


J&K NEEDS TO RETROSPECT

Despite the wholehearted support of the Centre and the exceptional work done by the J&K Government, the UT not getting the desired results as far as the implementation of Business Reforms Action Plan is concerned is a thing to be looked into very keenly so that the dismal performance does not get repeated in the coming times. Reports emerging on the issue are not good as far as J&K is concerned because the UT has been able to secure a slot in the top achiever states which in actual include Punjab, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. Although much has been said and done to ensure ease of doing business in J&K but the parameters which actually tells the real position have remained abysmal thus slotting J&K in the lowest category along with Delhi, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland , Tripura and Puducherry, which has been titled as 'emerging business ecosystems'. There is a serious need to retrospect that what played the spoilsport that J&K acted as a non-starter. Besides, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, UP, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha figured under the Achievers category, while Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, Kerala, Rajasthan and West Bengal have been placed in the 'Aspirers' category. The J&K along with aforesaid states and UTs have been placed in the lowest ranking, which is a matter of great concern. The country has seen drastic changes in assessment framework in the last several decades after the Indian economy turned global in 1991. The purpose of this exercise is to infuse a culture of learning from each other's best practices and improve upon the business climate in each State/UT with a unified objective for India to emerge as a most favoured investment destination across the globe. The J&K's case is justified because it has started its journey a bit late therefore an average performance is understandable. The UT should gird up the loins to make sure that it braces up its position in the next chapter because the same is necessary for changing the facets of business and economy in J&K. It is necessary that J&K becomes investors' first choice in the coming times and for this dedicated efforts are a must and therefore, without wasting even a jiffy, the concerned stakeholders should start working to make a mark in the coming times.

SEAMLESS MEDICAL SERVICES

The annual Yatra to holy cave shrine of Bhagwan Shiv, located in snow-clad high-altitude mountains in district Anantnag, is going on and expecting a huge rush of pilgrims, the administration of the Union Territory has made elaborate arrangements for the convenience stay and pilgrimage of Yatris. As a number of people, belonging to various other States and UTs of the country, also undertake the Yatra and majority of them are not adapted to the atmosphere and climatic conditions of hilly areas, there are chances that they may feel inconvenience or take some time to adapt to the weather conditions. Looking at this vital issue, besides arranging adequate lodging and eating facilities for the pilgrims, the administration has also ensured provision of necessary medical help and assistance for the pilgrims, so that they can easily get the same, in time, without any difficulty. As several new hi-tech and advanced steps have been taken to enhance the security and other facilities for pilgrims, likewise in order to provide them timely medical help, at any point during Yatra, the Government has launched a mobile application 'yatra22' and dedicated webpage www.yatra22.com for tracking healthcare facilities for pilgrims undertaking Amarnath Yatra besides facilitating identification and tracking of health facilities during emergencies, so that the suffering or ailing patients can get timely medical support. As per details, the health department has established almost 150 health facilities, right from the entry point of J&K- Lakhanpur to Holy Cave, equipped with efficient doctors and necessary manpower. For the ease of Yatris, the exact locations of all these facilities have been made available on the App with all the coordinates and distance from an individual accessing App/portal. Do's and Don'ts have also been incorporated into the application for safety of the pilgrims. As per a senior officer of the Health Department, almost 1500 health personnel have been deployed on Yatra duties, with an approximate three times increase in infrastructure. Pertinent to mention here that the Shrine Board, right from the announcement of the Yatra date, issues repeated notifications urging the people desirous to undergo Yatra for making some changes in their lifestyle besides developing walking stamina but still every year, a number of pilgrims face several health-related hardships during pilgrimage. It is expected that these elaborate and enhanced facilities will ensure seamless and smooth delivery of medical services to pilgrims.



OFF 'D' CUFF

Why humility such big deals?

every single human being in existence. The only way that we can prevent him from achieving that goal is to “submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” (James 4:7-8).

Pride defies the very heart of man. (Mark 7:21-13).

