

## PROTECTING MOTHER COW

Article 48 of Constitution of India is one of the Directive Principles which directs the states to make efforts for banning animal slaughtering of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle. Of course, the cow has long had a place in Indian politics. Country's constitution includes a provision explicitly urging a gradual movement toward full prohibition of cow slaughter - a ban that has already been implemented in most states. The cow was possibly revered because humans are relied heavily on it for dairy products and for tilling the fields, and on cow dung as a source of fuel and fertilizer. Cow protection was a significant part of the freedom movement, championed by a person no less than Mohandas Gandhi himself. Mahatma Gandhi had said, "Cow protection to me is not mere protection of the cow. It means protection of that lives and is helpless and weak in the world." Reverence for cows is in the major texts of the Vedic religion. Hindus are vegetarians and consider the cow to be a sacred symbol of life that should be protected and revered. In the Vedas, the oldest of the Hindu scriptures, the cow is associated with Aditi, the mother of all the Gods. Mahatma Gandhi said, "I worship it and I shall defend its worship against the whole world." Gandhi regarded more than mother; and called her 'the mother to millions'. Cow protection has become a highly politicized core of the Hindu religion. Killing and maiming innocent animals for human consumption is the most irreligious, immoral and lowest human act. Indians have reasoned that killing a cow is like killing your own mother. In India, the cow is considered holy, and many devout Hindus devote themselves to protecting cows from slaughter and abuse - sometimes with violent results. Cow protection didn't become India's top political issue in 2017 overnight. There is a strong history and background to it that allows the BJP to garner such widespread public support while championing the bovine cause. Cow vigilante groups have become increasingly active in many parts of India. Rather than encouraging these cow vigilantes to take law into their hands, the government should strictly enforce laws so that no such illegal transportation or cow slaughter occurs in the first place. Animal slaughtering is wrong as they are also sentient beings and feel as much pain as we humans do. Not just cows but all the animals should be protected and not murdered to merely satisfy our taste buds. Breaking his silence on cow vigilantes in the country our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already condemned their actions, saying most of them were anti-social elements masquerading as Gaurakshaks (cow protectors). India has 150 million cows today, giving an average of less than 200 lts milk per year. The cow has been a symbol of wealth in India since ancient times. However, they were neither inviolable nor revered in the same way today. Now days, it has been slaughtered in large numbers. Commercial benefits are not the only criteria in a human life. Cow-based farming has been the backbone of our agriculture for centuries. The cow is very much attached to the sentiment and the cultural traditions of the people. It is to be remembered that cow is the backbone of Indian economy. India was golden bird until cow was base of agriculture. It is our duty to inform the poorly informed the bad consequences of animal slaughter for human consumption. We call the cow our mother. It's not our duty to protect our mother! It is nice that the government runs several Goushalas, shelters for old cattle, across the country, but these are too few and are not governed by serious norms. Government must put a check on people who are running shops in the name of cow protection. We need to spread awareness about cow and its many uses.



## Listen, You Can Stop The War!

If we know how to listen to people, we can bring a lot of relief to their suffering. When people feel understood, we have already defused the bomb, says THICH NHAT HANH

I would like to tell you how I practice when I get angry. During the war in Vietnam there was a lot of injustice and many thousands of my friends and disciples were killed. I got very angry. One time I learnt that Ben Thuy, a city in Vietnam with 300,000 people, was bombed by American artillery just because some guerrillas came to the city and tried to shoot down an American aircraft. They did not succeed, but the city was destroyed.

Look Closer

The American official responsible later declared that he had to destroy Ben Thuy in order to save it. I was very angry. But at that time I was already a solid practitioner. I did not say anything or act because I knew that acting or saying things while you are angry is not wise. It may create a lot of destruction.

I went back to myself, recognising my anger, embracing it and looked

deep into the nature of my suffering. I saw that the source of our suffering was not the American soldiers. The American young men sent to Vietnam to kill and be killed underwent a lot of suffering. Their suffering continues even today. I could see that our suffering came from a kind of policy that is not wise, a misunderstanding or insecurity.

Many of us in Vietnam had to self-immolate in order to call for a cessation of the destruction. We did not want to inflict pain on other people, we wanted to take the pain on ourselves in order to get the message across. But the sound of mortars and bombs was too loud. Not many could hear us.

