

Jan Bhagidari in “Har Ghar Tiranga” Campaign

The Government is celebrating Har Ghar Tiranga from 13th to 15th August 2023 under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The idea behind this is to bolster the sense of patriotism within citizens and commemorate the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with the essence of collaborative participation and increased Jan Bhagidari. Har Gar Tiranga campaign launched by the Ministry of Culture has transformed into People's movement with increasing Jan-Bhagidari. This year the Tiranga rallies are under full swing in various parts of the country and are witnessing immense public participation. Everyday lakhs of people are uploading their selfies with Tiranga. Along with selfies with Tiranga, people are also participating in Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign where numerous Shilaphalakams memorialising the brave hearts of the country are being erected at important places. Everyone can take part in Har Ghar Tiranga by uploading their selfie with the Tiranga. As part of this initiative, the Department of Posts is serving as the designated entity responsible for selling and distributing high-quality National Flags to the public.

The Postal Department has placed requisition for 2.5 crore flags this year and 55 lakh flags have already been sent out through post offices. The Ministry of Textiles has already sent out 1.3cr flags to states, he disclosed. Crores of flags are also being produced by Self Help Groups in states indicating a trend of Atma Nirbharta in flag manufacturing.

Amarnath Yatra -shining symbol of communal harmony

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

Amarnath Yatra in the south Kashmir Himalayas is an ancient Hindu pilgrimage which has got immense religious ,spiritual ,cultural and inter faith significance . Thus this arduous and challenging yatra is not only a Hindu religious annual event but is the best example and shining symbol of Hindu-Muslim unity ,amity and composite culture . The Muslims of Kashmir valley in large numbers are associated with the Amarnath Yatra as all the ponivallas , labourers, taxi operators and transport operators and local Muslims .Since lakhs of devotees every year take part in this arduous and much challenging yatra ,it seems a mini -India in those days of Yatra and thus it is brewing with communal amity ,harmony ,Hindu-Muslim unity ,pluralism ,secularism and above all diversity which is the basic character and attribute of India. Amarnath Yatra is the sangam and mixture of religious, spiritual , cultural and above all an example of communal amity and religious harmony and therefore there is much need of such religious ,spiritual ,cultural and composite Yatra and thus Yatras like this should be encouraged. Amarnath Yatra is a very ancient Yatra and perhaps dates back to 19th century but in its new avatar this challenging Yatra was found out and traced by a local Muslim shepherd named Buta Malik in 20th century.

