

## CLEANSING ULBs OF VALLEY

As the administration of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, under the guidance of the Central Government is committed to ensure an effective and transparent working system in place, as such all adequate initiatives are being taken by the ruling dispensation right from the very beginning. Where necessary instructions were issued to the employees for adopting an honest and dedicated approach while performing their duties to serve the masses, on the other hand the administration also opened up several old cases to undo the wrongs done in the past by the previous Governments of erstwhile state. Now it has been observed that there are many instances when the rulers of that time, just to provide benefits to their supporters or blue-eyed persons, have several times thrown the rules and regulations to the winds and have taken several steps which were completely against the law. It has been further observed that at a point of time when people of erstwhile state, especially educated and skilled youth was suffering hardships due to unemployment, a number of undeserving and inefficient people were provided back door appointments by their political masters without any fear of law, thereby causing further burden on the state exchequer. Recently, in its endeavours to ensure elimination of all corrupt and illegally appointed people from the official systems, the Government has launched an exercise in the Housing and Urban Development Department to trace out all such officers in the urban local bodies who facilitated illegal appointments and regularizations across Kashmir Valley since 2001 so that necessary disciplinary proceedings can be initiated against them. Pertinent to mention here that the government has received a number of complaints alleging several illegal appointments in the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Kashmir, done by leaders of previous Governments, adding that many of the illegal appointees have been regularized and even promoted to several senior posts and are presently working as gazetted officers. Looking into this serious matter, the administration has not only constituted an enquiry committee to carry out detailed probe in the matter for tracing all such illegal appointees besides submitting the report to the Government in a month so that the necessary action can be initiated against all such elements for making the system free from such social menaces.



### OFF 'D' CUFF Dissent is not so bad

Does Advaita Vedanta allow for dissent within its philosophical paradigm?

!Advaita Vedanta has a lot of space for debate, but it has no space for violence or non-acceptance of others' points of view. Through debate, you come to deeper realisations. If you pose a counterview to my view, I would not reject it outright. We will investigate it together. We will have a healthy debate. Vedanta says, explore it within yourself and finally, you will come to realise what the truth of the whole thing is.

But are we not told that there is only one truth? Then how can there be room for many points of view?

The physicality of truth can be very different, which we call perception. If four people are sitting in a room, they could have different perceptions of the same thing. There are many perceptions of the same reality. People fight over individual perceptions. Yes, there is one reality, but perceptions of that reality by people can be different. The problem arises when I am not ready to accept your perception and say that 'only my perception is the right perception.' That's where we lose it. That's when humanity gets into the 'zone of suffering.'

According to Indic wisdom traditions, you can have any perception and I respect that. That is one of the reasons why Sanatana Dharma continues to be relevant. You can be a believer of any perception that you feel is right for you. However, don't impose it on anybody and be respectful of others' perceptions, too. With that, we can live in a harmonious relationship. That is the foundation of Indic culture. But, we are challenging it and we are suffering because of that.

Isn't it the duty of spiritual masters of various traditions to help people become aware that there are many perceptions of reality, even within their own tradition?

In today's scenario, we need sarva dharma samvad, interfaith dialogues. People from different viewpoints come together and talk to each other. We are also a democratic country. If there is constant interfaith dia-

logue, it will percolate to the followers of spiritual masters. They will be well-informed, and choose their political leaders wisely. Indic traditional wisdom and knowledge, needs to percolate down to all citizens and not remain the preserve of the elite. If we don't do it, we are not doing our job properly. We are not evolving as collective humanity.

Many people prefer to say that they are spiritual but not religious. In which case, is religion still relevant?

Wherever you create organised religion, you will create suffering and war. Organised religion means that someone dictates to the whole group that 'this is the law,' and doesn't allow people to read the dharma for themselves. There are two ways to become wise or illuminated: First, you rely on your self-experience; second, if you are given a certain teaching, you investigate it. You do not take anything for granted. That's what the Buddha said and Vedanta also says that. Aham Brahmasmi is an experience of Shankaracharya and he is sharing it with you, but don't believe it until you experience it. Spiritual traditions have always maintained that 'I teach you something; don't believe it; go and investigate.' Spirituality is never about blind faith; it's about deeper, inner belief.

What kind of self experiences can a seeker expect on the path?

There is a whole range. You can't put a number to them; a range of sounds, smells, light and inner expansion or the beyond. Through the five senses, you can experience something and you can also experience that which is beyond the five senses. The nature of experience is not as important as proof of experience. The proof of experience is that you will become softer, more loving and expansive. To me, that is spirituality. This is a way of testing; you could call it self-test mechanics.

You experience all the suffering, yet the heart does not contract; it keeps opening. You experience a range of emotions; you become a witness and don't become a slave of your emotions.

