


COINCIDENCE OR NEGLIGENCE?

If reports are to be believed, a strange thing has happened on the Delhi-Srinagar air route with two aircrafts of the same airline developing technical snag within a short span of six hours thus leading to the cancellation of the sortie by the helmsmen. The big question arising out this rare incident is whether the airlines are following all the necessary SOPs meant for maintenance of the aircrafts or things are bypassed leaving the safety of the passengers on the mercy of God. The report published in a national daily gave a fearsome account of the flight of one the airlines operating between Delhi and Srinagar. It has been averred that two A320 aircrafts of the same company, which were heading from Delhi to Srinagar, returned to the National Capital as they faced technical snags mid-air within a span of approximately six hours. This is bizarre and raises big questions about the standards of the safety norms being followed by the concerned airline because how on earth two state of art aircrafts developed technical snag of such a nature that the flight has to be redirected to the starting destination twice. It is pertinent to mention that on Saturday, the Delhi-Srinagar flight, which was being operated on A320 aircraft took off from the Delhi airport at around 11.55 AM and about half an hour later the pilot announced that the aircraft is facing a technical snag and therefore the airplane safely returned to Delhi airport at around 1.45 PM. Soon after another A320 aircraft was arranged by the airline to conduct the same flight so that the stranded passengers could be taken to Srinagar but sometime after the second plane took off, the pilot announced that this aircraft too has developed a technical snag and the same was again brought to Delhi airport safely and subsequently the flight to Srinagar was cancelled with passengers getting an offer by the airline to either take refund or book a flight some other day. As precedence, the airlines don't disclose the technical issues but what has happened is quite precarious and therefore DGCA should take cognizance and find out whether this was a coincidence or a startling case of lethargy or negligence of the concerned airlines as it is necessary to ensure passenger safety in the coming times.



OFF 'D' CUFF

Spiritual Competency

Whenever we apply for a job and write our resume, we try to highlight all the good things about ourselves and our experience. Many hide all the difficulties they had in their career and focus on their great achievements. When employers read through such resumes they often feel each person is the greatest person who ever lived, because we try to put ourselves in the best possible light to land the job.

When people go to a bank for a business loan, they write up all their greatest financial achievements and best references.

They want to appear that they are a safe client and not a credit risk.

They write down all their business and financial successes in hopes that the loan officer will grant them a loan.

When we apply for college or business school, we collect all our best references from former teachers so that a college will find us appealing as a candidate.

That is typical in worldly affairs.

Whereas in worldly work we always want to appear our best, when it comes to spiritual work, we cannot hide who we are from the Divine within us. Our progress is an open book.

The grace we receive in our spiritual progress is based on our sincere efforts. We cannot hide the truth of our spiritual gains and failures from the Divine.

One way for us to improve spiritually is to take an honest look at our weaknesses.

By doing so, we can weed them out and see the areas that need improvement.

If we looked at only our successes, we would get complacent and think we had reached the pinnacle of glory.

Then, we would never change.

Our shortcomings show us which areas we have to do better in each day. Then, by making an effort, we find that each day we have less failures than the previous day. Over time, we would ultimately reach a stage in which we have zero

shortcomings; we would have improved.

By reading the writings of the saints and watching their lives we can see what a virtuous life looks like. Then, we measure ourselves each day against that goal. We count our shortcomings and apply their teachings to conquer each area.

The writings of the saints are rich in positive advice on how to overcome failures in the qualities we need.

Each day as we honestly count our failures, we then apply their advice for making the following day more successful. We avoid the pitfalls.

If we were allergic to a particular food and we kept taking that food, we know we would have a reaction.

Would it be wise for a person who gets so ill to continue to eat the substance they are allergic to? No.

They should be super careful each day to avoid such foods.

Similarly, if our actions each day result in failings in a particular category of virtue that is keeping us from spiritual growth, would we not want to avoid that behavior so we can overcome that problem? Analyzing our shortcomings helps us identify the allergens in our spiritual life so we can avoid and overcome them.

Let us work on introspecting our weaknesses with honesty.

