

RAZING DOWN TERROR EDIFICE

The need of the time is to raze down the terror edifice completely as the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has asserted that the terrorists and their cross-border supporters are using new methods of terrorism in the region. Since youths are being radicalized as never before in the UT, the need of the time is to counter the strategy of Pakistan and its stooges in India to destroy their entire eco-system. The new challenges as far as security is concerned are far more complex and typical that a totally different approach is required to neutralize the threats which are looming large from across the border and in the hinterland. There is a need to be extra cautious as compared to the past because the terrorism today has turned multifaceted with even a social media message becoming a dangerous tool to harm the society by creating tension and even igniting violence which has been seen many a time with the latest one in Doda District, where the administration was forced to take strict actions to control the situation. In this regard, LG has given strict directions to police to treat even those who harbour and support the terror mongers in the category of terrorists and deal with them accordingly. This is a must for containing terrorism because under the guise of innocent people, the supporters of terrorists at times do more harm than the actual perpetrators of terror incidents. The government should ask the security forces to devastate the terror edifice as soon as possible because what is left in J&K is residual terrorism as all the so-called commanders of the terror outfits had been eliminated by the security forces in the last few years. LG Sinha's assertion that the country has been a victim of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism for years, and though the security forces have been able to largely dismantle their ecosystem, there's still a handful who are responsible for most killings in the region is true to the hilt and therefore the main focus of security forces should be to eliminate the last terror monger in line in the Valley to fully sanitize the UT of J&K and restore lasting peace.

ENCROACHMENTS ON PAVEMENTS

As the footpaths and pavements are being encroached, pedestrians are forced to walk on busy roads of the walled city. In some areas, the encroachments are in such bad shape that people end up walking in the middle of the roads. There are so many cases when pedestrians confront accidents while moving on roads as the pavements are being encroached extensively by the vendors and the shopkeepers by putting their goods on display. A visit within the walled city can be enough to gauge the problem that most of the footpaths and pavements are occupied by two-wheelers, vendors, tea stalls, signboards kept by shopkeepers, and so many other things leaving no scope for pedestrians to use footpaths for walking. Even the famous Raghunath Bazaar is not spared by the encroachers as there are many vendors sitting in between the pavements blocking the way with impunity and the agencies responsible for clearing these footpaths gone into hibernation like the cold-blooded creatures as the encroachers are ruling the roost since ages and no one is there to stop them from stopping the movement of the pedestrians. The encroachments are rampant in other parts of the city as well and the pedestrians are left with no other option but to walk in the middle of roads. Many roads here are quite narrow with commercial establishments on both sides thus making the walking on these stretches quite perilous. The people who have been misusing the footpaths and pavements across the city are quite confident that no one will act against them may be due to under the table transactions or some kind of political back-up. Whatever is the case, the people of the city have to face the music on account of encroachments and this is something which needs to be looked after by the higher authorities because the people cannot be left on the mercy of God for their safety. It seems that the mess is because of lethargy of the civic body viz Jammu Municipal Corporation and it is the time that the concerned officials come out of deep slumber and go for regular drives to put an end to this menace once and for all.



**Delighted You
Create, In Misery
You Destroy**

W henever a person lives in misery, he would like to destroy everything. Misery is destructive, happiness is creative. There is only one creativity and that is of blissfulness, cheerfulness, delight.

When you are delighted you want to create something, maybe a toy for a child, a poem, a painting – something. But when you are miserable, you want to crush and destroy something, create some situation in which you can be destructive.

That's why every now and then war erupts somewhere on the earth. All politicians go on talking about peace. They prepare for war. In fact, they say, 'We are preparing for war to preserve peace.' Most irrational. To preserve peace, one should prepare for peace.

That's why all over the world, the new generation is a great danger to the establishment. They are only interested in being happy. They are interested in love, meditation, music, and dance. They are not communists and they don't belong to any 'ism'.

