


PAYING TRIBUTES

26th July day is observed as 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' to commemorate India's victory. This day was declared as Vijay Diwas, and the way in which the Indian Armed Forces fought the war and tried to ensure that it did not escalate into a nuclear conflict, has been acclaimed the world over. Twenty-three years ago on this day, the Indian soldiers pushed back Pakistani troops, a bulk of them drawn from the neighbouring country's Northern Light Infantry, from the captured peaks in Kargil. They remind us how our brave soldiers sacrificed their lives while defending the nation. Shershad of Kargil - Captain Vikram Batra's valour is legendary, as he made the ultimate sacrifice for his nation during Kargil War. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had pointed out that he had privilege to visit Kargil at that time. He said, "Entire world witnessed the strength and valour of India's brave forces. At that time, I too had the privilege of visiting Kargil and witnessed the bravery of our soldiers. That is one of the most precious moments of my life." The Nation, hopefully remembers the 400 plus martyrs for laying down their lives in the service of their Nation, in the true spirit of 'laying down their today for our tomorrows'. It has been 23 years since Kargil war, but the memory of the bloodshed remains fresh in the minds of the brave soldiers, who responded to the call of duty and defended the country's borders, and their families. Kargil Vijay Diwas has been named after the success of Operation Vijay. As India celebrates Kargil Diwas and pays homage to martyrs of the war, it is time to recall the significant role of air power that actually tilted the balance in Operation Vijay. It is both a pride inducing moment and a prick in the hearts of the soldiers who valiantly fought for our nation. As India prepares to hold a memorial service for the martyrs, there are certain facts that we must all know about the historic day. With its significant war footage, Kargil was the first Indo-Pak War that impacted public opinion through mass media coverage. Every patriotic Indian's heart swells with pride at the bravery of our Jawans in evicting Pakistani Northern Light Infantry and a few terrorists from the inhospitable Kargil heights. One hopes India's strategic planners have built in & have planned for more robust scenario's to face inevitable, future threats. Kashmiri Pandits all over the world are grateful to these warriors and brave sons of the land for defending the Kashmiri Pandit homeland 'Maej Kasheer' (Mother Kashmir). There is an old saying in Army 'Jine Jeet Nahi Wekhi Usay Jeetna Kaun Sikhayega,' loosely translated it means that if one has not seen victory, how can you teach them to win a war. Its pride and pain for the soldiers as the nation celebrates the anniversary of the war victory against Pakistan. India continuously stepped up attack against Pakistan and ended up recapturing two key positions in Batalik sector. Modi said that what Indians say in the event of a war has a profound effect on the morale of a soldier deployed at the borders, as well as his family back home. Modi reminded citizens to not forget this fact. In the words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, there is no doubt that 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' will rekindle the pride and valour of the soldiers who took part in Operation Vijay. The sacrifices made by soldiers and their families for ensuring the safety of fellow countrymen will always be remembered with gratitude. Indian Armed forces won Kargil war without violating any international norms. Youth and students should draw inspiration from soldiers of Indian Army who laid down their lives in the Kargil war in 1999 while safeguarding the nation. On Kargil Vijay Diwas, let us remember and salute this heroic warrior who laid down his life fighting to protect nation and its people.



OFF 'D' CUFF

Ego hinders one from Progressing

Man is not free. He is dependent on others. In a way, he is like a prisoner of himself. He remains tied up with many worldly issues all the time. He wants to be free but circumstances do not allow him to escape from the bondages.

His greatest bondage is his egoism. The ego keeps the man tied up in its bonds. The feeling of 'I', the feeling of 'mine' and the feeling of ego is nothing else than the bond that keeps the man tied up. Due to the bondage the man is unable to reach the destination where he wishes to reach. Egoism keeps him tied down and does not allow the man to rise or make any progress.

