

OFF 'D' CUFF 'Love is always new'

As anti- and pro-CAA riots rocked the national Capital, polarizing people and claiming dozens of lives, one began to wonder why netas were blatantly using religious beliefs to turn people against each other. This and similar questions popped up in the head as one approached Baba Ram Singh, mahant of the Nirmal Ashram, Rishikesh, at a satsang in Gurugram.

“Satnam tera naam...Satnam tera naam...” kirtan was in progress. Devotees with heads covered, sat on white gaddas, mattresses, singing Nanak bhajans, eyes closed and palms joined together in faith.

Guru Maharaj who runs schools and charitable health care facilities in Rishikesh had been invited by a devotee and her family for a satsang at her new residence. His organisation follows the path of seva and simran, service and God-remembrance — working for the welfare of society, keeping the divine name in mind, always.

Babaji smiles away our concerns and asks us to participate in the satsang, which literally means keeping the company of truthful souls. “You will automatically get all your answers in the satsang,” says the 70-yearold spiritual master in orange robes and flowing white beard.

“That is always the case. Have faith in Parmeshwara.”

Meanwhile, our host hurriedly introduces an old friend of hers to Babaji and requests him to bless her “as she has been through many ordeals in life.” “Aum Satnam, may God bless you. Your friendship is old because love is always new,” he says. We look puzzled. Babaji continues, “True love never gets old, because it is beyond space and time. Only those things which are bound by space and time get destroyed. Whatever is born at one point, will die at some point.

It will change its form. A table, for instance, once

was a tree. It was cut and made into a log of wood, which then changed form and was made into a table. Thus, changing form over a period of time, it will disintegrate one day. But true love is something else. It is eternal. It always was, is and will be the same, always new, never getting old.”

But what does one need to do, to access true love — something that we all need so desperately? The answer lies in connecting with the soul, instead of being engaged with the outside world, all the time. “Make a sincere effort to turn within and listen to what your soul has to say and navigate through the world accordingly. You will never go wrong and this will only bring you closer to Parmeshwara, because He speaks to you through your soul,” says Babaji. But where does the love part come in? “The soul,” he says, “is the khazana, a treasure trove, of true love. Soul is eternal, love, too, is eternal. Just take that first step towards knowing the soul. That’s enough.”

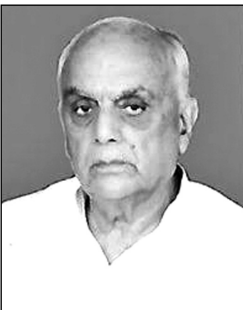
Soon, it is time for satsang. The small congregation has been waiting patiently, singing verses from the Guru Granth Sahib, keeping up the faith tempo. Babaji steps out of his chamber and addresses the devotees gathered there. This time, he chooses to recite a passage from the Sahaj Katha, a compilation of commentaries of his gurus on the teachings of Guru Nanak.

On one of his travels, Guru Nanak was asked by someone, “Who is your Ishta?” He replied, “Ek.” “And what is this ‘Ek’?”

Guru Sahib replied, Ekam ek onkar nirala, amar, ajonee jaat na jana, agam agochar roop na vekhya, sabb kuchh aeh hai — ‘There is only One, formless, unique, immortal One, who has no caste, is invisible and infinite; He is everything.’ But I have seen Him in everyone’s heart. My Ishta Deva is Ek Onkar, the One.”

