

NECESSARY STEP

As Jammu and Kashmir Police has asked the residents of Kathua district to inspect vehicles before turning them on after the security forces had shot down a drone carrying explosives, there must be anxiety among the people. But the step taken by the JKP is very necessary as the nature of bombs which the drone was carrying has raised the brows of many who are responsible for the security of the people. Reportedly, a North Korea-made drone sent from Pakistan with a payload of seven magnetic or sticky bombs and an equal number of under-barrel launcher grenades was shot down by Jammu and Kashmir Police in the Tali Hari Chak area close to the International Border. The recovery from the drone has made it clear that the threat is looming large and police, security forces and the people should be made aware about all kinds of happenings which can occur with such ammunition coming to this side of the border by frequently spotted drones. It is advisable that police should prepare videos to educate people how to inspect their vehicles as only telling the people to do the same will not serve the purpose. The JKP has however taken good steps by using a traditional method of announcement by asking its men to spread awareness through a vehicle mounted with a loudspeaker in the border town of Hiranagar area. The sticky bombs are used to cause damage to vehicles therefore it is necessary to thoroughly check vehicles particularly before starting them in the morning. The Police is also asking people to check fuel tanks and vehicle parts made of iron for sticky or magnetic materials. The cops have also asked the residents to report any suspicious activity in the area. The anti-nationals can strike anywhere in the UT therefore it will be better to make videos and share them on social media to impart awareness and also disseminate information among the commercial vehicle operators as any harm to passenger vehicles can cause havoc. A collective approach against the enemies of nation is the need of the time and therefore people should also act as ear and eyes of the government to counter any such attempt of terror strike.

EXTENDING PMSSS

The Government has once again proved its commitment to ensure overall development of people in general youth in particular of newly created Union Territories viz Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, by announcing the extension of the Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS) for the students of twin UTs for another five years. Besides granting necessary expansion to this most important scheme for the youngsters of J&K and Ladakh, the Government is also mulling over opening of several new educational institutes, as per latest standards, so that the coming generations from both Union Territories can compete efficiently with their counterparts without facing any problem and can excel on various platforms. Pertinent to mention here that soon after the bifurcation of the erstwhile State of J&K into two Union Territories, the PMSSS was launched in year 2011 for proving ample employment opportunities to the youth of both the Union Territories, to pursue higher studies at reputed institutes of the country. Under the scheme, 5000 meritorious students each year are funded to study in private and Government educational institutions across the country. During the last few years, although there was a bit low response to the scheme due to COVID pandemic but before that a number of students availed benefit of the scheme and got admissions in various prestigious institutes of the country. To further boost the scheme and enabling more and more youth to get benefit of the same, the Government has earmarked an amount of Rs 180-190 cr and kept the same the disposal of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), which is the Nodal Agency for implementation of the PMSSS. As per details, the scheme offers 4,500 seats for general education courses (Bachelor's in Arts, Commerce and Science), and 250 seats, each for Engineering and Medical degrees with scholarship amount of Rs 1.3 lakh for general education courses while Rs 2.25 lakh is being awarded for Engineering courses and Rs 4 lakh for Medical courses, in various institutes of the country. It is expected that with further extension of the scheme, the youngsters of J&K & Ladakh will get immense benefit enabling them to touch the new heights of life with advanced studies in the fields of their choice.

Thoughts The Language of the Soul

We need to keep in touch with God's plan to change the world of darkness into a world of light. Worldwide, souls are experiencing sorrow and peacelessness. We hear rising feelings of helplessness and anxiety. People are wanting but do not know how to connect to some positive action with their inner values.

Life can become fulfilling only when we see the material world in a spiritual light. We then realize the quality of our life depends on us, on the quality of our thoughts. Our mind is a powerful thing! Our mind is not a cage.

Finding a better way of life is in my hands, not in the hands of others. Focus on the positive and become light-hearted and our interactions will be full of love.

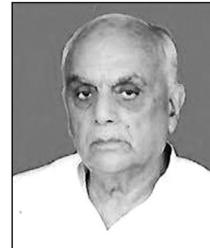
Let us make a commitment and embrace these values: Not to give or take sorrow, not to steal or deceive anyone, to speak the truth, see the good in others not the defects and not criticize others.

With this spiritual wisdom and by strengthening these moral values we can work together to bring God's plan into this world.