Ego pulls the straight-forward-looking person backward. He becomes confused and loses all his initiatives of progress. He becomes unaware that he is tied up in the knots of egoism. If one is able to overcome ego or can successfully remove ego from the life then there is no power which could retard the progress of the man. If we look at the history of our country and also of other civilizations, it was due to the ego of certain individuals that there had occurred widespread bloodshed and many forward-looking countries got eliminated. Great civilizations had perished and, even at our local household levels, many prosperous families got destroyed for nothing.

If a person is able to overcome the traits of ego, one can easily reach

Forced return & rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits unacceptable

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY
It is said that 'Janani Janam Bhoomi Swarg Se Mahan Hai' and place of birth and motherland is sweet for all people and so Kayshp land that Kashmir is, is very attractive for the uprooted Kashmir Pandits. Majority of Kashmiri Pandits and all the package employees long for their return, rehabilitation and resettlement in Kashmir which is the place of their birth. Kashmiri Pandits want to return to Kashmir on their terms and conditions, but Government should not force them to return to Kashmir under the present conditions as the PM package employees and Jammu-based government employees posted across Kashmir are being targeted and killed by so-called crusaders of Jihad and ground conditions and the situation is not feasible and conducive for return and rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Pandits including PM package employees in Kashmir valley and therefore powers should not force the Kashmiri Pandits in general and the package employees in particular to return, live and work in Kashmir were their members were killed in the line of their duty and the package employees are warned not to venture in Kashmir and otherwise face serious consequences if they dare to enter the Kashmir valley. In such precarious atmosphere the government should not force the Kashmiri Pandits and the package employees to return to Kashmir. In fact the ground situation in Kashmir resembles the hay days of the terrorism of 1990 when the terrorism was at its zenith and many Kashmiri Pandits were killed and others were left with no option but to leave the valley for the safety, security and dignity of their life. The present conditions are similar to the conditions of the terrorism of 1990 and in the same manner the Pandit and other Hindu minorities as well as the package employees were killed to scare them so that they were forced to leave the valley for their safety and survival. The plan and policy of the return and rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Pandits which includes the return of the package employees as well is a pious policy but it should not be implemented in hurry and haste as doing it in haste will prove

counterproductive and defeat the very purpose of the return and rehabilitation policy. In the past thirty two years of the migration of the Kashmiri Pandits, the successive centre and state governments failed to rehabilitate even one family of the uprooted Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir. It implies that the government is not serious about the return and rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Pandits including the package employees but only is using the Kashmiri Pandits as a vote catching device in the elections outside the Kashmir valley. It seems that the government is making use of the Kashmiri Pandits as a use and through policy and this has complicated the genuine return and resettlement of the Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir. The government is doing experimentation with the Kashmiri Pandits as if they are the laboratory products and the government should stop to do experimentation with the exiled Kashmiri Pandits. The package employees most of them have fled Kashmir due to the targeted killings of their co-employees and because of the threat perception and an atmosphere of panic and fear and are camping in Jammu for the safety and survival of their lives. These unfortunate and hapless package employees are protesting for the last over two months in the office of Relief and Rehabilitation commissioner Migrants canal road Jammu and at times are also protesting for their only and genuine demand of their relocation/shifting to Jammu division, but unfortunately the BJP led NDA government and the LG administration is paying a deaf ear towards the striking package employees, with the result the package employees are forced to continue their indefinite protest for the only demand of their relocation. It is very queer and unfortunate that the government has given incorrect figures and data in Raj Sabha on uprooted Kashmiri Pandits and it has said that no migration of Kashmiri Pandits has happened from the date of the abrogation of article-370 that is from 5th August 2019 and 118 civilians had been killed by the terrorists during the period. These statistics are a sheer concoction and has no relevance with the actual facts. The fact is that