Mona Mehta

Rahul Gandhi’s shadow surmises on Kashmiri Pandits



■ ER P L KHUSHU

On his recent visit of Jammu on his pilgrimage to Mata Vaishno Devi, Rahul Gandhi by sheer surmise and a calculated speck of imagination traced his roots to Kashmir. Rahul said in a street corner meeting of local congress members of Jammu, that whenever he visits here, he feels like coming home. He said that his family has a bond with Kashmir and Kashmiri Pandits and he feels the pain of displaced people and realizes need to do a lot more to ameliorate the sufferings of displaced community. Let this leader of congress who calls himself pristine leader, count as to how many times he made his visits to either Kashmir or Jammu and with what initiative, motive, or political mandate. What has he done in this regard for the last 32 years of exile of the Kashmiri Pandits, as a Member Parliament apart from being an elite Raj Kumar of the congress party of India? An objective answer with subjective clarity is needed both from him and his party, which is in sad turmoil not only in Jammu & Kashmir, but across whole of India. If both these entities have no answer they should stop selling such fake and pinching observations on Kashmiri Pandits on such occasions of their corner street gatherings followed by sumptuous lunches at elite hotels. Presuming though not agreeing by any speck of imagination that he has a lot of sympathy for Kashmir and the Kashmiri Pandits, will he elaborate and say as to how many times he has visited Jammu or Kashmir or both for the sake of Kashmiri Pandits. Has he ever bothered to visit a Kashmiri Pandit migrant camp in Jammu since 1990, the inception of the forced migration of the Pandits. Has he ever visited Kashmir valley to see the plight of the Kashmiri Muslims suffering from terrorism. Even on his present visit of Mata Vaishno Devi, did he aspire to visit any of the present location camps of the migrant Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu. Can he and his sycophant stooges amongst congress leaders of Jammu and Kashmir reply all these questions? How many times did he raise the question of the plight of Kashmiri Pandits in the Parliament as a Member of Parliament, particularly during UPA-1 and UPA-2, when he and his other dynasty members of the congress party were ruling India. How and with what base is he trying to become soother and sympathizer for the Kashmiri Pandits by assigning himself as a Kashmiri Pandit, through a surmising design of claiming to be an off shoot of Kashmir as per his ancestry? No not at all. Shedding crocodile tears for Kashmiri Pandits or becoming their sympathizers now at this stage almost tantamount to rubbing salts on their deep wounds, inflicted upon them due to militancy and their mass exodus, with the sordid apathy of the then rulers who were from congress. Kashmiri Pandits are fully aware of the trauma and agony suffered by them at the hands of his acclaimed ancestors right from 1947 till date, who ruled India for about 70 years. Kashmiri Pandits had to migrate from Kashmir on various occasions during these dynasty rules of so called Nehrus and Gandhi’s. Kashmiri Pandit as a community in whatever little or minuscule form it is existing now, because of the runblings and the tyrannies of time, this community is maintaining its true Brahmanism genetic identity. No mutant can disturb their original base of Brahmanism, nor should try to be a part of them. Let Rahul Gandhi know, or someone amongst his party members in Jammu & Kashmir convey to him that Kashmiri Pandits are the victims of the congress apathy since 1947. Graphic account of some such traumas is mentioned here for his information please. The great Maharaja Hari Singh of Jammu & Kashmir was made to handover the governance of this state to Sheikh Abdullah and his coterie, after his signing of the Instrument of Accession with India, at the asking of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru the then Prime Minister; under an appeasement policy of wooing the minorities of India at the cost of the consonantal harmonious rights of the majority community of India. Sheikh Abdullah claiming to be a secular leader

was the first Muslim Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, responsible for the mass exodus of the Pandits from Kashmir. Immediately after taking over as the Prime Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, as per the then constitutional status of Kashmir, when head of the state cabinet was designated as Prime Minister, brought in a law under the caption of 'Land to Tiller'. Since Kashmiri Pandit community was the major community having bigger agricultural land holdings at that point of time, all their agricultural lands were snatched away from them and distributed among the tillers of such lands who were all Muslims. This reduced the Kashmiri Pandit agriculturists of Kashmir province to penury. This move of the Sheikh had the green signal from the Nehru administration ruling India. Kashmiri Pandits mostly highly read were mere government employees at various levels of administration in the state earning their simple bread and butter for their pious living, during the rule of Maharaja Hari Singh. Who does not know that when Sheikh Abdullah got the reins of power of the state government after Maharaj's rule, with the oninous blessings of Nehru, he would boldly advise the highly qualified Kashmiri Pandit scholars and persons of that time to locate jobs for themselves outside Kashmir while adding further insult to this injury by saying that you, 'Pandits have a scope beyond Pathankot up to Kanyakumari, but where will Kashmiri Muslims go'. His such stance abetted the exodus of KP's very meticulously, posing himself to be the most secular leader in the eyes of Gandhi and Nehru. It is during that period mostly when the sweet exodus of KP's started for seeking jobs outside the state. Yet KP's proved their worth and merit outside Kashmir, by getting jobs in higher and strategic places of administration both at the level of Government of India as also other state governments of this country. But it all happened at the cost of their forgetting their own home land and its bounties of beauty and culture, due to Islamiyat applied through Kashmiriyat, supported by Nehru as the congress Prime Minister of India.

Bakshi Gulam Mohammad another stooge of Nehru after the exit of Sheikh Abdullah, was no exception, when he initiated the process of nominating the Kashmiri Muslim students with low academic merits, to higher educational trainings outside Kashmir, in medical colleges, engineering colleges, agricultural colleges, poly techniques etc, with hefty education loan facilities. Kashmiri Pandit students of that time with highest academic merits, were refused such educational trainings and hefty loan facilities, thus depriving KP's students from having higher technical educations etc. This too had the stamp of so called secularist Prime Minister of India the Nehru? This was another most crucial stage for the KP's, for their migration from Kashmir for their future education and jobs.