A happy person belongs to himself. Why should he belong to any organisation? That is the way of an unhappy person, to belong to some organisation, to belong to some crowd. He has no roots within himself, he does not belong, and that gives him anxiety that he should belong. He creates a substi-

Some good in smooth, swift & safe flow of traffic can be done without any additional costs on exchequer

Mehta too has advised civil & police Adminn to devise traffic management plan after a scientific study in 2 weeks

■ DAYA SAGAR

Often in debates/ seminars/ workshops/ public meetings main reason for any traffic mess in a city like Jammu is quoted as increasing number of local vehicles and limited surface road facilities available not matching the growing needs. For slow flow of traffic and traffic jams some more reasons are quoted like road repair works being conducted during day time, vehicle owners not observing traffic regulations, VIP and even Sr Officer movements interrupting private traffic, mal functioning of traffic signals/ lights, shortage of staff for regulating traffic, heavy requirement of funds for new roads/ subways/ flyovers. For Jammu city people often name the frequent traffic jams on the Amphalla new Plot Janipur High court Road, BC Road / Rehari Chungi, Rajinder Singh Chowk behind Civil Secretariat, KC Crossing & Shakuntla crossing, Jewal Chowk- Canal roads- Talab - Tillo , Exchange road upto Kachchi Chawani Chowk, different crossings in Gandhinagar colony, Panama Chowk to Railway Station to Channi Himmat rail sub way, road from railway crossing Channi Himmat upto Sector-4 and the like being there also due to some elements of poor traffic management too.

Of course the need for new projects, requirement of additional funds and the growing traffic too are surely the genuine reasons but surely not the only reason. But new facilities cannot be created over night, we can also not force people to leave city, we can also not force people not to buy new vehicle. So should not we also try to see how best first atleast the

available road network, the traffic staff and resources in hand can be used to have some possible relief available in terms of better discipline among the drivers, no parking on road side like 'private day- night parking', enforcing no parking/ atleast no haphazard parking of cars/ two wheelers on the roads in front of clinics/ coaching centres, motivating / facilitating people to make less use of their private vehicles, making more of responsive & caring public transport available to people, making the traffic flow on roads faster; making people to observe traffic rules effectively both during day & nights like use of dipper as a routine & not allowing any prohibited dazzling lights, instead of holding special check Nakas (particularly on crossings/Chowks) keep on checking the defaulters as a regular practice.

It has also been reported that while addressing a high level meeting (attended also by Additional Chief Secretary Home, Principal Secretary PWD, Commissioner Secretary Transport, Transport Commissioner, IG Traffic, SSP Traffic Jammu, SSP Traffic Kashmir) over traffic management in the UT of J&K Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Chief Secretary (who himself has been a research scholar in the field of engineering) this 10th June suggested to officers of civil and police administration to on priority devise a better traffic management plan with a scientific approach keeping in view so common menace of unauthorized parking on roads, identification of needed parking places, optimum utilization of the

A Look through the Mist Part-I

available parking spaces, effective utilization of men and machinery efficiently, erecting barriers and diversions after proper care/ scientific study, enforcement of traffic rules and particularly appreciating that civil societies have better solutions for self problems, that must reflect from plans.

Ofcourse the Traffic Management is in the hands of best lot of our 'young' force which qualifies for Indian Police Service as well as JKP Service and therefore the references being made here are just a feedback worth assisting them in their work suggesting that within limitations may be there are still some costless methods that could reduce traffic on roads, reduce accidents during day/ night, increase the speed of traffic flow and reduce jams. No doubt some very useful reforms already done like putting road dividers in some segments, providing some marked parking spaces on the road side in some markets where roads space was available, provision of some road slips, passenger vehicle stops have been marked at some places (although very less used). But much more needs to be done.

