

SELF-RELIANCE IN POWER

During recent past, the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir especially Jammu region witnessed a major electricity crisis forcing the people to spend sleepless nights due to unscheduled and prolonged power cuts thereby spreading a feeling of resentment among the masses as despite paying the electricity arrears, the registered consumers failed to get adequate and quality power supply despite numerous claims made by the UT administration to ensure quality and 24X7 power supply in every hamlet of the Union Territory. Although this crisis was not only restricted to J&K as entire nation was facing a huge shortage of electricity due to the Russia-Ukraine war and several other reasons resulting into shortage of coal supply for the thermal power plants of the country. There is no doubt that the Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi put in several proactive measures for tackling the challenge and has contained it to some limit besides ensuring additional quota of electricity from the national kitty so that the people of the newly created Union territory may not suffer anymore. The main reason for such unwanted situation was that the national resources available in J&K, which have immense capacity to make the UT self-reliant in power sector were not explored properly by the earlier dispensations, but now the administration is giving a focused attention towards the same. Further, to help reducing the dependency on purchased power from outside J&K, the administration in a significant initiated has given the formal approval to the installation of 200 MW of grid-tied rooftop solar power plants under the 'Solar City Mission' in Jammu. The Administrative Council which met in Jammu on Saturday has approved the significant proposal under which necessary edifice will be raised under the Government of India's Grid-connected Rooftop Solar Scheme, Phase-II. This major developmental project, which will be implemented in residential sector of Jammu and Kashmir for fulfilling the electricity needs from solar power. As per reports, under the project, 200 MW grid-tied rooftop solar power plants will be installed on 50,000 residential buildings in Jammu city by Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA) at an estimated cost of Rs 1040 crore and the project will be completed by March, 2024. These initiatives prove the seriousness of the administration towards making J&K self-reliant in the power sector.

OFF 'D' CUFF

Nurture Your Sattvic Traits To Shine Brightly

We are a wonderful mix of three very different personality traits. At times we are serene, contemplative, and inspired, and at other times, full of drive, passion, and activity.

And there are occasions when inertia, sloth and indifference get the better of us.

The permutations and combinations of these gunas, attributes -- sattva, rajas and tamas -- make for a staggering variety of humans in the world.

This is Vedanta's greatest contribution to the understanding of the inner personality.

All beings have all three attributes.

It is their proportion that makes the difference.

There is energy, power, and creativity when you operate out of your sattvic content. In rajas, you blunder because of mental agitation caused by an overload of desires.

Tamas is primitive when you are asleep to your talent, abilities, and potential.

Chapter 17 of the Bhagavad Gita explains how the relative strengths of the three gunas affect one's shradha, faith.

Shradha is translated as faith but has a far deeper meaning.

It is the ability to conceive a goal and constantly put in effort until the mission is accomplished.

Shradha is the most important determinant of success in any field of endeavour, material or spiritual. Shradha can be sattvic, rajas, or tamasic. Sattvic shradha is the consistency with which one pursues higher ideals.

Rajasic shradha is the frenzied quest of material, myopic goals. Tamasic people are unwilling to work hard and resort to bizarre methods to achieve success.

Krishna then categorises ahara, food; yajna, sacrifice; tap, austerity; and daan, charity -- as sattvic, rajas, and tamasic. Sattvic foods are health foods -- tasty, whole-

Jaya Row Mumbai

PM Package employees & Valley imbroglio

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

Unfortunately the PM package migrant employees are in a confused state of mind as the LG administration is not paying any heed towards the genuine demand of their relocation outside Kashmir valley and wants them to work in the valley and risk their precious lives. The UT government apathy and indifference as well as reluctance lands these hapless employees in trouble as the government is hell bent to continue their posting in Kashmir come what may. Thus the government is not concerned with the safety and security of their lives and wants them to work across Kashmir in spite of threat of the targeted killings. So these employees are not asking for the moon but are only demanding their relocation for three years outside the Kashmir so that their precious lives are saved and they are able to work and perform their duties with dedication and this is possible only when these employees are relocated to Jammu division and outside the UT. Instead of remaining reluctant towards the only and the genuine demand of their relocation, the government should be pragmatic and practical and order their relocation temporarily outside the Kashmir in safe places so that there is no threat of the targeted killings and threat to their lives. There is need to delink the return and rehabilitation from the employment package so that the powers will not take the relocation of the package employees as the failure of the return and rehabilitation policy. The PM employment package is purely an economic package and it has to do nothing with the return and rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Pandits. Employment package is a livelihood package and it should thus be delinked with the return and rehabilitation policy. Thus relocation of the package employees should not be construed with the failure of the return and rehabilitation policy. Therefore the hapless package employees should be relocated temporarily outside Kashmir so that there is no threat to their lives and at the same time they can perform their assigned duties with a sense of belonging-

