

MORE TO BE DONE

The recent assertion made by the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, while speaking during 200th coronation day celebrations of Maharaja Gulab Singh in Jammu that 'New J&K' will emerge and become an example of development not only for the country but for the whole Asia, is very much true and genuine on ground level as after the abrogation of articles 370 and 35A the UT witnessed a massive transformation in every sector. The place which at a point of time was considered as a disturbed area with anti-national elements ruling the roost without any check by the Governments of that time, is now not only progressing steadily but also attracting a number of prosper investors from outside to invest in newly created Union Territory. Referring to the abrogation of articles 370 and 35A, he said that this issue was on top of the party's agenda and same was fulfilled by it through a proper parliamentary process after following all necessary precautions. As per details, after the accession of princely state of Jammu and Kashmir into Indian Union, an investment of Rs 17,000 crore was made across J&K during 70 years but after the formation of Union territory, with proactive initiatives of the Government, the Union territory got investment proposals of more than Rs 38,000 crore that too within few months after the abrogation of articles 370 and 35A. This shows that the entire development scenario of Union Territory is changing at an expeditious pace with a bright future waiting for it. Reiterating the commitment of the present Government to ensure equitable development in both the regions of J&K, Rajnath Singh said that present Government believes in working on ground level without making hollow claims before elections, like other parties, just to garner people's support. He claimed that whatever has been promised in election manifesto of BJP has either been fulfilled or the process is going on to deliver the same for welfare of people. Although the majority of the issues faced by the people of J&K especially that of Jammu region have been resolved by the ruling dispensation one thing should be kept in mind that there are still several issues, which are haunting the people of J&K and immediate necessary measures are required to resolve the same.



OFF 'D' CUFF

Conquer Ego to conquer the world

Upon completion of his studies a student went to his Guru to express his gratitude towards him. He said, "O respected Satguru, with your grace I have completed my education, I have been able to discover myself; I have peace of mind and a feeling of great satisfaction. I now earnestly feel that I should make an offering of gratitude to you. Kindly tell me what I can humbly offer you."

Responding to the request of his disciple, he said, "If you wish to give me something then bring something that is most useless in the world and which has no value, which cannot be used for anything, and which is disliked by everyone in the world." The student started looking around for that useless thing and is of no use to anyone. He found stones and pebbles useless. He picked up one to check it out. He heard an invisible voice, "You are making a mistake to consider me as useless."

That one is very valuable indeed.

These stones help lay the foundations of homes. Huge and beautiful forts and palaces are standing on these stones / rocks; the idols of Gods and Goddesses are made out of stones." Upon hearing this, the student came to realize that these stones are of great value and use.

The disciple moved forward and found a piece of rotten dry wood lying on the way. It was an old and rotten piece and has no owner. He decided to pick it up since it was lying on the way serving no purpose. As he bent down to pick it up he heard, "You think that I am useless and of no value. I have been useful to humans from his birth to death." Then the wood started recounting its utility and usefulness. The disciple was surprised and realized that this useless object is of great value and use.

The wood further said, "You are indeed a novice. From your birth and in your upbringing, I am used in yagnas, rituals and even in cremation." Upon hearing this, the eyes of the disciples opened wide and came to realize that anything and everything that is made by God is useful and of great value.

Shri Sudhanshuji Maharaj

A man who is not afraid is not aggressive, a man who has no sense of fear of any kind is really a free, a peaceful man.

-Jiddu Krishnamurti

EDITORIAL

A plain & meaningful interaction with KP youth

■ S K KHUSHU

This moment I am embarking on a serious and fruitful endeavour to reach out to youth of my community, across the globe (be it students, unemployed, employees, package employees or in business) in the hope of sharing my views on the present identity and allied crisis we all are confronted with.

Dear torch bearers of tomorrow, time and again our endurance is being tested perhaps because God wills so to teach us the purpose of our life. Our Holy Geeta however preaches, we must rise against injustice within the parameters of human values. It is only the men of conviction, steely resolve serious commitment and sincerity that can turn the direction of the sweeping and engulfs tide in their favour: Dear sons, daughters, sisters and brothers, I am not here to give sermons or infuse idealistic philosophy but to plea with you all to kindly recognise and exploit your patent energy, mobilize all resources at your command and strive hard for regaining your lost identity and securing your future for a dignified life hereafter:

As you know dear all this is possible only if a

joint well chalked out and well organised & bold front is put up. United we stand and divided we fall. Our irresistible yearning for a peaceful coexistence in Kashmir; our belief in communal harmony, adherence to the principle 'forgive & forget' to err is human, to forgive divine' all have been

further dented yet again with the recent killings,

resorted to in the recent past. After all the tiger never changed spots on its skin. It may be just talking tall but the reality is that we cannot afford to allow their machinations dampen our spirits to the extent that we watch our complete annihilation without making just struggle to counter it. I must say that u all have been braving the tiger treatment meted out to u in Kashmir boldy and with great grit and determination than we all did in 1990 only to secure your safety and bright future though. Your sense of responsibility, determination, commitment and concern for future and those of your children have been exemplary. For package employees, I would say that you agreed to serve in the valley at the risk of your life not only to earn a living but also to keep the voice and hopes of India alive and heard which is in itself a proof of your patriotism and indomitable will to move on and also turn the tide in your favour: True some of you may not be adequately qualified to make a cut in corporate sector. The challenges and demands in the corporate sector are not easy to face and meet. So may be most of you had Hobson's choice and that you had to sign a bond that you did before your appointment under PM Employment package. This however does not disqualify you for adjustment temporary though, at safer places even in other parts of the country. The powers that be in J&K UT and at the centre must grant your request. To strengthen your drive and lend a strong support to vitalize your spine, all of us must do everything possi-

ble to help you in this hour of crises.