Sonal Srivastava

## Abrogation of Article 370: Tributes & Realisation of Shyama Prasad Mookerjee's Dream

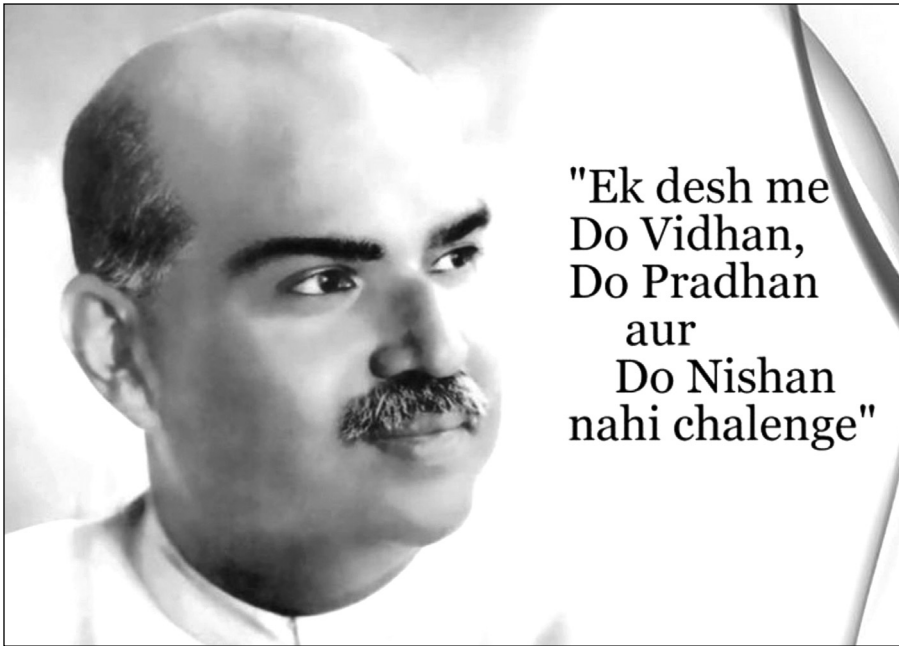
■ REKHA MAHAJAN

Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, the founder of Bharatiya Jana Sangh, Born in Calcutta on 6th July 1901, Mukherjee was against the special status given to Jammu and Kashmir and vehemently opposed Article 370 during his lifetime. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee was a barrister and educationist. He previously served as the Minister of Industry and Supplies in the cabinet of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Mookerjee later resigned from Nehru's cabinet in protest against the Nehru-Liaquat Pact. After consultation with Shri Golwalkar Guru ji of RSS Shri Mookerjee founded Bharatiya Jan Sangh on 21st Oct 1951 at Delhi and he become the first President of it. In 1952 elections he co-founded Janata Party in the year 1977-1979, which later on became the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Bharatiya Jana Sangh won 3 seats in Parliament one of them being that of Shri Mookerjee. Mookerjee was also the President of the All India Hindu Mahasabha from 1943 to 1946.

Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee was associated with many fields, but the areas which were closest to his heart were education, administration and parliamentary affairs, very few people would know that he was the youngest vice-chancellor of the University of Calcutta at merely 33 years of age.

Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee was the first Industries minister of India and, in a sense, he laid a strong foundation for India's industrial development, he had prepared a solid base, it was he who had prepared a stout platform. The first industrial policy of Independent India, which came in 1948, was



stamped with his ideas and vision. Dr. Mookerjee's dream was for India to be industrially self-reliant, competent and prosperous in every sphere.

Mookerjee wanted India to develop heavy industries and pay full attention to MSME, handloom, textiles and cottage industry. "For the proper development of cottage and small industries with finance availability and organizational setup- All India Handicrafts Board, All India Handloom Board and Khadi & Village Industries Board were established between 1948 and 1950. There was also a special emphasis by Dr. Mookerjee on

indigenization of India's defence production, in the establishment of four most successful mega projects- Chittaranjan locomotive works factory, Hindustan aircraft factory, Sindri fertilizer factory and Damodar Valley Corporation and other river valley projects, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee contributed significantly.

Most important thing for Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee was the integrity and unity of India.

Mookerjee strongly opposed Article 370, considering it a threat to national unity. He fought against it inside and outside

## Chamliyal: A holy place where two nations bow!

■ RAKESH AATHUR

India and Pakistan are twin nations which are by part to each other in the shape of Line of Actual control, Line of Control and International Border for more than 950 km along the ring line of Poonch, Rajouri, Akhnoor of Jammu, Samdru, Balar of Samba & Maniyari, Sanji-Morh of Kathua districts of Jammu & Kashmir state and Nagri-Bamyal of Punjab state.

