

## INS VIKRANT READY

There was a time when a major portion of nation's budget was spent on the defence sector, as a lot of things including arms and ammunition was imported from various countries. As at that time, none was concerned about developing the same within the country, the present Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a focused attention towards the sector and under its Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, started manufacturing of a number of things in the country, thereby reducing import to a significant level. Recently, country's steelmaking giant, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), a Maharatna PSU, has supplied entire DMR grade specialty steel for the nation's first indigenously built Aircraft Carrier INS Vikrant. In a major feat and towards building an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', SAIL has supplied about 30000 Tonnes of the specialty steel for building this first Swadeshi Aircraft Carrier for Indian Navy which will be commissioned on September 2, 2022 at Cochin Shipyard Ltd. The steel supplied by SAIL for this indigenous project comprises of special DMR grade Plates. These DMR grade plates have been developed by SAIL in collaboration with Indian Navy and DMRL. The DMR plates of Grade 249 A were used for the hull and vessel interiors and Grade 249 B for the flight deck of this warship. The entire quantity of specialty steel, except for the bulb bars, has been supplied by SAIL's integrated steel plants at Bhilai, Bokaro and Rourkela. This special grade steel, DMR plates, which has been used for the construction of INS Vikrant is an import substitute. Commissioning of India's first indigenous aircraft carrier is a momentous occasion for our nation during the Amritkaal of India's 75 years of independence and signifies country's confidence and prowess. This indigenous aircraft carrier is a proof of Country's technical acumen and engineering skills. This demonstration of India's self-sufficiency (Atmanirbhar) to produce an aircraft carrier warship will reinforce the country's defence indigenization programs and 'Make in India' campaign. With the commissioning of INS Vikrant, our nation has forayed into the elite club of nations who can build their own aircraft carriers and it is extremely gratifying for SAIL to be a partner in creating this engineering marvel.



### OFF 'D' CUFF

### Free Will Vs Destiny

Do humans have free will and choice or does determinism prevail in this world? When we look at this problem, we feel we have the freedom to choose what we like or deem suitable in our lives. But many instances and situations in our lives force us to realise how subdued are we by the circumstances. Naturally, we begin to wonder if we truly have the freedom to make choices in our lives.

Suppose, we want to open our locker protected by a password. There are two options. Either we receive an OTP sent by the controlling agency and enter the same to get access or enter a number of our choice previously set by us as the password. Lower level organisms are like those of us who opt for an OTP. They have to simply accept and key in the OTP received by them from the controlling agency to proceed further. The lives of lower level sentient beings are controlled by Nature. Their choice is limited to accepting what is given to them by the unseen power.

On the other hand, humans are like those who have the choice to enter the password set by themselves. This number, which could have been any number, was chosen by them in the past. At the time of choosing the password, the person has the freedom to choose any number. But once it is set, he is restricted by the choice he previously made. Similarly, when we begin a new chain of karma, the choices are unlimited.

But owing to our propensities, which were the results of our past actions, we tend to make a particular choice.

This choice we make restricts our possible future options and we are forced to work in a particular way only, owing to our tendencies. Thus, our choices narrow down as we continue with our propensities and tendencies and indulge in karma. Theoretically speaking, the password is purely our choice. It could be any random set of numbers and characters. But because it was set by us in a particular way in the past, even

though on the face of it, the password is our own choice, since it was our own creation our choices now are restricted. Because it is our creation that our choices are now capped.

Our freedom to choose is curtailed by the choices we made in the past. Only a yogi has the real freedom to choose as he is free of the shackles of past propensities. Every action he does is a new action with limitless choices. He is sarva- tantra svatantra. The choices are not only unlimited on the face of it, but are limitless to the core. For us ordinary humans, it is useful to realise that past karmic propensities and the consequent circumstances can also be circumvented by present effort, just as the password can be reset by a new effort. However, it requires greater efforts.