The legend goes that one day while flocking his herd of sheep, Buta Malik saw a big cave wherein there was a big Shiv of snow in the form of a lingha and he was greatly pleased and informed about it to a Hindu saint and later on this holy cave of Amarnath slowly and steadily became famous and got prominence and today Amarnath Yatra attracts lakhs of devotees from India and even abroad and during the two month duration of Yatra ,it becomes a place and pilgrimage of mini-India as the people of various communities are directly and indirectly associated with this challenging and hard Yatra.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir consider themselves fortunate enough that such a religiously and spiritually significant and composite Yatra takes place annually and provide grace to valley .The Kashmir valley shines with mini-India experience and it gives much strength to communal and inter faith harmony and this yatra is famous throughout the world for showcasing communal harmony and amity. Kashmiris of all religious faiths anxiously wait for the year for this Yatra. Amarnath Yatra is not only a spiritual ,religious ,cultural and inter faith sojourn but it promotes the economy and financial wellbeing of the people associated with the Yatra .Therefore Amarnath Yatra has economic significance as well because the Yatra provides jobs to a very large number of the people in Jammu and Kashmir and thus this Yatra adds to the economy of the Jammu and Kashmir annually because the Yatra is an annual pilgrimage and it gives direct and indirect employment to hundreds of people and there is great need and necessity to encourage the Yatris and Amarnath Yatra as it is a big source of livelihood to a large number of people and the Kashmiris cutting across the religious affiliation eagerly and anxiously wait for the Anarnath Yatra for the whole year and their joy knew no bounds on the commencement of the Yatra which is a source of livelihood to a large number of people in Jammu and Kashmir. Thus Amarnath Yatra has economic significance as well apart for being primarily a religious and spiritual ,spiritual and Hindu-Muslim composite pilgrimage .People of various communities take active part in this yatra and they jostle with joy over the commencement of Yatra .Three decades ago Amarnath Yatra was an annual event of pilgrimage of seven days duration which was held in the second fortnight of the Hindu month of Shravan and devotees were paying obeisance and having a glimpse of snow Shiv lingam on the Shravan Purnimashi ,but from many years this annual Amarnath Pilgrimage is a two month long affair and event and lakhs of devotees undertake this challenging and arduous pilgrimage annually and add grace to Jammu and Kashmir and the valley of Kashmir is brewing with enthusiasm and activity during the duration of Amarnath Yatra and therefore this yatra has a special significance for the people of Kashmir who wholeheartedly facilitate and take part in the Yatra. Amarnath Shrine Board headed by the LG Manoj Sinha and the government of the UT make all the arrangements and facilities for the Amarnath Yatris .The fool proof security cover is provided to Yatris by the UT government and for this purpose enough security is provided arranged for the Yatris by central government .In fact Amarnath Yatra today has become a blend of religiosity ,cultural ,spirituality and above all a Yatra of pluralism ,secularism and interfaith harmony .Amarnath yatra in fact is the window of Kashmir's pluralism ,secularism ,inter-faith harmony and diversity to the outside world and the day will not be far off when this significant religio-spiritual-cultural and diverse as well as inter-faith sojourn will shine in the world and it is becoming the harbinger of normalcy ,peace and communal harmony .May this Yatra become a best tribute to Sufism ,Kashmiriyat, Hindu-Muslim unity, communal brotherhood and religious harmony. Amarnath Yatra has the distinction of turning Jammu and Kashmir into mini -India as people belonging to various faiths undertake this pilgrim sojourn in order to fulfill their spiritual thirst besides giving them, religious cultural and ,social fulfillment .Further this Yatra has big economic significance as it furthers and promotes the tourist economy of Jammu and Kashmir by offering livelihood to a large number of local people who are directly or indirectly associated with tourism and thus the importance of Amarnath Yatra for developing economy of the UT cannot be denied .However this Yatra is the harbinger of communal harmony as people of various religious faiths are associated with the Yatra and they participate in this spiritual sojourn and give meaning to the religious and inter -faith harmony for which J&K is famous throughout the world and the Yatra adds more shine to the communal harmony.

(The author is a columnist ,social and KP activist).

First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win.

-Mahatma Gandhi

Painful Utterances by Dr. Farooq Abdullah about KP in Parliament

■ ER. P.L.KHUSHU



During the recent debate in the Parliament of India, on the no confidence motion of the opposition parties, the MP from the National Conference Sh. Farooq Abdullah made certain cryptic remarks about the bringing back the displaced Kashmiri Pandits to Kashmir: This has added more salt to the bleeding wounds of the displaced KP's, when such wounds of KP's since last more than 33 years are the acrimonious legacies of the National Conference Party to the displaced KP's. It was the National Conference which was ruling the J & K State, when the militancy erupted on a large scale in Jammu and Kashmir in1989-1990 and the KP's were asked to leave the valley immediately after killing prominent members of the KP community to ensure a scare in the valley, so that other KP's follow suit. National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah said in the parliament, that during his tenure as the Chief Minister he tried to take Kashmiri Pandits back, but the process was sabotaged by forces from across the border. Speaking during the discussion on the no-confidence motion in Lok Sabha, Dr Abdullah said, "We tried to bring Kashmiri Pandits back home.

