

## IRREGULARITIES UNACCEPTABLE

Fulfilling demand of thousands of the aspirants, who were alleging huge bunglings and misappropriations in the recently released selection list of the Sub Inspectors for Jammu & Kashmir Police and were protesting for long seeking a detailed probe and fair in entire recruitment process by an independent agency like CBI, the LG's administration, taking a significant decision, has cancelled the list and recommended CBI probe into the matter, for booking all the erring officers and others under the law. Pertinent to mention here that right from its coming into the public domain, the selection list invited widespread resentment among youth of the region, especially those who were not included in the list, as a number of discrepancies were noticed therein, raising several questions. Where on one hand, candidates from a particular region were given preference over those belonging to the other, on the other hand there were many instances where siblings got placed in the list. Moreover, several highly educated candidates also failed to get their names in the final list, after which demand for carrying out a probe in the entire recruitment process intensified. As the recruitment was under scanner from the very beginning, the Government also constituted a special committee, led by the Additional Chief Secretary to look into the allegations of irregularities in the Sub Inspector (SI) selection process. At that time also, the administration had assured all the candidates that if anything fishy would be found in the process, the recruitment process would be cancelled without any delay and fresh recruitment would be made. After approximately a month of the constitution of the probe committee, on Friday the LG, through his twitter handle, announced cancellation of the recruitment process ab initio besides ordering a CBI probe in the matter, so that elements responsible for any irregularities in the selection process, are booked under the law. This major decision of the administration, where on one hand has once again proved that the Government is committed to welfare of masses, without any compromise, on the other hand, will go a long way in infusing faith and trust among youth of the Union Territory towards administration and its pro-people endeavours.

## GOVT STAND VINDICATED

The people should learn important lessons from the happenings in the country and never ever get misled by the entities which are trying to satiate their own vested causes by swaying innocents towards doing wrong things. In this context, the latest eye-opener for the people is the country-wide protest against the launch of Agnipath Scheme because many youths took to streets and damaged public property without going through the aforesaid policy's gist. After wooing the innocents to take part in violent protests, the opposition parties have now preferred to remain silent over the issue because the same scheme has garnered overwhelming support of the people across the country. Reportedly, under the aforesaid scheme, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has received the highest number of applications breaking previous records as the IAF has said that the highest number of applications in any recruitment cycle was 6,31,528, which was overtaken this year with 7,49,899 applications. With such a positive response to the new scheme it could be said that the government stand has been vindicated and those who were protesting included the misguided lot swayed by the opposition parties and critics of Modi Government. It is pertinent to mention that under the Agnipath scheme, those between 17-and-a-half and 21 years (23 years for 2022) would be inducted into the armed forces for four-year tenure and 25 percent of them will be inducted for regular service subsequently. The remaining 75 percent Agniveers will be demobilised, with an exit or 'Seva Nidhi' package of Rs 11-12 lakh, which will be partly funded by their monthly contributions, as well as skill certificates and bank loans for help in their second careers. The huge number of applications for the Agnipath scheme in IAF is a good sign because those who wanted to mislead the people of the country through their lies have found no takers as youths were properly guided by the government with regard to the aforesaid scheme and the process has been welcomed by lakhs of people as the number of applications have testified the same.



OFF 'D' CUFF

REMAIN ALERT AND BE STRONG

In the same way when there are disappointments keep the flowers of smile blooming. You should smile more when you feel sadder because at that time you need happiness. When the body becomes weak there is a need for some tonic. You have to balance yourself when you are not able to balance yourself. Have more patience

When you begin to lose confidence then you need to have more patience. You will have to console yourself more than ever before. You will have to wipe your own tears yourself. Nobody will come forward to give you encouragement. You will stay in the crowded world but you will have to stay there all alone. Whenever you need something the most that too will go away from you. Conditions and time will stand against you. Have full confidence

However, when you are in a good and positive frame, many people will force themselves on you and give you advice and pretend to be your well-wishers. Hence do not become weak, remain alert, be strong and have full confidence in yourself.

