, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah told the Parliament that the Modi Government did all this for the national security reasons and to free the discriminated against people of Jammu and Ladakh from the clutches of the Kashmiri leadership, which had misused the separate status for 70 long years to undermine national security, muddy the Indian waters in Kashmir by flirting with and promoting secessionists and deny the people of Jammu and Ladakh even the basic civil, political and economic rights. It is hardly necessary to reflect on the nature of the discriminatory policies the Kashmiri ruling elite devised and implemented ruthlessly between October 1947 and June 2018 to jeopardize even the basic rights and interests people of Jammu and Ladakh and systematically erode their distinct identity and personality to create a Kashmir-like situation with the authorities in the South and North Blocks watching the dangerous games being played by the Kashmiri ruling elite as a mute spectator or overtly siding with and supporting it. The concerned nation is fully aware of what happened in J&K during those 70-odd years. That's the reason the nation celebrated the August 5/6, 2019 reforms as a day of thanks-giving. However, what has escaped its attention is the fact that the people of Jammu and Ladakh also remained under the Central rule for almost 14 long years after 1977 for no fault of their own. Even today, the people of Jammu province are under the Central rule. They have been under the Central rule since June 19, 2018 (almost four years). It needs to be underlined that the erstwhile J&K State remained under the Governor/President rule eight times between March 1977 and February 28, 2015 and the people of J&K have been under Governor/President rule since June 19, 2018 for no fault or for the sins the Kashmiri ruling elite committed to endanger national security. The party politics between the Kashmir-based parties and the ruling parties in New Delhi too led to imposition of Central rule a number of times. J&K for the first time was brought under the Governor's rule on March 17, 1977 and the Central rule contin-

ued till July 9, 1977 (114 days). On March 17, the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi brought down the Sheikh Abdullah government on the ground that it had become a threat to national security. Interestingly, it was she who herself brought down her own party's government and installed the deflated Sheikh Abdullah as J&K Chief Minister in what she called "national interest". Paradoxically, her father Pt J L Nehru had Sheikh dismissed and arrested on August 9, 1953 under the charge of sedition. J&K witnessed Governor's rule for the second time from March 6, 1986 to November 7, 1986 (246 days). The then PM Rajiv Gandhi dethroned Chief Minister G M Shah, son-in-law of Sheikh Abdullah for security reasons. Significantly, it was Shah, who in collaboration with 26 Congress and 12 NC MLAs brought off a coup against Farooq Abdullah's government in July 1984. Actually, the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had dismissed Farooq Abdullah as a "threat to national security" and installed his brother-in-law Shah as CM in the "national interest". The Governor's rule was imposed in J&K for the third time on January 19, 1990 and it remained under the Central rule till October 9, 1996 (six years and 264 days). On January 19, 1990, Farooq Abdullah - whose Congress-supported government had caused wholesale migration of the minuscule minority of Kashmiri Hindus - fled to UK to escape the Muslims' wrath. The Kashmiri Muslims were angry both with the Congress and Farooq Abdullah because they had rigged wholesale the 1987 assembly elections to capture power the state power. Farooq Abdullah returned to Kashmir only on eve of the 1996 assembly elections to become CM.

J&K was brought under the Governor's rule for the fourth time on October 18, 2002 and it continued till November 2, 2002 (15 days). The Governor rule had to be imposed because UPA chief and Congress president Sonia Gandhi and PDP chief Mufti Sayeed & Co took time to forge post-poll alliance to form government and as the defeated NC's Farooq Abdullah refused to continue as caretaker CM. Sonia Gandhi finally agreed to install the Mufti as CM in the 'national interest' for a period of three years.

