

HIDDEN ENEMIES

As a part of decisive action against all anti-national elements and their supporters active in the Union Territory of J&K, the security forces have tightened the noose over all such enemies of the country and intensified the anti-insurgency operations to ensure cleansing of terrorism completely. Not only a stern check has been maintained over the movement and activities of the terrorists but it was also ensured that the sources, providing logistic support to terrorists, are also wiped off completely so that the terrorists may not carry out their evil designs, on the directions of their masters sitting across the border. During recent few days, we often heard about busting of a terror hideout by security forces with seizure of a number of sophisticated arms and ammunition, dumped by the terrorists in some secluded places or forest areas. The seizure of such heavy quantity of weaponry from these hide outs show that despite all possible measures taken by the security forces, there are still few elements that are providing such arms to the terrorists for disturbing the peaceful atmosphere of J&K. There is no doubt that several attempts had already been made on the borders by the enemy country to push in infiltrators or drop arms and ammunitions through drones, which prove that it is still active in supporting the terror mongers in every possible way. But, besides the rogue nation Pakistan, one thing is also clear that few people, living on this side of the border, are also supporting the terrorism as without local support, the terrorists, majority of whom are foreign nationals, can't carry out their evil plans easily in J&K. These hidden supporters of terrorists are much more dangerous and deadly than the terrorists and their masters as they are openly involved in a proxy war against the country but these hidden enemies, are sucking the blood of the nation like a termite without coming to fore. The forces and the Government often reiterate its commitment to ensure elimination of terrorism from J&K by neutralizing all active terrorists but until and unless these hidden enemies are present within the country, the menace cannot be rooted out properly.

PLAY SAFE

As the heat continues in the Union Territory of J&K, there is dire need to remain hydrated and under cover because heat exhaustion these days can lead to heat strokes which can be fatal or can cause serious state of illness. As the month of April has seen worst ever heat wave in the last over 122 years, there is need to understand how to remain protected from the blistering heat emanated by the sun showing its might to the hilt. The situation in April this year was unusually alarming as temperatures surged as never before or for that matter broke records of the last over 100 years. Though no data has been available about the deaths due to heat wave that struck J&K but one cannot take risk under such extreme weather conditions prevailing in the UT as reports are claiming that there will be not much respite from the heat wave in the upcoming month as well. Under such conditions, it is advisable that people should take refuge in traditional ways and conventional methods to safeguard themselves from heat stroke. Remaining indoors is also a good choice for those who can afford this during hot summer months because direct sunlight is exhausting and can lead to severe heat strokes. Drinking sugarcane juice, lemon water, watermelon drinks can also help people against the heat strokes. There is also a tradition of eating raw onions during summer months to be safe during peak summer season. There are umpteen other ways by which one can counter the blistering heat of summer months and therefore people should consult the aged population in their homes and vicinity to get tips to ward off ills associated with severe heat waves from which the region is confronting right now. Of course, air conditioners, water coolers, fans fitted with water sources are also helpful in countering hot weather conditions though extreme power crisis in the UT of J&K has marred the whole lot of electrical gadgetry from providing relief to common masses as currently power outage is ruling the roost. It is therefore vital for the people to play safe with all the available resources and somehow pass these odd days of merciless summer.

OFF 'D' CUFF

Praan and Consciousness
The Divine Play of Shree Rama and Shree Hanuman

towards space, covering the entire Brahma and universe.

There is a story about Hanuman that as a child, he once woke up and the first thing he saw was the Sun in the sky, and he was so attracted to it that he leapt and took flight towards the Sun. This story illustrates that since the Sun is the main source of energy on our planet, our final aim, as shown to us by Hanuman, is to attain the level of that highest energy, which will lead us in the direction of Supreme Consciousness.

Supreme Consciousness is omnipresent and without any form. It is omnipotent, yet without any particular quality,

The self-illuminated, supreme consciousness manifest as the avatar of Shree Rama, and Shree Hanuman is his foremost devotee. Hanuman is the key or password to unlocking the universal program represented by Shree Rama in the popular Rama-Raksha stotra. If one wants to reach Shree Rama, the path is exemplified by Shree Hanuman. Thus, Hanuman, himself an avatar of Rudra (Shiva), is by devotees and seekers to give them intelligence and strength top walk the path.