the majority of package employees and some families of Kashmiri Pandits have migrated post abrogation of article 370. The MoS Home Nityanand Rai has in a written reply to a question of congress MP Digvijay Singh in Raj Sabha said that from August 5, 2019, till July 9, 2022, almost 128 security force personnel and 118 civilians were martyred by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. These statistics are true and it shows that there is no normalcy in the disturbed Jammu and Kashmir where people including Kashmiri Pandits and other minorities have been killed during the period mentioned by the MOS home and the fact is that the targeted killings of the Kashmiri Pandits and other minorities continue in Kashmir. The MoS Home has further said that 5500 Kashmiri Pandits were appointed post abrogation of article 370 but there is no truth in this data. The fact is that about 3,000 Kashmiri Pandit youth have joined duty before the 5th of August 2019 and some odd 1400 have been appointed post abrogation of Article 370. It is so sad that the government is painting a rosy picture of the situation in Kashmir while the ground reality is far from the assertions of the government about the so called normalcy. The normalcy balloon of the BJP led NDA government has punctured by the killings of the security forces and the civilians. So far as the return and rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Pandits including package employees is concerned, the government should held talks with the Kashmiri Pandit leaders before embarking on the policy and plan of their return and rehabilitation. Thus the main stakeholders - the Kashmiri Pandit leaders should be consulted on the plan and policy of their return and rehabilitation. The plan and policy of the rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Pandits will be successful only when the leaders of the exiled community are consulted and their views are taken into consideration. Thus the return and rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir should precede the much needed deliberations and discussions with the Kashmiri Pandits so that the plan and policy of the rehabilitation will be successful. The government should realize that the living of

the Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir is not possible in scattered form as they lived before their migration of 1990. Almost all their houses and dwellings stand either burnt or sold at the throw away prices as distress sales under compulsion of the circumstances. Therefore their return and settlement should be done at a single place so that they will live without any fear and panic. This is possible only when they are rehabilitated at a single place in Kashmir. Thus the NDA Government, if serious about the return and rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Pandits, should settle and rehabilitate them at a single concentration so that return and rehabilitation will be successful and in order to ensure that there is no further migration of the Kashmiri Pandits. As far as package employees are concerned they should not be forced to live and perform their duties across Kashmir but should be allowed to work from home from Jammu till there is complete normalcy in Kashmir. Alternatively the package employees who are on indefinite strike should be relocated from Kashmir and shifted to Jammu and relocated/adjusted or attached to the Relief commissioner's office, Jammu till the situation limps back to normal in Kashmir. There is great and urgent need to delink employment package from return and rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Pandits because the PM employment package is purely an economic package and it has to do nothing with return and rehabilitation policy of Kashmiri Pandits. To conclude, it can be safely and rightly said that Kashmiri Pandits should be rehabilitated at a single place in Kashmir so that there is no scope for further migration from Kashmir. The migration should be reversed for all times to come so that the rehabilitated Kashmiri Pandits will live in peace and dignity and this is possible only when the Kashmiri Pandits are consulted on the policy and plan of their return and rehabilitation and only then it can be successful otherwise not. Moreover there should be no haste in embarking of the return and rehabilitation plan and policy of Kashmiri Pandits.

(The author is a Columnist and Social Activist).

Good governance dimensions changing in J&K

■ VIKRAM SINGH
Good Governance is must for the development of any concerned society. The Jammu and Kashmir in the past 7 decades has lagged in the good governance realms, especially till the article 370 was functional. Article 370 had ensured that rotten structures remain in place in Jammu and Kashmir. The concept of accountability was nowhere in the good governance as nepotism and corruption was rampant. With the abrogation of article 370 the good governance has flourished in roots. The good governance is concerned with structure and processes for decision making, accountability, control and behaviour at top of an entity. Governance influences how an organisation's or the government's objectives are set and achieved, how risk is monitored and addressed and how performance is optimised. The statistics with reference to good governance in Jammu and Kashmir show results clearly. In this regard, Good Governance Index (GGI)-2021 indicated that Jammu and Kashmir has registered an increase of 3.7 percent in Good Governance Indicators over the 2019 to 2021 period. Over the past two years, the Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances. DARGP has successfully collaborated with Government of Jammu & Kashmir in adoption of e-Office, capacity building programs for JKAS officers, as well as integration of JK-IGRAMS with District Portals. DARGP also conducted three regional conferences on replication of good governance practices in Jammu and Kashmir.