The Governor's rule was again imposed in J&K on July 11, 2008 and it continued till January 5, 2009 (178 days). The Governor's rule had to be imposed because Ghulam Nabi Azad's coalition government resigned on July 7, 2008 after it lost majority in the assembly. Earlier, on June 28, 2002, the PDP withdrew its support to the Azad government on the ground that it allotted a small piece of land at Baltal (Kashmir) to the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board on a temporary basis for the creation of additional facilities for the Amarnath pilgrims. Ghulam Nabi Azad -- backed to the hilt by the Manmohan Singh UPA govern-

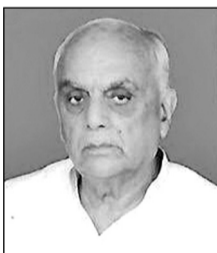
ment and J&K Governor N N Vohra -- did violate the J&K High Court's clear direction and snatched from the Shrine Board the Baltal land to save his government and please and appease the secessionists and fanatics in Kashmir but with no result. J&K was brought under the Governor's rule for the sixth time on January 9, 2015 because the comprehensively defeated NC's Omar Abdullah refused to continue as caretaker CM and it continued till February 28, 2015 (51 days). Omar Abdullah had been appointed CM by AICC Chief Sonia Gandhi for a full term of six years in what she had called "national interest". The Central rule had to be imposed on January 9 because the BJP and the PDP took time to forge post-poll alliance and formulate what's called the PDP-BJP Agenda of Alliance. The BJP handed over the office of CM to Mufti Sayeed for a full term of six years on March 1, 2015, despite the fact that both the B-JP+ and the PDP had equal number of seats in the assembly. Governor's rule was imposed for the seventh time on January 7, 2016 following the death of CM Mufti Sayeed and it continued till April 3, 2016 (56 days). J&K had to be kept under the Governor's rule because both the BJP leadership and Mehbooba Mufti and her coterie took such a long time to prepare power-sharing formula. It was anti-India and anti-Jammu Mehbooba Mufti who carried the day. She took over as CM on April 4, 2016 but was removed from office by the Narendra Modi Government on June 19, 2018 for the national security reasons. Ever since, Jammu has been under the Central rule. What does all this suggest? It suggests that it was the secessionist leadership in Kashmir; and not the people of Jammu province, which was, and is, responsible for the imposition of Central in J&K at regular intervals. Why should the people of Jammu province suffer for the sins, misdeeds and anti-national acts of the Valley leadership? They must be empowered to exercise the democratic right so that they elect a government of their own choice. But this is possible only if the Narendra Modi Government is willing appreciate that the commitment of the people of Jammu province to the nation is unflinching and the Kashmiri leadership utterly dependable and untrustworthy. The statements emanating from Kashmir prove that. It's hoped that the Modi Government would appreciate the ground situation as it exists in Jammu province and Kashmir. The best thing for it to do would be to de-link Jammu from Kashmir; make Kashmir Chandigarh-like UT and grant Jammu statehood and hold elections so that the people of Jammu province elect their own government. To do so or to continue to tag Jammu with Kashmir will only further weaken the nationalist constituency in Jammu and help the secessionists in Kashmir accomplish what they have failed to accomplish so far: creation of Kashmir-like situation in Jammu.

RIGHT SPIRIT

The way the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has declared that no one will be allowed to create disturbances in Jammu and Kashmir is the right spirit because the current spell of terrorism can only be ended by aggressive posturing as it has been seen that defensive approach is not that efficient. Taking a step forward, the Lieutenant Governor has pledged to eliminate terrorism and its ecosystem in the Union Territory. As LG Sinha has affirmed his resolve to end vicious cycle of violence in J&K, there is dire need that people should also cooperate in this fight against terrorism because ultimately they are the one who are affected due to this scourge either directly or indirectly. The point raised by LG Sinha is quite significant that youth in J&K should isolate those giving shelter and support to the terrorists who actually are the enemies of humanity. It is time for one and all in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to uphold peace and harmony and defeat the forces of disruption threatening human lives. For this, people can help administration by acting as its ears and eyes and sharing any information which can prove useful for apprehending or eliminating the terror mongers and their supporters. Already many soldiers have sacrificed their lives to uphold country's unity and territorial integrity and the endeavour is still continuing with soldiers fighting terrorism both in hinterland as well as borders with Pakistan. The situation lately has become grim with terrorists attacking soft targets and killing people belonging to minorities thus calling for an all out attempt to end this violence once and for all. The people should stand shoulder to shoulder with government in its resolve to restore complete peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. A few days back, the LG has asserted that the work is on to dismantle the entire ecosystem of terror in J&K and today's assurance is step forward in the same direction showing the strong resolve of the government in restoring complete peace. It is known to all that terror mongers involved in targeted killings have already been eliminated with no exceptions thus making it amply clear that what the LG is saying about eliminating all terrorists is true to the hilt and soon this will become a reality.

