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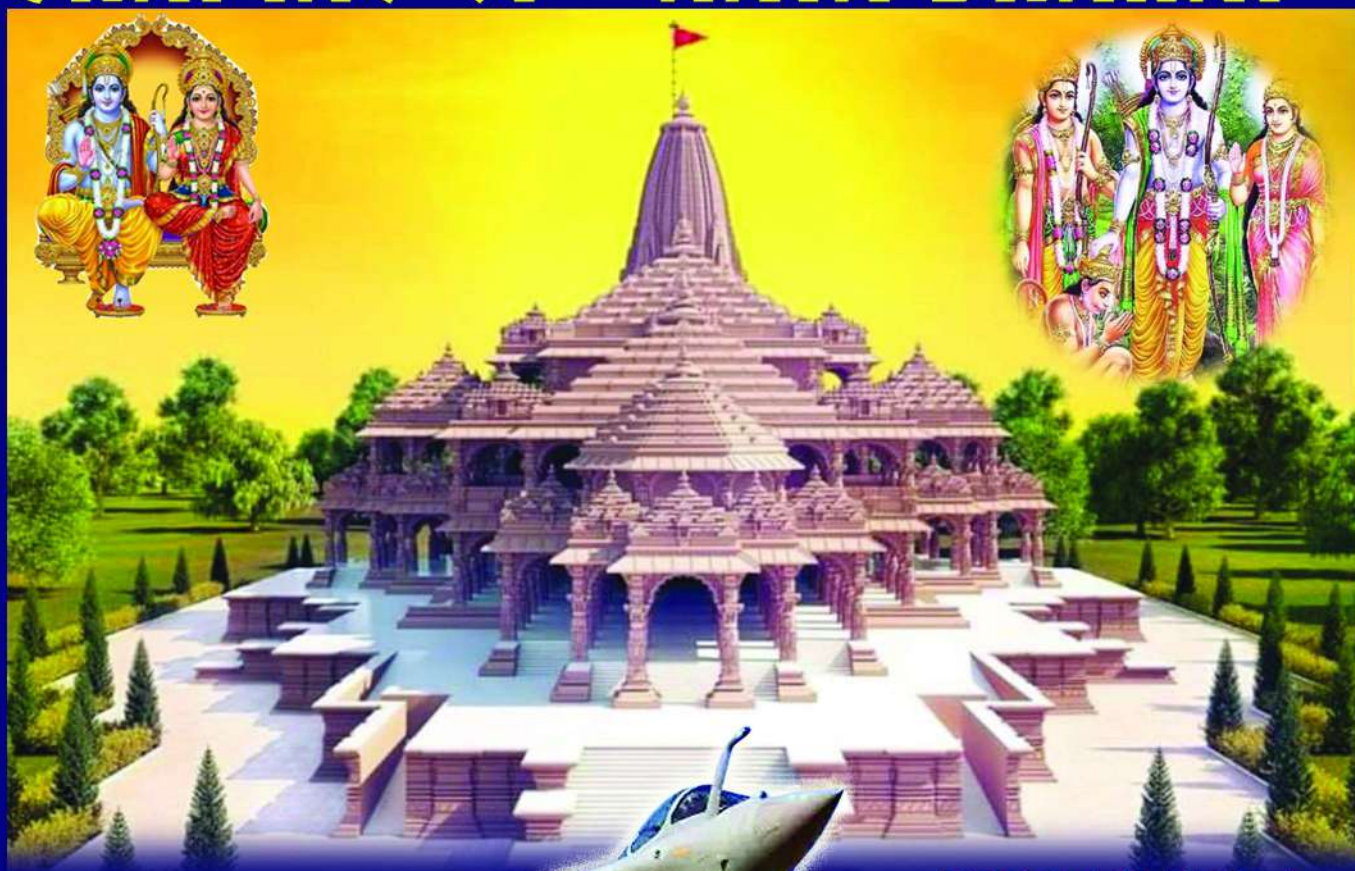
Spade A Spade

August 2020

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₹25

CULTURAL RENAISSANCE IN BHARAT HISTORICAL BHoomi PUJA AT AYODHYA ON 5TH AUGUST 2020 SHAPING OF "NAYA BHARAT"



**ALSO, BHARAT
THAT IS INDIA
TRANSFORMING INTO
MODERN AGE**



KP STUDENTS AT KASHMIR BHAVAN FOR TAKING KCET FOR PROFESSIONAL COLLEGES



Amid COVID19 lockdown, The Kashmiri Hindu Cultural Welfare Trust ©, made stay and food arrangements for KP students and their parents who came to Bangalore for taking KCET examination on July 30 & 31, 2020 under J&K migrant quota for admission in professional colleges in Karnataka.