ness and dedication without any fear of the gun tottering youth. So the UT government should consider the genuine and the only demand of the relocation of the package employees to Jammu division so that there is no threat of the targeted killings and their life, limb and honour is saved. Across Kashmir valley these hapless employees are working under fear, duress and oppression and the targeted killings have created total fear psychosis in these employees and they are unable to work in Kashmir because of the mental trauma. There is depression, tension, dejection and frustration rife large on these employees and so they are demanding their relocation outside the valley so that they are saved. But the LG government is reluctant to accede the genuine and the only demand of these hapless employees of their relocation outside the valley. It is obvious that the government is only making these package employees as the sacrificial goats at the altar of the secular democracy of the country. The centre government of BJP and LG Government are busy in experimentation with this minuscule Pandit community and with its package employees and seem to be in no mood to accept the genuine demand of their relocation outside the Kashmir to Jammu division and outside the UT. The package employees have made it clear that they cannot work in Kashmir in the prevailing circumstances where there is fear of the gun looming large on their lives. These unfortunate employees are agitating from the last one month for their only demand of their relocation to Jammu and other nearby states but the government is not moved by the pathetic conditions of these hapless employees and wants that the package employees are sacrificed and so the government wants them to continue to perform their duties in Kashmir without considering the threat perception to their lives. The BJP government of the centre and the UT government should shun their rigid attitude and ego and accept the genuine demand of the package employees of their relocation outside the valley which only can satisfy their aspirations. If the government does not

accept their demand of relocation outside the valley then they will become scapegoats and will be at great risk to their lives. The package employees have made it clear umpteen times that they cannot work across Kashmir valley as the fear of gun looms large in Kashmir and their lives are at stake and fear psychosis gripes these employees and so they be shifted to safer places outside the valley as their relocation temporarily outside the valley can fulfill their demand. So that government should concede their only and genuine demand of relocation outside the valley so that their life, limb and dignity are saved. Thus the BJP government of centre and the LG government of the UT should shun their rigid attitude and stand and order the relocation of these employees outside the valley so that they are saved from being targeted by the terrorists. But unfortunately the government seems reluctant towards the demand of the relocation of these employees so that there is no threat to their lives and at the same time they can perform their allotted duties without any fear and duress. In Kashmir these hapless creatures are working under perpetual fear of the gun and in such a situation they are unable to work in Kashmir because there is great risk to their lives and in such a surcharged atmosphere they cannot perform their duties across Kashmir valley because the threat of the targeted killings is there. Therefore these employees should not be forced to work under the threat of the targeted killings and so the best course is to shift these employees for the time being to Jammu division so that their lives are saved from the threat of the targeted killings. BJP is only politicizing on the Kashmiri Pandits and it uses them in accordance with their convenience and dumps them when they are not needed. BJP cares too hoots for the Kashmiri Pandits and more so for the package employees and they are only used for the vote bank politics in different states of India. Thus BJP seems not concerned to the demand of PM package employees and only wants them to work across Kashmir where they are being killed by

