

TRANSPARENCY IN WAQF BOARD

Taking a cue from the mega reformative spree initiated by the ruling dispensation to improve the working of every sector and Government department in J&K, especially after the bifurcation of the erstwhile State into two Union Territories, many other social and religious organisations are also following the same steps and taking several significant decisions for bringing transparency and accountability in their working so that they can serve the masses in a much better way without any chance of misconduct or misappropriation of funds. The Waqf Board of Jammu & Kashmir is one such organisation which is responsible for the upkeep and welfare of various ancient shrines and other religious places located across the length and breadth of the Union territory. Further, keeping proper check on the donations at these shrines and to ensure that the money thus accumulated is spent only for welfare of shrine, providing facilities to pilgrims besides welfare of people, also comes under the domain of Waqf Board. But, during the last few years, like other department and sectors, the board was also lacking necessary check and accountability, thereby raising several questions on its working and management. Soon after formation of Union territory, necessary changes were made in the managements of all such boards, with induction of several new faces having a honest and stain-free background, which not only gave the much necessary boost to these organisations but also improved their working significantly. The Waqf Board, during its meeting on Thursday, has taken several new decisions, not only for welfare of shrines but also to ensure several facilities to pilgrims, which were earlier missing from years. During the meeting, where it was decided to hold counting of donation boxes in all shrines under camera surveillance supervised by the Board representative along with officials from bank and police to establish transparency, on the other hand it was also decided to switch-over to online transactions for any purchase or expenditure. Moreover, now the board has also decided to make necessary arrangements for receiving donations online, so that people can contribute without any problem. The members also accorded necessary approval to construction of a first-ever modern Cancer Hospital in J&K. These people-friendly decisions by the Board show that very soon, it would emerge as a productive organization working for welfare of masses besides revival of our spiritual traditions.

DECLINING IMR

In its series of initiatives to ensure quality healthcare facilities for the resident of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, the Government has taken numerous significant steps in the recent past, which are now yielding the positive results as desired. It is only due to dedicated efforts of the administration and the far-sighted vision of Government, that now the people of Union territory are getting quality healthcare services, that too at affordable prices and at their doorsteps. On one side, where the existing health institutes are being upgraded with ultra-modern facilities on the other hand, several new prestigious projects are near completion and will be dedicated to the people very soon. It is only due to serious implementation of the various schemes and other healthcare programmes in letter & spirit that the Union Territory is now emerging at top in the list, in comparison to several other states and UTs. In this regard, as per the latest reports, the Union Territory has witnessed unprecedented decline in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) during last one year, which is really a matter of satisfaction. Pertinent to mention here that IMR in Jammu & Kashmir has witnessed a decline from 20 to 17 in just a year, which is far better than the IMR's national average, which stands at 28 as per Sample Registration System (SRS) 2020 report released by Registrar General of India (RGI-SRS). It needs to be mentioned here that IMR is a crucial health indicator, which indicates number of deaths of children up to one year of age against per 1000 live births. It is only due to dedicated efforts of the healthcare employees, especially those working under National Health Mission (NHM), who worked hard in ensuring necessary medical facilities and awareness among people, in rural and far-flung belts as well, for well-being of new-borns and expecting mothers, that IMR has witnessed such a significant decline. The further good thing is that the Department for Health & Medical Education is still putting in place persistent & tireless efforts so that essential neonatal care is not only kept restricted to few selected health institutes but is made available at all Government health institutions across the Union Territory without any failure, so that the coming generations can enjoy a healthy and disease-free life.

OFF 'D' CUFF

Sadhana Frees Us From The Bondage Of Prakriti

Sadhana, intuitional practice, can be learnt from a sadhguru, great preceptor. And, emancipation can be obtained by its systematic practice. Nothing can be achieved by merely depending on the preceptor without doing sadhana. Everyone should carry out intuitional practice.

Some people are under the wrong impression that they do not have to make an effort and that they will attain emancipation due to the grace of the preceptor.

To deserve the grace of the sadguru, one has to follow the system of intuitional practice with devotion and faith, and not assume that the great preceptor will freely give everything without any effort on the part of the disciple.