We are not applying for a job with the Divine and writing spiritual resumes that show us in a good light. We cannot hide our failings from the One who sees all. We need to make an honest effort to overcome our failures. The beauty of the Divine is the law of compassion and grace. When we are seen making an honest effort to weed out our failings, to honestly assess these shortcomings ourselves, even if we have difficulty, our sincerity is noticed. The Divine will respond with compassion and grace. By our effort and grace of the Divine, we will achieve spiritual improvement faster, reaching our goal of union with the Creator. We will see rapid spiritual progress in our lives.

Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj

Hard decisions required to quell terrorism in J&K

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

Jammu and Kashmir is suffering from terrorism from last over three decades and lately the dangerous trend of targeted killings has created havoc in the lives of Kashmiri Pandits, package employees, Hindu employees posted in Kashmir and last but not least the non-- local labourers and employees. To arrest the growing trend of the targeted killings very hard decisions are needed to tackle the monster of terrorism and give a death blow to the terrorists read hybrid terrorists who resort to targeted killings. It was observed in the targeted killing of the bank manager Vijay kumar of Rajasthan in his bank at Arreh in district kulgam that the crime has been committed by the hybrid terrorist who mingled with the common people after committing the brutal killing. The killings of the soft targets are taking place continuously and causing great loss of the human lives and it is very unfortunate and this trend of targeted killings should be contained and halted for ensuring of normalcy. There is no need for being soft towards terrorism and terrorists because with the employing of the soft approach cannot fight terrorism and terrorists. Thus there is urgent and great need for taking hard decisions for fighting the menace of terrorism which is eating the vitals of our society and so very hard decisions should be taken to fight terrorism to finish otherwise the terrorists will continue the cruel game of targeted killings and the land of Sufism will be soaked with the precious human blood. Therefore without vote bank politics the powers at the centre level and the LG government of the UT should take very hard decisions to break the back of terrorism so that vulnerable people -the Kashmiri Pandits, package employees, Jammu employees working across Kashmir and the non-local officers and non-local labourers will not feel a sense of fear and insecurity and there is no panic, scare and fear psychosis among the vulnerable sections of the society and also in the common citizenry. For ensuring of the secure environment to the targeted groups and the common man government should take hard decisions to attack the terrorism so that it can be defeated within a specific time frame and therefore

hard decisions need to be taken to break the back of the terrorists as well as hybrid terrorists. No laxity and leniency should be shown towards terrorists as doing so will be counterproductive and will have serious repercussions on the ground situation in the UT and so the need of the hour is that terrorism and terrorists should be fought with the anatomy of the hard decisions so that terrorism is defeated and the innocent human lives are saved. Thus the government should not hesitate in taking of the hard decisions to eliminate the curse of terrorism and ensure peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore there is urgent need for taking of the hard decisions to defeat and give a big setback to terrorism and vote bank politics and such other considerations should not come in the way of taking hard decisions to crush terrorism. So the terrorists should be dealt with stringent laws in force so that they will not dare to attack soft targets and the vulnerable sections of the society and it is the need of the hour to embark on the anatomy of hard decisions to tackle the demon of terrorism which is threatening the precious lives of the vulnerable sections of the society and the common man. The government should not be complacent but make and implement the hard decisions to break the back of the terrorism and ensure normalcy and peace in the disturbed Kashmir. The half-hearted measures and adhoc decisions will inflate terrorism and so the hard decisions should be taken to fight terrorism to finish. The government should strike at the very root of the terrorism and give a big setback to the terrorism. For this the government of the LG and the NDA government of the centre should embark on deciding and implementing the hard decisions to free the Kashmir from the scourge of terrorism which is eating the vitals of the society. The strategists and the think tank of the country should decide the hard decisions to be framed and these should be implemented on the ground by our security forces without any collateral damage which should be the crux of the anatomy of hard decisions. The anti terrorism laws should be implemented on the ground and besides this the new and stringent anti- terrorism laws should be tabled and passed in the

