

## CABINET's APPROVAL AWAITED

In the series of its endeavours to steer the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir ahead on the path of prosperity and growth besides taking it at par with other developed states and UTs, the present Government has taken numerous significant initiatives which are really praiseworthy. It is really a matter of fact that the unprecedented development spree initiated across the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir was earlier never witnessed by the people during more than seven decades of independence. It is only after the historic decisions taken by the Government on August 5, 2019 regarding abrogation of articles 370 and 35A from the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir that an effective and accountable working system was ensured in the newly created Union Territory so that all the development schemes and welfare policies of the Government are implemented in letter and spirit without any laxity. In the present hour, where on one hand several projects related to improve infrastructure are going on in an expeditious manner and are near completion, several new are in the pipeline for realizing the vision of the Government to make Union Territory a 'Naya Jammu & Kashmir'. In this regard, as per the reports pouring in, the much-awaited project to start Metro services in the twin capital cities, under the name of MetroLite, is all set to be presented before the Union Cabinet for necessary approval as the same has been cleared by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MoHUA) after Public Investment Board (PIB). Pertinent to mention here that the project was likely to be approved by the Cabinet in February this year but it got delayed due to some official formalities and now, after completion of the same, it is expected that the same would be launched very soon. Further it has also been reported that the proposal to extend the metro services up to AIIMS Vijaypur has been halted for the time and it is proposed to be taken up in next phase as for now the metro line in Jammu will be made functional from Bantalab to Bari Brahma with 22 stations on 23 Km length. To be completed at an estimated cost of Rs 10,599 crore, the MetroLite project will provide a great relief to the commuters besides helping in easing the smooth flow of traffic in both the capital cities.

## VIDYA SHAKTI SCHOLARSHIP

Few years back, before the inception of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the education system in the erstwhile state was not so good due to which students used to suffer a lot and were unable to compete with their counterparts from other states and UTs in various competitive exams. But soon after taking over the reins of the affairs of Jammu and Kashmir, the Government, as a part of its reformative spree, initiated a number of steps to upgrade the system. Not only, the educational institutions were provided adequate manpower for teaching the students but several new schemes were also launched to provide financial assistance and support to deserving candidates for pursuing higher studies without any problem. The Government laid special stress on education of women and launched a number of specifically formulated schemes to make the womenfolk literate and self-dependent, which is a must for realizing the dream of women empowerment. It is only due to the strenuous efforts of the present dispensation, that at present women of J&K are not only excelling in every sector but also running their set ups with full support and assistance of Government. In this regard, recently, the Union Territory administration launched a scheme- Vidya Shakti Scholarships, wherein almost 1500 girl students, from various degree colleges of Jammu and Kashmir, would be awarded scholarships to undergo technology driven, high-quality online skilling programmes in cutting edge technologies like digital marketing, data science, artificial intelligence and many others. As per details, the higher education department of J&K and upGrad foundation, a not-for-profit division of Edtech company upGrad, have jointly launched the initiative for providing cent per cent fee waiver to deserving female students for undergoing the high-tech courses. Pertinent to mention here that this initiative will not only be restricted to online courses and scholarship but will go a long way to provide an all-encompassing education experience with added benefits like one-on-one mentoring and learning and guidance through webinars and talks to the girl students of Union Territory. It is expected that the initiative will give a major boost to the Government's endeavours to provide high-quality education facilities to the girl students of J&K for making them self-dependent and empowered in real sense.

## OFF 'D' CUFF

### True Dharma is Not Religion, Cult, Or Path

Dharma is not a sampradaya, cult, panth, path; or a mind-created religion. Dharma is the guna, attribute, Nature has bestowed on every creation -- matter and being. The guna of salt is saltiness; it remains salty even if it is washed or crushed. A sandalwood tree has a unique fragrance, fruits have their distinct flavours and juices -- their guna, dharma, which cannot be altered.

Man is also created by Nature, so he has to be true to his particular gunas. The dharma of man is to manifest divine qualities, be compassionate, and create beauty and harmony all around. And he is equipped with the intelligence to be thoughtful, sensitive, concerned and considerate about the welfare of all.

A child, by nature, will smile at others and reach out to play even if someone approaches him with maligned intentions. That child-like simplicity and trust form the basic nature of every

being. These are sanatan, natural qualities, the guna dharma, as stated in the Bhagwad Gita. To remind, resurrect and establish this, avatars manifest from time to time. They lead by being an example so that man does not lose his manavata -- humanity.