Some people think that since they are disciples of a great preceptor and the sadguru has come to elevate the fallen, the preceptor will take them all along when leaving, in the same way as a cowherd gathers all grazing cattle before leaving the pasture at dusk. This way of thinking

Shrii Shrii Anandamurtiji

The will is not free-it is a phenomenon bound by cause and effect-but there is something behind the will which is free.

-Swami Vivekananda

EDITORIAL

Terrorists can't kill art

■ OKMAR DATTATRAY

The art cannot be killed and intimidated by the terrorists, though there is no doubt that the terrorists can kill and silence the artist but cannot intimidate and kill the art. In the present case of the unfortunate killing of a woman artist Amreen Bhat in district Budgam, terrorists killed the artist but they miserably failed to kill the art. Therefore it is a fact that the art is everlasting, ever fresh and perennial and it cannot be killed by the terrorists even though the terrorists can silence the voice of the artist. Thus art cannot be intimidated and browbeaten by the armed marauders but the artist can be killed by the terrorists. In the instant case of the killing of the women artist the terrorists have failed to extinguish the flame of art which cannot be maimed and killed by the terrorists even though the terrorists are successful in killing the artist. So it is the foregone conclusion that by killing any artist the terrorists cannot kill the art. The art is the extension of the freedom of expression guaranteed by the constitution and it remains ever fresh and everlasting when the terrorists attack and kill the artists. The unfortunate killing of the woman artist is not the first attack of its kind on the artists but during 34 years of the armed insurgency, the attacks on the artists have taken place umpteen times but the terrorists have miserably failed to kill the different forms of the art. The terrorists should realise and appreciate that they cannot kill the art even though they can kill the artist who gives expression to different forms of the art. Thus it is crystal clear that the terrorists cannot kill the art howsoever they may try to kill the art but the art remains ever fresh and alive and cannot be killed by the gun-totting terrorists and so art is always alive and kicking and therefore is always fresh and everlasting and the terrorists should realise that by killing an artist they cannot kill the art for which the terrorists

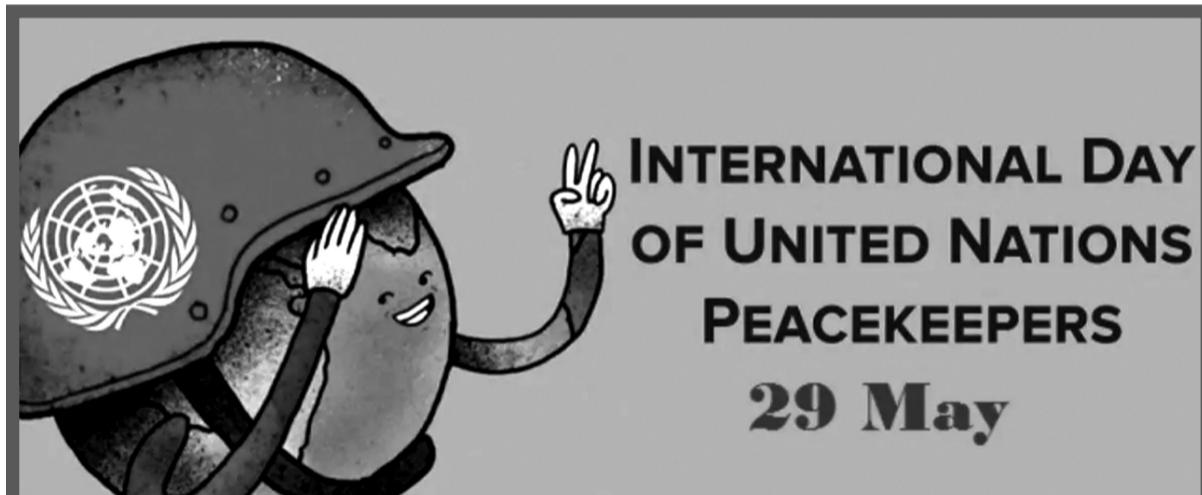
silence the voice of the artist. Therefore the art cannot be intimidated, browbeaten and killed by the armed insurgents but they can no doubt kill the artists and satisfy their sadistic pleasure. Thus, all forms of art are ever living and ever fresh and cannot be killed by killing the artist. The killing of an artist is very unfortunate and in the present case of the killing of a woman artist Amreen Bhat, it is doubly sad and unfortunate because in the killing of the women artist the terrorists have not only killed the artist but have killed a women which is a heinous crime and should not have taken place in the society at all. The killing of a women artist Amreen Bhat is a crime against man and god and it should not have happened and soiled the land with the innocent blood. The killing of a women is a crime but killing of the women artist is doubly unfortunate as it has revealed the ugly face of the terrorists who do not even spare the women folk and kill the women without any remorse. However, in killing the artist the terrorists have no doubt killed the artist but have failed to kill the art which the artists espouse and for which the artists are killed by the fanatics and the terrorists. The different forms of the art are alive and kicking and cannot be killed and maimed by the terrorists even though the terrorists can kill the artists. Therefore the terrorists are successful in killing an artist as a person but the terrorists are not able to kill the different forms of the art by killing the artists and so the terrorists should realise and appreciate this fact and reality that they cannot kill the art forms by killing the artists. Thus the terrorists should desist and abstain from the killing of the artists because they cannot eliminate the different art forms by resorting to the killings of the artists. The dastardly and heinous killing of the women artist Amreen Bhat is a condemnable act and it rightly deserved the strongest condemnation