the terrorists with sadistic pleasure. These hapless and unfortunate employees are becoming the targets of the gun tottering terrorists and there is no dearth of the cases where these employees are not made victims of the bullets of the terrorists. The government is forcing them to work under threat to their lives and it is the worst kind of human rights violation as these employees are made and forced to work under duress, fear oppression and they are working under continuous threat to their lives. These hapless employees have made it clear that they cannot work in Kashmir under the prevailing circumstances and so they demand their shifting outside the valley so that their life, limb and dignity is saved. But the government seems in no mood to accept their only and genuine demand of relocation outside the Kashmir. The BJP government of the centre is only politicising the Kashmiri Pandits and its package employees and is not concerned with the welfare of the package employees. The BJP's normalcy balloon is punctured if it accepts the genuine demand of the relocation of the package employees. The package employees may be attached with the office of relief commissioner Jammu till the time normalcy is restored in Kashmir. Thus the package employees should be attached to the office of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Jammu for three years so that at the opportune time they can be posted back in the Kashmir valley. The ground reality is totally not conducive for their living and working in Kashmir under the present circumstances and so they should be shifted to the office of the relief commissioner Jammu for the time being. These package employees should not be made cannon fodders to the guns of the terrorists and so the only feasible option is their relocation to Jammu division and outside UT in nearby States. In brief package employees are in a confused state of mind and so they deserve the utmost attention of the government so that their problems are mitigated.

(The author is a Communist and Social Activist.)

Military should be excluded from RTI

■ R K SINHA

Just pay attention as to why are a specific section of society taking undue special intention in Right to Information about Defence establishments and unnecessarily curious and concerned about the war preparations of military? Is the operations and working of military should be made public? Who are those people who in the name of right to information (RTI), asking for military strategy and preparations related information from different units of army, agencies and cantonment? These questions became important these days as it has been seen that some specific elements are interested in extracting highly sensitive and important information, which is not concerned in any way to them. For all this reason system of military has attain the alert mode. They are monitoring all such situations. They have demanded to exclude the army from RTI act. This demand is significant most logical and should be seriously considered. On 28th April last, a meeting headed by central cabinet secretary was held in which serious concerns were expressed about the extraction of important information of military in the name of RTI. This meeting was held two days before the retirement of Army Chief Manoj Mukund Naravane. The meaningful demand by the military must be addressed sincerely. The government should make firm decision in order to protect the internal security and to maintain confidentiality of the functioning of military. The information procured by the citizens through the RTI admittedly has some limitations. With the RTI, nation informs its citizens about the working and administrative system. In a democratic setup, people mandate persons to form government, to rule over themselves and in return, expect the government to be honest and conscientious in performing its responsibilities. But the citizens cannot be allowed to procure information related to national security and defense. It is evident that these are the people with vicious intentions. It is obvious that India has many disguised enemies like Jaichand and Mir Zaafars. This consists of some hidden traitors inside the military and some so-called journalists also. They always try to procure information with the RTI tool. In return they are credited a hefty amount in cash and kinds. That's why they don't hesitate to sell the interest of their motherland. They have lost their conscience. Along with this another significant demand is arising to exclude some other government departments like Intelligence Bureau, RAW, National Security Guards (NSG), Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force etc from the RTI gamut or to limit the types and extent of information to be procured through

RTI. Means people working or retired from these departments should only be allowed to get job and pension related information. Last year the arrest of so-called senior journalist Rajiv Sharma in Delhi made headlines, he was indulged in espionage to China. It was found that he procured information through RTI and shared it with China. He was detained under 'Official Secret Act' (OSA). Many sensitive information from national security point of view, was handed over to China by him. He was paid a big amount for it. Actually, some vicious elements have started misusing this magnificent act. In the judgement given by Supreme Court in December 2019, stated, "In order to stop misuse of RTI act and prevent the 'criminal intimidation' through it, guidelines should be made for RTI act". Then bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde, Justice B R Gavai and Justice Suryakant said that "We are not against the RTI act, but we are feeling that a set of guidelines must be made for its regulations". The bench added that some people are no way involved in filing RTI petition. It is sometimes used as criminal intimidation or blackmail. See, the government is aware about the surge in RTI petitions. Many people ask nonsense questions. It must be assured that the act is not misused. Once an officer of Central Cultural ministry told me that every year dozens of application are submitted in his department asking for the person who said Gandhi 'Mahatma' for the first time. Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti works under cultural ministry. Means a considerable amount of time of government employees are wasted in answering these meaningless RTIs. But here the matter is related to military and sensitive government department responsible for national security. These are highly sensitive and important departments of country. There is no dearth of enemies inside and outside India. India has to consistently combat China and Pakistan. New Chief of army staff general Manoj Pandey said that Indian troops are stationed with China on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). There is no clarity from China side on border disputes. Some devils in disguise are working for the same China which is number one enemy of India. These people should be treated with right medicine. Along with it the government should think and verify the candidature of the applicants before sharing any information related to national security in order to prevent it from reaching it in the hands of anti-national elements. Individual character and background of such persons asking for the information should also be cross checked.