Who does not know, when G M Sadiq was Chief Minister, after the fall of Bakshi government a subsequent stooge of Nehru dynasty, introduced 70/30 percent ratio in government jobs between Muslims and the Kashmiri Pandit employees, which was unconstitutional and was fought very bravely by the KP government teachers of that time in the Supreme Court of India and got it annulled. It was again a big blow to the existence of Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir who were made to live a life of second class citizens in Kashmir, thus resulting in their silent exodus with scornful tears in their eyes for the Nehru-Gandhi family the then rulers of India. A crucial situation occurred in Kashmir in the year 1968, for the Kashmiri Pandits, when a Kashmiri Pandit girl was made to marry forcibly a Kashmir Muslim boy. This led to a mass agitation in Kashmir by Kashmiri Pandits, when the administration of that time headed by G M Sadiq a stooge of congress, made all the efforts to suppress it by force and so many Kashmiri Pandits lost their lives in this agitation through the brutal use of force by the administration. So many houses of KP's were burnt down in Kashmir, when a let loose of tyranny was organized by Sadiq administration through the local goons and bad characters. Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister of India and she deputed her home minister of that time Y.B.Chawan to look into this problem of Pandits in Kashmir. He being a congress man and thus a pseudo secularist and a sympathizer of Muslims for vote bank politics,

worked the other way. He rebuked the Pandits for their agitational path and made a murky statement on the agitation of Pandits as 'In-Ko-Chowkari-Nahi, Nokari Chaya'. What a slain statement from the mouth of a veteran home minister, about Kashmiri Pandits, to fleece the Muslims. The Kashmiri Pandit girl got converted to Islam under the aegis of congress claps. This was congress culture adopted by congress towards KP's in Kashmir. Again Nehru-Gandhi family blessings, this again led to a mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from Kashmir.

Then followed Anantnag riots in February 1986. Many temples, houses and other properties belonging to KP's were looted, burnt or damaged in Anantnag district. A prominent congress leader of Anantnag was a central minister at that point of time and again a Nehru-Gandhi dynasty off shoot was the Prime Minister of India. How should congress justify it? Again a mass migration of KP's from the valley at that point of time. There are so many such events to be quoted, but for the constraints of space in this article.

The last nail in the coffin was the final assault of Islamic fundamentalism on KP's in the year 1989-90, when KP's were killed and butchered by the terrorists, when the KP's were finally driven out of Kashmir almost empty handed. Congress party remained a silent spectator to this traumatic situation for the KP's till date. How should Rahul Gandhi now claim to ameliorate the sufferance of Kashmiri Pandits at this stage, being a party to the sufferances of the KP's all along through his party. Let him set his own house viz, the congress party in order which is in quandary presently. Congress leaders in quandary, both in Jammu and Kashmir and the national level, are trying to show down each other by holding such street corner meetings, eliciting the phrase to each other 'Holier than Thou'. Congress party has this time an interim Congress President, as this party is in turmoil due to internal bickering and is not able to fine a full fledged President for its party. Six years after the party's electoral rout pushed it into a continuing downward spiral. 23 senior leaders of the Congress, including five former Chief Ministers, many Congress Working Committee members, sitting MPs, and several former Union Ministers, have, in an unprecedented pushback, sent a letter to party chief calling for sweeping changes, from top to bottom. The letter, learnt to have been sent details a reforms agenda that is, in effect, a stinging indictment of the current leadership. This letter of dissent mentions that the revival of the Congress is 'a national imperative' fundamental to the health of democracy. The letter, sources said, underlines how the party's steady decline comes when the country faces its 'gravest political, social and economic challenges since Independence'. It is now a situation of leadership crisis in the Congress, which is now manifesting in a farcical battle of the generations. One of the tall congress leaders from Jammu and Kashmir is a prominent member of this G-23 group. He managed a show of strength of all these G-23 group members in Jammu some time back, conveying to the other side that it is group to be reckoned with. All these G-23 members of congress were seen in this congregation at Jammu gathering of theirs with gaiety turbans reflecting the grand Dogra culture. To combat it the present Kings and Queens of the congress party sought to affront such a move by sending Rahul Gandhi on mission Jammu, which was unfortunately over shadowed by one of the prominent members of G-23 group, when Rahul Gandhi was desperate to raise such issues in his street corner public meeting in Jammu which have no relevance in national politics. Rahul Gandhi, after addressing a street corner rally of congress workers and holding a brief meeting of senior local party leaders over a sumptuous lunch at a local elite hotel in Jammu, left for Union capital. What was the intent and purpose of his visit as a prominent congress functionary at the national level reduces his Jammu as an excursion of Jammu, without any positive gains. Let him introspect.