from the right thinking people and the political parties. But it should be appreciated that no amount of condemnation and consolation will bring back the killed artist Amreen Bhat and so it is important that the terrorists should not be allowed to kill the artists and other civilians. Therefore it is necessary that the terrorists should not step up violence against the artists as it is futile to kill the artists because the terrorists cannot kill the art by killing the artists. Thus we can say that the art cannot be killed by the terrorists though the people espousing the different forms of art can be killed by the enemies of the humanity but the art cannot be killed at any cost and so the terrorists should desist from carrying the terrorist acts against the artists as the terrorists cannot kill, maim or intimidate the art which is ever fresh and alive as well as kicking and therefore the terrorists should realise that it is of no use to kill the artists because the art remains ever living even though you kill the artists. However, the terrorists will try to obliterate the different forms of art by resorting to killings of the artists but the art remains ever fresh and everlasting and cannot be killed by the physical elimination of the artists. Thus art remains alive even after the dastardly killings of the artists. Though the terrorists have killed the woman artist Amreen Bhat but they have miserably failed in killing the art which she espoused through his artistic expression during his life which has been cut short by the terrorists. Thus the art remains alive and everlasting even if the terrorists kill and eliminate the artists who espouse the art. So the terrorists should see and realise the futility of killing of the artists as by killing of the artist the art cannot be killed and it remains everlasting and ever fresh and therefore the terrorists should desist from attacking and killing the artists.

Therefore it can be construed that the art is everlasting, ever fresh and alive and cannot be killed by the terrorists. Thus terrorists should not resort to the wanton killings of the artists because the art cannot be eliminated from the society by killing the artists. So there is no use in killings of the artists because in killing of the artist the art forms cannot be obliterated and erased from the social landscape and therefore it is futile to attack and kill the artists as it does not serve any purpose as the art cannot be killed anymore by resorting to indiscriminate killings of the artists and so the terrorists should abstain from killings of the artists. There is great value and requirement of the different forms of the art in a society and so the art should be allowed to grow and flourish. The simple fact that the art cannot be maimed and killed by killing of the artist is enough to show that the art is everlasting and always fresh and cannot be obliterated by the terrorists. Therefore the terrorists should desist and abstain from the wanton killings of the artists and other civilians so that human blood is not spilled. It is so important to stop the killings of the artists and other civilians so that the precious lives are not lost and consumed by the terrorism. So it becomes crystal clear that the art cannot be killed by the terrorists even though the terrorists can kill the artists. Thus the terrorists should appreciate and realise this fact that the art forms are everlasting and ever fresh and living and cannot be eliminated by killing of the artists and so terrorists should abstain from the killings of the artists. To conclude one can say that the art remains alive and even fresh even though the terrorists can kill the artists but cannot kill the art which artists espouse in its different forms and manifestations.

(The author is a columnist and social activist).

