

ANOTHER FEATHER IN CAP

Adding another feather in the cap of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the North India's first Industrial Biotech Park, constructed in Ghatti, Kathua is all set to be dedicated to the public, thereby providing numerous benefits to the people. Constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 150 crore and spread over an area of approximately 16000 Sq Mtrs, the newly created facility is believed to provide necessary support, resources and assistance to almost 50 set ups and 500 entrepreneurs approximately. Pertinent to mention here that two projects were launched by the Government in 2014, for the erstwhile state including one in Kathua while another in Handwara area of Kashmir, although work for this facility started in the year 2019 due to some technical issues and other problems. As per the reports, the bio-tech park will be equipped with numerous facilities, including herbal extraction, fermentation, analytical lab, distillation, micro-propagation, plant tissue culture etc all under a single roof so that the interested people and entrepreneurs can avail the benefit of the same without any problem. This newly established facility is expected to prove as a great boon for the agri-entrepreneurs, Start Ups, progressive farmers, young entrepreneurs, scientists, scholars and students as now they would get the high-tech and latest data that too in their own Union Territory. Pertinent to mention here that this project was one among the priority projects for the Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also the sitting MP from Kathua - Udhampur-Doda Parliamentary constituency and has taken personal interest in early completion of it. It is expected that this biotech facility will act as a hub for incubation of new ideas and guidance for the entrepreneurs and start ups of not only Jammu and Kashmir but also belonging to other neighbouring states like Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh etc. pertinent to mention here that as the present dispensation, right from the very beginning has always stress for adopting high-tech and latest scientific advancements in every sector; the two biotech parks in J&K are among the nine Biotechnology Parks supported by Department of Biotechnology in various States, launched with a mission to promote research work besides opening up several new employment avenues for the people and enhancing the income of our farmers.

PREFERRING TECHNICAL ADVANCEMENTS

There was a time when every department and ministry was dependent on the traditional practices of working and there was no usage of high-tech gadgets and other advancements, the overall performance in every sector was just satisfactory but the present Government, soon after assuming the charge of office, not only worked for correcting this decades old practice but also introduced a series of scientific advancements to improve the efficiency of workforce. The officials, who earlier used to remain busy while struggling with heavy and bulky files and almost every important document used to remain 'untraced' in record, were not only made familiar with the working systems like e-office but also provided necessary trainings to operate the same. In short, majority of the significant achievements of the present dispensation are only due to its preference to technical advancements, which made the nation at par with several competitive countries of the world. Recently, while speaking during the nation's biggest drone festival in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also claimed that it was only due to the environment of indifference towards the usage of technology in Governance before 2014, due to which the middle and poor sections of the society suffered a lot as previous Governments were least considerate towards the same. The Prime Minister, reiterating the resolve of its Government to ensure overall development of masses, at par with that of several superpowers of the world, said that it is the Present dispensation which ensured last mile delivery of services to the people, even residing in rural and far-flung areas, using the latest technology. Sharing his vision on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that he wants that every single person in India should have a smartphone in his or her hand, every farmer should have a drone and every household should prosper and develop. Landing the huge participation in the drone festival, the Prime Minister expressed pleasure on seeing such an encouraging response from people towards the drone technology, which shows that the sector will help a lot in providing employment avenues to several people. The Prime Minister's assertion is quite true and logical as today, we can easily see a number of new advancements in every sphere of life, which were earlier not present and looking at the initiatives of the Government, it seems that this mega drive would continue in future as well.



OFF 'D' CUFF

Nile, The Annalist

Rivers have always captivated my imagination since childhood. Meandering her way, sparkling under the sun or glowing under the moonlight, gurgling happily at every child's dip into her waters, eavesdropping on women bantering at her banks, splashing to the rhythms of the suntanned boatman's song — the river journeys forth seeking her home in salty waters, trying her best to sweeten her new abode and slowly erasing herself to merge with the ocean. This journey of the river mirrors the different stages of human life that, in the end, merges with the universal life force. The last resting home of mortal remains of human beings is inevitably a river which carries forth our ashes towards its final destination.