Shreeguru Dr Balaji Tambe

He represents praan or life force. He is the deity of intelligence and strength. Praan is the carrier of the program made by the Supreme and is also the energy or force required to manifest the program. Hanuman does not get involved in the web of attractions cast by maya (the ever-changing material world), thus he does not lose an ounce of energy. He is free of emotional attachments. He is a Brahmachari (celibate) and a meditator. As a result, the direction of the flow of energy is always upwards, towards the crown centre on the top of the head i.e. pranic energy travels with maximum efficiency above the head

JUBILANT J&K

Road to Every Village: Cornerstone of economic growth & development

Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojna (PMGSY), Kupwara Unit plays a vital role in developing road network in farflung and remote areas of hilly and border district Kupwara. The Yojana has developed number of roads which connected hundreds of villages and habitations with major towns and district headquarter so far; thereby transforming the socio-economic status of the rural populace. Agar-Jitoo interior PMGSY road is one such road in the district. "The road connects 3-4 Panchayat habitations of Block Katra", said Prem Lata, Sarpanch Agar-Jitoo.

The road has improved the connectivity of the whole area. The Sarpanch is all praise for the Lieutenant Governor's administration and District administration Reasi in particular. She explains how this road is changing the lives of of inhabitants of not only village Agar-Jitoo but also three other Panchayats that are connected through it. "Earlier the track was not macadamized and commuters had to face a lot of of hardships especially during rainy season when the road would become slippery and muddy", says the Sarpanch. "Students were particularly affected as they had to travel more than 6 Km to reach the school that has now been reduced to just 2 Km thereby effectively reducing the distance by more than 5 Km.

Moreover, this Macadamized road has now facilitated all weather connectivity to the habitations it has connected, which was not the case earlier. The local people of these villages have appreciated the efforts of PMGSY staff and expressed gratitude towards the LG Administration. In consonance with this spirit, road to every village in Jammu and Kashmir is going to be a reality soon. The Public Works Department is speeding up execution of works under Capex, CSS, and PMGSY to make road to every village in J&K a reality. On enhancing connectivity in the border villages including for border guarding forces, all the border posts in J&K will be connected with the roads during the next year.

Jammu and Kashmir constructed a record 3167 Km of rural roads in 2020-21 under PMGSY, thereby providing safe and secure all-connectivity to remote habitations across the Union Territory. In 2018-19, 1622 Km PMGSY roads were constructed and 2387 Km roads were

rural, hilly and mountainous, road transport plays a pivotal role in economic growth and development. In District Reasi, the PMGSY scheme has developed number of roads which connected hundreds of villages and habitations with major towns and district headquarter so far; thereby transforming the socio-economic status of the rural populace. Agar-Jitoo interior PMGSY road is one such road in the district. "The road connects 3-4 Panchayat habitations of Block Katra", said Prem Lata, Sarpanch Agar-Jitoo.

blacktopped, in 2019-20 1325 Km PMGSY roads were constructed and 2290 Km were blacktopped, in 2020-21, 3167 Km PMGSY roads were constructed and 5500 Km were blacktopped and in 2021-22, 2480 Km PMGSY roads were constructed and 6625 Km blacktopped as on March 15, 2022. 2353 PMGSY projects covering 16448 Km connecting 2033 habitations were completed since inception. Under PMGSY, J&K ranked No. 4th at national level in terms of road length achieved. In addition, 125 bridges are to be constructed to provide connectivity to far-flung areas.

NABARD is another resource instrument for Rural Roads. During 2018-19, 28 Projects costing Rs. 80.96 Crore, 2019-20, 84 Projects costing Rs. 231.29 Crore, 2020-21, 115 Projects costing 418.67 Crore, 2021-22, 400 Projects costing Rs. 1585.38 Crore have been sanctioned. 6.50 km Z-Morh Tunnel (2378 crore) on Srinagar-Sonamarg road is to be completed by December 2023. Escape Tunnel has been completed before time to facilitate Sonamarg travel during winters.