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers



■ VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2021 will be observed on May 29. The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers is a tribute to people who serve or have served in UN peacekeeping operations. The peacekeepers are honored for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage. People who died for peace are also remembered. United Nations Organization is the outcome of the desire of the world people. Peacemaking is necessary and important in cases of protracted violence that do not seem to burn themselves out and in cases where war crimes and other human devastation demand the attention of outside forces. Over 70 years, over 1 million men and women have served under the UN flag. Today, more than 100,000 troops, police and civilian personnel from 125 countries serve in 14 peacekeeping operations on four continents. World peace is defined as an ideal of freedom, peace, and happiness among and within all nations and/or people.

UN peacekeeping operations mark the Day by strengthening bonds with the local populations that they have been deployed to serve. The UN is working for world peace by

persuasion, conciliation, arbitration and by fighting against the culprit country in acute case. Without peace a nation cannot make any progress. So peace is ever desirable. But now-a-days if there be no peace, the whole human race will be destroyed, because modern war involves atom bomb and hydrogen bomb. So, war should always be avoided for world peace. Peace can never be achieved by one-dimensional and unilateral talks or efforts. On would find that even today there have been present several hindrances in way of securing a stable, healthy and enduring peace. Yet the international community fully realized the supreme importance of the virtue of peace against the evil of war only after having suffered the most unfortunate and highly destructive two World Wars in the first half of the 20th century. The blood soaked shreds of humanity that lay scattered in several hundred battle grounds, particularly on the soils of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, cried for peace, peace and peace on the earth.

Panchsheel was conceived as a powerful weapon against war. The five principles of Panchsheel constitute an important and historic event in the history of international relations. The Panchsheel or the five points

propounded by Jawaharlal Nehru has been accepted by many countries for world peace. The five points are (1) mutual respect for one another's territorial integrity and sovereignty, (2) non-aggression, (3) non-interference in one another's internal affairs for any reason of economic, political or ideological character, (4) equality and mutual benefit, (5) peaceful co-existence. India and the other non-aligned countries together have organized to peace-area. Ever since the achievement of independence India has been assiduously striving for the promotion of peace, it has unbounded faith in peace.

She believes that peaceful conditions alone can hold out any hope for the deliverance of mankind from the rut of so many ills it is at present plagued with.

Mahavir Swami and Gautama Buddha tirelessly preached against all kinds of violence. Their teachings were no heeded, but also acted upon by Indian emperors. Mahatma Gandhi has said, "Peace will not come out of a clash of arms but out of justice lived and done by unarmed nations in the face of odds." Hence world peace is more essential not only for India's economic development, but also for the economic development of all the backward countries of the world.

YOUR COLUMN
PM Package employees & Kashmir imbroglio

Dear Editor,

Apropos to letter 'Listen to Woes of PM Package Employees' by Vivek Koul published in your esteemed newspaper on 27th May, 2022, wherein writer has vividly highlighted the woes and miseries of protesting PM package employees. The spine chilling and shocking incident of Rahul Bhat's killing has shaken the entire KP community. Martyr Rahul Bhat was appointed as a clerk in the year 2010 under a special PM's employment package but very unfortunately became the victim of terrorism two weeks before. The security scenario in Kashmir is in shambles and the J&K UT administration has completely failed to protect minorities living in Kashmir. Earlier in the year 2021, a PM package employee Deepak Chand was mercilessly gunned down by terrorists in the school premises while he was on duty. Even after the abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A the normaley has not returned in Kashmir. Further, all PM package employees are living in fear and deep distress & the gun culture in Kashmir has spoiled the future of school going KP children. The government has no control over inno-

cent and targeted killings in Kashmir. This job package now seems to be like a deception package only and the centre government is not paying any heed as far as relocation of these employees is concerned. However, targeted killings goes unabated in Kashmir and some terrorist organisations have been issuing warning letters against Kashmir Pandits directing them either to leave the valley or be ready to face bad consequences. All this boils down to the facts that the PM package employees have become now soft targets of militants and thus rightly the protesting package employees are demanding their relocation outside the Kashmir valley and other safer places of India. The protesting package employees are not demanding anything impractical. Their demand is genuine and thus should be fulfilled by the centre government and J&K UT administration. One wonders as to why the centre government is showing lackadaisical approach towards their demand of relocation inspite of knowing the fact that the minorities are not safe in Kashmir. The ground situation in Kashmir is terribly volatile so PM package employees should not be made scapegoats. These hapless and unfortunate migrant package employees need a healing touch from the government and therefore the government must immediately relocate all PM package employees outside Kashmir valley.