Encouraging and inspiring for a good cause

Behave like a commander: If you become weak many forces will come around you to weaken you further. In fact, no one becomes weak by himself but the circumstances make one weak. But

# Restoration of Statehood to Jammu & Kashmir

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

At the outset it is pertinent to mention that Jammu & Kashmir was always an independent state even before the rule of the Maharaja's and so it is in the fitness of things to restore the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest to fulfill the aspirations of the alienated people and assuage their hurt feelings. Thus in the best interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir the status of statehood should be restored to people of Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest so that the disgruntled and alienated people will heave a sigh of relief. A historical and far reaching decision was taken by the centre government and vetted by the Indian parliament on August 5, 2019 whereby controversial articles 370 and 35A of the constitution of India were scrapped and the state was bifurcated into two union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladkash. The resolutions in the parliament were passed to this effect. These decisions transformed the life of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and opened the UT to huge investments and this is bound to develop the union territory. While it is in the best interests of the erstwhile state to annul and abrogate the controversial article 370 as well as 35A as it lead to the fuller integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India. It also fulfilled the aspirations of the 135 crore Indians and also met the dream and resolve of the integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India. It also fulfilled the promise, agenda and manifesto of the then Jan Sangh and now of its new Avtar BJP. However from day one of the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories, there were much hue and cry by the political parties and the common people who wanted the restoration of the statehood to the alienated people of Jammu and Kashmir. The regional political parties of NC, PDP, ANC, PL and grand old

party congress opposed bifurcation of the state and resolved to fight for the restoration of the statehood to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Sensing mood of the people of the erstwhile state the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were quick to respond and they promised to restore the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir at the appropriate time. Thus the political parties should not fight for the restoration of the statehood because the centre has promised the restoration of the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir after the assembly elections. The political parties should not press for the restoration of the statehood to the Jammu and Kashmir before Assembly Elections as Prime Minister and Home Minister had promised to restore the statehood to the people of Jammu and Kashmir at the appropriate time after the assembly elections which are long overdue. Some regional parties are demanding the restoration of the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir before the assembly elections and they are unfortunately making restoration of the statehood as a precondition for participating in the elections. But such unreasonable demands should not be made by the political parties. Now that the delimitation commission has made final recommendations about the delimitations of the assembly and parliamentary elections and the election commission of India has asked the state election department to publish electoral rolls and has directed the DEOs to appoint the both level officers. The LG Manoj Sinha has also hinted that elections will be held soon. Thus there is speculation in the political circles and the general public that assembly elections will be held in the month of December. Thus there is jubilation in the political parties and they are touring nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir to spread their base and increase their support. We have heard that a union territory is upgraded to a state but have not

heard that a full-fledged state is degraded to the level of a UT. We have seen it happening in Jammu and Kashmir and the gullible people of Jammu and Kashmir are experiencing the downgrading of the state to two union territories. This is very much unnatural and should not have been done but for the normalization of the ground situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Now about three years have passed since the centre had bifurcated the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two UTs, and so the steps need to be taken at the earliest to restore the statehood to the people of Jammu and Kashmir may be after the assembly elections as promised by the centre government and to be more specific by the prime minister and the home minister at the floor of the parliament. Therefore there should be no confusion about the restoration of the statehood as it will be restored at the appropriate time after the assembly elections. It is hoped that the much due assembly elections will be held in the month of December if the weather permits and thereafter the process of the restoration of the statehood will commence and then at an earliest date the status of statehood will be restored to give a go bye to the alienation of the people. The NDA government of the centre should respect the aspirations and hopes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and take a decision of the restoration of the statehood at the earliest after the assembly elections to heal the wounds and hurt psyche of the gullible people of the erstwhile state. A big leader and former Sadar-e-Riyasat Jammu & Kashmir Dr Karan Singh has also demanded restoration of the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir to remove the alienation of the people. The downgrading of the erstwhile state is not the solution of the ills and problems of the people of Jammu and Kashmir but the restoration of the statehood will to a great extent remove the alienation of the people and it will also result in the