The District Good Governance Index of Jammu & Kashmir was released virtually by the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah in presence of Union Minister Jitendra Singh and the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha. The composite ranking of first ever District Good Governance Index (DGGI) Jammu district had managed to top the list followed by districts of Doda, Samba, Pulwama and Srinagar in Union Territory.

The rude and aggressive attitude of the Government officials had been before the abrogation of article 370 been a big challenge to ensuring the good governance.

Now, full focus has been to ensure that the Government officials ensure people friendly attitude towards the masses especially when they visit the government offices for their work. The corruption tag of Jammu and Kashmir had hit hard the reputation of every department in Jammu and Kashmir, the only thing before that abrogation of article 370 was that Jammu and Kashmir is among the top corrupt states of India. Four years down the line different wings of Government especially the anti corruption Bureau is active in curbing roots of corruption to ensure good governance. The good governance realms of Jammu and Kashmir have improved to an extent that neighboring states and it is a great feat for one and all. Some time back, Haryana Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal has said that the State, on the lines of Jammu and Kashmir, would design the District Good Governance Index, aimed at its all-round development. "This will further ensure healthy competition with regard to development among the districts, which will result in enhancing the development index of the State. Thus, the State will be included among the leading States at the national level, said Kaushal, who presided over a meeting with regard to District Good Governance Index with the administrative officers. Cracks on illegal funding by the Government has ensured good governance, goes to credit of both the Centre and the Union Territory of J&K that they have taken concrete steps to weed out corruption as well as put an end to illegal receipt of money through 'Hawala' that inimical forces were sending across for destructive activities.

Good governance has been at the core of the NDA lead Government by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. As a matter of the fact, Good Governance Day (Su?san Divas)

was established in India in 2014, to be observed annually on December 25, the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, with a view towards fostering awareness of accountability in government. Experts on ground are ensuring that in Jammu and Kashmir with reference to good governance the transparency is ensured to fullest that ensures people of Jammu and Kashmir understand and have access to the means and manner in which decisions are made, especially if they are directly affected by such decisions. Sustainable development goals are at the heart of ensuring good governance. In this context, aiming at localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) along with other states and Union Territories, J&K, after the District Indicator Framework (DIF), is now planning to put in place the SDG dashboard including the SDG Index to ensure monitoring of the implementation.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The Government of India has taken SDG actively in ensuring good governance. In its report titled, 'The Indian Model of SDG Localization,' which deliberates on the sub-national action to meet the SDGs, the experiences from States and Union Territories in India, NITI Aayog, while highlighting the SDH monitoring, said that J&K has shortlisted 206 monitoring indicators covering 81 targets for UT level monitoring. The people are urging the government to continue focus on the good governance dimensions in Jammu and Kashmir. It is the thrust area of the Government in Jammu & Kashmir that the information on good governance must be provided in an understandable and accessible format, typically translated through media, which is healthy sign for future.

YOUR COLUMN

PM package employees' conundrum

Dear Editor,
The government's lackadaisical approach towards relocation demand of PM Package employees has left all those unfortunate KP migrant employees in lurch. These package employees are protesting from last 75 days for seeking their relocation outside Kashmir but the indifferent BJP centre government is not considering their plea for the best reasons known to them. However, since after the spate of targeted killings of Prime Minister package employees at their workplaces in Kashmir, all Package employees are now apprehensive about their safety and security in Kashmir and thus rightly are they demanding relocation/attachment to Relief Commissioners Migrant Office, Jammu. Their demand is genuine as these package employees too have their fundamental right to life and personal liberty as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. LG's administration and centre government seem to be least bothered about sad plight of PM package

employees because their legitimate demand of relocation outside Valley is being overlooked by the authorities at the helm of affairs. The government is only experimenting with these package employees as if they were laboratory objects for experimentation purpose only. It is very sad and disturbing that the government is giving much more importance to 'Package bond' over to the precious lives of 'Package employees'. By not listening to the relocation demand of PM package employees, the government is only tantamounting their woes and miseries & these hapless package employees are now finding themselves in real predicament. As these package employees are the law abiding citizens of this great country and therefore they are peacefully agitating for their survival from the last 75 days in the most democratic, disciplined and constitutional way. So the time has come now that the centre government and LG's administration must immediately relocate/attach all PM package employees to Relief Commissioner Migrant Office Jammu and justice be done at the earliest in order to mitigate sufferings of package employees.