He said when he was the Chief Minister and Inder Kumar Gujral was the Prime Minister, they tried to take back Kashmiri Pandits, but forces from across the border killed innocent KP's at a village in Ganderbal district. Many of them died, he recalled. "Immediately, we stopped 50 vehicles that had to bring Kashmiri Pandits back home, Farooq said. What a ludicrous statement from the then chief minister about the KP's. Was he scared by the militant's operating in Kashmir that he could not manage with the assistance of his police force, under the pointed assistance of the Indian armed forces posted in Kashmir, to ensure the return of the KP's back to their places of homes and hearths with proper security. In fact it is a fact that all the dynasty based politicians who ruled Kashmir after the militancy in Kashmir, did so with the seeret support of the militants and their harbors in Kashmir, with an assurance from such politicians to the militants, that their view points of fanning of terror will be looked after by such politicians. Who does not know about Dr. Farooq Abdullah, when he has been repeatedly professing that India should talk to Pakistan, if India wants peace in Kashmir. This is a resultant compulsion of these dynasty based apolitical parties, in which NC is a major political party, to pose as the well wishers of the separatists forces in Kashmir including the militants for ruling Jammu and Kashmir, as their family empire. How could such politicians, while ruling Jammu and Kashmir risk their empirical chairs of rule and loot and bring back the KP's to Kashmir against the wishes of the separatists, the militants, or even their men-

tors in Pakistan, in whose case Dr. Farooq Abdullah has repeatedly been advocating that India should talk to Pakistan about Kashmir. Dr. Farooq may dodge the nation on this issue by shedding crocodile tears and showing sympathy to the displaced KP's on this count. The KP's very well know as to who are their actual enemies in this regard, who never wanted Kashmiri Pandits to flourish and live like respected citizens in Kashmir after the state power of governance was transferred to Sheikh Abdullah in 1947, at the asking of Jawaharlal Nehru. The dynasty-backed politicians of Kashmir that includes Dr. Farooq too, never wanted KP's rehabilitation back in Kashmir with dignity and honor, under a proper security cover. Such politicians are on record to have thwarted all such moves of the government of India, regarding the rehabilitation of the displaced KP's back in Kashmir; particularly in secured clusters under proper security covers, when such politicians would always brazenly object to it. Such situations have often made all such displaced KP's, who ventured to go back to Kashmir, on their own, the easy ducks of the guns of the terrorists, when so many innocent KP's have brutally been killed by the terrorists that too by the local ones so far, who have enough local political patronage. In fact these people are the abettors for the mass forced exodus and genocide of KP's with the advent of militancy in Kashmir ever since 1990. Kashmiri Pandits killings have been unabated and continuous in the valley of Kashmir with more ferocity and tyranny. It was disgraceful to witness Farooq Abdullah saying openly that the killings of Kashmiri Pandits will continue, unless justice is not done. What does he mean by saying that Justice has to be done? Was he showing his sympathy with the separatist's, particularly the terrorists with guns, or trying to keep the political pot boiling by blackmailing the Indians in the name of so called Kashmir dispute for his power huger to rule Jammu and Kashmir through proxy as a Dynast politician, claiming Kashmir as a hereditary Bungalow. Let Farooq Sahib know it that it is over now. Article 370 is in eternal paradise now with most of the political leaders of Kashmir of dynastic base of that time. Much water has flown down rivers Jhelum, Sindh, Tawi and Chenab. Jammu and Kashmir is now full India open to every one from India as its own territory.

The statement of Dr. Farooq in the parliament is to rub salt on the bleeding wounds of KP's as he has forgotten the sad event of the Kashmiri Pandit exodus occurred in the year 1990-91, when it was the dark period for the Kashmiri Pandits as they were forced out of the Valley under the threat of terror by the Islamic fundamentalists, when the militancy coupled with extreme terror activities gave birth in the Kashmir valley. Consequently, 19 January 1990 came to be known by Kashmiri Hindus as "Exodus Day", in memory of the Kashmiri Hindus who were either killed or forced out of Kashmir. The January month of each year after the 19th January-1990, haunts each and every Kashmiri Pandit, living in forced exile across the country of the horrors and woes of this month,

when they were forced to flee from Kashmir due to the terror dragon of the Islamist fundamentalists on this day. The dark night of January 19, 1990, shivering with cold, is remembered by all of them, as it was the worst nightmare for the Kashmiri Pandits living in the valley. Screaming from loud speakers and crowded streets was a message for KP's living in Kashmir, which said, Ralive, Tsaliv ,Neti- Galiv. (It meant that either convert to Islam or leave Kashmir and in the alternative face death). Even after about 32 years, Kashmiri Pandits shiver remembering the night which forced them into exodus and a life of exile within their own country. Jehadi cum communal speeches from mosques were put on loud speakers meant for "Azan & Nimaz", which would say ("Yeti- Bani Pakistan, Bhatov Bhegeer the Bhatenen-San"), meaning there in that the Kashmir will become a Pakistan without male Kashmiri Pandits, but including women folk of Kashmiri Pandits. A sizeable number of Kashmiri pundits were killed, their houses burnt and looted. Many Kashmiri Hindu women were kidnapped, raped and murdered, during this period of exodus. It happened when NC was in power and was followed by Governors rule.