To the youth in general, the identity crises have resurfaced after gap of 32 years when mass exodus from Kashmir; our own native land took place following terrorism unleashed by Islamic fundamentalists, acting on the directives of the sponsored of terrorism across the border. Dear all, this persecution, genocide etc would not have become reality if there had been no support from misguided indoctrinated locals including leaders and politicians. There is nothing new about atrocities committed on innocent KPs in the name of Islam since 1990, our forefathers, Hindus to the core, had to face still harsher cruelties, in human treatment like mass killings, rapes, forced conversion over centuries. The fact is that we are not completely wiped. To the fellow beings, my age I would say please come out of slumber; rise above petty politics and political affiliations, if any, personal egoistic tendencies to persuade the powers that be to listen to our grievances particularly our young generation and help them to settle well in life. We all owe it to them after all they are torch bearers of our community. Our leaders of KP community could better serve the cause of their community by merging into a single organisation having a broad representative character: But we have only witnessed a mushroom growth of leaders and organisations most with one man's show and self-styled ones rendering our cause spineless. No doubt the serenity as also the intensity of present protestation has shaken many a quar-

'Agnipath'-cruel joke with youth

■ OKMAR DATTATRAY

The NDA government headed by BJP has done nothing to provide employment to the teeming millions even though the BJP had promised to provide jobs to the youth in its manifesto called as the Sanklap Patra. The party had pledged to give employment to unemployed on a very large scale but has failed in addressing the problem of unemployment staring the youth. Now BJP has formulated a novel scheme to come to the rescue of the youth and absorb the unemployed youth in the three services. The centre government has launched the scheme of Agnipath to provide some succor to the youth. In the mad rush of coming to power in the third consecutive term, the BJP has announced its scheme of absorbing the young boys in the armed services. The scheme called Agnipath envisages providing employment to the youth for only four years and initially the youth between age-group of 17 to 21 years were made eligible to be recruited in the three services. After pressure from the agitating youth the eligible age was increased to 23 years. Providing employment for only four years is not understandable and it amounts to a cruel joke with the unemployed youth and as such the scheme of Agnipath is unacceptable to the majority of the youth. Right from the day one of its launch of Agnipath scheme there have been protests against this scheme and the protesting youth demanding the cancellation of the scheme as it does not fulfill its job aspirations and therefore the protesting youth throughout the country demand taking back of the scheme in the best interests of the country. There have been uncontrolled protests in different states of the country against the scheme called Agnipath. The youth are within their democratic right to protest against the scheme as difference of opinion and protest and demonstration are the soul of the democracy. Therefore the youth of the country have the democratic right to protest against the scheme of Agnipath. But the people have the right of peaceful protest against any decision of the government if they feel it against their interests. However at the same time it is the responsibility of the people and the political parties to guard that the protest does not become unruly and does not turn into violence. The youth are protesting across the country against scheme of Agnipath but unfortunately the protests are turning into violence and the agitating youth are busy in damaging public property and are burning trains, trucks and other properties which is against the country and democracy does not allow such protests. The violence of the agitating youth has caused enormous

economic loss to the country and it is very unbecoming and disturbing and this should not be allowed under the guise of the right of protest. The different state governments should be hard with the violence creators and should not allow them to damage and burn the government properties and the trains which in fact is a loss to us all and therefore the protesting youth should realize that they have the right of peaceful protest and therefore no violence should be resorted to under the guise of protest and the political parties should abstain from politicizing on the scheme of Agnipath for their vested and selfish interests. The people and the youth like the government job for the sense of the job security but so far as Agnipath is concerned there is no job longevity and security as the appointees are entitled to work only for the four years of their youthful life and after that they will get retirement and there is also no provision of any pension for these posts and therefore there is no security of any income after the retirement and so are the youth in protest against the scheme of Agnipath. The centre government should think of some drastic measure so that the youth of the country will be satisfied and they will end their agitation which has caused enormous loss to the country. The Agnipath scheme seems to be a laughing stock and as such should be cancelled in the interest of the protesting youth. There is no sense of security to the employed youth under the scheme as they are entitled to work only for the meager four years which amounts to a big deceit with the youth and the BJP will have to pay heavily for this scheme which it calls as the historical and modern. The fact that there is no provision of pension to the employed youth makes this scheme very unattractive and devoid of any social security. Thus the Agnipath scheme is a big deceit with the unemployed youth of the country. It amounts to playing with the sentiments of the unemployed youth. The centre government should realize the gravity of the situation and order the cancellation of the Agnipath scheme in the interest of the protest youth. There is no sense of security to the employed youth under the scheme as they are entitled to work only for the meager four years which amounts to a big deceit with the youth and the BJP will have to pay heavily for this scheme which it calls as the historical and modern. 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