Gupkar Alliance & its crocodile tears

■ P L KHUSHU



The self-styled People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) has urged Kashmiri Pandit employees not to leave the Valley as it was their home and it would be painful for all, after the community demanded their relocation following the killing of Rahul Bhat. What a joke with KPs, who are now shedding crocodile tears for Kashmiri Pandits. While as this hollow alliance was nick-named by some people as Gupkar Gang, but decent cult of journalism does not demand to call it a 'Gang', which is always a constituent of persons of variegated speech and falsified minds, most of the times trying to take recourse to unnecessary aggression towards others. The behavioural approach of this gathering of just three or four persons, has often reciprocated their thinking with repulsive approach, based on imaginary and negative optimism detrimental to the cohesive culture of secular character of Jammu and Kashmir which has still some base, though diluted to its funeral with the mass exodus and killings of Kashmiri Pandits, for which these very persons are responsible if not by design, but by default. Their conspicuous and mysterious silence at the time of the genocide and the mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the valley at the hands of the Islamic fundamentalists, Jihadis, borrowed for this purpose from across the border with silent abetment of some sections of Muslim society of the valley, speaks volumes about their hidden role in the mass massacre and displacement of Kashmiri Pandits from their original places of homes and hearths. The breast beating of Gupkar Alliance, now at this stage for the Pandits of the valley has probably again some diplomatic intentions to exploit the devastated conditions of the Pandits, for want of their home land. Probably with such ludicrous statements at this point of time is probably a ploy of these politicians of Kashmir; to make a dreadful scenario about the security of KP's in valley so that they dare not venture to get settled back in the valley. One of the leaders of this Gupkar Parlor says that while a Kashmiri Pandit has been killed, alongside a police man too has been killed. Should it mean that their call to the migrant Kashmiri Pandit employees is with a rider that they can be killed too? Before deliberating further on Gupkar Alliance statement for the migrant employees not to leave the valley, let it be analyzed as to what constitutes the 'Gupkar Alliance'. Is it a real conglomerate body of the actual representatives of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who could claim to have a distinct mandate to issue specific statement or statements in the interest of the public or for public use? It is a congregation of hardly five or six persons, when most of them belong to one family only. The major participants are the father, son and the sister's son trio. Similarly, a member or two from PDD and some members of parliament who owe allegiance to NC. Equally there is a senior member of another political party in it. There is no other cognizant member from the civil society of Kashmir in it. Similarly, this group has hardly any prominent member from Jammu who could be rated as a politician of repute in this alliance, when it could be authoritatively called as the "People's Alliance". This alliance is the alliance of those very political leaders who have ruled Jammu and Kashmir for almost decades with dynastic base and are thus evidently squarely responsible for the mass exodus of the Kashmiri Pandits in 1990 from the valley along with being the silent spectators of the brutal genocide on the KPs at the hands of the terrorists. It is does not need any proof to say that some of the most senior