But where do lower beings receive their OTP from? Who controls those OTPs? It is prakriti, the eternal potentiality of nature, the unity of three gunas — sattva, rajas and tamas. All things and circumstances are composed of these three gunas and their differences are due to the different combinations of these gunas. The nature of a context is determined by the preponderance of a particular guna.

Sattva is white and is like nectar and gives joy; rajas is red and is like intoxication and gives pain; tamas is dark and is like poison and produces unconsciousness. 'We bow to prakriti,' says Krishna in his Samkhya Karika, 'the red-whitedark, the unborn mother and nurse and receptacle of all generations'.

Viewed from Advaita Vedanta, this very prakriti is called maya, the creator of all experiences. Sentient beings below the rank of humans are Mayaadheena, that is, they are under the control of maya.

But as the sentient being ascends the ladder of evolution by the yogic practice and reaches the pinnacle, he becomes Mayaadheesha, the controller of maya. He becomes completely free and independent.

-Vijay Srinath Kanchi

## Kashmiri Pandits facing continuous neglect, insensitivity

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

With strenuous and sincere efforts of the father of nation Mahatma Gandhi, the government of independent India had banned and abolished the curse of untouchability, but it is more regrettable that the untouchability still is seen, though the bad practice had long before been made a cognizable offence by Government of that times. The acclaimed and celebrated poet and writer of Jammu and Kashmir Motilal Saqui had rightly said through the medium of his poetry that Kashmiri Pandits are the new breed of untouchables. There is no contradiction and controversy about this poetry and prophesy of the great poet. The Kashmiri Pandits have in fact become new untouchables due to apathy, neglect and overlooking of interests by the Governments. There is total neglect, insensitivity and ignoring the genuine demands and pressing issues of the microscopic minority community. There total neglect and ignoring of the genuine issues and demands of this hapless community forces one to conclude that these unfortunate and forbidden sons of the mother India are living like untouchables due to the total neglect and disclaim of the successive centre and state governments. It is so sad that a bad name of migrants has been given to the uprooted and exiled Kashmiri Pandits in their own secular democracy and they are forced to spend their days in very difficult conditions in the perpetuation of which the role of the government is very contributory. There unfortunate sons of mother India are forced to live a life of abject neglect and disclaim in their own country and there is nothing shameless than their sad plight in the free India. These hapless creatures are living the life of total helplessness thanks to the lackluster and lackadaisical attitude of the powers towards the burning issues and demands of this community. All this forces one to say that the Kashmiri Pandits are the new untouchables of free India and they are suffering for no fault of theirs but because of the government of India and the then government of NC could not stop their exit from Kashmir in those dark days of terrorism when they were forced to leave their homes and hearths for safety and security to their precious

lives and take refuge in the hot and humid land of Jammu and other parts of India. They were not acclimatized with the climate of Jammu and other places of India but were forced to take shelter there. But the people of Jammu deserve all praise and appreciation that they have embraced this exiled community and gave them a place amid themselves. The Kashmiri Pandits are the prey of the ethnic cleansing, apartheid and genocide in their own country and it is very unfortunate and therefore there is no wrong and fault in calling the Kashmiri Pandits as the new untouchables of the independent India. The former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir has said in a high level meeting that the government is not providing the necessities of life to the uprooted Pandits as doing so will not force them to return to Kashmir and this shows the total apathy and neglect of this community by the rulers. It is very sad and disturbing that these hapless souls are allowed to rotten and die in the hot and humid climate of Jammu and elsewhere. Thus in effect and practice these hapless community members are treated as untouchables and the Gandhi will be at unease in heavens over the sad plight of the Kashmiri Pandits with whom the treatment of the untouchables is given in the free India and there is no shame big than this attitude of the pseudo secular governments and the Kashmiri Pandits are forced to live the life of the untouchables in the free In India. These unfortunate and hapless Kashmiri Pandits are looked down upon and are not treated as the equal citizens of the country instead they live the life of abject neglect and deprivation. Their magnificent culture and identity is eroding and there is threat to their identity and culture and there is the lurking danger of their extinction like the proverbial Kashmiri Hangul and thus the immediate steps should be taken by the powers to reverse this trend of their extinction. Thus the government should take sincere steps to conserve and preserve the identity and culture of the Kashmiri Pandits so that their age old culture will be saved and they be allowed to grow and flourish in the secular democracy of the country. The successive centre and the state governments have only been busy in