Choosing to do my own will – living according to my own desires, reasoning, argument and selfishness – rather than God's will is pride. Pride is effective because it is deceptive. The more you have, the less you think you have it. In fact, the proud person is often very proud of his humility. Humankind was made with a purpose—the purpose of becoming sons and daughters of God Himself (2 Corinthians 6:18; Hebrews 2:10). Those who become children of God will be given awesome privileges and power. That power cannot go to just anybody. God will only give it to those He trusts to use it wisely. If He gave that power to someone as arrogant as the devil, the potential for evil and destruction would be unimaginable. Nothing brings more destruction to our nation, our homes, and our relationships than pride. It is vital that we learn the lesson of humility. Because Pride destroys, devastates and corrupts.

Bishop Lalachan Abraham

Even 50 seats in 98-Member House no solution to 75-yr old Jammu's political problem

■ PROF HARI OM



A report has suggested that the legislative assembly of J&K UT could be a 98-member house. The delimitation commission has only recommended 90-member assembly - 47 seats in Kashmir, including three reserved seats for Scheduled Tribes (STs), and only 43 in Jammu, including all the seven reserved seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and six reserved seats for STs. Two women - one each from Jammu province and Kashmir -- would be nominated by the government as before. Apart from recommending a 90-member assembly, the delimitation commission has also suggested that two internally-displaced Kashmiri Hindus could also be nominated to the assembly by the government. But this is just a suggestion, which the Union Government may or may not consider. Similarly, the delimitation commission has also talked about nomination of a member/members belonging to the displaced people (DPs), who migrated to Jammu and other parts of India in 1947-1948 from what we call Pakistan-occupied-J&K to save their lives, dignity, religion and culture or to escape the wrath of radical Islamists, both local and from the just-created Pakistan out of India exclusively for the Muslims. Again, this is a vague suggestion, not binding on the government. "The Central Government is likely to accept recommendations of the Panel for giving two seats to Kashmiri Pandit migrants, besides representation to PoJK displaced persons settled here (since) decades. Number of seats to be given to PoJK displaced persons is likely to be finalised shortly. The Central Government is considering giving three to four nomination seats to the PoJK displaced persons on the ground that 24 constituencies have been reserved for PoJK people in the assembly and nearly one-third population had

migrated here (read Jammu) in 1947. Though there has been demand for reservation of eight seats for PoJK refugees settled here, the seats under consideration are three to four," a report quoting official sources has said as far as Kashmiri Hindu refugees and PoJK Hindus and Sikh refugees are concerned. "If all eight nominated MLAs - two women, two Kashmiri Hindu refugees and four PoJK refugees -- are given right to vote on trust motion and budget, which is the case in Pondicherry, the majority mark in J&K assembly will reach 50," the report quoting official sources has further said. The report of the delimitation commission is likely to be tabled in the parliament in the Monsoon Session and the whole issue will be settled in the next few days. Will the Union Government really nominate two Kashmiri Hindu refugees and four PoJK refugees invested with voting right, including right to vote on trust motion and budget? One has to wait for a few days as the Monsoon Session is to begin on July 14.

Anyway, the report that the assembly of J&K UT could be a 98-member house or the impression that the people of Jammu province and internally-displaced Kashmiri Hindus and Jammu-based Hindu-Sikh refugees from PoJK will have 50 members in the 98-member assembly, including a nominated woman MLA, has fascinated the J&K chapter of the BJP. It has come to believe - nay it has been asserting almost on a daily-basis - that it will win 50+ seats and form the first-ever government in the J&K UT. BJP is the biggest political party in the country and its J&K leadership has every right to claim what it has been claiming since the submission of the delimitation commission report to influence the electorate. Hitherto, it used to claim that it will win 44+ and form government in J&K with a Hindu as its chief minister. It had won 25 seats in 2014, all in Jammu, including 24 Hindu-dominated seats and Kalakot seat where the proportion of Hindu and Muslim population was almost evenly balanced. Will 50 seats end the 75-year-old political problem