Reading about the mother of all rivers, the river Nile, had kindled a yearning within me since my childhood, to sail on this glorious river that had cradled one of the oldest human civilisations. This dream came true last Christmas, as I sauntered into my late fifties. Landing on the soil of the pharaohs and hieroglyphics, I was swept off my feet at the sight of the pyramids. Getting a panoramic view of the three

major pyramids at Giza dwarfing the other three and a cluster of ruins surrounding them was an amazing experience.

The frequent swirls of sand and strong winds pushed me to sway even as I marvelled at the sand-eaten tops of the hoary peaks of limestone and granite. What did the pharaohs dream of? Immortality? Challenging their gods? An assertion of their power over the populace? They succeeded in all these possibilities for well over 4,000 years. Their grandeur and unchallenged glory is, however, undermined by the iPhone-toting, selfie-obsessed tourists, chattering noisily and bargaining for vantage angles as much as they do for local wares or mementos. The inscrutable Sphinx in the adjacent hexagon looked on bemused, but unimpressed by the teeming crowd.

A cruise on the Nile from Aswan to Luxor is a memorable experience. The sumptuous meals and the vivacious belly dance notwithstanding, the cruise is best remembered for the majestic spread of the Nile, that has witnessed the rise and fall of the Egyptian, Nubian, Greek, Roman empires, the Arabs and the colonising British, Dutch and French troops over a period of four to five millennia.

B MANGALAM

How long PoJK DPs will be kept waiting for their return: Why not pay them ex-gratia worth assets left behind?

5,300 PoJK DP families staying outside paid ex-gratia of Rs.3500 But denied Rs.5.5 lakh OTS Why ?

Vacation of PoJK : Reply to RS. Q. NO. †2957 21-03- 2018

India is committed under Simla Agreement & Lahore Declaration for peaceful & through bilateral discussions Narendra Modi can open 'Channels' but boats have to be peddled by his Colleagues & Bureaucracy.

PoJK DPs, 1st Victim of Pak Aggression not fairly treated in 1st Definition of Domicile of UT of J&K J&K Govt in 2014 wrongly excluded 5,300 PoJK DP families from PM Package but GoI too upheld that in 2016 There has been no regular Count of 1947 PoJK DPs; still Bureaucracy gives number as total 31,619 Families The 1st unsung Victims of Pakistani Atrocities-1947 Displaced Families from PoJK

■ DAYA SAGAR

No doubt the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on problems being faced by refugees and displaced persons in J&K too had lesser opportunity available in time and also did not have there a fully dedicated department for PoJK DPs 1947 in J&K for providing tested and complete information on the PoJK DPs still the seriousness of the issues pertaining to PoJK DPs can be well sensed from where it says "A campaign may be initiated to attract more and more PoJK DPs living in other parts of the country by issuing advertisements in national dailies and the rules for applying the Permanent Resident Certificate may be simplified. But the State Government in a way can be still accused of disowning thousands of families of State Subjects of J&K. Not only that, The Committee desired that the matter may be discussed with the representatives of PoJK DPs for solution but a very casual approach has been adopted in this regard as well since government has not even cared to acknowledged the suggestions / objections made by the PoJK DPs in March 2016 in response to the notification issued on 19-03-2016 by Deputy Commissioner Jammu. Writer had also made an appeal in this regard to Hon'ble Governor J&K on behalf of the PoJK DPs..

Ofcourse the Parliamentary committee too did not specifically ask the State government to modify the proposals as were sent to GOI by NC- Congress J&K Government on 22.10.2014 so as to include atleast the known 5300 families settled outside J&K before making any payments as and when amount is received from GOI but the committee atleast recommended for setting up regular department, ordering a regular recount of numbers and addressing on priority the neglect that PoJK DPs have so far faced.