But amid intrigues and retaliatory action in the shape of Samdru, Balar, Narayanpur, etc border comprising of the Ramgarh Sector included a sacred place known as Chamliyal on the extreme borderline among both of these countries. To which place both countries' people would used to venerate at the Dargah of Baba Chamliyal consistently in own in the shape of fairs at their counterpart soils. At this place thousands of the pilgrimages from both the countries used to sanctifying their aspirations with the obeisance during the fair which is celebrated on the event of 3rd or 4th week of June every year.

This extreme border junction is well known among both countries for its sacred qualities in the almighty of Baba enshrined in a great Dargah which is known for its holy water bath and soil-gel for remedial effects upon the skin diseases like itching, scabies, rashes, etc. This is another sacred quality for which it is red lettered place in Indo-Pak history that it realizes us about the Hindu-Muslim brotherhood among the people of the both nations since before 1947 when they used to live in a major country like undivided India then.

The history of the Chamliyal - Dargah reveals that before 1947 when there was not any separating line of control, emerging not as now-a-days separating two countries like India and Pakistan. Then there might be the dwellings in which the people comprising Hindu and Muslim community would used to live with peace and harmony. They would have approved the examples of the brotherhood and friendship for the Hindu-Muslim unity. Then Baba Daleep Singh Manhas was adventuring his life span in very easy manners there also. Then there located

number of such dwellings consistent to each other in which large number of Hindus and Muslims used to live on par belief phenomenon towards each other!

Baba Dalip Singh Manhas during night would used to visit a Muslim house located in his neighborhood dwelling known as Saidanwali now perching in Pakistan where Muslim community was outnumbering to the Hindus. While leading so Baba would have amicable relationship with the hosting family. Meanwhile some people of this dwelling have started raising some kinds of suspects for the host family likely may Baba had some intimidated relations with them, so some miscreants cannot sustain it so more and they started to pursue the steps of the Baba.

While during one night Baba was returning from where towards his house meanwhile in the way some miscreants had trespassed him and beheaded there him into darkness. According to people of the area, Baba would used to recite the tales of the old myths along with its suitable stanzas/ slogans for which he was quite famous in the area then. And hosting family would used to hear so during night because at that time people would get together during nights and spent their times while hearing jokes and old tales. In the same way when he was beheaded in the way Baba was in running stage towards his house so his head was fallen at the same place which is now located in Pakistan called Saidanwali and rest part of his body including arms along with belly and legs had reached at his home place at presently at which place the imminent Dargah located in India known as Chamliyal.

It is said that after sometime Baba enchanted the people of both dwellings and appear into their dreams and scolded skin diseases like itching, rings, scabies, rashes, etc. This process remains for a long time causing people of both the counterparts in order to regard him as their Demi-God and install with these holy Dargahs at respective places. So in his sweet memory the jury of elders since olden days of both the countries have announced to celebrate with a grand fairs every year at the last Thursday of June

of every year; where people from the different corners of the countries would used to visit and offered with sanctification at its holy feet.

Dargah on Indian Territory is under jurisdiction of B.S.F which used to play a significant role in its management during the commemoration of two days fair. Though B.S.F is assisted by other agencies in management purposes and on the counterpart site Pakistan Rangers would also used to celebrate a week long fair and people comprising relatives of both the nations, who were divided among nations and due to financial problem they cannot seek visas to visit at each other would used to met by the medium of this fair since from very beginning of this Mela.

In very beginning of this fair the poor relatives across the borderline would used to meet each other because relation among both the countries were not so embittered then and such tenable situation of now-a-days was perverted. But during recent past due to some odds and evens among both nations such a prohibition have aroused across the complete borderline. Despite that of the mystic view of this place is somewhat mystical in itself yet when water and clay from India to Pakistan has been transported especially on the occasion of this festival. In memory of which residents of the surrounding villages comprising Dug, Shame-chak, Mahrajpur, Chhowni, Abtal, Jerda, Ramgarh, etc would used to serve with cold water- stalls and other audible items ( Chabeels) in the way for visitors.

The recent last visit of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha of J&K (UT) at this place and declaring it as tourist hub have aroused a hope by aspiring to opening up of a bilateral trade route among Indo-Pak can enhance its importance imminently in strategic and economic manners, which is a good massage for people living there along Chamliyal-belt.

Though, district administration has shown up great fervor along with the concerned committee of the locals on June 23 this year. May it bring hope of good verse among both the nations and people living among both these countries!

## Draupadi Murmu: Nari Shakti in Rashtrapati Bhawan

■ ER. PRABHAT KISHORE

History is going to be created in India when the first tribal women will be its next highest constitutional head. The contest between Draupadi Murmu of the Ruling Alliance and Yashwant Sinha of Opposition parties for the highest post of President of India is final. But the arithmetic of the electoral college confirms that the contest will be one-sided and it is just a formality. It would have been better if all the political parties had a consensus on a common candidate for the constitutional post.