To quote in case the traffic police / related man power deployed by government makes the local taxies / three wheeler taxies to render services by operating as per the fare fixed by government it would send welcome signals. In cities like Jammu in case there is available law responsive local taxi service / three wheeler service may be 25 % to 30% of the people will not

use private cars for local movements in city there by reducing traffic and pollution on the roads. Many avoid using taxies in view of possibility of disputes. How do taxies without meter pass by the side of traffic police standing in chowks? Why do commuters do not report to traffic police for assistance?

One may so often find the local commuters / visitors and three wheeler drivers blowing hot & cold in public places. Visitors from outside too would not speak bad in case they find local transport services abiding by rules.

Similarly the fair working of traffic lights has to be first priority for functioning in regular manner (often lights are found in caution mode during day time also).

The traffic offenders in city like Jammu can well be observed through CCTV instead of organising particular check nakanas near the crossings and odd places even during peak hours.

People driving two wheelers without helmet / safe headgear and / or using cell phone even while driving a two wheeler can be a common sight who need be checked on moment basis and not on only a Naka day. Such people are not only putting their own self in danger but can endanger/ involve in legal disputes some other innocent commuter / driver. To be continued

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Revoke PM Package Employees Bond

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

It is the height of discrimination and injustice that the package employees are required to sign a bond to the effect that they cannot claim transfer to other erstwhile parts of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. J&K is not a state since 5th August 2019, the day of the bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Thus the signing of the bond by the package employees has no meaning and justification as it is illegal, unlawful, unconstitutional and void. The bond needs to be revoked retrospectively to give a level playing field to the PM package employees. After the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, there is no need for the signing of the bond by the package employees at the time of their appointment and the bond does not hold water. So, the bond needs to be revoked to eliminate discrimination and human rights violation. It is the worst kind of the human rights violation that the package employees are required to sign a bond at the time of their appointment and it is the height of discrimination with these hapless employees whose services are subject to this illegal bond and there is urgent need to revoke it in the interest of fair play and justice. But the government seems reluctant to revoke the bond and wants that these unfortunate employees should work for their entire service carrier in Kashmir valley and this is the height of the human rights violation. One fails to understand and appreciate that when NDA led BJP government has repealed the controversial article 370 of the Indian constitution after over 70 years of its inception, so why is the BJP government feeling shy of revoking the illegal, unconstitutional and most discriminatory bond which the package employees are required to sign at the time of their appointment. This gross injustice and discrimination needs to be rectified and so this bond needs to be revoked forthwith and a level playing field ensured for the package employees so that these employees also work in a free environment and without any discrimination. For this it is mandatory that the signing of the bond by the package employees should be shelved in the interest of fair play and justice so that the package employees also feel justice and work in an environment free from discrimination. The bond in question needs to be annulled in the interest of equity and justice to the package employees. The package employees are required to work like bonded labours and they are debarred to apply for the transfer to other division of the Jammu and Kashmir and this is sheer injustice and discrimination and signing of the bond as such should be dispensed with for the cause of justice and fair play. The PM special employment package is basically and essentially an economic package and it as such is

not a rehabilitation package but the successive governments have made it a rehabilitation package which is a deceit with the package because of virtue of the bond the package employees are required to work for their entire service in Kashmir and it is injustice and unconstitutional and so the need is that the signing of the bond at the time of the appointment of the package employees should be done away with in the interest of equality and justice. The package employees, Kashmiri Pandits, other Hindu employees belonging to Jammu division and the non local labourers are not allowed to leave Kashmir for the safety and security to their precious lives as life is the first priority for these hapless ones. There are reports that the Kashmiri Pandits and other non-local labourers are not allowed to migrate to Jammu and other safer places and the Kashmiri Pandit colonies have been sealed and this is the gross human rights violation. Its cognizance should be taken by the state and central minority commission as well as a sue motto cognizance of the human rights violation should be taken by the High court of the Jammu and Kashmir UT and order that the package employees and other non-locals and the Kashmiri Pandits should be allowed to migrate to Jammu and other safer places for the safety to their life, limb and dignity. The High court should take a sue motto cognizance of the signing of the bond by the package employees and order that the signing of the bond should be dispensed with immediately so that justice is met with the package employees. Moreover the employment package should not be construed as the return and rehabilitation package and doing so is sheer injustice with the package employees and the Kashmiri Pandits and the only way is to order the revocation of the signing of the bond by the package employees at the time of their appointment. The package employees and other Hindu employees of Jammu and the non local labourers are living and working under perpetual threat to their precious lives as they are working at the cost of their lives. The package employees, Hindu employees from Jammu, non-local labourers and the Kashmiri Pandits are being selectively targeted by the terrorists and many of them have been targeted and killed under a well knit plan to engineer their exodus to Jammu and other places for the safety to their lives. But the centre government of BJP and LG administration of UT is not allowing their migration to safer places of Jammu and other states of India. Nor is the government giving fool proof security to Pandits, package employees, category employees belonging to Jammu working in Kashmir and the non local labourers working in Kashmir. Government is only making false assurances of security to these hapless people but in practical and on ground fail to pro-