of Jammu and empower the people of this highly politically marginalised and economically neglected region? Will the next CM be from Jammu province? What are the poll prospects of the pro-greater autonomy National Conference-headed People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) or the Kashmir-based, Valley-centric and pro-pre-2019 status parties, including NC, PDP, Congress, CPIM, CPI, PC and JK Apni Party? What are the poll prospects of BJP? It's difficult to avoid the conclusion that all the 47 seats in Kashmir will be shared between the pro-autonomy and pro-dialogue-with-Pakistan the Kashmiri parties and all these seats are non-Hindu. The demographic profile of Kashmir is such. The proportion of Muslim and Hindu population in Kashmir is over 99 per cent: 1 per cent. Kashmiri parties, which have already announced that they will contest elections - on sentimental and emotive issues, will not only win all the 47 seats in Kashmir hands down but will also win around eight seats in the Jammu province's Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch and Rajouri districts. These five districts will elect sixteen members, as against thirteen it used to return between 1996 and 2016. In other words, the tally of the Kashmiri parties will be around fifty five. One may call it ridiculous or preposterous but it's a fact that many lawmakers from these Jammu districts consistently extended unflinching and unqualified support to the Kashmiri parties and jeopardised even the general political, economic and social rights and interests of the people who elected them to remain on the right side of their Kashmiri masters and promote their own vested interests or for the sake of personal power and profit. It's no wonder then that leadership of almost all the Kashmiri political parties have turned their attention to these Jammu districts. A report from Srinagar on June 20 in this regard has said, "Both the NC and the PDP have shifted their focus from the Kashmir Valley, where their traditional vote bank lies, to Jammu. While PDP president

Mehbooba Mufti has toured Poonch-Rajouri belt and parts of the erstwhile Doda district twice in six months, the NC leadership has made several rounds of these areas to pep up its cadre ahead in anticipation of an election. The BJP and the Altaf Bukhari-led Apni Party have also toured these areas in a bid to garner support." The fact of matter is that the belief of the BJP that it will win 50+ seats as and when elections are held is misplaced, even fundamentally flawed. The total number of Hindu dominated seats in Jammu province is not more than 30. And if it feels that it would turn tables on the Kashmiri and Valley-centric parties in the non-Hindu territorial constituencies, including those reserved for the STs, then it's obvious that it's living in a water-tight compartment or in a world of the past or indulging in an exercise of self-deception. It is also a fact that all Kashmiri parties are one as far as their attitude towards India and the nature of state they religiously long for are concerned. The only difference is that they operate from different platforms to exert pressure on the union government. Even a naïve would vouch for the fact that Kashmir will have the veto power and Jammu will continue to fight for crumbs as before. In sum, it can be said that even 50 seats in the 98-member house will not solve the 75-year-old political problem of Jammu. Separation of Jammu from Kashmir and grant of full state status to this strategic but systematically neglected region alone can be a lasting solution. Will those who in Jammu claim that they were, and are, for Jammu's full political and economic empowerment appreciate the peculiar demographics of J&K and what the Kashmiri parties all along stood for and fought for before August 2019 and fighting for since August 2019 and refashion their whole approach towards the province they say they hold very dear. Time at their disposal is limited as the authorities in New Delhi have started toying with the idea of assembly elections in J&K. They must in one voice ask New Delhi to grant statehood to Jammu.

PROGRESSING J&K TAD initiates series of reforms for tribal education development

Outcome-based quality education, skilling of tribal youth priority under new reforms
UT-level committee for Tribal Development enhances daily diet rate to Rs 175 per student per day from existing Rs 100
Under 'Technology Enabled Education Scheme', 1,000 Tabs to be provided to tribal students

In a first, the Tribal Affairs Department (TAD) of J&K has approved a series of reforms for the tribal hostels across Jammu and Kashmir with an aim to provide state-of-the-art educational facilities to tribal students and focus on outcome based quality education and skilling.

These major reforms were approved in a meeting of UT level committee headed by Secretary, TAD, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary. The committee also approved number of measures and schemes being launched with immediate effect from the current academic year for providing such state o art facilities to tribal students.