No doubt in 1960s Government of India came up with a policy of Payment of Rehabilitation Assistance to Migrants from Pakistan Occupied areas of Jammu and

Kashmir State (sanction conveyed vide No.10/15 Policy-1/59-A of 24-06-1960 from Chief Settlement Commissioner , Ministry of Rehabilitation, GOI Jaisalmer House New Delhi to Regional Settlement Officer Jalandar) where under the assistance / ex gratia was provided to only to some category of families from Pakistan Occupied areas of J&K. Those who were placed on agricultural lands in J&K were given cash upto Rs.1000 or loan/ liability waiver upto Rs.1000/. Surely that was for facilitating their temporary stay in the areas outside occupied areas till their return is made possible by getting the occupied areas vacated. Even the lands that were given on reduced scales were not immediately given to all and to some not even at full of reduced scale. Those other than on Agri lands where given ex gratia upto Rs.3500 in cash or in terms of clearing loan/ other liabilities .

To some Cash Compensation for land deficiency was decided in 2008 but a meagre amount of Rs. 25000 per Kanal with max limit of Rs.1.5 lakh which was surely not realistic and needed revision. The deficiencies should rather be made good keeping in view the first proposals of Joint Rehabilitation Board headed by the then Major General Tara Singh Bal (Joint Rehabilitation Board headed by the then Major General Tara Singh Bal that had also 13 members from J&K State Government had decided/ assessed to allot to DPs, land measuring upto 12 acres abi/ 18 acres Khushkee which can surely reflect the genuine quantum of compensation that the agricultural families deserved at that time). Similarly the decision taken in 2008 to pay Rs.2 lakh to those who were not given plots in urban areas was not logical keeping in view the cost of lands in urban areas & construction of residential house at current prices or the prices on the date of payment. Even the one time settlement amount of Rs.5.5 lakh per family of 1947 times as sanctioned by GOI vide letter No. 31/01/2011-R & SO dated 22-12-2016 addressed to J&K



A Look through the Mist Part-II

Chief Secretary by Director Rehabilitation ,FFR Division, MHA, GoI nowhere tests to the real requirements which are very large and their reflections could be well seen from the facts that (b) No claims for assets left behind were given to these families after 1947 (b) Rehabilitation Board headed by the then Major General Tara Singh Bal that had recommended to allot to DPs, land measuring upto 12 acres abi/ 18 acres Khushkee and (c) In case Rs.1000 in 1947 was kept in bank in 1947 it would have become worth Rs.4000 (even with 10% per annum interest if not 12% interest & quarterly compounding (if not monthly compounding) and Rs.10.24 Lakh in 2017. Similarly in case the interest rate is taken as 12% then in 1965 the amount would have been Rs.8000 and just in 2013 the amount would have become R.20,56,000.

Definition of DP that appeared in the notification issued by Deputy Commissioner Jammu on 19-03-2016 did indicate that it was taken from Jammu and Kashmir Displaced Persons (Permanent Settlement) Act 1971 Act No X of 1971 and it was hoped that after seeing the representations made on 20-03-2014 government of J&K will include the 5300 families staying outside J&K like government had included 1965/ 1971 DPs but that did not happen. It is fair opportunity for government to do that now .

PoJK DP 1947 families have suffered enough . heir grievance can be addressed only through a total review exercise also taking leads(to some extent) from the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs' one hundred eighty third report on problems being faced by refugees and displaced persons in J&K was presented to Rajya Sabha ON 22nd December, 2014.

Prime Minister has given many welfare schemes after 2014 but no scheme matching the real needs of 1947PoJK DP needs has come which is surely for the reasons of machinery below may not have taken the task

seriously worth drafting meaningful proposals that if placed before Modi cabinet would surely received sanctions even if of value much more than Rs 9096 Cr .