removal of the ills and problems of the people. Thus it is necessary that the centre government should order the restoration of the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir so that the people will feel at ease. Therefore the centre government should restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir as promised by the prime minister and the home minister. The gullible people of the erstwhile state should not be forced to launch an agitation for the restoration of the statehood. But the centre government should respect the sentiments, aspirations and hopes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and restore the statehood as promised by the prime minister and the home minister at an earliest possible time to fulfill the promise made earlier at the floor of the parliament at umpteen times. Thus without wasting time and energy the centre should take the decision of the restoration of the statehood so that the alienated people will feel a sigh of relief. The people have been orphaned by the decision of downgrading of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and now the time has come to reverse the decision of bifurcation of the state as well as of the scrapping of statehood so that the people will feel belongingness and ease. In short, NDA government headed by BJP should take a decision of the restoration of the statehood at the appropriate time after the assembly elections. So after the assembly elections, no delay should be made in restoration of the statehood to the gullible people of Jammu and Kashmir. Thus the election commission should announce the schedule of the assembly elections so that the much due elections will take place. The elections will pave way for the restoration of the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir so that people will feel at ease and their alienation is removed.

(The author is a Columnist and Social Activist).

## Udaipur brutality & some points to ponder

■ M R LALU

The Udaipur shocker has become a gruesome tale of brutality executed in the name of religion. Once again there was uproar against radicalization, but of course, this time it was limited within the boundaries of Rajasthan. Bubbles of repercussion elsewhere got easily settled. The democratic minds in India are determined not to talk too much about this bone-chilling persecution. Not only India but also the world across, a sense of understanding is effervescent, that there is no escape but fall prey to the contradictions of beliefs which draw justice lines around the conscience of human intelligence. For India, this incident of beheading a Hindu shopkeeper is not less than the beheading of its democracy. The horror was capable enough to send feelers across India's social canvass, significantly reminding its people that it is not the percentage of population of a certain community that matters but the sense of unity that a thought can bind and blindfold its people. Kanhaiya Lal Tel's killing is seen to be justified as a reaction, a spontaneous outrage, an aftermath effect of the TV debate, which literally shook the country a little while ago and much to its surprise the West Asian friends of the Modi dispensation came rattling and the BJP, in its diplomatic U-turn acted against its media faces. Paradoxically, India's precariousness is evident from its efforts to balance between its democracy and a theocracy terrifyingly pulling its ugly head from the dungeons of theology. The horror in Udaipur was an act mostly determined to bring the idea "Kill one, frighten a thousand", a lesson that the plural social establishment should diligently learn from. It's time for us to realize the quantum of mistrust and enmity that we as a nation have grown into. The street violence in the name of the controversial TV debate across the country was not a spontaneous outrage. India was clouded with a conspiring silence for almost ten days after the debate and the uproar was probably an effect of a meticulous plot hatched deliberately to create a whirlwind of unrest and bring the country on its knees. The idea of secularism that the country offers in its democratic platter has shrunk too much to be identified. If a majoritarian mindset is responsible for the horror that India witnessed in Udaipur, the violence erupted in West Bengal before and after the state elections,