With an endeavour to provide educational facilities to the students throughout the year, the department has notified that hostels will remain functional round the year instead of 10 months as in vogue. The committee also decided that special courses will be run during the vacation period for skilling of students including tribal students volunteering to enrol for such courses.

The committee also accorded approval for 75 per cent enhancement in the daily diet rate increasing it to Rs 175 per student per day with immediate effect, up from existing Rs 100 per student per day. The committee has also recommended

enhancement to Rs 300 per student per day to be taken up in Revised Estimates of budget. Moreover, in an another significant decision, the committee approved the "Technology Enabled Education Scheme" for hostel students under which students enrolled in Class XI, XII and PG courses will be provided Tabs-PCs with pre-loaded study material including books, animations, mind-maps, resource material and references. The students will be allowed to own the Tab even after being relieved from hostels on completion of course. More than 1000 students studying in notified classes will be provided these tabs before 31st July, 2022. The Tribal

Research Institute (TRI) has been entrusted with course and content design for tabs and providing them to students. The committee has also boosted the tuition system in hostels with enhancement in the honorarium for tutors increasing it from the existing rates of Rs 1,000, Rs 1,200 and Rs 1,500 for tutors of Class 6th to 8th, 9th to 10th and 11th & 12th, respectively to Rs 3,000, Rs 4,500 and Rs 6,000 per month, which is a 3-4 times hike. Meanwhile, the committee also reviewed the proposal for 25 new hostels which are being approved for current financial year at a cost of Rs 100 crore and completion of languishing hostels.

Pay heed to agitating PM package employees

■ PAPPU JI KOUL

The unfortunate and hapless package employees are agitating from past over 50 days and to be specific from May 12, 2022; the sorrowful day Rahul Bhat, a PM package employee of revenue department was assassinated in broad day light in the crowded Tehsil office in Chadoora in Budgam district. Since that day the package employees are on the strike in Jammu and other parts of Kashmir. They are not asking for the moon and stars but are demanding the safety of their life, limb and honour. The package employees are demanding their relocation from Kashmir to Jammu division and other nearby states so that their precious lives are saved and they are able to work without any fear, duress and depression and oppression. The targeted killings of the soft targets such as Kashmiri Pandits, package employees, Hindu employees of Jammu posted across Kashmir, non-local officers and laborers continue without any respite and it is a cause of great and grave concern to the government and the general public all alike. There is the atmosphere of fear, panic and frustration rite large on the face of the package employees. The fear psychosis rules supreme in the valley and the package employees are unable to perform their duties in such a surcharged atmosphere and environment. The package employees have made it clear to UT administration of UT that they cannot live and work across Kashmir valley because of the fear of the targeted killings and big risk to their lives from gun tottering terrorists. The atmosphere and the ground situation is not conducive and feasible at all for the living and working in Kashmir for the package employees as the fear of the gun looms making it impossible for the employees to live and work in valley. The envelop of fear has gripped Kashmir and the innocent civilians including Kashmiri Pandits, package employees, Hindu employees from Jammu posted across Kashmir and the non local officers and last but not the least the non local laborers are being killed by the terrorists with sadistic pleasure and without any remorse by the terrorists owing allegiance to so called Jihad. Thus, ground conditions are totally not feasible and conducive for the package employees for living and performing duties across Kashmir Valley. Thus these hap-

less creatures are demanding their relocation outside the Kashmir to Jammu division and other nearby states so that their lives are not risked and at the same time they can contribute to the work efficiency. The dance of death, blood bath and mayhem is continuing in Kashmir and the package employees are becoming targets of the selective killings and in this atmosphere of fear and uncertainty the package employees cannot live and perform their duties across Kashmir valley. Thus these unfortunate sons of mother India are demanding their relocation to Jammu division and other nearby states so that their lives are saved. The package employees are on protest from over a month but the UT government and the BJP government of centre is not paying any heed and attention towards the genuine problems of the package employees. It seems that the BJP government of centre and the UT administration are unconcerned and unmoved about the sad plight of the package employees and as such they do not pay any attention towards the agitating package employees. The government is paying a deaf ear to the pressing demand of the relocation of the package employees to Jammu division. The BJP is only concerned with the vote bank politics and is using and throwing rather dumping the Kashmiri Pandits as per their utility and convenience. The BJP seems least concerned with the welfare of the Kashmiri Pandits but only uses them as vote catching device in different states of India. The government is insensitive and unconcerned to the problems of the package employees and so do not pay any attention towards the pressing demand of their relocation to Jammu division. The government should accede the genuine demand of the relocation of the package employees to Jammu division and d other nearby states. Thus the UT government should order their shifting to Jammu province so that their life and honor is saved. Therefore, without wasting time and energy the UT government should order the relocation of the package employees to Jammu division so that the aspirations of the package employees are fulfilled. By ordering relocation the UT government will kill two birds with one stone. On one hand, the precious lives of the package employees will be saved and on the other side the relocated package employees will con-