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

Sinha reviews J&K’s COVID scenario, BJP’s popularity result of public welfare, empowerment containment measures

J&K to get 20 lakh vaccination doses by Sept end



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha reviewing the COVID scenario in J&K.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Scale up vaccination with intensive drives and enforce strict Covid protocol in the areas witnessing increased number of Covid-19 cases'. These directions were issued during the weekly meeting chaired on Friday by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to review the Covid scenario in J&K.

The Lt Governor asked the Deputy Commissioners and Health department to effectively utilize the available stock of vaccines to meet the set target. He said that there is no shortage of vaccine, adding that 20 lakh doses of the vaccine would be received by ending September; the administering whereof needs to be planned accordingly, especially by focusing on the areas with lower rates of vaccination.

Conduct aggressive vaccination drives by mobilizing extra teams to fill the gaps across the U.T. Map the areas reporting increase in positive cases and take immediate preventive measures wherever required, the Lt Governor directed the

officials.

He said the studies show the vaccination rate and Covid positivity are inversely proportional to each other. Therefore, maximum coverage of vaccination is required to eliminate the probability of increase in positivity rate, and severity of the cases, he said.

During the meeting with DCs and SPs, the Lt Governor directed the joint team of police & civil administration for strict enforcement of Covid protocol and taking stringent action as per law against the violators.

District administration needs to ensure intensive testing in the vulnerable areas. Contacts of positive cases must be traced at the earliest for home quarantine or treatment, besides effective denarcation and containment measures of containment zones should be implemented to control the spread of virus, observed the Lt Governor.

The Lt Governor reiterated his directions to the DCs and Divisional Commissioners for ensuring vaccination of college, university students and spe-

cially-abled people through special drives.

Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department gave a detailed presentation on the covid containment measures; weekly trend in Covid cases, Daily Covid vaccination, District-wise vaccination allocation plan etc.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dilbag Singh, DGP; Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department; Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department; Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Government, Public Works (R&B) Department; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; Mukesh Singh, ADGP; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner; Kashmir; Vijay Kumar; IGP Kashmir; Dr. Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Deputy Commissioners and SSPs, attended the meetings, in person and through virtual mode.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday organized a special programme at Party Headquarter at Srinagar to celebrate the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi which was presided over by BJP leader & Party Spokesperson Dr Darakhshan Andrabi.

BJP District President for Srinagar Ashok Bhat, Party's IT In-charge Mazoor Bhat, Arif Raja, Party In-charge for Central Kashmir Dr Ali Mohammad Mir, Minority Moreha President Sheikh Bashir & J&K Youth General Secretary Bilal Parrey were also present.

Dr Darakhshan Andrabi inaugurated the Photo



BJP Spokesperson Dr Darakhshan Andrabi distributing ration.

Exhibition on Prime Minister's special events. Large gathering of people participated in the programme. Later Dr Darakhshan Andrabi addressed the audience. "BJP's public popularity is the

result of proper implementation of welfare & public empowerment oriented schemes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," said Dr Darakhshan Andrabi. She said that PM Modi's leadership is historical

National Drug Safety Week observed at GMC Jammu



Students participating in poster-making competition.

in their own way to create awareness among public and among peers regarding drug safety by participating in poster making competition. Students will also take out Slogan March and Department of

Pharmacology is also conducting National CME on drug safety on September 18.

All these activities are primarily focused to create public awareness regarding drug safety and for educa-

tional purposes of our faculty members, doctors, undergraduate and post graduate students in the field of drug and patient safety.

Dr Subash Bardwaj, HOD Pathology & Dr Rajiv Gupta HOD PSM GMC Jammu being judged of the event.

The prize and certification of participation shall be distributed by Chief Guest of these National Celebration on Drug safety being conducted at GMC Jammu.

Chief Guest of the today event, Dr Sashi Sudhan Sharma Principal Dean GMC Jammu congratulated, Dr Seema Gupta Professor and Head Department of

Pharmacology GMC Jammu and Dr Vishal Tandon In-charge ADRM Centre for conducting such an important scientific event for the benefit of faculty, doctors, Graduate and postgraduate students which will go long way in generating sense of responsibility and commitment in rational drug prescription.

She also congratulated all the second year Prof MBBS students for their participation in the said national event.

Dr Nusrat Kareem Bhat Associate Professor and Dr Sharminder Kour were the convener and moderator of the scientific event held today in GMC Jammu.