experimenting with the Kashmiri Pandits and the powers are not sincere about their return and rehabilitation save only making loud declarations about the return and rehabilitation of the uprooted Pandits. In over three decades of their displacement not a single Kashmiri Pandit family has been rehabilitated in Kashmir and the tall claims that situation has limped back to normalcy in Kashmir is false and the government could not rehabilitate even one family. The Pandits cannot return to Kashmir under the prevailing circumstances as the killings of the Kashmiri Pandits, PM package employees, other Hindu minorities and the non locals both Hindus and non-Hindus is taking place in Kashmir to cleanse the valley from the infidels to put it in the terminology of the terrorists and the indoctrinated youth of the Muslim community. The majority of the PM package employees serving across valley have been forced to leave the Kashmir after the killing of their colleague Rahul Bhat in his office and in the line of duty. The dastardly killing of Rahul Bhat on 12th May and the barbaric killing of a non-local women teacher Rajni Bala in the south Kashmir district of Kulgam has created fear psychosis in the Pandit package employees and the reserved category employees of Jammu and both Pandit Package employees and the Jammu based employees working in Kashmir have since fled the valley for the safety and security of their life. Both the Package employees and the reserved category employees are on a continuous strike and are demanding their transfer/shifting to Jammu till the situation will become conducive for their living and working. But the BJP government of the centre and the LG administration is not paying any attention towards the genuine demand of their relocation and attachment to the RC office Jammu till the normalcy is restored in Kashmir. It is very unfortunate and unconstitutional that the Package employees are made to sign a bond at the time of their joining to the effect that the package employees posts are non transferable and it any package employee will seek his or her transfer he will lose the job. But in the original PM Package there was no such provision of the

package posts are non transferable. Therefore the original employment package was free from such undemocratic and unconstitutional provisions. The making the PM Package job non transferable is the brain child of the NC government of Omer Abdullah and it was at his insistence that the Package employees job was made non transferable come what may. Thus NC government of the state took the benefit of the helplessness of the Pandit youth and exploited them to the hilt and made the undemocratic clause of the signing of the bond by those youth who got employment under the PM special package for Kashmiri Pandits. One fails to understand that when employees can be transferred from Jammu to Kashmir and from Kashmir to Jammu and then why there is blanket ban on the transfer of the package employees. This is gross and sheer injustice and discrimination with these helpless and hapless package employees and they are posted across the Kashmir valley not simply for serving but they are subjected to the risk to their lives as they are being targeted by the terrorists to scare and frighten them so that to force them to leave Kashmir. The PM Package is a failed package and it can be called as the killer package as the package employees are left to rotten and rust by rulers of the country. They are left in lurch and no sympathy and empathy is shown to these hapless employees. The government of the day should address the genuine issues and demands of the Kashmiri Pandits including the Package employees who are protesting in Jammu and in the migrant camps across Kashmir for their relocation to Jammu for their safety and survival. Thus till the situation becomes normal in Kashmir, Package employees should be attached to the RC office Jammu, but Government of the centre and LG's administration are overlooking the issues and genuine demands of the Kashmiri Pandits and the Package employees. The uprooted Kashmiri Pandits are treated like the out castes and can rightly be called as the new untouchables.

(The author is a columnist and social activist).