killing and raping numerous Hindus should have attracted equal reaction. It is time for India to define blasphemy based on its democratic principles. If blasphemy is punishable to one religion, a secular country should legally profess the same for all religions democratically. Easily getting offended on facts that are genuine and codified in religious texts is evidently meant to deliberately derail an intellectual discourse and an ideology, with short of facts to justify its anomalies, frequently attempts to make its presence felt through violence. Scarcity of intellectual depth and scientific comprehension in religions force them to pull cleavers to slit open their ideological opponents. The question is, how long the world should remain susceptible to brutality in the name of religion. Should the barbarity on an innocent Hindu tailor be seen as reciprocation on what the liberals often call the provocations by an emboldened Hindu majoritarianism, supported by a government 'well-known' for its majority-appeasement policies? Why should someone in their good senses believe such a theory? If that was the case, the government and its entire mechanism could have come to the rescue of the poor Hindu Sadhus who were beaten to death on April 16, 2020 in the town of Palghar in Maharashtra by a frenzied mob. The country should have expected a majoritarian outrage. Neither the political establishment nor the judicial system could so far bring justice to the poor Sadhus. What might have led an unruly mob to kill two saffron clad men? Outcries in the name of minority rights are often heard in India. But no leaf fell in support of the Sadhus and the intellectuals refrained from writing columns condemning the bloodcurdling lynching and most of the visual media remained silent. The whole intention behind the Udaipur barbarity was to defend a particular ideology and dance in tune with its pre-emptive gesticulation, which if not whole, a section of the supporters in India are aspiring to follow. Let us not deny the fact that assistance to build an ecosystem of horror in the name of religion practically comes from across the borders. But the real issue of concern lies in the increasing number of its takers in India. It is unnecessary to go into the details of the issue that turned two young Muslim men to become heinous barbarians. Their act of crime was in consonance with or a replica of

medieval savagery.

There were multiple instances in which Hindus and Muslims pitched bitter battles in the streets in India. From Kashmir to Kerala hostility was evidently purported by an ideology which remained suffocated with its extremist and exclusive beliefs and whenever it was expected to shake hands with others in amity it disappointed the country with enmity. There is no denying the fact that India's recalcitrant neighbour; the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, does everything that it can to bleed India by a thousand cuts. But the political narrative that India is habituated to build is to deliberately camouflage the dubious intentions with which the youth in a particular community get radicalized. After Udaipur, the reasons behind the gruesome murder of a chemist in Amravati are unraveling. Both murders were executed as a particular community got offended on the Nupur Sharma episode and the shopkeepers from both the cities got their fate sealed forever for their alleged support for the former BJP spokesperson in the social media. Evidently, a democratic nation is seen to be digging in the heels, a futile exercise to maintain its constitutional values when it is clobbered hard by its own flattered demography. A tussle between democracy and a theocratic mindset in the slippery landscape of India's political hypocrisy is what the country is witnessing at present. And the barbarity that an uncivilized medieval period was known for is getting prominence in India and Udaipur and Amravati are its hapless victims. Do not forget, this sickness or call it madness is an outcome of the education that many young children receive in seminars run by semi-literate people. The boy, seated on the shoulders of a young man shouting blood thirsty slogans in the Alappuzha district of Kerala was an example of a parallel education system that injected hatred at a younger age distancing people as infidels and believers. The brutal killings of innocent people in the name of religions may be chest thumping for many in the mohallas of Jihad. Such episodes of bestiality are enough to topple the entire edifice of democracy. A country run by the rule of law cannot budge anymore with this fiendishness. We need fast track courts to speed up the legal proceedings to deal with such crimes. The more the religions agree to reforms, the more peaceful would be the religious space in the country.