No count of the properties left behind by PoJK DPs in 1947 times in PoJK areas has been kept officially by GOI / State governments which should have been kept even if the claims of properties left behind were not to be paid for technical reasons. PoJK DPs might have by 2022 grown to over 150000 families In case for technical reasons government cannot compensate them in the shape of claims for their left behind properties, fair enough, but government should not have any problem in documenting the left behind properties of the 1947PoJK DPs (after calling details from these families). So atleast now government should keep the count of their assets like that of Evacuee properties of those who had migrated from J&K to Pakistan in 1947. Many PoJK DPs may be now even beyond third generation and some may not be able to draw the details for getting properties registered; imagine what will happen if delayed further when government has not initiated any exercise in that regard. Till a policy for compensation is worked out / their return is made possible there should not be any problem for initiating a process for documentation and keep the record of assets left behind in PoJK as the government has kept the record of the evacuee properties of those who migrated from J&K to Pakistan in 1947.

So since a lot of issues/ demands need to be addressed, even some many confusions could emerge from the statements / reports made by government (even in the legislature)/ in public domain about the numbers, the assistance given , status of the displaced families the first requirement is to have a full fledged dedicated department for the PoJK DPs and start the works as per the needs some of which have been discussed herein.

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Maintain status quo in all religious places

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

India is a secular democracy and its secular character must be kept intact and maintained at all costs come what may. The question of survey in religious places should not become a breeding ground for religious tension and religious disputes. No worthwhile purpose will be solved by surveying the religious places as it may lead to disruptions and religious tensions which may give rise to Hindu-Muslim conflicts and disruptions which is very dangerous for the secularism and pluralism of the country. Therefore no unwarranted step should be taken in the country which will lead to disharmony among different religions. India is a multi-religious, multi lingual, multi-culture and multi-dimensional country and its diversity should be maintained and for this it is necessary that there should be no dispute on the religious places. Thus for maintaining the secular character of the country it is necessary to uphold the statuesque on all the religious places throughout the length and breadth of the country. At the same time the characteristic of unity in diversity should be kept intact which is the intrinsic beauty of the land called Hindustan. There should be no dispute and dissention on the different places of worship in the country as it will lead to a dangerous trend of igniting the fires of Hindu-Muslim disputes which will lead to religious tensions and conflicts in the plural country and hence this is unacceptable. Therefore nothing should be done which will give rise to Hindu-Muslim disputes and tensions as these are against the secular tenets of the country and it will divide the country and create communal tensions. No old euphoards and skeletons should be opened as this will lead to communal tensions and disputes which are against the secular fabric of the country. So what is needed is that in all the religious places throughout the country the position which obtained on 15th August 1947 must be maintained and kept intact for the flourishing of the secularism and Hindu-Muslim unity which is

the guarantee for the unity and integrity of the country. Therefore complete statuesque must be maintained on the character of all religious places meaning thereby that on the places of the worship the position as it obtained on 15th August 1947 must be maintained at all costs for the flourishing of the secularism and pluralism. The places of the worship Act 1991 should not be tinkered with as this act is the guarantee for the communal amity and harmony and as such no change should be incorporated in this important piece of legislation as doing so will give rise to communal and religious strife which will damage the plural fabric of the nation. Therefore it is important and in the interest of the communal harmony that the places of worship Act1991 should and must be followed in letter and spirit for the flourishing of the secularism and Hindu-Muslim unity and communal harmony which is badly needed in the country. If the character and position of the places of the worship are sought to be altered it will give rise to Hindu-Muslim disputes and tensions in the country and it may lead to a civil war in the country and therefore no change should be made in the places of the worship Act and the consequent changes in the character of the thousands of the places of the worship in the country. Therefore no change should be made in the character and position of the religious places as it obtained at the time of the freedom and so this position of the places of worship should be maintained to avert the communal tension and disputes in the vulnerable society. Thus it is important and in the best interests of the country that the position which obtained at the time of the freedom should be maintained for the strength of the secularism. Therefore there is great need to keep the character of the places of worship intact as it was at the time of the freedom from the British imperialism. So it is crystal clear that there should be no change in the places of worship so far as it relates to change in the character of the religious