vide security to them. The local SHOs are asking the package employees not to come to Kashmir for the time being and remain at Jammu and in such an atmosphere the package employees, Hindu employees from Jammu and non locals cannot work in Kashmir and they should be allowed to leave Kashmir for the time being in order to save their lives. The situation in Kashmir is not conducive and feasible for living and working in Kashmir of the package employees, Hindu employees from Jammu and the non locals and the Kashmiri Pandits and so they should be allowed to migrate temporarily to Jammu and other safer places outside Jammu so that they are saved from the targeted killings by the terrorists. When the executive police is asking the package employees not to come to Kashmir for the time being, it points to the very grim position of security in Kashmir and so the package employees and the employees from Jammu should be allowed to work from home till the situation becomes normal in Kashmir. Coming back to the practice of signing of the bond by the package employees, it is needed that such a bond should be dispensed with and as early as possible it should be revoked for the furtherance of justice and fair play. The signing of the bond should not be made prerequisite for the appointment in the prime minister's package for Kashmiri Pandits and sooner than later the requirement of the signing of the bond should be dispensed with so that there is no discrimination with the package employees. The article 21 of the constitution dealing with the right to life and personal liberty of the citizens should not be violated in case of the Kashmiri Pandits, package employees, Hindu employees from Jammu and non local labourers and others. Therefore the package employees and other such citizens working in Kashmir should not be deprived of the rights delineated in article 21 of the constitution which deals with the right to life and liberty. So no one and more so the government can deny the rights given to citizens under article 21 and thus there should be no violation of this article. To conclude we can say that the signing of the bond at the time of the appointment under the PM package for Kashmiri Pandits and other Hindus should be revoked forthwith to provide the chances of their transfer to both divisions of Jammu and Kashmir. Thus the package employees should not be debarred from the right to transfer to all the places of Jammu and Kashmir and for this the basic requirement is that the signing of the bond at the time of the appointment should be revoked immediately for giving justice to the package employees.

(The author is a retired Education Officer and Social Activist).

Time to stop child labour

■ VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

Every year on 12 June, the World Day brings together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the world to highlight the plight of child labourers and what can be done to help them. Today, 152 million children are still in child labour. Child labour occurs in almost all sectors, yet 7 out of every 10 of these children are working in agriculture. Every year on 12 June, the World Day brings together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the world to highlight the plight of child labourers and what can be done to help them.

Childhood is considered to be the most wonderful phase of life. But, not all children are fortunate enough to experience this stage. Poverty, hunger, and lack of resources push millions of children to the world of labour at a very tender age. Unemployment of parents also causes child labour as it leads to desperation in that everyone has to contribute towards putting a meal on the table for the family. Child labor is a serious social problem, not only in India but also in other developing countries. The law in Indian soil says that any child below age of 14 cannot be employed either in a factory or office or restaurant. Childhood is the great and happiest period of the lives of everyone during which one learns about the basic strategy of the life from parents, loved ones and nature. Child labour interferes with the proper growth and development of the children in all aspects like mentally, physically, socially and intellectually.