Brahma Kumaris

Another brutal killing of Hindu woman-KPs' return to Valley a myth

■ ER P L KHUSHU



Yet another brutal killing of a young non-Muslim teacher Rajni Bala, 36, who belonged to Samba district and was posted at a government school in Gopalpora, was shot dead by terrorists earlier in the day. Bala is the second non-Muslim government employee killed in May. Similarly, earlier so many non-Muslims working in Kashmir working to earn their bread and butter, belonging to the other parts of India, were similarly killed mercilessly by the terrorists. Kashmiri Pandit Rahul Bhat, working in the office of Tehsildar Chadroo, in the district Badgam of Kashmir. He was shot dead inside the main office premises of the Tehsil Office at Chaddora, district Budgam, Kashmir on May 13, 2022, in broad daylight under the very nose of others working in that office, of course being mostly Muslim employees. The hired terrorists barged into the Tehsil office Chaddora and shot from a close-range Rahul Bhat, working under Prime Minister's Rehabilitation Package (PMRP), as a clerk. Another brutal killing of such a nature was that of a Kashmiri Pandit Rakesh Pandita, the President of Municipal Committee Tral, which was done by Jehadis at Tral Kashmir on June 2, 2021, after another gruesome killing of Ajay Pandita a Kashmiri Pandit and a Sarpanch at Larkipora, Anantnag, who was shot dead by unidentified terrorists at Lokbawani in Anantnag on June 8, 2020. Prime Minister's Rehabilitation Package (PMRP) for the KPs has become a death trap for Rahul Bhat, who was working just as a clerk under this rehabilitation scheme of the Prime Minister of India for the migrant Kashmiri Pandits. The point is to make Kashmir an Islamic hyperbole with the sole aim to ensure that no one other than a fanatic Muslim lives there. Such an unholly epic has its seeds in Pakistan which want that Kashmir must be non-Muslim free, to further its anti-India activities in Kashmir. This is an off shoot of a bigger plan which took its birth with the Jammu and Kashmir getting independence from the Maharaja rule in 1947. At that point of time it was the Kashmiri Pandit in the valley which was the eyesore for making Kashmir valley purely a province of Muslims only, thus overriding the balance of Jammu

Hindus with such attempts, since Jammu was an integral part of the bigger Jammu and Kashmir. Kashmiri Pandits return to valley is now a proverb, loaded with grammatical euphoria. This proverb is in rotation now almost in synonymous almost with the sad times of the genocide followed with the mass forced exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the valley. The verbose of captioned terminology used by various authorities that matter both at the level of government of India or the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, are most of the times so heartening that one feels that the KPs are going to the Valley back as the heroes of a war-torn film and are getting adorned with various prizes of precious deliveries. To quote one in this regard is the prime minister's package for the Kashmiri migrant employees. But, the saddest part of this bestowment of a so-called super favour, as per the authorities in power, to the Kashmiri Pandit migrant employees, it has almost ceremoniously become death knell for the migrant employees. In turn it is a guided introductory informational missile for the KPs not to even think of returning to their homes and hearths snatched away from them under a well-designed criminal conspiracy hatched in Pakistan under the guidance of ISI in the name of Jihad in Kashmir. This conspiracy of evicting the KPs from Kashmir along with their genocide has apparently a hidden agenda from most of the fanatic Muslims of Kashmir believing in the establishing of 'Nizam-e-Mustafa', the pure Islamic rule in Kashmir. Unfortunately the concept of Islamophobia was always a ring desire of almost each and every Muslim of Kashmir, right from the day when the power got transferred to National Conference in 1947, after the same was snatched away from Maharaja Hari Singh under the well planned conspiracy hatched by the prominent leaders of 'Quite-Kashmir Movement', with the sorrowful blessings of most of the then congress leadership of India which was led by Nehru, except Sardar Patel. Kashmiri Pandit has thus been an eyesore in Kashmir ever since emergence of so called 'Naya-Kashmir' under the partisan leadership of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. He remained a 'Cheshm-e-Chirag' the golden eye of Nehru to rule Kashmir from 1947 to 1953. The ragnarok about the duping the KPs of their fundamental right to live in Kashmir with dignity and honour, started in this period only, when the exodus of KPs started from Kashmir. So it is a process which was well defined and thought of