(The writer is senior editor, columnist and Former MP.)

Junction of Faith-Haridwar

■ MAHADEEP SINGH JAMWAL

Haridwar serves as the gateway to the 'Char Dhams' of Uttarakhand state and is the most visited pilgrimage place in India. Lakhs of devotees visit Haridwar throughout year it remains in hustle bustle because of many reasons but all relating to religious faith but on the occasions of 'Kumbh Mela' and 'Somavati Amavasya', Haridwar attracts pilgrimages that make this place jam-packed compelling the forces deployed to push the devotees to a Zigzag over temporary bridges over the Ganga channel to reach Ghats for holy dip after traversing more than two to three kilometers that in ordinary time takes 5-10 minutes. This is the toughest time for devotees especially for the oldies. Yet devotees take this challenge just to have a holy dip in the Ganga. The 'Somavati Amavasya' that was a day on May 30, 2022, when I with my family and most cherished member of my family my mother somewhere 90 years of age (regular visitor to Haridwar), took a holy dip at 'Har Ki Pauri' Haridwar, the desired point to take a holy dip for almost everyone visiting Haridwar. I attribute so much desire to the episode of Samudar Manthan' that the Dharavantari rose out of the waters bearing a cup filled with the elixir (Amrit) and in its chase to obtain it few drops of Amrit fell at this place also. Being a man of rational thinking, I find that the channel is diverted from the main Ganga flow route to facilitate the easy dip in the waters of Ganga. But belief theory cannot be put to question. Hinduism may broadly be described as a way of life and nothing more. It is a matter of common knowledge that Hinduism embraces within itself so many diverse forms of beliefs, faiths, practices and worship that it is difficult to define the term 'Hindu' with precision. The unmanageable and unbelievable gathering of devotees from all age group youngsters to super citizens and even babies brought, who are yet to breastfeed, hammered my mind, why is it so? What brings one to Haridwar time and again? My curiosity was piqued over by the explanation of Pandit (generally known as 'Panda') that neither it is the strength of money nor the desire, but it is the call of Ganga that brings someone to Haridwar, the 'Junction of Faith' and cherished by the faith. Faith is an oasis in the heart which will never be reached by the 'Caravan' of thinking - Khalil Gibran. It is the faith in something and enthusiasm for something that makes a life worth living. On quarry, why is faith so important?

Convincing point of view was that: It allows us to access a source of strength and hope that would otherwise not be accessible. Faith powerfully convinces us that everything will eventually take a positive turn. This in turn gives us the confidence to see things through. My exploration on Ganga concluded that it is not only Hindus but all the people having true diligence in religion have faith in Ganga. It has been mentioned throughout Indian literature from ancient times and is personified as the Goddess Ganga (commonly called as 'Maa Ganga'). We mention Ganga with other names also such as: Jahnvi, Bhagirathi, Shubhra, Vaishnavi, Vishnupad, Bhagvatpadi, Mahabhadra, Mandakini, Megh, Meghal, Gangika, Gange, Gangeshwari, and Alaknanda. It is repeatedly invoked in Vedas, the Puranas, and the two Indian epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. It finds its mention in Rig-Veda, the holiest of the Hindu scriptures. Its descent on earth is linked to the King 'Sagra' for the salvation (Moksh) of his sixty thousand sons, the ancestors of 'Bhagiratha' and on its banks, right from very beginning of time many of the Rishis, Munis, and Tapasvis' have been performing their spiritual endeavours. Ganga is considered as a lifeline because its basin extends over more than 1 million square kilometers (386,000 square miles). It has the highest population of any river basin in the world. Today waters from the Ganges and her tributaries irrigate the fields of the millions of acres of agricultural crops which are grown along her banks. These farms provide food for more than 400 million inhabitants, which is nearly one-third of the population of India. The Ganga Basin supports numerous diverse ecosystems, from the alpine forests near Gaumukh to the plains of northern India to the mangrove forests and saline mud flats of West Bengal. We come across the mention of British Physician, C.E. Nelson, that the Ganga water taken from Hooghly River (The Hooghly or the Bhagirathi Hooghly called the 'Ganga' or the 'Kati-Ganga' in mythological texts, is the eastern distributary of the Ganges River in West Bengal) by returning ships to England remained fresh throughout the journey. It was this property of Ganga that East India Company ships only used water from the Ganges for drinking purposes on their 3-month long voyage back to England. Concluding Haridwar is a place of Temples and Ghats, and we find many Ghats here, where devotees bathe in the holy waters of the Ganga.