The dharma of man is shashwat, sanatan satya -- eternal and perpetual truth. Human-created religions usually enslave one to certain ideologies and philosophies. Real dharma is true spirituality that directs and propels one on the path of growth and evolution.

Man is made of five elements, and the qualities of these are to be reflected in the conduct of the being.

These qualities are basic instincts, gunas, that form the manav or human dharma, which need not be soiled by mind tactics.

Religious followers take pride in belonging to a particular religion, and being a real and good human is not their focus.

Meena Om

Just think of any negativity that comes at you as a raindrop falling into the ocean of your bliss.

-Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

## EDITORIAL

# Relocation-only viable solution for PM Employment Package employees

■ ON KOUL

The members of Kashmiri Pandit community serving under PM Employment Package are not demanding sun, moon or other unattainable things which cannot be accepted because of being impractical. These unfortunate employees are only demanding their relocation outside the Kashmir valley for their survival as they stand frightened and feel scared and fear in the valley as there is perpetual threat to their life and limb and dignity in Kashmir where they feel oppressed and suffocated as they work under threat, tension and duress so their relocation to Jammu division and other states of the country is the only feasible and viable solution to their problems. The lollipops and sugar coated pills of resolving their service matters and problems as well as the issue of promotions are secondary and their primary demand is relocation & it is a genuine demand. It is not unreachable and unattainable so why is the BJP government of centre and the LG administration of Jammu & Kashmir is insensitive and indifferent to their genuine demand of relocation outside the Kashmir valley. The PM Employment Package employees are demanding and are begging for their life and so the government should accept their only demand of relocation which is a justified demand of these hapless employees and therefore without wasting time the powers should accede to their genuine demand of temporary adjustment outside the Kashmir valley. The hapless PM Employment Package employees are working under continuous threat to their precious lives as they are becoming cannon fodder to the guns of the terrorists and therefore they should be relocated so that their genuine concerns are addressed and they are saved from the gun-tottering terrorists who are after their lives as some of them have been killed while performing their duties and the government has miserably failed to provide fool proof security to the migrant employees. The LG has assured security to the PM Employment Package employees but it is impossible to provide the security to all the PM Employment Package employees and their families. The Divisional Commissioner,

Kashmir and IGP of Kashmir has said that the PM Employment Package employees are the soft targets of the terrorists and they should protest inside their camps and this is enough to conclude that the lives of the PM Employment Package employees are under continuous threat as there is great risk to their lives and so they should be relocated to safer places outside the Kashmir. So if BJP government is really interested in wellbeing and security of the PM Employment Package employees, it should accept their genuine and only demand of relocation outside the valley but the government seems reluctant to accept this genuine demand of the PM Employment Package employees. The centre government of BJP and the LG administration should not make relocation of PM package employees a matter of ego and thus they should pay a heed to the only and basic demand of the relocation of the package employees and without further delay accept the demand of the relocation of PM package employees. The relocation of the package employees is the panacea for all the problems and ills of the package employees and therefore the powers should order their relocation to safe places outside the Kashmir where they feel frightened and oppressed and hence demand their relocation to safer places outside the Kashmir so that they can perform their duties without any fear and tension because in the valley these unfortunate package employees are working under threat and duress and so they demand their adjustment outside Kashmir to save their lives. The BJP which claims to be the saviour of the uprooted Kashmiri Pandits should come to the rescue of the package employees belonging to Pandit community and at the earliest order their adjustment outside the Kashmir valley so that their precious lives are saved from the cruel hands of the terrorists who are on their prowl. Therefore there is substance and genuineness in the demand of the relocation of the package employees as in Kashmir they are exposed to greater risks of selective and targeted killings as the ground conditions are not conducive for their living and working in the valley and so their demand of relocation outside the valley is genuine and as

## Idea of India-from Union of States to a Nation

■ M R LALU

There have been attempts aplenty to differentiate the existence and the idea that India represents from multiple angles. The controversial one that has gained prominence in the recent days is to narrate the idea which is India, as a union of states. And they, who confirm to be convinced to call India a Union of states, are totally against the idea of a nation. They take the constitution as the rock base document to define this argument and take instances of integration of different princely states into the national administration, post independence. From a peripheral view this argument appears to gain currency. But the ethnicity of a landscape that remained a geographically united cultural entity for millennia loses its charm as the arguments to establish it as a union of states to what the constitution defines it for the sake of administrative ease. Can the constitution discover or at least define the soul of a nation, particularly a country such as India which owns a great tradition of cultural upbringing that it cherished beyond the modern boundaries. This needs a seriously genuine debate. Beyond politics, a civilisational aspect which is dormant behind the existence of a country remains a reality and attempts to break it for petty monetary gains are dangerous.