by the Islamic fundamentalist snow having captured the sentimental aura of Kashmir under the big psyche of making Kashmir a purely dominated place of Kashmiri Muslims. Sheikh's rule in 1947, embedded of seeds of 'Pseudo Secularism, viz half truths about the real concept of true secularism', in Jammu and Kashmir, for which the main suffering population of Jammu and Kashmir were the Kashmiri Pandits. It was in this time only when the Land to Tiller laws were enforced which in particular made Kashmiri Pandits the main targets as most of the Kashmiri Pandits were well established 'Zamindars' and their agricultural lands were snatched from them and given to the tillers who were Muslims, with a biased base of communal tinge. Apart from this enough of partialities occurred during that time when KPs were refused proper representations in the government jobs, educational trainings, etc. This is the period when the first mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits occurred towards the plains, for earning their bread and butter with dignity and honor. Subsequent governments in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir followed suit to destabilize the base of the KPs from the valley when mass exodus of KPs took place from time to time, thus limiting the population of KPs to just a few lakhs in Kashmir. With the advent of terrorism the KPs became the specific targets, when on September 14, 1989, Pandit Tika Lal Taploo, who was a prominent leader of KPs, was murdered by the JKLF in Srinagar. Prominent lawyer Prem Nath Bhat was gunned down on 27th December-1989 in South Kashmir. Pt Nilkanth Ganjoo, an imminent judge who had sentenced Maqbul Bhat to death, was shot dead, when other prominent Kashmiri Pandits of big repute were also killed brutally. Prominently several intelligence officers were assassinated, over the course of January. On February 2, 1990, Satis Tikoo, a young Hindu Pandit social-worker was murdered near his own house in Habba Kadal. On February 13, 1990, Lassa Kaul, Station Director of Srinagar Doordarshan was shot dead. This is only a small tale of KPs who were killed brutally, because of being Kashmiri Pandits. The worst carnages of genocide of Kashmiri Pandits occurred in March 1997, when terrorists dragged out seven Kashmiri Pandits from their houses in Sangrampora village and gunned them down. It was followed by killing about 23 Kashmiri Pandits, including women and children, in 1998, when they were shot in cold blood in Wandhama

Village. Again, In March 2003, about 24 Kashmiri Pandits, including infants, brutally shot dead in Nadimarg Village. Where is the appropriate security apparatus for the protection of the life of the non-Muslim employees and the Kashmiri Pandit migrant employees serving in Kashmir; when they are prone to any terror attack, due to their nude exposure to service conditions of their employment circumstances. With their conditions of appointment in the government sector, a stern barrier has been kept that such migrant employees shall have to work in the valley only. In the event of their abstaining from such duties due to terror threats etc, they will be dismissed from their appointments. Such migrant employees cannot be transferred outside the Kashmir province under any circumstance, which is a virulent condition in their appointment in the valley. These Kashmiri Pandit employees serving in the valley are living like slaves at the mercy of their own fates when the security cover provided to them is a general security cover, which is for names sake only. What is the government doing? It is being run by bureaucrats, who are least bothered about the safety of such people. The service conditions of the migrant employees need extra modification to make their postings in clusters in grouped conditions with an extra ordinary security cover. This alone will save them from the bullets of the terrorists who are being used as tools by the over ground forces which include most of the civilian population for their personal and individual interests. Some amongst them do not want KP employees back so that their booty in the administration is shared by anyone else other than these silent abettors to such acts of terror and murders. Same is the case with the other sections of such persons who have grabbed KPs lands and properties at tiny and shoddy prices and are under a dormant fear that they shall have to return these properties along with penalties. Some of these persons have now become so much fanatic not to tolerate a KP considering him as an enemy of Islam. But where is the government. Why cannot it be curbed? Tall slogans and claims of normalcy is a virtual dream to fulfill the false egos of government for public consumption when the situation on ground is absolutely different. Let the Government act and save the innocents as pigeons before cats.

(The author is a Chartered Consultant Civil Engineer, who loves his Motherland Jammu & Kashmir).