parliament to give a death blow to the terrorists who are resorting to the targeted killings of the soft targets in Pandit community, package employees, Jammu employees posted across Kashmir valley and the non- local officers and the non-local labourers. Therefore the government should not shy away from taking and then implementing the hard decisions to fight the terrorism and ensure peace, tranquility and normalcy. The ground reality in Kashmir is far from normalcy but the BJP led NDA government and the UT government of the LG is only parroting the narrative of normalcy in Kashmir while the ground reality is that there is turmoil in the Kashmir and the targeted killings are taking place without any respite. There are no takers of the government's narrative on normalcy because in Kashmir the innocent people including men, women, young, old and even children were attacked by the terrorists to create fear and scare and threaten people into submission.

The terrorism is a hydra headed giant and it should be attacked with all force at our disposal and multi pronged strategy should be devised to attack terrorism in order to give defeat to it so that the people especially the vulnerable sections of the society are saved from the targeted killings. For attacking the monster of terrorism it is necessary to use and implement the hard decisions to bring terrorists, hybrid terrorists and OGW of terrorists to book so that they are not allowed to derail peace and tranquility in Kashmir. The operation all out and many hard operations should be followed and implementing on the ground to give a death kneel to terrorism and ensure a safe and secure environment so that the vulnerable sections of the society are saved from the terrorist strikes and to ensure that there are no targeted killings in future. The vulnerable sections of the society and the common men should feel secure and safe and there should be a sense of security among the people and this is possible only when the terrorism is attacked with the strong will and power so that the terrorists will abstain from creating mayhem in the society. So the government should frame hard decisions and implement the same to crush terrorism so that they will not dare to resort to

targeted killings. Under a planned and well nit strategy the terrorists are carrying the targeted killings to force the residual Pandits, other Hindus and non-locals including labourers and officers to leave the valley. The sinister aim is to cleanse the valley of Kashmir from all Hindus and minorities and then make road clean for Islamic state in the long run. The targeted killings are resorted through under a plan and conspiracy to cleanse the Kashmir from all infidels to put it in the terminology of the Jihadists and terrorists. Therefore the government and its security force s should take such measures so that the enemies of humanity are not successful in creating of the society in Kashmir which is cleansed from the Hindus and Kashmiri Pandits and for ensuring this the terrorists are resorting to targeted killings and selective killings to create panic, fear and scare particularly among the Kashmiri Pandits, package employees, employees from Jammu division posted across Kashmir and the non- local Hindu officers and labourers. In short it should be appreciated that the centre and LG government should tackle the targeted killings of the soft and vulnerable targets by making use of the hard decisions so that the terrorists will not dare to resort to targeted killings.

An environment of peace and tranquility should be ensured in Kashmir where all people including the minorities will feel safe and sound and for this there is urgent need to implement the series of the hard decisions so that peace and normalcy is ensured in Kashmir.

This will be possible if the terrorists are hit hard by the hard decisions so that they will not dare to indulge in the selective killings and peace and normalcy prevails.

Thus the policy of eye for eye and tooth for tooth should be followed to crush terrorism and targeted killings and this policy will give positive results in very short time and hence this policy should be followed to give a befitting response to targeted killings and the terrorism.

So hard decisions should be taken to quell the terrorism and put a halt to targeted killings.

(The author is a Columnist and Social Activist).

Increasing screen addiction among children

■ SHIV KUMAR PADHA

Our eighth class English teacher used to advise us to, always, begin the essay on 'wonders of science 'with the lines 'nothing in the world is good or bad only its use makes it so' which, at that time, carried no meaning for us. Now, we can well appreciate the message and depth underlying those lines. The modern age is the age of science and technology which has conquered the whole universe by dint of its latest inventions and innovations, amongst which the information technology is worth mentioning as it has enabled the mankind access the global information only by the click of the button. Internet, mobiles and the screen media is proving a great source of knowledge, information and entertainment to the subscribers in the modern world.