8.45 Km twin-tube Qazigund-Banihal Tunnel has been completed at a cost of Rs 3127 crore. Construction of 14.15 Km two lane bi-directional Zojila Tunnel with 14.20 km parallel escape is in progress. Foundation stone of 4 tunnels on Akhnoor-Poonch section of NH 144A has been laid. DPR of 10.30 Km Singhpora-Vailoo Tunnel under Srinagar pass on NH-244 has been approved. 8 Km Sudhmahad-Dragra tunnels 1 and 2 on NH- 244 have been approved. The foundation stone of two 4-lane twin-tube tunnels the 4.38km Marog to Digdole and 3.2 km Digdole to Khooni Nallah besides via ducts of 6 Km at Mompassi to Sherbibi and between Nashri-Ramban has been laid.

A total of Rs 8681 crore has been allotted for 130km portion on 6 lane Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway. Once completed, the travel time from Delhi to Katra will be reduced to 5 hours. In order to decongest Jammu city, 58 Km Semi Ring road is being built and work on 4 lane Semi ring road Srinagar started from August 6, 2021. Phase 2 of the project from Sumbal to Wayal approved, DPR under preparation. Phase 3 from

Lasjan to Rajbagh to Khanyar to pandach to Ganderbal to Wayul is at planning stage. Double laning of Akhnoor- Poonch road has been started at Rs. 3185 crore. Domel- Bhamla Road NH-144 upgradation is going on costing Rs.55.05 Crore. Double laning of Sudhmahad-Gohar-Khellani-kishtwar-Chatroo-Anantnag stretch of NH-244 has been started at Rs. 4289 crore. NH-444 Srinagar- Pulwama- Shopian- Kulgam - Qazigund has been sanctioned including Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam Bypasses. Land acquisitions are at final stages for Bypasses and 80% work on this Project has been completed during 2020-22.

3 Flyovers at Bemina (.88 KM) costing Rs. 36.9 Crore, Nowgam (.85 KM) costing Rs. 49.3 Crore and Sanat Nagar junctions have been sanctioned and work started on Bemina and Nowgam flyovers. 83 CRF projects costing Rs.1010 crore to be funded through JKIDFC are scheduled to be completed by March 2023. In addition road travel has become faster and safer in Jammu and Kashmir. Travel time from Jammu to Kishtwar reduced has been reduced from 7.5hours to 5 hours. Travel time from Jammu to Doda on NH-244 has been reduced from 5.5 hours to 3.5 hours. Travel time between Srinagar and Jammu has got reduced from 7-12 hours to 5.5 hours for LMVs. Travel time from Srinagar to Gulmarg has got reduced from 3 hours to 1.5 hours. Similarly, layover for trucks travelling on Srinagar-Jammu section of NH-44 decreases from 24-72 hours to 12 hours. Furthermore, highest daily macadamisation has also been registered in Jammu and Kashmir. Daily average for macadamisation increases from 6.27 km per day during 2019-20 to 14.7 Km per day 2020-21. An average of 21.92km per day has been achieved in 2021-22 till 15.03.2022. 5035 km roads macadamisation completed during 2020-21 under various Central and UT schemes and for 2021-22, target is 8000 Km which is likely to be achieved. Road to every village project of Government of Union Territory is un-doubtedly a corner stone of economic growth and development and it will help in addressing regional imbalance in Jammu and Kashmir.

Corruption-a hard nut to crack

■ SHIV KUMAR PADHA

There are many definitions coined about corruption but the one which fits well in the Indian context is 'corruption is the dishonest behavior by those in position of power, such as managers, governmental officials and the politicians. Corruption includes giving or accepting bribe, double dealing under the table transactions, manipulating elections, diverting funds and laundering money. For the convenience of the readers we can compare a corrupt person, with a fish in the water where nobody knows when it takes water. The fish which come on the surface of water are easily caught by an ordinary net where as those in the deep water escape scot free. There are two types of persons who offer bribe, one who pays for the favors which are purely illegal in the eyes of law and that of the society, while the others include totally ignorant about the laws, their rights and the procedures of the departments they are concerned with. In the absence of ombudsman, accepting bribe with impunity encourage corruption at the entire hierarchy of politicians, bureaucrats and the subordinate cadre of different departments. India always stood for the values of truth, purity, honesty, dedication, spiritualism, renunciation and contentment in the world. There was no place for greed, selfishness in the society because it was believed that 'God has created everything for man's need but not for his greed.' Every one, irrespective of his position in the society, believed in truth, beauty and goodness. They always placed country and countrymen first and never fished in the troubled waters. But with the passage of time the long nurtured values became topsy-turvy, greed and selfishness replaced contentment and selflessness respectively. The never ending greed of our politicians and bureaucrats brought the country on the crossroads from where the two ways leading to honesty and corruption parted from each other permanently.