Indian agriculture blooms beyond expectations

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Under the leadership of our popular and visionary Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the nation is reaping a bountiful harvest of all-round efforts made by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in the last eight years. Several innovative initiatives taken by the Ministry in the form of schemes and programmes, in order to ensure the commitment and accountability of the government, have resulted in ushering sweeping reforms in the direction and state of farmers and farming across the country. The livelihood standards of the farmers are improving and agricultural finances provided by the Centre are reaching them directly through bank accounts with complete transparency. The income of farmers has risen in various aspects and a new wave is visible as agriculture has emerged as a viable business proposition. Government's schemes, programmes and all other activities have always been focused towards this effort to empower farmers to become agricultural entrepreneurs. In last 8 years, the budget allocation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has been continuously hiked and several schemes rolled out with an aim to make agriculture sector farmer-friendly. The allocation of agriculture budget in the current financial year to about Rs 1.32 lakh crore is a reflection of the devotion of the central government towards the welfare of farmers. The budget allocation for agriculture has increased by almost 6 times in the last 8 years. The journey of development in the agriculture sector does not end here. Besides increased allocation, the record production of food grains and horticultural crops is also a proof of the budget allocation being spent in the right direction. According to the Third Advance Estimates for the year 2021-22, the production of food grains is estimated at about 315 million tonnes, while the production of the horticulture sector is also estimated at 334 million tonnes, which is the highest ever. Indeed, it is no small matter that in the midst of the challenges of COVID pandemic, India has supplied food grains to many needy countries and even during the Russia-Ukraine crisis, India has once again emerged as a major source of food grains supply to the world. Not only is the production of food grains showing a steady increase in the country at a record level, but the exports of agriculture produce is also rising continuously, which has reached almost Rs 4 lakh crore. Keeping in mind the better remuneration to farmers and their livelihood, the government has continuously increased the Minimum Support Price for Kharif, Rabi and other commercial crops. As a result, MSP of paddy rose to Rs 1,940 per quintal from Rs 1,310 per quintal in 2013-14. Similarly, in year 2013-14, the MSP of wheat was Rs 1,400 per quintal, which is now raised to Rs 2,015 per quintal. During Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2021-22, 433.44 lakh MT of wheat was procured by the Government at MSP, which is the highest ever. Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir have seen the highest procurement of wheat so far. The success story does not close here; data also reveals that a sum of Rs 85,604.40 crore was credited to 49.19 lakh wheat producing farmers during the RMS directly into their bank accounts in a transparent manner. Continuing its commitment towards the farmers, the government has credited around Rs 1.82 lakh crore to about 11.5 crore farmers directly into their bank accounts under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Yojana (Total Rs.6,000 per annum in three equal installments). This scheme is one of the most comprehensive and key schemes of the Central Government and also a symbol of devotion to farmers, in which there is no role for middlemen. Fulfilling the Government's sincere efforts towards improving soil health, the Soil Health Card has been provided to crores of farmers. Keeping in mind the soil health, this scheme is making farmers aware of effective and better farming techniques to get better yield. Under the guidance of Prime Minister, the Government has made special provision for Organic Farming as well as Natural Farming in this year's general budget. Under this, special attention is paid to soil health with an objective of increasing farmers' income through natural farming and conservation of resources and environment. In Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, works will be undertaken to bring an area of 5 Km on both banks of Ganges under the Natural Farming through a comprehensive

action plan. The thinking of the government to promote natural farming does not stop here. The government has constituted a committee under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to include syllabus related to natural farming in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching courses, and chemical-free natural farming is being supported by the ministry and ICAR. Keeping in view the contemporary nature of natural farming, ICAR has issued special guidelines to agricultural universities to include research and allied subjects related to natural farming. Natural farming has been able to increase the income of the farmers and is a symbol of the novel thinking of the Central Government towards ensuring better living. Besides various schemes and programmes, the dedication of the union government towards the farmers is also reflected in the Rs. 1,00,000 crore allocated for the Agricultural Infrastructure Fund and the government is committed to provide basic facilities like Godowns, Custom Hiring Centres, Primary Processing Units, Sorting and Grading Units and Cold storage. Through these basic facilities, the Government is committed to provide remunerative prices to farmers for their produce. In this series, the government, under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (Self-Reliant India Campaign) is also giving special promotion to the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission. Similarly, through platforms and schemes like the National Agricultural Market (e-NAM), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchay Yojana, Agricultural Mechanization and Cluster Development Programme under MIDH, the Government is committed to provide maximum benefits to the farmers. Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, farmers have been provided with insurance cover in the event of a natural calamity. In order to bring more and more farmers under the crop insurance scheme, the 'Meri Policy, Mere Haath' campaign has been launched. The importance of PM Crop Insurance Scheme can be gauged from the fact that farmers have deposited about Rs 21,000 crores of premium while they have been reimbursed Rs 1.15 lakh crore as claims against crop damage. Kisan Rail Scheme is another very important concept of PM Modi for faster transportation of agricultural produce, under which special trains are being run for the swift movement of perishable agricultural produce. This is a major illustration of the government's commitment and credibility towards the farmers. The success of Kisan Rail can be gauged from the fact that so far about 2,500 train trips have been conducted on about 175 routes across the country. This year's budget of the Ministry of Agriculture has given special emphasis on agriculture Startups and agri-entrepreneurship. Work is being done very fast in this direction, and the results are also visible. Through the farmer friendly schemes of the Government of India, it is high time our agriculture sector scales new highs. Many hopes and expectations rest on the agriculture sector, which the government, under the leadership of our generous Prime Minister understands well and is chugging full steam towards reaching its destination. At present, the government, along with the public, is celebrating the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' all over the country. All the ministries and departments of the Centre, state governments and their organizations are mobilized in celebrating this grand festival. In its continuation, the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, showing dedication towards farmers, celebrated Kisan Bhagidari, Prarthnitika Hanami Abhiyan' with great enthusiasm last April 25-30th. During this campaign, all the Departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, organizations and institutions under them including the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and about 725 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) spread across the country organized Kisan Melas, Kisan Sammelans, seminars, workshops, webinars, round tables etc., in which a lot of union and state ministers and other public representatives including MPs and MLAs participated enthusiastically. In this way, when the nation celebrates the 100th Year of Independence, then the country will have a bird's eye view of the evergreen agricultural sector of the Incomparable India. With this dream, we are all moving towards a better future.