members of this alliance who were heads of the governments of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir after the terrorism erupted in the valley and around, these politicians cajoled and mocked the return and the rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Pandits in clusters to be accommodated at secured locations in the valley. "Quoting from their press statements in this regard, The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) urged Kashmiri Pandit employees not to leave the Valley as it was their home and it would be painful for all, after the community demanded their relocation following the killing of Rahul Bhat. The appeal by the PAGD was made after a delegation led by its president and former Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah met LG Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhawan. The meeting was over the issue of security of Kashmiri Pandit employees in the aftermath of killing of Bhat. Briefing reporters after the meeting, PAGD spokesperson, M Y Tarigami, said the Valley is as much the home of Kashmiri Pandits as it is of Kashmiri Muslims. "We appeal to them that this nation is yours as well as mine. Do not leave your home. It is very painful for you and us," he said. He said if Kashmiri Pandits want to leave Kashmir in the wake of Bhat's killing, then what about the families of slain Kashmiri Muslims. "If Rahul was killed, Riyaz (a policeman) was also killed. Where will Riyaz's family and relatives go? You (Kashmiri Pandits) do not have to leave your home. This is your home, this is my home. We will bear this tragedy together and try to safeguard each other," he said. Probably after the delimitation exercise is over and it gets the nod of the parliament, the elections are probably on cards in this union territory. As such these leaders have started to choose a path of friendliness towards the KPs and exhibit solidarity with them for election consumption across the union territory as also across the country as a whole. Their statement which is full of agonizing and wound inflicting words now ask the KPs, that let us live together. Where were they so far, for these last 32 years of great anguish and despair of KPs? In fact they should feel shy to issue statements as they are the people responsible for creating hurdles and bottlenecks in the proper rehabilitation of KP's back in the valley when in the past during their rules they opposed tooth and nail the proposal of the rehabilitation of KPs in secured clusters in the valley. Let us ask these leaders who were chief ministers amongst them for long periods after the terrorism invaded Jammu and Kashmir; as to what measures did they take to bring back KP's back to valley during their tenures as chief ministers. How many economic packages of getting the KP youth jobs in Kashmir were introduced by them during their rules. Did these leaders who are now bragging about the plight of the KP migrant employees' safety ever visit the migrant camps of KP's in Jammu, Udhampur or Katua. No never. Why so. Yes due to their vote bank politics as general masses in Kashmir would get annoyed with them. The dark night of January 19, 1990, shivering with cold, is remembered by all KP's, as it was the worst nightmare for the Kashmiri Pandits living in the valley. Screaming from loud speakers and crowded streets was a message for KP's living in Kashmir; which said, Ralive, Tsaliv, Neti- Galiv. (It meant that either convert to Islam or leave Kashmir and in the alternative face death). Even after about 31 years, Kashmiri Pandits shiver remembering the night which forced them into exodus and a life of exile within their own country. Jehadi cum communal speeches from mosques were put on loud speakers meant for 'Azan & Namaz', which would say 'Yeti- Bani Pakistan, Bhatov Bhegeer the Bhaten-San', meaning there in that the Kashmiri will become a Pakistan without male Kashmiri Pandits, but including women folk of Kashmiri Pandits. The prominent prey