Where, on the one hand the information technology has brought in a great revolution in the field of global trade, health, information, weather forecasting, entertainment and surveillance, on the other its addiction and excessive exposure has brought with it many physical and emotional hazards for the kids and small children. We daily observe the young children and adolescents listening to the music with the earphones plugged in the ears while crossing the roads and railway tracks, driving, travelling in the buses and trains unmindful of what is happening around, which at many times result in fatal accidents. The children belonging to majority of families are seen luddled in a corner playing video games either on mobiles or iPods. They are seen seen glued to the television screen staring at cartoon channels hours together. The addiction of children to these gadgets is not only telling badly upon their physical and mental health but it is also taking them away from the real life situations and social social network of relations.

Television is the enhancer of audiovisual flavor providing unnatural levels of sensory stimulations which compels even a crawling baby craning its neck towards glowing TV screen. Television, being the enormous powerful and influential entertainment industry, is becoming a major public health issue. Studies show that the prolonged exposure to television screen during early and later childhood is prone to attention and cognition problems sleep disturbances, accumulation of body fats, inactivity and commu-

nicative disorders. Television viewing among children less than three years of age is found to have negative effect on mathematical ability, reading recognition and comprehension in later childhood. Excessive television viewing in childhood and adolescence is associated with poor educational achievement by thirty years of age. The children, who have prolonged screen exposures, get less sleep than previous generations had and experience more sleeping difficulties. Excessive television viewing among the children and the adolescents is an independent contributing factor in obesity. A study shows that those children who watched more than two hours of television a day between ages of five and fifteen developed significant health risks many years later with 15 per cent of cases of raised blood cholesterol, 17 per cent obesity, 17 per cent of smoking and 15 per cent of reduced cardiovascular fitness.

The children especially from the educated and financially sound families are becoming addicted to the video games played on iPods, mobiles and computers. They usually fall prey to mood swings, diminished imagination and hyper focus on in-game achievements to the exclusion of other real life events and social isolation. The excessive use of video games makes the child addicted because these games have inbuilt reward and reinforcement mechanism which makes the child more concerned with their interaction with games than in real life. The children while playing the video games often skip their meals and neglect personal hygiene, gain or lose weight and suffer from sleep deprivation. The continuous use of earphones for listening mobile music during work, exercise, driving and travelling affects the auditory nervous which can lead to either deafness or permanent hearing disorders because of loud sound not fit for the human ears because human inner ear is more vulnerable to loud sounds. The technology has lot of positive attributes. The problem is they also have extremely negative effects on kids. The parents should be ever vigilant of what their children are doing with their technology. It should be born in mind by all the parents that the children under the age of two should not watch TV or any form of screen entertainment at all and also the children of all ages should not have television in their bed rooms.

YOUR COLUMN

Global warming & water scarcity

Dear Editor,

Global warming is an important cause of water scarcity. When our average air temperature becomes warmer; water from rivers and lakes evaporates faster; which may contribute to the drying up of water bodies. Therefore, people who rely on those water bodies for drinking water significantly suffer from the consequences of global warming, affecting the local water supply. If global temperatures continue to rise, rainfall will increasingly become a beast of extremes: long dry spells, dangerous floods and in some places, intense water shortages. There are millions of people all over the world who don't have access to water; or, if they do, that water is unable to be used. About 70 per cent of the Earth's surface is covered with water; and three per cent of it is actually fresh-water that is fit for human consumption. Around two-thirds of that are tucked in frozen glaciers and unavailable for our use. Clean drinking water is scarce, and there are millions of people across this globe who spend their entire day searching for it. Yet, people who have access to safe, clean drinking water take it for granted and don't use it wisely. According to WWF, some 1.1 billion people worldwide lack access to water; and a total of 2.7 billion find water scarcity for at least one month of the year. Clean drinking water is scarce, and there are millions of people across this globe who spend their entire day searching for it. Water overuse is a huge issue that a lot of people are dealing with. It may be overused on people, animals, land, or any other number of things. Water pollution is a huge problem, especially when you're looking at areas that don't necessarily have a good sewage system. Pollution can be anything from oil, to carcasses, to chemicals, and fecal matter. Droughts are common all over the world that may severely lower the groundwater level making it impossible for people to