places throughout the country. Thus the character of all the places of worship should be maintained across the country. Therefore there should be no change in the character of the places of worship across the country to keep the secularism intact. Thus it follows that there should be no change in the position and character of the places of worship as it stood on the occasion of the freedom of the country. It is the duty of all of us to see that the places of worship are kept intact and there is no change in the position and character of the places of worship so that secularism will flourish and there is no communal tension in the country due to the change in the position and character of the religious places. There is utmost need to follow the provisions of the places of worship Act 1991 so that there is no change in the character and position of the religious places across the length and breadth of the country. Therefore there should be no change in the character and position of the religious places as it stood on the 15th August 1947. Thus the thousands of the places of worship in the country should be allowed to continue its position and character as it stood on the occasion of the freedom of the country, because if we try to make changes in the character of the religious places, it will create Pandora box and people will seek change in the character of the religious places, which will create communal trouble across the country and thus it will be problematic for the country and its secularism. Thus what is needed is that the places of worship should be allowed to retain their culture as it stood at the time of independence and there should be no change in the character and position of the religious places so that secularism will grow and flourish in the country. The minority community of the country is also demanding that the worship places Act of 1991 should be followed and there should be no change in the provisions of this act and there should be no change in the character and position of the religious places across the country. The

Muslim community pleads that there should be no change in the character of the religious places throughout the country. It should be ensured that there is no change in the places of the worship as it stood on 15th August 1947 in order to protect the much valued secularism and pluralism. If we try to make changes in the character and position of the religious places, it will lead to communal tension and clashes in the country and it will give a big setback to secularism in the country which will be against the secular fabric of the country. Therefore there is great need to keep the character and position of the places of worship of thousands of the religious places intact for the cause of secularism and pluralism. The meddling with the position and character of the places of worship as it stood on the occasion of the freedom will jeopardize the secularism and plural tenets of the country and hence there is no need and necessity to create communal tension across the country due to the change in the character of the places of worship. It is the duty of the majority community to protect the places of the worship of the minority community so that true secularism will flourish in the country. For maintaining of the secularism, there is great need to protect the character and position of the religious places across the country and so it should be ensured that the character and position of the places of the worship should be maintained for the growth of secularism and pluralism. To conclude it can be said that the statuesque of all the religious places in the country as it stood on the occasion of the independence should be kept intact and maintained so that there are no communal tensions and disturbances because of the changes in the character and position of the places of worship. Thus the character of the places of worship as it stood on the occasion of freedom of the country should be maintained at all costs.

(The author is a columnist and social activist).

YOUR COLUMN Grant justice to PM package employees

Dear Editor,

Through the columns of your esteemed daily, I would like to submit few lines for the kind consideration of Chairman, National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi, seeking justice for KP employees working in Valley.

A number of youth of displaced Kashmiri Pandit community serving under PM employment Package & other

KP employees, which includes good number of female employees too, have become canon-fodder in Kashmir valley as selective killings have become a regular affair. The recent gruesome killing of a PM package employee, Rahul Bhat, posted at Tehsil Headquarters, Chadoora, Badgam, in broad daylight has made them more fearful, scared and unsafe in valley. Under these circumstances, Kashmiri Pandit employees posted in valley are demanding for their relocation to safer zones of Jammu and other places in India, till complete normalcy prevails and whole displaced Kashmiri Pandits community in exile is rehabilitated in Kashmir valley as per their will and choice.

Therefore, we request you to issues necessary direc-

tives to Central Government and LG J&K in this regard, as they are demanding rather begging from more than fortnight for the same. Unfortunately Government is not paying heed so far towards their demand of relocation.

It is further requested that UT administration of J&K and Central Government may be asked not to link relief and employment package with return to Kashmir Valley and declare employment package for all migrants at present locations like Jammu, Delhi, Chandigarh, Bangalore or any other places in the country.

Kundan Kashmiri, President KPC.