So I decided to go to America and call for a cessation of the violence. That was in 1966 and I was prevented from going back home and I began my exile since then.

Because I was able to see that the real enemy of man is not men, but it is ignorance, discrimination, fear, craving and violence, I did not feel any hate towards Americans.

-Thich Nhat Hanh

## PM package employees- the 'Children of Lesser God'

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

It seems and appears true that Prime Minister Package employees are the children of lesser God and are lesser creatures in the estimation and schemes of the NDA Government led by BJP. These unfortunate and hapless package employees have been reduced to the place and position of persona non-gratia. They are insignificant before and in the estimation of the BJP to whom in past the Kashmiri Pandits and their sad plight was the pet theme of their politics perhaps for the vested and selfish purpose of vote bank politics. The BJP used them many times in the past as the sufferings of the displaced Pandits were at the heart of the right wing politics. But now it seems that the BJP is dumping the Kashmiri Pandits including the package employees and their genuine issues of survival. Today the same BJP which was once parroting and raising the issues and concerns of the uprooted community of Kashmiri Pandits has today forgotten these minuscule minority Pandits and the package employees and therefore they have no time to meet the agitating package employees and have discredited and dumped them as useless creatures. The step motherly and discriminatory treatment is meted to the package employees who are agitating for over two months under the humid climate and incessant rains in this monsoon season. But the NDA dispensation of the centre and the LG administration is not paying any attention towards the protesting package employees perhaps under the wrong impression and notion that acceding the demand of the survival and considering their relocation/attachment demand will be akin to handing over the Kashmir to militants. Besides the BJP government is under a wrong notion that relocating the package employees outside the Kashmir valley is the failure of the return and rehabilitation policy. But in actuality it is not true because the return/rehabilitation of the Kashmiri Pandits and the special Prime Minister Employment package are two different things and to club the two different things as one if wrong and faulty and clubbing them

together is bound to prove counterproductive. The fact is that the employment package is an economic package and it has to do nothing with the comprehensive and broad return and rehabilitation policy. The UPA government has given the special employment package to give some sort of succor to the educated youth of the uprooted Kashmiri Pandit community by way of providing government jobs to the jobless Kashmiri Pandit youth. But as ill luck would have to the youth of the Kashmiri Pandit displaced community, the scheme was implemented falsely and erroneously in year 2010 when the Pandit youth were forced to sign a bond at the time of joining the government job to the effect that the posts under the prime ministers special package are non transferable and the appointee will be liable to termination if he seeks transfer. It is sheer injustice with these hapless employees. Thus under a well planned manner the Package employees stand deprived of their right of transfer to divisions other than Kashmir. This signing of the agreement by the package employees is void and unlawful from ab-initio and therefore it is the severe discrimination with the hapless package employees. But the government as the other party has violated the bond/agreement as it stipulated that the government will be bound to construct dwellings for the package employees and only then the appointed youth can be asked to join the duty in Kashmir and the government failed to provide accommodation to the majority of the package employees with the result that they are forced to live on rent accommodation on very high rent in scattered manner where no security is possible. The discrimination with Prime Minister Package employees continues under the NDA government which is headed by BJP, as the party is disregarding, overlooking and ignoring the issues of the displaced Kashmiri Pandits including Prime Minister package employees. The centre government and the LG administration is not paying any attention towards the demands, sentiments and aspirations of the package employees as if they are lesser mortals and do not fit in the

politics of the BJP. It is very unbecoming and unfortunate that MoS Home Nitayanand Rai has given an unrealistic statement that the Prime Minister Package employees will not be shifted/transferred to Jammu under any circumstance. The statement shows the insensitiveness of the centre government and their no seriousness towards the genuine demand of the package employees. The statement of the MoS Home further shows that the NDA government is hell bent to make Prime Minister package employees as the sacrificial goats under its faulty policy of return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits. The government is only experimenting with the exiled Kashmiri Pandits and the package employees as if they are some animals or laboratory products. Thus the government is experimenting on the uprooted Kashmiri Pandits including the Prime Minister Package employees in the gas chambers of the secular laboratory. Therefore the government does not show any concern and sympathy towards the protesting package employees as if these innocent employees are demanding something unrealistic which cannot be conceded by the powers and as if it will dent the credibility of the centre government. The BJP government is parroting and drum beating about the improvement in the situation in Kashmir valley and claims that the situation is normal in Kashmir. But the ground reality show that there is no normalcy in Kashmir as the security forces, Kashmiri Pandits, package employees, Jammu based employees and the non local laborers and other Hindu minorities and even the Sikh minorities are targeted and killed and this exposes the normalcy claim of the centre government. Some allege that the MoS Home Nitayanand Rai has dashed wrong and misleading statistics in the Parliament in which he has said that the government has provided government job to 5500 Kashmiri Pandits since August 5, 2019 that is post abrogation of controversial article 370. But the fact is that the employment figure of 5500 also includes the youth from other Hindu community, Sikhs and even Muslim migrants. The