## Can impact of cloudburst be reduced?

■ VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

The Amarnath tragedy is done with. Nature believed it was time for irony. Cloudburst is the reason that has been attributed as a cause of death of at least 13 Amarnath Yatis. The increasing incidents of cloud bursts in Himalayan states have been proving significant disaster for lives and livelihoods of native people, rivers and environment of the states. The cold burst blood vessels and sent hundreds into shock. Without weather information, no one realises the danger from the cold front that swiftly moved in. The holy Yatra of Amarnath is a symbol of compassion, spirituality, service and peace. The Amarnath shrine is in a cave 3,888 metres above sea level in the Lidder Valley, which has a large concentration of small and large glaciers such as Kolahai, Nehmar and Bodpathri. The tragedy also brought out the best in the people of Kashmir: all along the route, local Muslims opened their houses to dazed pilgrims, giving them food and shelter. Heavy rainfall is one of the climate challenges that the pilgrimages of Amarnath had to face. The unusually heavy cloudburst that struck is an example of how extreme weather events can have severe consequences for our infrastructure and homes. Cloudbursts usually last only for a few minutes but can lead to disastrous effects and flooding in that short period. There is no doubt that the J&K Government has made continuous efforts for the annual Yatra to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine of Amarnath in the Himalayas 'comfortable, modern and safe'. In 1969, 40 pilgrims died after a cloudburst in Pahalgam. In 1996, unusually heavy snowfall along with severe blizzards along Yatra route led to 250 people being killed due to exhaustion, exposure and freezing. In 2015, three people got killed and 11 injured after a cloudburst triggered flash floods and landslides near Baltal base camp of Amarnath Yatra. Cloudburst is a natural and common phenomenon in the Himalayas. It is a cloudburst is short-term extreme precipitation that takes place over a small area; it is not, as is sometimes understood, breaking open of a cloud, resulting in release of huge amounts of water. Cloudburst causes massive loss of life, property, infrastructure, agricultural lands and other facilities. The earlier disasters show that the growing outbreak of rains and its associated flash floods, debris flows and landslides are important reasons for damages and destructions.

Meteorologists say the rain from a cloudburst is usually of the shower type with a fall rate equal to or greater than 100 mm (4.94 inches) per hour. Generally, cloudbursts are associated with thunderstorms and the air currents rushing upwards in a rainstorm hold up a large amount of water. Water flowing down steep slopes brings debris, boulders and uprooted trees with great velocity damaging any structure that comes in their way. A series of initiatives and changes in relevant regulations have already been implemented. The government also continues to work actively to improve the framework, wherever the need arises. Rain can be a blessing, but sometimes it can also be a curse, as in the case of cloudbursts. We need to be aware of the causes, effects, and safety precautions of cloudbursts to stay safe if they occur near us. One of the many means of avoiding extensive damage caused by disasters is by being well prepared to face them. It is important to know the history of previous disastrous events and take a lesson from them and plan ahead. What we need is to add not only more weather monitoring stations but also to ensure their smooth functioning.

## YOUR COLUMN

### Neglected PM package employees

Dear Editor,

One fails to understand as to why the LG's administration and the centre government are turning a complete blind eye over the relocation demand of PM package employees. These patriotic and nationalist PM package employees are only demanding their relocation outside the Kashmir valley and their demand is very genuine keeping in view the prevailing situation of targeted/Selective killing of minorities in Kashmir. They feel threatened, insecure and total unsafe in valley as they have become soft targets for the gun toting terrorists. The situation in Kashmir is not conducive for the working of PM package employees because now the terrorists have changed their modus operandi as they are selectively killing KPs and other Hindu minorities.

Government should understand the fact that these PM package employees are not demanding 'Azadi' or any separate state but these patriotic sons of mother India are only demanding the safety and security of their lives. In Kashmir, Hindu minorities and PM Package employees were massacred because of being patriotic and nationalist in nature.

These hapless and unfortunate Package employees are agitating from the last around two months for the only one point demand of relocation outside Kashmir but the sad story is that the government is not paying any heed towards it. It is the height of injustice that in Kashmir the administration has locked the doors of various KP transit accommodations. The package employees in Kashmir are not being allowed to protest outside by the government and their voices and concerns are being suppressed by the administration and this is very disturbing phenomenon. However, now the government is doing cruelty on the PM package agitat-

ing employees by not allowing media personnel to cover their daily protests.

This is total discrimination and injustice towards these package employees who are protesting from the last 54 days in the most democratic and constitutional way. It is worthwhile to mention here that these employees are not demanding promotions or accommodations but are only requesting and begging for the safety of their lives which is their basic right as per article 21 of the Indian constitution.

The government should not treat package employees as sacrificial goats at the altar of secular democracy.

It is high time now that the LG administration and centre government must listen to the woes of protesting package employees and understand the gravity of the situation & immediately relocate them outside Kashmir valley in order to save the precious lives.

Vivek Koul, Jammu.