A new global corruption risk index ranks India as 69th most graft-prone nation and the global corruption perception index ranks India 94th in the world. India is the third most corrupt nation among the countries of BRICS. Jammu and Kashmir a state enjoying the special status is the most corrupt state in

the country. The state contributes app. 0.76 per cent to national GDP and is ranked 2nd in the list of highest grant receiving states of the country. There are a few industrial units in the state which can be seen mushroomed around Kali Bari Kathua, Samba, Jammu, R S Pura and Udhampur only, otherwise government jobs, transport and trade is the only means of lively hood of the people of the Jammu and Kashmir UT. The words green, white and yellow revolutions are all Greek for the people in the state. The state is totally dependent on other states of the country even for vegetables and other ordinary commodities needed in day to day life. In Jammu and Kashmir corruption has taken the place of industry which is flourishing under the patronage of ministers, politician and bureaucrats. The state is totally engrossed in political, administrative, professional and financial corruption. The government employees, holding lucrative posts are minting money brazenly through bribe and share it with their patrons in the corridors of power. Everybody knows that 90 percent of the beautiful bungalows and residential houses in posh colonies and areas of capital cities of the state and at district headquarters belong either to politicians, retired or in service bureaucrats or to those retired or in service employees in different departments occupying the lucrative positions. Not to talk of bureaucrats even the persons at clerical or equivalent position own their bungalows in these posh areas which they have rented at very exorbitant rates. With the money minted through the corrupt means these politicians, bureaucrats and government employees have either started their own industries, established professional and public schools in the capital cities as well as in other states of the country. Whole governmental machinery from the lower ranks to their patrons in government seems involved knee deep in corruption and bribery. Whether it is a routine work in the offices, related to appointments, transfers, tax payment or tax saving, qualifying entrance tests, selection process, backdoor employment, legalising the encroachments or release of funds for developmental purposes, one has to grease the palm of the babus of the concerned department from peon to the politi-

cians because only the 'money can make the mare go' in Jammu and Kashmir. Every day we come across the news about amassing of wealth by the politicians under the pretext of pseudo trusts in the name of their fathers and father in laws. The slogan 'Na Khaonga Na Kha Doonga' speaks about resolve of Narendra Modi Prime Minister of India, but in Jammu and Kashmir the slogan is totally reverse of it 'Khud Bhi Khao Haemin Bhi Khilao' which is the hidden motive of the bureaucrats and their patrons in power. In the wake of the assembly elections in the state the politicians give a free hand to the bureaucrats and employees of their respective departments to amass as much money as they can lock, stock and barrel which can stand in good stead during the assembly elections. As a result of which there is 'Ram Naam Ki Loot Hai Loot Ske To Loot' in every department during those days. Like the commodities the rates of corruption are also touching the sky these days. For instance the rate for transfers of teacher/ master/lecturer/principals in the education department one has to pay in five to six digits whereas for transfer to the departments like PWD, PHE, PDD, PDS, Excise, RTO, BDO, backdoor/political appointments and for other departments of public dealings one has to pay in six to seven digits. The corruption has gone deep into our blood and our tongue has developed taste for this easy money, in that case some harsh and stringent action need be taken against the erring and corrupt persons irrespective of the strata of the society they belong to. No doubt many governments have declared the deadwoods in different departments of Jammu and Kashmir from time to time who have been shown the exit. His Excellency has tightened the noose around the corrupt officers and the employees who have either been dismissed from their services or have been put behind the bars. In my view this is not sufficient because the corruption is breeding under the nose of the politicians and the bureaucrats. It is the need of the hour to identify the black sheep and fish out the fish drinking water stealthily. I hope that LG will definitely crack the nut of corruption and help root out the menace of corruption from the soil of the UT once for all.