PROGRESSING J&K UT optimistic about a sea-change in education structure with implementation of NEP

Aims to increase Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education from 26.3 pc to 50 pc by 2035

With implementation of National Education Policy from current session, Jammu and Kashmir will be among the first few states and Union Territories to implement this vibrant document with numerous reforms towards making the education system job-oriented. "Students now will be easily able to compete for national courses well on time, they won't have to wait for months to get admissions in national colleges after declaration of results," said an official.

"With implementation of NEP, national pattern of syllabus followed by other states and Union Territories will be introduced in Jammu and Kashmir. Syllabus and format approved by the University Grants Commission (UGC) will be applicable in the UT," he added. Be it in terms of syllabus, study formats, educational courses, exam pattern etc Jammu and Kashmir will not only implement the National Education Policy but will become at par with national standards.

In Jammu and Kashmir, 16 colleges have been finalized for option of Skill Development Programme along with Under Graduation courses.

Under the policy, the School Education Department has been asked to immediately rollout Vidya Pravesh, a preschool preparation programme for Class 1 students. The programme consisted of a three month play module and the Indian Sign language as a subject at secondary level. The policy seeks to restructure school curricula and pedagogy in a new '5+3+3+4' design, so that school education can be made relevant to the needs and interests of learners at different developmental stages including 'Foundational Stage' (five years), 'Preparatory Stage' (three years), 'Middle Stage' (three years) and 'High Stage' (four years, covering grades nine, 10, 11 and 12). Pertinently, an online process was started for suggestions and comments from people, which became the basis for major decisions in implementation of National Education Policy (NEP-2020).

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, also interacted with the Education Reforms Committee constituted at UT, divisional and district level and invited their valuable suggestions for working on the educational reforms in J&K and proper implementation of NEP-2020. The New Education Policy has paved way for innovative activities, modern labs, placements and many such features for bringing a landmark change in the education system. Lieutenant Governor stressed on timely implementation of NEP-2020 saying that 'our prime focus should be to invite suggestions from all stakeholders and to remove the doubts.' He said the NEP has been created, for the first time in history, as a reflection of aspirations of the parents, teachers, students and education experts which aims to address the challenges for the coming generations.

Sinha said the New Education Policy contains features of equity, quality, affordability, accountability and promotes individual development through experience based education and logical thinking. The policy aims to recognize, identify and foster the unique capabilities of each student by sensitizing teachers as well as parents to promote each student's holistic development in both academic and non-academic spheres. It envisions the changes to the current system which included moving towards multidisciplinary universities and colleges, with more HEIs across India that offer medium of instruction in local/Indian languages; moving towards a more multidisciplinary undergraduate education; of moving towards faculty and institutional autonomy; revamping curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, and student support of reaffirming the integrity of faculty and institutional leadership positions of establishment of a National Research Foundation; governance of HEIs by independent boards having academic and administrative autonomy; 'light but tight' regulation by a single regulator for higher education; increased access, equity, and inclusion. "By 2040, all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) shall aim to become multidisciplinary institutions, each of which will aim to have 3,000 or more students. There shall, by 2030, be at least one large multidisciplinary HEI in or near every district. The aim will be to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education including vocational education from 26.3 per cent (2018) to 50 per cent by 2035," the policy reads. "Growth will be in both public and private institutions, with a strong emphasis on developing a large number of outstanding public institutions. A university will mean a multidisciplinary institution of higher learning that offers undergraduate and graduate programmes with high-quality teaching, research and community engagement," the policy reads further.