## Condition of poor deteriorating

■ SHIV KUMAR PADHA

Unlike other developed nations of world, poverty is considered as fertile land and blessing for politics to grow and flourish and the poor an asset, vote bank and fertilizer for its growth. The victory or defeat of any political party depends upon the fact how best it can manage maximum votes from among the poorest of the poor because it is very easy to exploit the poverty for gaining the political mileage in India. We daily observe how a healthy woman (called mother) on the cross roads use a feeble and skeletal child in her lap as a prop for begging to earn for the family at its cost; two healthy and stout persons beg for a crippled soul being pulled in the trolley on the roads; a healthy person with 6/6 eyesight, escorting a blind person and begging for him in streets. In all these instances we find woman with a feeble and skeletal child, healthy persons with a blind and crippled soul in trolley earned more than if they had used healthy child and normal persons during begging. It is a tragedy that these healthy and stout persons instead of begging for these crippled and feeble souls could prove a success for them. While poverty and illiteracy are considered curse for the entire humanity, they are taken as blessings for the Indian politicians because poverty and illiteracy are highly politicized in India. An average Indian citizen is hardworking and diligent, but the politicians with whom the power lays act as cancer spreading the venom and ultimately affecting the progress and prosperity of the nation. The Indian politicians, instead of uprooting the poverty and illiteracy from the soil devise the means of minting money and making hay during the sun shine. Hardly there are a few politicians in the country who are not involved in one or the other scam or scandal. Government of India, in order to eliminate the poverty from the Indian soil, adapted three approaches, first entails pursuit of higher economic growth which will improve the level of the living of all groups of people in the society including poor; second involved direct anti-poverty program and the third stressed high priority to governmental expenditure on social sector. After independence government launched several poverty alleviation programs in the country among which some are worth mentioning, here like -Legal elimination of bonded labor- preventing accumulation of wealth by modifying law- Antodaya program-Drought area development program- Small farmers development program(SFDP). Indira Gandhi's twenty point program- Food for work and minimum needs programs- National rural employment program (NREP)- TRY-SEM- Swarn Jayanti Swarozgar Yojna- Indira Awasayojna- MNREGA and Rural Housing yojna etc. In order to woo the poor; religious minorities, Muslims and low caste Hindus the UPA 2 came out with many legislation like right to food security, right to education and right to employment. Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi famously admitted that for every rupee the government spent on anti-poverty program only 20 paisa reached the poor. The

central government spends crores of rupees every year on subsidized meals, cheap food, grains and other basic amenities for the people below poverty line. Poverty however could be eradicated from the Indian soil had the various facilities and concessions aimed at uplifting the downtrodden reached them and properly utilized for the targeted group it was meant for. But owing to the lack of political commitment and the political corruption nothing could trickle down to the level of the poor beneficiaries. It is unfortunate that even after 66 years of independence India has more poor than it had in 1947. It does not figure among the top 100 countries in human index. Despite growth rate of 9 percent it is not transforming itself into economic and social development. According to the World Bank report a person getting \$ 1.25 per day is considered at the threshold of extreme poverty. Accordingly 2011 report of the World Bank 24.6 per cent of the Indian population or about 300 million people earn much below the \$ 1.25 per day. Poverty in India has become an historical reality from 19th to 21st century. According to World Bank survey, out of world's 872.3 million people under poverty India shares 179.6million with 17.5 per cent of the total world's population. 20.6 per cent share of the world's poor reside in India. Still 50 per cent of Indians don't have proper shelter. 70 per cent do not have access to decent toilet, 40 per cent of the villages do not have road connectivity and 35 per cent of the household do not have nearby water facility. India has six doctors for every 10,000 people against 12 in Brazil, 14 in China and 43 in Russia. It is a reality that Indian ruling class, irrespective of party in rule, not only love poor but wants them to remain poor for their votes and the money to be made from exploiting them. No political party can ever win the election without the support of the poor. Poor, in India, have become a laughing stock, a class to jeer at by the politicians. Raj Babar turned politician from Bollywood blatantly claim that he can have full meal for Rs 12 in Mumbai, RS MP Rashid Masood can have Rs 5 per Thali in Delhi whereas Dr Ferozq Abdullah surpassed all of them claiming one time full stomach meals for Re 1. They perhaps forget that every poor man doesn't have the access of taking two times sumptuous meals for Rs 28 served to our Parliamentarians in Parliament mess while ignoring crores of poorest of the poor going to bed hungry every night. It is reality that the poverty has become a fertile soil for the politicians and the poor a prop to use at the time of election. The politicians need services of the poor people for getting crowds during the rallies and public meetings. They manage the votes from the poor ilk by alluring them with money, ration, freebies and other necessities. They understand that the poor man is like specie worth preserving, a lactating cow who always stand by the politicians through thick and thin. It is fact that the ruling class poses loving the poor but wants them to remain poor forever.