Achieving success by setting goals at younger age

■ VIJAY GARG

Walked for life and did not reach anywhere - this happens when the walker does not know where he has to go? Going without a goal or leaving one's goals and tasks incomplete, doesn't take anyone anywhere. Whereas life gets illuminated just by setting goals on time and working towards achieving them. It is true that every human being is created for a specific purpose, and the desire to do that work has also been instilled in him. Whoever senses it as soon as it takes to get it, he never lags behind. Usually children keep saying that I will grow up to become a doctor; become an IAS, become an engineer; or become an actor or a cricketer; but they do not move ahead by asking to achieve their objective. Whereas the famous actor Leonardo DiCaprio had said in childhood that I want to become an actor. As a teenager; she started watching great classics, and her thirst for acting was what made her reach her destination early. That is, those who learn to live with their goals, they never look back. Swara Kokila Lata Mangeshkar is a great example of this. She turned to music in adolescence in such a way that history was created. On the other hand, former US President Barrack Obama had told the teacher in the middle of a class full of classmates of his eighth that he wanted to grow up to be the President of America. Not only did he say that, he started to achieve his goal. As a result, at the age of fifty, he became the US President. It is obvious that those who set their goals at a young age and try to achieve them, they always go ahead of others. Renowned tennis player Roger Federer says, I started playing tennis because I enjoyed it. My parents were members of tennis clubs, so I got an opportunity to go to court with them in my childhood. I started enjoying playing tennis so much that at the age of 14 years joined the National Tennis Federation and started playing professional tennis. The grown-ups say to such an extent that one who does not know the goal of his life, he cannot do anything in life. However, it is never too late for anyone who wants to be successful. Despite this, many highly qualified people take so long to choose their goal that there is no time left in life to achieve it. Since abilities are born out of action, every person is void by birth. That is why in most schools from primary to secondary classes, along with the study of subjects like language, mathematics, science, social science, etc., all art forms like sports, dance, music are included in the curriculum. So that children can move ahead by setting goals or objectives according to their interests from a young age. Obviously, choosing your biggest hobby as a goal and then a profession ensures success because humans put heart, mind and strength in doing them. Delay in setting goals means falling behind others. By setting goals at a young age, those who move forward will be ahead. According to Nelson Mandela, 'until we accomplish a goal, it seems impossible.' There will be many opportunities in the way of achieving the goal that it will seem that it will not be possible now. Just keep standing at this moment, don't waver, enthusiasm will automatically fill up. That is why you should set goals of your interest as much as possible. American historian Theodore Roosevelt believes, 'Believe in yourself and you will have crossed half the distance of your goals.' In fact, the selection of a goal starts from within. It's a soft voice that tells you where to go. All success rests on goal setting. He who reaches his goal, he also achieves it. But it is not so easy to achieve the right goal at the right age, otherwise everyone would be on the top. Eight-year-old American boy Michael Phelps was aiming to win an Olympic medal in swimming. Later on, he set an Olympic record by winning a total of 28 medals including 23 gold medals. Instead of going with the crowd, choose your own path because no one knows you better than you. The only way to make yourself valuable is to do things of your own interest. The famous French philosopher Albari Camus is of the opinion, 'Don't follow me, I may not be able to lead. Do not follow me, I may fail to follow.' Applying this instruction to oneself causes a person to think and act differently.

YOUR COLUMN

KPSC exam aspirants demand restoration of upper-age criteria as per SRO -103

Dear Editor:

Through the columns of your esteemed paper, we want to seek the attention of LG Manoj Sinha for relief to aspirants for forthcom-

ing exam of 2022 by allowing them to fill the application form by relaxing upper-age criteria for the time being in the view of closing date of filling the form on May 15, 2020. We the unemployed youth want the restoration of pre SRO -103 Upper Age criteria i.e. 37 years for open merit and 40 years for reserved categories. We also request the LG J&K if the decision in this regard has to be reviewed then postpone the exam dates till an appropriate decision is taken in this regard. J&K youth has faced a lot in the past many years,

as PSC exam is not being conducted continuously, so give us one time relaxation of six attempts in the exams. In addition the government should adopt holistic view from other states including BJP ruled states thereby increasing the age criteria to 40 years for Open merit candidates. It is our humble request to LG Manoj Sinha to consider our genuine demand to save the future of thousands of aspirants getting impacted by these new rules.

Subhal Sharma, Jammu