get water from fountains, and there is little that can be done to prevent such things from happening. Water scarcity involves water crisis, water shortage, water deficit or water stress. Water scarcity can be due to physical water scarcity and economic water scarcity. Physical water scarcity refers to a situation where natural water resources are unable to meet a region's demand while economic water scarcity is a result of poor water management resources. As early as 2025, the World Health Organization estimates that half of the world's population will be living in water-stressed areas. Although a shortage of clean drinking water is the most immediate threat to human health, water scarcity can have far-reaching consequences. Diminished flows in rivers and streams can increase the concentration of harmful pollutants. The overtaxed aquifers in some places may become more vulnerable to contamination. When waterways run dry, animals may seek out drinking water from places where people live, increasing the likelihood of contact between humans with wildlife and any disease-carrying insects they host. Drought can also elevate the risk of wildfires and dust storms that may lead to irritation of the lungs and airways. More directly, when people can't get enough water for sanitation and hand-washing, respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses tend to spread more easily. Food safety can be affected, too: When soils dry out and become compacted, it's more likely that rain will run off the surface and carry contaminants to crops instead of soaking into the ground. Jordan is one of the most water-poor nations in the world. Rainfall declines induced by climate change are expected to be compounded by historically limited water resources and ballooning population growth punctuated by influxes of refugees. What's more, flows in one of the nation's key freshwater resources - the Yarmouk-Jordan River - have dwindled as a result of dam building and have also been affected by conflict-driven land-use changes in Syria.

Mool Raj.

SVAMITVA: Scheme to formulate better Gram Panchayat Development Plans

Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) is designed for empowering the villagers and land owners of J&K to access the revenue records of their properties, obviating the dependence on human interface, had emerged as a great success in Jammu and Kashmir and people here are taking due benefits out of it. SVAMITVA is a property card with legal sanctity, an authoritative source reflective of record of ownership as well as possession. The scheme encompassing the length and breadth of the Union Territory involves the use of modern technology for surveys, extraction of data and final compilation of the records for public use.

SVAMITVA is one of the latest initiatives in the government of India's reforms in Land Records. It is a technology based scheme which changes the rural landscape in terms of quick and convenient access to the land owners, especially those living in Abadi-deh. The initiative also helps in eliminating corruption and hence, it is another step towards people-friendly, transparent, corruption-free governance as promised to people of J&K. Under SVAMITVA, Srinagar district has become the first district in the country to achieve 100 percent saturation under the Survey of Villages Abadi & Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA) Yojna.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha recently said that Srinagar district has become the first district in the country to achieve 100 percent property card generation/distribution to the landowners. SVAMITVA is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, launched nation-wide by the Prime Minister on National Panchayati Raj Day on April 24, 2021. The scheme will help towards establishing a clear ownership of property in rural inhabited (Abadi) areas, by mapping of land parcels using drone technology and providing 'Record of Rights' to village household owners with issuance of legal ownership cards (Property cards/Title deeds) to the property owners.

The scheme covers multifarious aspects like Facilitating monetisation of properties and enabling bank loan; reducing property related disputes; comprehensive village level planning, among others. This initiative is a stepping-stone towards achieving Gram Swaraj in true sense and making rural India Atmanirbhar. The scheme will also help in preparation of better-quality Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) by making use of GIS maps besides creation of accurate land records for rural planning and reduce property related disputes. "It will also bring financial stability to the citizens in rural India by enabling them to use their property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits," an official said. Land is an essential resource for any economic activity aimed at creation of material wealth in the world. Lack of clearly demarcated Abadi area has led to high number of land-conflict cases everywhere. As per reports, millions of people suffer the impact of land conflicts across India and the World. The SVAMITVA Scheme aims to address the root cause for disputes at local level. Under this initiative, high-resolution digital maps for better Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) leading to improvement across infrastructure like schools, community health centres, rivers, street light, roads etc, through efficient allocation of funds and increased accessibility, will be achieved.