Vivek Koul,
Gole Gajral, Jammu.

PROGRESSING J&K

Govt giving significant push to hydroelectric power generation across J&K Projects of more than 6,300 MW capacity in pipeline to make J&K power surplus

J&K government is giving a significant push to generation of hydroelectric power with projects of more than 6,300 MW capacity in pipeline for making UT of J&K power surplus. To improve the current power capacity substantially, J&K has initiated a large-scale capacity augmentation programme. In 70 years, J&K was able to harness only 3,500 MW, and now generation capacity is set to be doubled in four years and tripled in seven years.

Since August 2019, 2451 MVA has been added to the total capacity as compared to the 8394 MVA capacity achieved in seven decades. J&K Government launched various initiatives to strengthen and improve power infrastructure in UT which had remained dilapidated for the last several decades.

The decade-long overdue up-gradation of power infrastructure which was ignored by successive regimes is being done in a sustained manner.

According to a senior official, the present administration is eliminating the legacy of delays and all the languishing projects hanging for long are being completed in a record time. Prime Minister, Narendra Modi during his recent visit to J&K laid the foundation stone of Ratle and Kwar Hydroelectric projects. The 850 MW Ratle Hydroelectric Project will be constructed on Chenab river in Kishtwar District at a cost of around Rs 5300 crore.

The 540 MW Kwar Hydroelectric Project will also be built on the Chenab river in Kishtwar District at a cost of over Rs 4500 crore. Both the projects will help meet the power requirements of the region. According to official figures 3100 MW of power projects worth Rs 22315 cr were revised, accelerated and Memorandum of understanding of 3284 MW of projects worth Rs 29600 cr were signed. Pakal Dul Hydroelectric Project in Jammu & Kashmir cleared by cabinet for Rs 8,112.12 crore investment will help in reducing power shortage in the northern region. "Investment of Rs 8,112.12 crore for construction of the (4×250 MW) Pakal Dul Hydroelectric Project has been approved," an official said.

The project would help in reducing the power shortage in the Northern region and partly to utilize storage provisions of the Indus Water Treaty. It would also help in the socio-economic upliftment of remote areas of J&K.

Under a new scheme 'Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme' (RDSS), projects worth Rs. 11767 crore are approved to reduce AT&C losses and ensure 24x7 power availability. In a historic move to realise the goal of making Jammu and Kashmir self-sufficient in power sector, Ratle Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (RHPCL) and Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL) inked a contract agreement for the turnkey execution of 850-MW Ratle hydel project within a stipulated timeframe.

J&K has undertaken large-scale capacity augmentation programme in the power sector resulting in a huge leap in power transmission and distribution capacity.

The new power generation projects like Ratle, Pakal Dul, Kiru etc, will bridge a major gap in the UT's electricity requirements. Similarly, 540 MW Kwar project being built at a cost of Rs 4526 cr would be completed by November 2026. Notably, in a significant step towards boosting renewable energy projects in J&K, in the Union Budget 2022, an allocation of Rs. 476.44 crore has been made as grants towards equity for 800 MW Ratle Hydroelectric Project and Rs 130 crore as grants towards equity for 624 MW Kiru Hydroelectric Project. It will boost energy transition and fight against climate change.

The distribution capacity is now 16,754 MVA, while as in 2019 it was only 12,745 MVA. The length of HT line is 45,101 km were 41,204 Ckms before 2019, while as length of LT line has increased from 79,754 to 96,017 Ckms from 2019 till date.