Child labour has moved from the more formal setting of factories to informal settings such as domestic helpers, and industries like embroidery, glass, beedi-rolling, carpet-making, lock-making etc. This indicates that unless stronger and more effective steps are taken, child labour will continue to be a part of the global and national story. In India, 10.1 million in the age-group of 5 to 11 years and 22.87 million in age-group of 15 to 18 years are out there working day in and day out to earn for a square meal and supporting their family's income.

Undeniably, food and education are two main aspects of proper growth and development of children. But, ironically, it is the need of food that compels parents to engage their children in laborious roles. Worldwide 218 million children between 5 and 17 years are in employment.

Among them, 152 million are victims of child labour; almost half of them, 73 million, work in hazardous child labour. Hazardous child labour is most prevalent among 15-17 years old. Among 152 million children in child labour, 88 million are boys and 64 million are girls. The parents of children are not aware of the possible harmful effects of child labour on their children. Child labour is a concern that multiple governments all over the world are combating. For a better world, it is a call to everyone to always report cases or incidences of child labour so that the rights of these children are defended by all possible means. We must understand that only when we complement the efforts of governments and NGOs, the laws, policies, and schemes will start showing favourable results. Instead of child labor, entire focus should be on child education. If the boy or girl takes up a small job as a domestic help or restaurant boy against a nominal salary, he or she does not get enough time for primary and secondary education. Illiterate and unskilled population cannot make a great nation. Observing National Anti-Child Labour Day once a year is not enough to combat against an age-old social system.

girl somewhat remains incompetent to fulfill the desired demands subjected under the dowry system, the girl is either abandoned or declared as not a 'fit' for groom's family. Education is the most precious gift parents can give to their daughters nothing but education so they grow up to be fearless, independent and they know the importance of coequal rights in this patriarchal society. Dowry is the most sickening and off putting practice prevailed in the society right now and hence needs to be stopped in no time. Parents should always do the upbringing of their child in such a way that they don't feel discriminated in any way, shape or form. Don't let your son do it, if your daughter can't. We should not just witness it happening but also stop it by raising our voices and taking a step towards it, do not encourage it in any situation as it is doing no good in society resulting in innumerable ill effects of it including harassment, murder and it also declines the status of women in our society. Let's abolish dowry once and for all.

AYANA GANDOTRA.

YOUR COLUMN Relocate PM Package employees

Dear Editor,

The PM Package employees are protesting from the last 25 days and are rightly demanding their relocation outside Kashmir valley as they feel mentally stressed and are in trauma due to recent targeted killings. These unfortunate package employees are in a quandary as they feel total insecure in Kashmir and are caught between two stools. A sense of hopelessness revolves around these package employees as the government seems less interested in resolving their long pending demand of relocation outside Kashmir valley. The package KP employees are facing the worst human rights violations in Kashmir and are feeling sad, dejected and distressed. But unfortunately, the LG's administration is reluctant to pay heed towards their demand of relocation outside Kashmir and other safer places of India. It has come to limelight that almost all Package employees have left the valley due to fear

psychosis and are not willing to join back their duties as they feel total threatened and unsafe in Kashmir. The ground situation in Kashmir for package employees is bleak and their future is on stake. However, this PM's job package for KP is purely an economic package so it should not be linked in any way with the rehabilitation of KP community. Thus relocation of the package employees outside the valley is not going to make any difference with the rehabilitation policy of the government. It is the need of the hour that the PM package employees be immediately relocated outside the Kashmir valley without wasting any time till the situation stabilizes.

**Vivek Koul,
Jammu**

Dowry system in India

Dear Editor,

Dowry system in India is that greedy and sinful evil that has demolished so many Indian families from past innumerable years. Dowry is considered as one of the most critical aspects when finalizing a girl marriage and if the family of