(The author is a social activist).

## YOUR COLUMN Society in 'Virtual World'

Dear Editor,

Is today's virtual world really preparing for the end of society and family? Have people become so fed up with informal institutions like family, marriage, kinship that they have lost faith in these institutions, or are these social institutions unable to properly discharge the roles they were created to perform? Have you been unable to? Information revolution and technological development have created an artificial world. A world where nothing is real, everything is virtual. Artificial societies, artificial humans, artificial relationships, artificial emotions, artificial intelligence, artificial beauty and even artificial life, artificial breathing and so on. As a result of this, living with virtual objects, man is getting away from real life. Everything in the virtual world is temporary, even social and close relationships are becoming temporary and artificial. Use these relations as long as they are useful, when they are no longer needed, end them. Actually today life has become as easy as a click of the computer. It is everything you want is delivered to you with a single click. It can be said that the new technology i.e. computer, smart-phone etc. are such people of the modern world who are ready to fulfill the orders of their masters as soon as they express their desire. The only difference is that the gin of the past used to be only in the stories of grandmothers, whereas today's modern gin has become an integral part of the real world. The social scientist Habermas has also said that due to the unexpected progress in science and technology, the importance of reasoning is given day by day is decreasing. Now man's rationality does not motivate him to move towards the goals, but only helps in accumulating the means. The result of this is that the modern technology made by man has made man himself his slave. Unfortunately, modern man is beginning to consider himself more independent than before, while the fact is that he is becoming

more dependent than ever before. Sociologists will have to revise these definitions. Is today's virtual world really preparing for the end of society and family? Have people become so fed up with informal institutions (family, marriage, kinship) that they have lost faith in these institutions, or have these social institutions been able to properly discharge the roles they were created to perform? Unable to get Social science researchers need to do research on these issues, so that there is a hidden cause-effect relationship behind them. By knowing them, efforts can be made to solve them. Here a big question arises that if one uses such technology to fill any deficiency then it can also be accepted to an extent such as artificial heart, artificial eye, artificial hand and leg etc. But in spite of having real society and real relationships, if individuals are moving towards virtual society and relationships, then it is a sign of mental bankruptcy. As a result, a new type of psychiatry is being seen in man. cyber space online New classifications of personality and offline personality have been put forward which give rise to new forms of schizophrenia. Here online personality means a person who is far away from reality. He spends his valuable time by staying online for unlimited time and goes away from social life or say real life and he starts looking for his partner and happiness in the virtual world itself. The question is whether virtual world can be a better option to escape the problems of current society and life. Is it? The answer would be, probably no. Then it is necessary that only the real society should be made livable and ways should be found to deal with the challenges arising in it. Running away from a problem or challenge is not the solution to the problem, but trying to solve them collectively can be the only permanent solution. There is still time to stop yourself from being a part of this technology guided world. It is said that it is good if man controls technology, but when technology starts controlling man; his Existence begins to be challenged. Therefore, there is a need to replace the virtual relationships with the real world and real relationships so that this society can be re-lived and worth living.

Vijay.