tribute their might to the productivity and efficiency. But, it seems that the UT government and BJP government of centre are indifferent and reluctant to the genuine demand of the relocation of the package employees and so they do not give any importance to the agitating package employees. The government both of the UT and the centre is maintaining a stoic silence over the demands of the package employees and are in fact ignoring them. In Kashmir day in and day out the innocent civilians including Kashmiri Pandit package employees are being killed by the terrorists without any respite and remorse and this has created fear psychosis in the minds of the package employees as such they are unable to perform their duties across Kashmir valley and so they demand their shifting to safer Jammu division so that their life, limb and dignity is saved. The government should shun its rigid stand and ego and order the relocation of the package employees to Jammu and other nearby states so that their precious life is saved. The government should not make Kashmiri Pandits as the sitting ducks and cannon fodder to the roaring guns of the terrorists. They should not be made sacrificial goats to be sacrificed at the altar of the secular democracy of the country. The package employees have made it clear to the government that they cannot live and work in Kashmir in the prevailing surcharged atmosphere and so they demand their relocation to Jammu division for the time being. The ground conditions in Kashmir are far from being normal as killings of the innocents and security forces are continuing without any respite. When the security forces are not safe in Kashmir then how can they provide security to the innocent civilians and the Kashmiri Pandits and package employees? The BJP government of the centre and the UT government are painting a rosy picture of the Kashmir and are only parroting the false narrative of normalcy in Kashmir. The fact is that the conditions are far from normal as the targeted killings are taking place across Kashmir valley. In fact the normalcy balloon of the BJP and the UT administration has since punctured and there are no takers of the false theory of normalcy in Kashmir. Therefore the package employees cannot work in the atmosphere of fear and panic in Kashmir and there-

fore it is the best option that the government should order their relocation outside the Kashmir valley to Jammu division so that they do not become cannon fodder to the guns of the terrorists. Thus the government should wake up from the deep slumber and shun their rigid stand and order the relocation of the package employees to Jammu division. The package employees are agitating in the scorching heat of the June from the last over a month, but it is not affecting the powers that be. Now the package employees have decided to continue their agitation in the premises of the relief commissioner migrants at canal road and so all the package employees are uniting to continue their peaceful protest at Relief Commissioner's office premises to force the government to pay heed towards their genuine demand of relocation to Jammu division. The Relief Commissioner is the guardian of the migrants and therefore he should convey the demands of the protesting package employees to the UT administration for its early resolution. Relief commissioner is the channel of communication between the government and the Pandits migrants and so he should convey the demands of the agitating package employees to the UT government so that the problems of these hapless employees are addressed and solved. In short the LG administration should pay heed towards the agitating package employees and order their relocation to Jammu division because nothing short of relocation is acceptable to package employees. Now enough is enough, the government should shun its ego and order the relocation of the package employees to Jammu division. The relocation of the package employees to Jammu will not lead to the failure of the return and rehabilitation policy because the employment package is an economic package and it is not a rehabilitation package and there is need for delinking the employment package with return and rehabilitation policy. Thus, the government should order the relocation of the package employees to Jammu division so that their precious lives are saved and they are in position to work without any fear, duress and oppression. So, the government should pay top-most attention towards the agitating package employees and redress their genuine demand of relocation to Jammu division.

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