Centuries of invasions and the scars that they brought to the collective psyche get revamped every generation. Probably, as a country we were successful in glorifying the brutality that the invasion had on this land and the invaders are still eulogized to be heroes. At present, the majoritarianism which is aggressively blamed and debated across the country has mostly been an output of the historical brutalities and the rejections and denials that followed in an independent India by deliberately concealing the struggles and hardships to counter the invasions. A new generation, ignorant of the historicity of bravery that its ancestors fought with, against the brutal invading force is natural to dig deeper into the concealed realities and excavate the debris of its lost identity. To understand India, it is necessary to go beyond the politically discovered concept of 'union of states' and embrace the cultural ethos that enshrined in the soul of India, and avoiding which, not only the present generation, but the generations to come would also remain confused and incompetent to sublimate the rigidity with which we distorted the idea that India represents. Rahul Gandhi's subjugating remarks by accentuating and projecting India as a mere conglomeration of states naturally puts his intelligence into test and reveals the depth of his ignorance on the cultural dimensions which he failed to study. To reduce a living civilisational reality to a civic nation cannot be wholesome but a futile practice to assess the land in terms of its geological components and give it a mere political image. The civilization that India represented for almost five thousand years remains indisputably accurate and the global community accepts and appreciates its Vedic heritage. The hatred that we spew out on a daily basis, especially between the Hindus and the Muslims is mainly due to the ignorance and the

confusion of what, as a country India stands for or a deliberate and a well calibrated conspiracy for not paying attention to the spiritual essence which we inherited from our ancestry irrespective of the religious differences. India's contribution to pluralism and multiculturalism has been so solid that every religious ideology could successfully find its place to flourish though some of them landed with sword and acrimony. This cannot be understood with a semi-arrogance and the veracity of India being truly secular has not come through a constitutional injection. It cannot survive naturally without being secular as its basic cultural outlook is secular; accepting all the different views and extracting the best in them. This was the reason why India never found joy in entering any other territory by force or expanding its land though it had been connected with a large part of the world socially, economically and culturally for centuries. It is true that a political entity, to call India, came into existence after 1947 but its constitutional values such as respecting the diversity and democratic principles always existed here well before it became a British colony. The geographical existence of India being a glorious land was found in Vedic literature and probably, nobody, except those from the ancient times deserve the royalty for the discovery of the secular essence that India stands for. So India never existed as a mere conglomeration of boundaries, but a Rashtra - a nation which is a civilisational entity. What we own today is the fallacy that our intellect has been deliberately engraved on. An attempt to define the idea of India as a mere geographical landscape, politically alive by the mercy of a constitutional mechanism would be the repetition of a historical wrong and what we frequently miss out is the nationalism which should have been essentially strengthened by the ancient spiritual wisdom. The widening distance and disagreements between religions in India is sure to exercise its precariousness when it comes to the existence of a nation. Digging up the past could not have happened, if the past was documented for the future generations with genuineness. From Babri to Gyanvapi, the reason that is playing out behind all the irrational controversies is the partiality with which the history was codified, extolling somebody and demonizing someone else. The apt vocabulary that the history should have been genuinely presented with was the truth of suppression, invasion and bloodshed along with the tribulations and the bravery with which such attempts were barricaded. This is what is missing and the dejection that it triggered has mainly arm-twisted the country into a majoritarian build-up. A genuine curiosity to regain what is lost when the country was captured and tortured by alien forces and reinstate the reality to its ancient glory is the attempt behind the resurrection of monuments in India justified as. To end the controversy, we need to go beyond the political interpretations of India and understand its national essence and reason out its distorted ancestry and regain it amicably suitable to the modern age.