MoS Home has also stated that no Kashmiri Pandit has migrated after the targeted killings of the Pandits and other Hindu minorities, but the people allege that a large number of the Pandit package employees and their families have migrated post targeted killings. The centre government as well as the LG administration is ignoring, disregarding and even not paying lip sympathy towards Kashmiri Pandits including Prime Minister Package employees. The government is disregarding the issues and concerns of the Prime Minister Package employees and is ignoring their genuine demand of relocation to Jammu division. This way the powers at the helm of affairs are not paying any attention towards the striking package employees with the result the employees fell let down by the government. The government is not sensitive and serious towards the demand of the protesting package employees and this shows that the government is regarding the package employees very insignificant but the powers should know that a little spark can burn the magnificent buildings to ashes and thus the Kashmiri Pandits have the determination and will to force the indifferent government to accede the genuine and one point demand of their relocation/shifting to Jammu till the complete normalcy is restored in Kashmir. The centre government and the LG administration has not shown any concern, empathy and sympathy towards the protesting package employees and this has led to dissatisfaction and mental agony among the package employees who are protesting for their safety and survival. In fact, Prime Minister Package employees are caught between tow stools as they are forced to choose between the livelihood and the life and this is the great tragedy and reality. To conclude it can be safely opined that Prime Minister Package employees are the children of lesser God in eyes of the people at the helm of affairs.

(The author is a Columnist and Social-Activist).

## What is important in spirituality - faith or being objective?

■ MOHANJI

Spirituality is very important in spirituality. Spirituality is not apart from you. Spirituality is your connection with the spirit aspect of you, which is the consciousness aspect. It has three dimensions, the waking state, the deep sleep state and the dream state. In these three states, you are experiencing this incarnation, your life on earth, every day, 24 hours. So while you are awake, it is very important to be practical. For example, many have come to me and asked, what is the right path? You can't generalize the right path, because it is individualistic, because it is as you are. Some people love to experience devotion, Bhakti, because their orientation is Bhakti. Some people like the path of knowledge, the questions and the answers, because they operate from their intellect. You cannot deny that. That is the way they are, so when

somebody is operating from their intellect, they need answers and that is the Gyan-marg - the path of knowledge. Then there is path of service. They are very kind at heart. They want to serve the world. They love everybody. They have lot of compassion. The kindness overwhelms them. All these are signs of a Karmayogi, somebody who is there for the world. So it is very important to recognize our orientation and based on our orientation, we should choose our path. Hence, no generalization is possible. That is why I said practicality is very important. Objectivity is not as important as practicality. Even if a Guru or spiritual master gives you something that you can't use, guides you to a method that is not suitable to you, you should be very practical about it. You should say that this doesn't suit me and instead choose something which suits you, because the entire spiritual journey is about you.

## J&amp;K witnessing fast-track development post Art-370

■ RAJEEV GUPTA

Jammu and Kashmir witnessing massive development, after the abrogation of so-called special status and its transition into a Union Territory, is making a common Kashmiri realise that he was misled and misguided by his so-called leaders. J&K, fast turning into a most preferred tourist destination, has helped in reviving the ailing economy of the Himalayan region. The major development projects aimed at connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country have brought it closer to Delhi. Jammu-Srinagar National Highway is on way to become an express highway. Two tunnels, the 8.5 Km long Navayug tunnel connecting Banihal with Qazigund and 9.2 Km long Chenani Nashri tunnel have brought Srinagar closer to Jammu. The travel time between the two cities has been reduced by many hours. Once the work on the last highway stretch between Banihal and Ramban is completed, distance will be reduced further.