(The author is Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare).

PROGRESSING J&K Jammu-Baramulla rail project will catalyze accelerated progress, prosperity

Jammu-Baramulla railway line project once completed will act as catalyst towards accelerated development, progress, and prosperity in the region. This all weather and cost effective connectivity shall prove to be a boon for economy of J&K besides catalyzing industrialization, movement of raw material, trade, tourism and employment generation as well.

A sustainable connectivity to this region is very important for national security, prosperity and socio-economic development of the region. Despite vast resources, Kashmir valley lagged behind in terms of development due to lack of railway connectivity. After the abrogation of Article 370, central and UT governments made serious efforts to establish rail connectivity to the region for which a number of railway projects have been initiated which are under execution in different stages. The Central government has declared the project as National Project in view of its significance for the nation. Institutions like IIT Delhi, IIT Roorkee, Geographical Survey of India and DRDO are providing expertise in the project planning and its implementation. This route will also see construction of world's highest railway bridge and India's first cable stayed Railway Bridge.

After completion, this line will be all weather convenient and cost effective mass transportation system and will act as a catalyst for overall development of the northernmost alpine region of the country. This project has great significance for security and socio-economic development. It can play important role in rapid industrialization, movement of raw materials and finished products from J&K and encourage trade and tourism in the region apart from providing opportunity for employment, an official said. Similarly, it will be a boon for development of agriculture, horticulture and floriculture of this area, he added.

The construction of first 3 phases of the railway project has been completed and the line is operational between Banihal-Baramulla in Valley and Jammu-Udhampur-Katra in Jammu region. Besides, work on intervening 111 Km of Katra-Banihal section is going on which is the most challenging portion for construction due to its geology and extensive Riverine system with deep gorges. According to a senior official of Northern Railways, Kashmir valley would be connected to Jammu and rest of the country during 2023, providing efficient connectivity to Kashmir valley with other parts of the country through rail network.

The main tunnel of T-49, the longest tunnel of Indian Railways, between Sumer and Arpochala station of Katra-Banihal section of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project has been connected successfully.

After completion of this project, it would be a splendid project of engineering of 21st century and this project will write a new story of development, progress, prosperity and security of the nation. The world's highest bridge being built over Chenab in the Union Territory will be completed by September this year. "As you all know that the world's highest railway bridge over Chenab is being built. It will be completed in September this year which will fulfill our motive of connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari," Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said. Chenab Bridge, world's highest rail bridge will connect Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country by rail route, is designed to withstand earthquake of magnitude eight on Richter Scale. The work for Reasi railway station in Reasi district, a part of Jammu-Bara is in final leg. The concrete slabs have been laid at bridge number 39 built over 105 ft gorge. Of all the pillars installed for the bridge, height of the middle one is more than that of Qutab Minar. The height of pylon above the foundation is 193 mt. The bridge is 331 mt above the sea level.