in this regard among Kashmiri Pandits were the persons of immense repute, writers, community elders, legal luminaries, press and media personalities, government officers/officials who were on prominent positions in the state administration or were known prominently. Where were all these leaders that night or on subsequent such occasions. They would usually say that Kashmiri Pandits were made to leave the Valley by the then Governor Jagmohan. Why did not all such secular half patriots stop KP's from fleeing from the valley. How many strikes, protests and public gatherings did they hold against the migration of KPs? How many statements in the shape of admonishments did they release against the terrorists responsible for the mass exodus and genocide of KPs? How many terrorism affected were sheltered by these opportunist dynasty-based leaders in their own homes as a measure of social good will and sympathy. One of the political leaders of a prominent political party in July 2016 said on the floor of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly about Kashmiri Pandits return to valley that they (Kashmiri Pandits) cannot return to their original homes in the current atmosphere. "This political leader likened their home coming to 'throwing pigeons among cats'. This speaks enough about the communal passion and kinetic gritty of sick mind of such Kashmiri leaders about the members of KP's community. Kashmiri Pandits are highly obliged and thankful to Jammu and its people who accommodated them with warmth in Jammu, in that hour of their devastation, where they could find a first place of solace to exist and live. Even as on day most of the displaced KPs are now living in Jammu and its surroundings with the passionate coverage of Jammu people. All the KPs are thus very much indebted to the people of Jammu in this regard. It is now a full-fledged ethnic cleansing of the Pandits from the valley? One of the apex leader of Peoples Democratic Party said very recently that Kashmir Pandit employee, Rahul Bhat's killing is being used to spread hatred between Hindus and Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir. What a diseased statement from the mouth a leader known to be head of a political party. Now after visualizing the uproar in the country after seeing the movie 'The Kashmir Files' the frustration of some of such top political leaders from Kashmir have started bullying the makers of this film which is showing the actual genocide and devastation of KP's due to terrorism in Kashmir. A prominent political leader of Kashmir recently called The Kashmir Files a propaganda movie and said that the violence of 1990 affected Hindus and Muslims alike. He slammed Vivek Agnihotri and 'The Kashmir Files' - calling it a propaganda movie. This has been the attitude of these political leaders towards the plight and the miseries of the displaced and genocide faced KP's. In fact, while being in power in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, these leaders could have got a commission of enquiry instituted about the genocide and the mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the valley. They did not do so, as with their conspicuous silence about such a tragedy of KPs, right from the start of such a tragedy, they suspect that they will be held as silent abettors of this genocide of KPs, if not by design, but by default equally. These handful leaders of a chosen small gathering living in the cozy green pastures of Gupkar an elite location of Srinagar, should not show any sympathy towards Kashmiri Pandits now, when much water has flown down river Jhelum after the genocide of Kashmiri Pandits.

(The author is a Chartered Consultant Civil Engineer, who loves his motherland the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir).

Significance Of Human Birth

giving medicine to your brother and tonic to my son.

Boss said, "there's a bank open till 12 o'clock, now it's 10 o'clock. Take this money and get the bank draft done. I've an urgent meeting, I've to take it there. Go on the scooter and come quickly."

Manager said, "Don't worry. I will go and come quickly."

When the manager didn't come till 12 o'clock, boss got worried. The manager's phone wasn't even reachable. Boss sat down holding his head. The manager came at around 1 o'clock. Before Boss could say anything...

Manager said, "Sir! When I was going towards the bank, I saw your mother. I asked her where was she going. She told that she had to bring grocery items. I made her sit on the scooter and after buying all the things, dropped her home."

Boss said, "That is fine, but give the bank draft immediately."

Manager told, "Sir, listen to me. Your elder brother was outside the house going to take medicine. He told me his problem that he didn't have any vehicle at that time. I went to get medicine for him. There I remembered that I had to take tonic for my son too. I've come now after

giving medicine to your brother and tonic to my son.

Boss said again, "That's fine, give the bank draft quickly."

Manager said, "Sir! It didn't even exist, because the bank was closed."

Now you tell me that will the boss be happy with such a manager? The manager did nothing wrong. He helped everyone. Helping an old person and giving medicine to the sick, both are charity. Even though the manager helped boss's family members, boss wasn't happy. Why?

Because, the manager didn't do the work for which his boss had sent him. Similarly, our sages told us through the scriptures that human birth will be successful only by worshipping God because God has given us this birth only to attain Him. Eating, sleeping, protecting and mating are all that even animals do. Human life isn't only for these things.

We humans should understand that we've come from God, in God, by God, and God is our only rescue. That's why living for God becomes our only duty, otherwise there's no difference between us and animals, but in many cases we are worse than animals.

Sri B V Vishnu Maharaj