The train to Kashmir is not that far-away and by 2024, the Valley will be connected with the rest of the country through a railway network also. As many as 109 projects have been completed in Jammu division at a cost of Rs 455 crore, including 14 bridges. Apart from this, nine bridges worth Rs 19 crores have been completed under various other schemes. The steps taken by the Centre are an ample proof of its commitment to build 'Naya Jammu and Kashmir' and guide the common man, who till August 5, 2019, when the Centre announced its decision to revoke Article 370, a temporary provision in Indian Constitution and divided J&K into two Union Territories, were living in illusions created by Pakistan stooges and Kashmir-based mainstream politicians. A common Kashmiri no longer takes to streets to pelt stones and shuts down shops for days together. He has understood that he paid a heavy price for getting carried away by the false propaganda and fake narrative. The Centre has been regularly creating job avenues for the local J&K youth. In the past 2-years more than 20,000 vacancies were filled up in the government departments and thousands of new jobs have been announced. The government is working hard to invite new investments into Jammu and Kashmir and after August 5, 2019, investment proposals worth thousands of crores have been received. On the other hand all the possible help is being provided to J&K youth to set up business ventures and become successful entrepreneurs. From sports to education the opportunities are being provided in every field. Jammu and Kashmir is all about success stories and development. On the other hand Pakistan occupied Kashmir has been treated as a colony by Pakistan as no sign of development is visible there. The PoJK residents have never been allowed to open their mouths and express their political and socio-economic grievances. The Pakistani federal government has neglected basic development needs in PoJK, which suffers from poor infrastructure and a lack of available resources and technology. The Pakistan government has not taken sufficient measures to encourage development-oriented investment in the region, and the Pakistani military has kept the region's people unprivileged. Unemployment rate in PoK is high and the literacy rate is low. Rulers in Pakistan have not paid much attention towards developing any sector in the region. Rather they have emphasised on turning PoJK into training camps and launch pads. The PoJK natives migrate to Pakistan's large cities in search of low-paying jobs at hotels, restaurants, and clothing stores as there are no avenues for them. The PoJK residents also suffer from poor governance, an absence of political legitimacy, and disenfranchisement. The federal government has focused on securing its political hold over the region and has neglected actual governance in the process. Denizens of Jammu and Kashmir have understood that people living in other Kashmir haven't achieved anything during past 70-years. Pakistan and its rulers have not paid any attention towards PoJK. During the past two years the mindset of a common Kashmiri has changed. He has rejected the slogans of separatism, autonomy and Kashmir's merger with Pakistan. Slowly but surely a common Kashmiri is learning to call spade a spade and is not shying away by calling himself a proud Indian.

## Rural Economic Revolution across J&amp;K

■ AMARJEET SODHI

The structural changes and consolidation of different programmes for farm and non-farm population in the rural areas is nothing short of a revolution for rural J&K. The UT has also redefined the agriculture and horticulture business in the country with expanded operations and strong supply chain system, which had never happened in the last 70 years. Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha made these remarks while attending the first-ever 'Vishal Pashudhan Vyapar Mela' at Sports Stadium, Hiranagar in Kathua district. Lt Governor welcomed farmers from other states to the mega Livestock Trade Fair. The first of its kind event in the UT will provide a major fillip to the Animal Husbandry sector with an additional source of income to the farmers. It is an effort on the part of the government towards providing a single platform for sale/purchase of high-quality livestock breeds that will strengthen J&K's Dairy sector, besides exploiting the full potential of J&K in milk, fodder & mutton production, to cut down imports and bridge the demand and supply gap in the poultry sector, and generating employment by attracting new entrepreneurs. The Mela facilitated doubling the income of farmers through the adoption of best practices, genetic up-gradation of milch animals, latest technical interventions and proper management of high-quality breeds of milch animals. Further, the hardships faced by farmers in the

cumbersome purchase process of high-quality breeds from the adjoining states and their transportation to the destination district of UT of J&K will be eliminated as high-quality breeds of cows, buffaloes, sheep, goats, etc. from neighboring states of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh etc. shall be displayed for sale & purchase. In addition, the related machinery of latest technology pertaining to Animal & Sheep Husbandry sectors including fodder management shall also be displayed and made available for the farmers and dairy entrepreneurs. The insurance of animals after sale/purchase will also be facilitated by the department of Animal & Sheep Husbandry. Terming Agriculture sector as the backbone of J&K's economy, the Lt Governor stated that the government is making resolute efforts to develop this huge growth potential sector to double the income of the farmers and the other stakeholders involved in the Agriculture and allied sectors. 70 per cent of our population is dependent on agriculture with around 76 lakh people being dependent on agriculture. Quoting some instances of the exemplary work being done in the agriculture and horticulture production, the Lt Governor observed that a few years ago, a farmer produced roughly two kilograms of saffron from a hectare of the field; however, today 5 kg of saffron is being produced in one hectare. In an effort to cut down imports and bridge the demand and supply gap in dairy and poultry sectors, double the income of