Did Dr. Farooq Abdullah ever raise this issue in the parliament, or did he ever suggest measures in his capacity as the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir and the union minister of India to get back the forcibly displaced KP's to their homes and hearths back in Kashmir with dignity and honor. Let him ask his innate conscious as to why did he not do so. Did he and his political party ever held any " Dharna" or protest in this regard about the sad plight, genocide and forced exodus of KP's. No never. The reasons are obvious. They are the silent spectators about it, beating their breasts for public show some times, while celebrating it within their robes silently.

In fact KP's have been suffering from various types of repressions ever since 1947, when Sheikh Abdullah assumed the governing power of the state of Jammu and Kashmir . Making a mention of the recent times pertaining to pro 1947 era, the rigmarole about the duping the KP's of their fundamental right to live in Kashmir with dignity and honor, started in this period only, when the exodus of KP's started from Kashmir. So it was a process which was well defined and thought of by the Islamic fundamentalists now having captured the sentimental aura of Kashmir under the big psyche of making Kashmir a purely dominated place of Kashmiri Muslims. Sheikh's rule in 1947, embedded the seeds of "Pseudo Secularism, viz half truths about the real concept of true secularism", in Jammu and Kashmir, for which the main suffering population of Jammu and Kashmir were the Kashmiri Pandits. It was in this time only when the Land to Tiller laws were enforced which in particular made Kashmiri Pandits the main targets as most of the Kashmiri Pandits were well established "Zaminendars" and their agricultural lands were snatched from them and given to the tillers who were Muslims, with a biased base of communal tinge. Apart from this enough of partialities

occurred during that time when KP's were refused proper representations in the government jobs, educational trainings, etc. This is the period when the first mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits occurred towards the plains, for earning their bread and butter with dignity and honor. Subsequent governments in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir followed suit to destabilize the base of the KP's from the valley, under a well knit plan, when mass exoduses of KP's took place from time to time, thus limiting the population of KP's to just to a miniscule one in Kashmir.

With the brute advent of militancy in the year 1989-90, during the national conference rule, abetted by the sympathetic support of the Congress party from Delhi, the situation for the KP's became a death knell for them. Mass genocide and exodus of the KP's occurred, which is reverberating still on the fascia and the minds of the KP's and will continue to be so as long as humanity exists in this universe. Prominent leaders, intellectuals, politicians, individuals, government officers and the like amongst the KP's were brutally killed in broad day lights in thousands, along with the mass migration of this minuscule community to their destinations of devastations.

Let Dr. Farooq Abdullah stop from giving such loose settlements on KP's, when he tries to represent the Kashmir Muslims in this behalf. Dr. Farooq Abdullah has a vague notion that he is representing Jammu & Kashmir in the national and the international forums. Should he know that he has won the parliamentary elections from the Srinagar constituency, claiming to have won it by a big margin of 70000 votes against his nearest rival, thus concealing the actual fact to tell to the people of this nation, that he has actually been selected by hardly 9% of the total electorate of this constituency which has 12.10 lack voters. Let him introspect about it. The insurgency of militancy and terror in Jammu & Kashmir is a product of the dynastic ruler ship of various political leaders. Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly elections of 1987, is widely believed to have been rigged. Allegations of malpractices and rigging led to the disillusionment of Kashmiris. In this environment, secessionist and subversive elements started claiming that they had been denied democratic rights illegally and began justifying recourse to unconstitutional and other methods. It was in this environment that Pakistan encouraged Kashmiri youth to come across the Line of Control and receive arms training to begin an armed secessionist movement. As is mostly said and spoken that the root cause of the militancy in the state is basically the elections of 1987. Who was involved in these elections is an open secret. The militancy is a creation of the dynastic rules in Jammu & Kashmir since 1947, in which the national conference and its heritage rulers are the principal participants. Let sermons by its leaders to the people of Kashmir be restricted, as these rulers are fully exposed before Kashmiri Pandits.