Brij Lal Raina,
Roop Nagar, Jammu.

JUBILANT J&K

'Mission Youth' instrumental towards satiating aspirations of youth

Young people should be respected, valued and listened to, be supported and encouraged in building personal and social relationships, developing their innate abilities and talents for their own benefit and benefit of the society at large", envisioned the J&K Youth Mission initiative of UT government. Implementation of Mission Youth in Jammu and Kashmir has proved to be instrumental in satiating aspirations of youth of the UT facilitating them with a perfect platform to exploit their job potential to the fullest. The Mission was intended to simultaneously achieve the twin goals of harnessing the rich demographic dividend and transforming youth of J&K into ambassadors of innovation, peace and development through systematic interventions for Youth Engagement and Outreach under six domains including livelihood generation, education/skill development, financial assistance, counseling/theory, sports and recreation.

To meet aspirations of youth, J&K administration has taken numerous steps towards creating infrastructure, schemes and policies to speed up their socio-economic development under Mission Youth. Jammu and Kashmir is bestowed with a predominantly young population with about 69 per cent of the people being below the age of 35 years. In order to provide a platform for holistic implementation of all youth engagement and outreach initiatives and to bring the interests and empowerment of youth to the centre of policy making, government of Jammu and Kashmir has rolled out a pioneering initiative 'Mission Youth'.

Under Mumkin scheme, unemployed youth are facilitated to procure small commercial vehicles, on subsidized rates, to establish a sustainable livelihood line in the transport sector. Also, a module has been developed on JK-e Services portal for operating the scheme digitally in a complete transparent manner. As a special incentive under this scheme, Mission Youth is contributing 0.80 lakh or 10per cent of On-Road Price of Vehicle (whichever is Minimum) per beneficiary and an equivalent amount is also contributed by the vehicle manufacturers. Mission Youth has tied up with reputed vehicle manufacturers as scheme partners for providing the best in class options of vehicles to the youth. Pertinently, discretion to choose type of vehicle is left to the youth under scheme guidelines.

A dedicated portal has been launched by Mission Youth in collaboration with Vision India to connect youth of J&K with the industry. The initiative aims to provide more than 10,000 job opportunities to youth in 2022. J&K administration has taken many steps to create infrastructure, formulate schemes and policies to speed up economic development and meet the aspirations of Youth so that they can contribute to society and achieve self growth. Mission Youth under its AVSAR (Connect to Opportunities Initiative) has signed a MoU with Vision India for providing job opportunities to the youth of J&K. A dedicated portal for employment opportunities for youth of J&K has been provisioned to facilitate them in getting the best jobs. In its endeavor towards empowering women socially and economically, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, launched Tejaswini scheme for implementation in the Union Territory. This is a start up funding programme for adolescents and young women of the UT making them empowered and self dependent through their own business ventures. The broad aim of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to young women of 18 to 35 years of age for setting up of gainful self-employment ventures, suited to their skills, training, aptitude and local conditions. Under the scheme, female entrepreneurs shall be facilitated to avail financial assistance under Mudra from J&K Bank to the extent of Rs 5.00 lakh. Mission Youth, J&K shall provide an amount of Rs. 50,000 or 10per cent of project cost as subsidy. Besides, interest component of the loan shall also be sponsored by Mission Youth as special incentive and repayment of loan will technically be interest free for the young female entrepreneurs who apply for assistance under the scheme.

Mission Youth is focused on continuously encouraging, engaging and mobilizing young volunteers of J&K to support the government efforts towards socio-economic transformation of Jammu and Kashmir. Another initiative under Mission Youth is Youth Clubs. The youth volunteers of these Youth Clubs are being given training on all aspects of government schemes. They will be part of emergency and crisis plans and will be involved in the planning and decision making regarding volunteer led activities to be done in Panchayats or wards. The Youth Clubs are also provided special incentives in the form of grant-in-aid to support their activities. Youth Engagement programs have been convened in all districts through these youth clubs and more than 2 lakh youth have been associated with the programme.