farmers, and generate employment, the Government has launched Integrated Dairy Development Scheme. Under this scheme, financial support is provided in the shape of 50% subsidy for the Establishment of dairy units, milk collection/chilling processing units, the establishment of market infrastructure and milk/milk-product transportation system, environment management of dairy farms. LG said that the government also plans to establish 26 mobile veterinary clinics this year for providing veterinary care services in remote and inaccessible areas. The LG also made some valuable suggestions in respect of animal husbandry. He advised the officials to get the census of animals done for better planning and execution of development schemes. Sinha directed the officers to adopt rural development policies which are based on pragmatism and strengthen the planning and implementation at the panchayat level. Each and every policy must improve the lives of people living in villages. Today, more than 56,000 self-help groups are acting as facilitators of development. Our aim should be to enhance the capacity and scale of these groups with financial support, market linkage, special knowledge and skills that can be used to change the face of rural J-K. Steps taken by the government will integrate rural areas into modern economic units and increased business opportunities in agro and rural industry can transform the rural economy.

on the relevant Income Tax Forms and uploading the information on the portal. The taxpayers, professionals are taking time to understand and then upload the information required to file various Forms. At the same time, even the software companies are also taking quite some time to modify and amend their respective software and this is resulting in consequential delays for the taxpayers to file their returns. The recently introduced systems of MS (Annual Information System) and TIS (Tax Information Summary) on the Income Tax portal is a very new thing for the taxpayers and is resulting in lots of difficulties and anomalies for them to reconcile the information & details. This reconciliation of information is taking a very long time and it may not be possible to submit the income tax returns by the due date. We therefore, sincerely pray that due date of Income Tax Returns be extended at least by three months i.e. upto October 31, 2022 so that professionals are not put to undue stress for timely compliances. This act of extension of the due dates, by passing suitable Orders and issuing Notifications would be very useful for the taxpayers and a great relief for the taxation fraternity.

Adv Sat Mehta, President  
Adv V K Grover, General Secretary

## YOUR COLUMN

## Extend date for filing IT Returns

Dear Editor,

Through the medium of your esteemed daily, we would like to submit following few lines for the kind consideration of Union Finance Minister, seeking extension in due dates for filing Income Tax returns, under IT Act. Income-Tax Bar Association comprises exclusively of Advocates, majority of whom are practicing in Indirect and Direct Taxes. The Advocates are a part and parcel in the administration of Finance and Taxes and undertake compliance work under Income Tax Act. The due date for filing of the Income Tax returns for the period 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2022 (Assessment Year 2022-23) under section 139 of Income-tax Act, 1961 is tomorrow only, i.e. July 31, 2022. However, with regard to the same and the captioned subject hereinabove and also due to the following reasons, we respectfully bring to your kind attention the imperative need to extend the due date of filing of the income tax returns as rain-hit people of Jammu region, as also of entire nation as recently heavy

Monsoon showers have wreaked havoc in the entire country badly affecting business community and their infrastructure which is essential for maintenance of account books, preparation of various financial reports and consulting their legal experts for filing of income-tax returns for assessment year 2022-23. Income tax department has recently tweeted regarding irregular traffic on the portal slowing down the website. This has raised hope for many tax filers if this shows the intent to extend of due date for filing ITR by the tax department. Though this is a bit unfortunate that even after more than a year of the launch of a new website, it is not able to handle the traffic on the portal, however, considering it positively, this might have been caused due to more assesses trying to file the ITRs. With taxpayers complaining about issues with the e-filing portal this year as well, there should be bright chances of the government extending the ITR filing deadline this year? Also, tax experts state that so far, very few taxpayers have filed their tax returns, and majority (more than 6 crore taxpayers) are yet to do it. The new Income Tax portal had actually become functional only during the end of September, 2021 and the same is continuing and functional, albeit a lot of glitches and difficulties. The taxpayers as well as the professionals are still facing many a problem in filling