(The author of this article is a chartered consultant civil engineer, who loves his mother land the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir).

LIC Performance Update for April-June 2023 (Q1) of FY 2023-24

Mumbai, August 10th, 2023: The Board of Directors of Life Insurance Corporation of India ("LIC") approved and adopted the standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter ending June 30th, 2023. Below are key highlights of our standalone results.

For the quarter ended June 30th, 2023, LIC registered Total Premium Income of Rs. 98,363 crore as compared to Rs 98,352 crore for the quarter ended June 30th 2022.

In terms of market share measured by First Year Premium Income (FYPI) (as per IRDAI) LIC has maintained its leadership in Indian life insurance business with a market share of 61.42% for the quarter ended June 30th, 2023. On a comparable basis for the quarter ended June 30th, 2022 the market share was 65.42%. The Total Premium Income of Rs. 98,363 crore for the quarter ended June 30th, 2023 comprises of Individual New Business premium income of Rs.10,462 crore, Individual Renewal premium income of Rs. 52,311 crore and total Group Business premium income of Rs.35,590 crore. The Total Individual business premium for the quarter ended June 30th, 2023 increased to Rs 62,773 crore from Rs. 60,007 crore for the comparable period of previous year registering a growth of 4.61%.

The Profit after Tax (PAT) for the quarter ended June 30th 2023 was Rs. 9,543.71 crore which comprises of an amount of Rs. 7,491.53 crore (Net of Tax) pertaining to the accretion on the Available Solvency Margin, transferred from Non Par fund to shareholders account. For the quarter ended June 30th, 2022, PAT was Rs. 682.88 crore in which an amount of Rs. 4,148.77 crore (Net of Tax) pertaining to the accretion on the Available Solvency Margin was not included as this amount was transferred from Non Par fund to shareholders account on September 30th 2022. Therefore the comparable profit figure for quarter ended June 30th, 2022 is Rs. 4,831.65 crore (net of tax).

On an Annualised Premium Equivalent (APE) basis the total premium was Rs 9,532 crore for the quarter ended June 30th 2023. Of this 62.42% (Rs 5,950 crore) was accounted for by the Individual business and 37.58% (Rs 3,582 crore) by the Group business. Within the Individual business the share of Par products on APE basis was 89.78% (Rs.5,342 crore) and balance 10.22% (Rs.608 crore) was due to Non-Par products. The non-par APE has increased from Rs. 500 crore for the quarter ended June 30th, 2022 to Rs. 608 crore for the quarter ended June 30th 2023 registering a growth of 21.6%.Therefore our non-par share of Individual APE which was 7.75% for the quarter ended June 30th 2022 has grown to 10.22% for the quarter ended June 30th 2023.

A total of 32,16,301 policies were sold in the individual segment during the quarter ended June 30th, 2023 as compared to 36,81,764 policies sold during the quarter ended June 30th, 2022.

- Profit After Tax at Rs. 9543.71 crore.
- Non-par APE increased by 21.6% to Rs. 608 crore.
- Total Individual premium increased by 4.61% to Rs. 62,773 crore.
- Overall Expense Ratio reduced from 14.59% to 12.85%.
- VNB Margin (Net) increased from 13.6% to 13.7%.
- AUM increased by 12.41% to Rs. 46.11 lakh crore.
- Improvement in both 13th and 61st month persistency on premium basis.

The persistency ratios on premium basis up to the quarter ended June 30th 2023 for the 13th month and 61st month were 78.37% and 62.73% respectively. The comparable persistency ratios up to the corresponding quarter ended June 30th 2022 were 77.85

% and 62.43% respectively. Therefore, persistency on premium basis has improved by 52 bps and 30 bps for 13th month and 61st month respectively.

The persistency ratios on number of policies basis up to the quarter ended June 30th 2023 for the 13th month and 61st month were 66.15% and 50.79% respectively. The comparable persistency ratios up to the corresponding quarter ended June 30th 2022 were 65.96%, and 51.23% respectively.