## YOUR COLUMN

### Listen to woes of PM package employees

Dear Editor:

The current situation in Kashmir is neither feasible nor conducive for the Kashmiri Pandits who are selected under the special job package. The PM Package employees went on streets and are protesting for justice in the Kashmir valley from the last 14 days after the terrorists shot dead an employee Rahul Bhat in a broad day light and that too in the office premises. He was working as a clerk under PM Employment Package in the Tehsil Office Chadoora, Budgam. The unfortunate and brutal killing of Rahul Bhat by the terrorists has sent shock waves across the entire J&K UT. Thus, the ethnic cleansing and genocide remains unabated. It is to be seen that the minorities are being targeted in Kashmir by these brute forces and thus now all PM package employees are feeling insecure, unsafe and total distraught. The PM package employees are being held as hostage by the policy makers to the regressive communal forces. The agitating PM package employees are requesting the government to relocate them outside the Kashmir valley which is the only viable solution at this juncture. However, the government's tall claims of normalcy in Kashmir has

fallen flat as the terrorists are selectively killing the minorities and other innocent people in Kashmir & thus fear psychosis has enveloped all Package employees. The PM package employees in particular are more vulnerable and thus cannot serve in Kashmir under the fear of gun. Even the IGP Kashmir has said that KPs have become now soft targets of these inimical forces. However, the PM package employees working in different departments across the valley are feeling much worried, tense, insecure, frustrated and dismayed. It is true that the government has assured them of providing security but at the same time it is not feasible on ground zero to provide security to all Package employees every time and everywhere. In Kashmir, these Package employees are living like caged pigeons from the last 10 years and there is total insecurity outside the transit accommodations. So if the government is really serious about safeguarding the interests of KPs then the centre government must immediately pass KP genocide bill in the parliament and also one time settlement plan for the whole KP community must also be put in place. The PM package employees can only serve in Kashmir when the whole KP community is resettled back in valley with full dignity and honour. Till then the government must relocate all the PM package employees outside Kashmir valley in order to stop any further bloodshed due to targeted killings.

Vivek Koul,  
Jammu

## Progressing Jammu & Kashmir Purple Mission brings fortunes for farmers in J&K Doda district achieves tremendous results under Aroma Mission

Cultivation of lavender has changed fortunes of farmers in Jammu and Kashmir under 'Aroma Mission' or Purple Revolution', an initiative of Centre government towards transforming lives of UT's farmers' community. Pertinently, Purple or Lavender Revolution was launched in 2016 by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology through the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research's (CSIR) Aroma Mission. The aim of the mission is to support domestic aromatic crop-based agro-economy by moving from imported aromatic oils to homegrown varieties.

Lavender cultivation is practiced in almost all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Under the mission, first-time farmers were given free lavender saplings while those who had cultivated lavender before were charged Rs. 5-6 per sapling. Farmers are happy with farming of unconventional aromatic plants under Aroma Mission. The mission promotes cultivation of aromatic crops for essential oils that are in great demand by the aroma industry.

In J&K, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu (IIM Jammu) are the two bodies responsible for taking the Aroma Mission forward. The CSIR Aroma Mission is envisaged to bring transformative change in the aroma sector through desired interventions in the areas of agriculture, processing and product development for fuelling the growth of aroma industry and rural employment. It is expected to enable Indian farmers and the aroma industry to become global leaders in the production and export of some other essential oils in the pattern of menthol mint.

According to the Lavender farmers, the selling of at least one ltr of its oil fetches them Rs 10,000. The farmers say that lavender grown over one hectare of land gives them a minimum of 40 lts of lavender oil. Lavender water, which separates from lavender oil, is used to make incense sticks. Hydrosol, which is formed after distillation from the flowers, is used to make soaps and room fresheners.

An official of IIM-Jammu farmers get help from IIM-Jammu to sell their produce. Many private companies also procure lavender extracts from the farmers. Notably, Doda district is leading the way and four distillation units have been set up by CSIR-IIM Jammu in the district. Farmers from remote areas of district Doda reach these plants for extraction of lavender oil. More than 800 progressive farmers of Doda have adopted aromatic cultivation which is now proved out to be profitable. On February 9, 2021, CSIR-IIM Jammu announced Aroma Mission phase 2 after the success of the first phase during a grand launch function. The mission was aimed at to increase lavender cultivation to 1,500 hectares till 2024. Farmers from Uttarakhand, Nagaland and Assam attended the event. Impressed by the success of Doda's lavender farmers, the Uttarakhand authorities invited some of them to train their farmers. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has formed an FPO (Farmer Producer Organization) at many places to provide end-to-end support and services to the Lavender farmers, and cover technical services, marketing, processing and other aspects of cultivation inputs. To speed up production of lavender saplings for meeting the growing demand, the department of agriculture production and farmers welfare has sponsored naturally ventilated semi-high-tech poly green houses, where saplings will be grown scientifically which will eventually help in bringing more area under lavender farming in less time.