Presently, government as well as society are working for the empowerment and equality of women through many ambitious programmes. The women serving at various positions are role model for girls, who are dream-

ing of a prosperous future. The elevation of Draupadi Murmu to the top post of the country, having second largest population in the world, will prove to be catalyst for social change. Undoubtedly, her election as President will be a milestone in the Indian history.

Draupadi Murmu has travelled her political career from zero to hero. Her family, belonging to the Santhal tribal, struggled with poverty. Born on 20th June, 1958 in the remotest Uparbeda village of Mayurbhanj district of Odisha, Draupadi completed her graduation from Ramadevi Women's College, Bhubaneswar. She started her social life as an honorary assistant professor at Sri Aurobindo Integral Education & Research Centre, Rairangpur. Then she served as

a junior assistant in Irrigation and Power department in Odisha Government since 1979 to 1983.

Draupadi started her political journey in 1997 as a councillor and vice-chairman of Rairangpur Nagar Panchayat. In the same year she was appointed as the Vice-President of Odisha BJP Schedule Tribes Morcha. She was elected MLA in 2004 and served as state minister in Commerce & Transport department and subsequently Fisheries & Animal Resource in BJD-BJP coalition government under the Chief Ministership of Naveen Patnaik.

For her outstanding contribution, she was honoured the Neelkantha Award for being best MLA by the Odisha Vidhan Sabha in the year 2007.

She was again elected from the same constituency in 2009. In 2015, she was sworn in as the first women governor of Jharkhand and completed her full term. As a governor she proved herself as a compassionate and balanced administrator who was accessible for the cause of the downtrodden and marginalised community.

Draupadi Murmu is not a very high profile personality. She rose through political ranks battling negligence, poverty and personnel tragedies.

She faced many ups and downs in her personal life and lost her husband and both sons in a tragedy; but having great zeal to serve the nation and the society, she did not stop her marching step.

In fact, Draupadi's name was also doing the rounds for the

BJP's likely choice for the top-most post in year 2017; but then Ram Nath Kovind, the Governor of Bihar, was finally chosen. There may be several political and other factors regarding her selection by the BJP for the top post, but for the people she represents the Nari Shakti to prop up the message "Yatra Naryastu Pujayante, Ramante Tatra Devta."

Now our Country is ready to welcome its 15th President of the world's largest democracy. For the first time, a Moolvasi Tribal of the country will occupy the Rashtrapati Bhawan at Raisina Hills, which epitomises India's strength, its democratic traditions and nationalist character.

(The author is a Technocrat and Educationist).

### PROGRESSING J&K Around 4.5 lakh persons get treatment under Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY SEHAT scheme Rs 307 crore paid to empanelled hospitals till date

Jammu and Kashmir Government has treated more than 4.5 lakh people across the UT for various ailments under the Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY SEHAT scheme and paid Rs 307 crore to the empanelled health institutions under the scheme.

Under this scheme, J&K Government has empanelled around 250 hospitals including private run health institutes to provide free treatment to the beneficiaries under the scheme.

As per the statistics, 68.18 percent (69.85 lakh) of the beneficiaries have been registered under the scheme; making 76.59 percent of the total families eligible for benefits under the SEHAT scheme.

An official said that of the 69.85 lakh registered beneficiaries, 37.7 lakh people have been issued golden cards in Kashmir and 32.09 lakh in Jammu.

Government has employed all its resources at district level to register all population under the scheme for maximum benefit to the people who have struggled all the years to get treatment which was unaffordable to majority of them.

The Government has directed for 100 percent coverage of the scheme this year. Mass awareness campaigns have been launched by the administration through various mediums including TV, radio and print, as well as social media to aware maximum people about this scheme and improve overall health scenario of the UT.

State Health Agency Jammu and Kashmir(SHA-J&K) has initiated a door-to-door campaign to achieve the 100 percent target under the scheme. The administration has established facilities at various places to issue golden cards. Various departments have drawn a strategy to reach out to drivers, vendors, orphanages, and mandis and register them under the scheme. A special walk-in drive was also organised for shikara owners and their families.

The Government of India has selected the Sher-e-Kashmir Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura as a starting point for the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission Project (ABDM) in J&K, the rollout of which was approved by the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

Pertinently, Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT' scheme was launched in the year 2020 with an aim to extend health insurance coverage to all residents of Jammu and Kashmir UT.

It provides free of cost insurance cover to all the residents of the UT of J&K and also provides financial cover up to Rs.5 Lakh per family on a floater basis to all residents of the UT of J&K.