The Assets Under Management (AUM) increased by Rs 5.09 Lakh crore to Rs 46.11 Lakh crore as on June 30th 2023 as compared to Rs 41.02 Lakh crore on June 30th 2022 registering an increase of 12.41%.

The Yield on Investments on policyholder's funds excluding unrealized gains improved to 8.78% for period ended June 30th, 2023 as against 7.74% for period ended June 30th, 2022.

The solvency ratio as on June 30th, 2023 was 1.89 as against 1.88 as on June 30th, 2022.

The Value of New Business (VNB) for the quarter ended June 30th, 2023 was Rs.1,302 crore as compared to Rs. 1,397 crore for the quarter ended June 30th, 2022. The VNB margins for the period ended June 30th, 2023 are 13.7% as against 13.6% for quarter ended June 30th, 2022.

Shri Siddhartha Mohanty, Chairperson, LIC said - "During the first quarter of this financial year, we have achieved increase in our Non-Par product mix as a percentage of the overall individual business. Further, our efforts to improve persistency across cohorts are beginning to show results. Our overall expense ratio has become better and our margins are stable on year-on-year basis. Simultaneously we continue to work on strategies for diversifying the channel mix. We believe that we are on track to grow our business in a manner which creates superior value for all our stakeholders. We are committed, as LIC to contribute meaningfully to the achievement of target of "Insurance for all by 2047" thereby providing financial security and livelihood to people. We thank our

policyholders, shareholders and employees for their support.

Key operational and Financial metrics:

| Sr. No | Particulars | Quarter ended June 30th 2023 (Rs crore) | Quarter ended June 30th 2022 (Rs crore) | YoY Growth %age |
|--------|--|---|---|-----------------|
| 1. | Profit after Tax (PAT)* | 9,543.71 | 682.88 | |
| 2. | New Business Premium Income (Individual) | 10,462 | 10,938 | - 4.35% |
| 3. | Renewal Premium (Individual) | 52,311 | 49,069 | 6.61% |
| 4. | Total Premium (Individual) | 62,773 | 60,007 | 4.61% |
| 5. | Total Group Business Premium | 35,590 | 38,345 | - 7.19% |
| 6. | Total Premium Income | 98,363 | 98,352 | 0.01% |
| 7. | Number of Policies sold | 32,16,301 | 36,81,764 | -12.64% |
| 8. | Value of New Business | 1,302 | 1,397 | |
| 9. | Assets Under Management | 46,11,066.52 | 41,02,041.84 | 12.41% |
| 10. | VNB Margin (Net) | 13.7% | 13.6% | |
| 11. | Ratio of Expenses of Management | 12.85% | 14.59% | |
| 12. | Solvency Ratio | 1.89 | 1.88 | |
| 13. | 13 M/ 61 M Persistency (Premium Basis) | 78.37%/62.73 % | 77.85%/62.43 % | |
| 14. | 13 M/ 61 M Persistency (Number of Policies Basis) | 66.15%/50.79 % | 65.96%/51.23 % | |
| 15. | Individual APE | 5,950 | 6,450 | - 7.75% |
| 16. | Ind APE Product Mix (%) (Par/ Non Par incl Linked) | 89.78%/10.22 % | 92.25%/7.75% | |
| 17. | APE Group Business | 3,582 | 3,819 | - 6.21% |
| 18. | Total APE (Ind + Group) | 9,532 | 10,270 | - 7.19% |

* The Corporation had changed its accounting policy in September 2022 regarding transfer of amount (Net of Tax) pertaining to the accretion on the Available Solvency Margin from Non-Participating Policyholder's Account to Shareholder's Account and accordingly transferred total amount of Rs.27,240.75 crores (Net of Tax) during FY 2022-23, which includes Rs.4,148.77 crores (Net of Tax) pertaining to quarter ended 30/06/2022. An amount of Rs.7,491.53 crores (Net of Tax) has been transferred for the quarter ended 30/06/2023, due to which the Profit shown for the quarter ended 30/06/2023 is not comparable with the financial results of the quarter ended 30/06/2022.