## PROGRESSING J&K Govt taking digital measures for establishing transparent, accountable, responsive governance system across UT 'Aapka Mobile Hamara Daftar' providing citizen-centric services through mobile

Jammu and Kashmir government, led by Lieutenant Governor; Manoj Sinha, is taking comprehensive digital measures for establishing transparent, accountable and responsive governance system to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. In a short span of three years, J&K Government has introduced reforms in every sector; thereby giving a significant push to the growth and development trajectory here. The results are visible on ground as J&K is now moving ahead to be one of the leading regions in sectors like IT, Industries, Tourism, Revenue, Women Entrepreneurship and Youth Empowerment.

The nightmare of seven decades is over and a corruption free Jammu and Kashmir is emerging. A multitude of good governance reforms have been initiated in J&K by the Modi Government like Prevention of Corruption Act, Abolition of Interviews for Group C and D posts besides more than 800 Central Laws have been made applicable to J&K after it got the status of Union Territory. The long-pending cadre review, the establishment of CAT benches, Extension of RTI Act, CPGRAMS, and conduct of common eligibility test through the National Recruitment Agency at every district headquarter in the UT besides other similar pro-people measures. J&K has launched many e-governance initiatives to promote transparency, accountability and responsive working culture in departments. In this regard, the Mobile Application 'Satark Nagrik' and Departmental Vigilance Officers (DVO) Portal of J&K Anti-Corruption Bureau has been launched by Lieutenant Governor which is combating corruption to a great extent. The 'Satark Nagrik' application has been developed with the purpose to facilitate the seamless flow of information about corruption and enable citizens to submit their grievances with ease and mobility. Any citizen having an android based device can download the application from the play store. A unique ID number will be allotted at the time of registration of grievance which later can be used to track the status of the grievance. Similarly, the DVO portal has been designed to enable an online communication channel with the DVOs of various departments. In certain cases, the complaints are related to ongoing works, current recruitments and payments yet to be made against contracts etc. By referring these matters to DVOs, violations and shortcomings can immediately be rectified and loss to the state exchequer can be prevented. Other measures of this system included an Electronic Vigilance Clearance System for furnishing vigilance clearances through electronic or online mode for all the government employees.

Also, UMANG's unified mobile application for new-age governance is a multi-lingual mobile platform for providing 'anytime-anywhere governance'. In sync with the vision of 'Aapka Mobile Hamara Daftar' the Government of J&K is committed to providing citizen-centric services through the mobile mode. This will enhance the accessibility of services and add to the convenience of citizens while availing these services. The services on the UMANG platform are end to end digitized and provide a one-stop solution to the citizens starting from application for a service and it's processing to receipt of certificates/permissions. The services being provided have been integrated with an online payment gateway and Rapid Assessment System (RAS) of digital feedback. Several popular services like birth certificates, death certificates, marriage certificates, income certificates, character certificates, dependent certificates, SC/ST/ RBA certificate and related documents can be accessed by the public at <https://web.umang.gov.in> or by downloading the mobile app 'UMANG' which is available on 'Android' and 'IOS' platform. With the adoption of e-office, a simplified, responsive, effective and transparent paperless working culture across all the departments is being achieved. With the implementation of e-office initiative, the disposal rate of files has touched an all-time high of 96 percent. Besides, 305 Head of Departments are now on e-office and E-files are accessible to all officials irrespective of their locations. J&K is first among UTs in the e-office disposal of files. Currently, 200 services are online which have been linked with a feedback mechanism. All HoDs have been brought on e-office portal while the 'Annual Performance Reports' of JK Administrative Services (JKAS) officers have been shifted to online mode on SPARROW Portal. The ranking of UT of J&K has improved significantly and has achieved the number one rank among all the UTs in the NeSDA-2021. The UT Portal has higher compliance to the assessment parameters like accessibility, Information Security and Privacy, 'Content Availability' and 'Ease of Use'.