When the Board of Trustees decided to accommodate these students and parents in our Kashmir Bhavan, the entire KP community in Bangalore got up and appreciated the idea and volunteered to extend cooperation.

The BoT of KHCWT is grateful to the community in Bangalore which has come forward to support Kashmir Bhavan and share its monthly expenses by giving donations.

We wish all the students all the best in their brave efforts to come down to Bangalore and take the test for shaping their future.



An Amazing & Excellent service and Well-maintained & hygienic surroundings, Kashmiri feels like home. I away from Ujane & Ujane can be said for the staff as well, Very well-mannered, Well-Cultured staff members and caretakers. And one can certainly feel the Kashmiri Hindu culture, being remembered and kept alive with these recipes, which is really really rare in today's time. Definitely a Must Visit for any KP who comes to Bangalore to get the Vibe of Kashmiri Back.
Thanks You
Ajay K. Bagati
9841517272

Thanks to Kashmir Bhavan Trust, management & staff for our comfortable stay like the arrangements were very good. Homely food was very tasty. The staff is very cooperative, friendly and helpful. This is a great effort by Kashmiri Sanidit Paradise for providing this facility to the KP students, students & their guardians.
Thanks all for your support, arrangements & love.
With Kind regards
Ajay K. Bagati
Fardesha
9818151722



REBUILDING OF RAM TEMPLE IS ESTABLISHING IDENTITY



Today I thank God and my stars that I am alive to watch the foundation ceremony of Ram Temple in Ayodhya-the birth place of Mariyada Purshotam Ram, the darling of millions of people across the globe.

I celebrated the foundation-laying of the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya on August 5, 2020. The razing of the temple that commemorated the birthplace of one of the dearest human forms of the divine - Lord Rama - by the Mughal raider Babur and the building of a mosque (Babri Masjid) over it has been a wound that festered for generations of Hindus. Along with me, a large population of India erupted in joy when the foundation stone was consecrated and centuries of neglect and disrespect showed to a sacred Hindu site was reversed.

The oldest living civilization in the world finally corrected a wrong committed by raider Babar more than 500 years ago when Lord Rama was restored with his birth place. History, archaeology and ancient texts determined this and it was where many Hindus for centuries worshipped as the birthplace of Ram, just as Christians worship the birthplace of Jesus in Bethlehem.

Thus August 5 is no ordinary day for Indian civilization. This is the day that will be remembered as the rebirth of Indian history that existed for 10,000 years before the Western world was just a thought in the minds of men.

This day in the 21st Century is when Indian thought, Indian history, and Indian archeology along with our very spiritual being will become liberated and Indians will celebrate a new independence that was very different from 1947, when we gained freedom for our land but not for Indic culture.

This day will be remembered as the day we finally achieved that which our ancestors dreamt of for a millennium.

Finally, Indian philosophy and culture and our deities are being given the place that were brutally destroyed by 1000 years of barbaric invasions from distant lands that demolished not only the world's first great university in Nalanda but also many kingdoms that were the pride of the world in architecture, art and design from Somnath in Gujarat to thousands all over North India. Thanks to the hidden caves of Ajanta and Ellora built from 2 BC to 6 Century AD, which were only rediscovered in the 19th Century, they reminded hidden from those that destroyed the Vijayanagar Empire.

Ayodhya and the Ram Janam bhumi will finally give us the sanctity that, once upon a time, had relevance to our sense of being and our spirituality. It connected us to our great epics and our val-

ues as people of a sub-continent that had for 10,000 years given the world the most sophisticated language, philosophy, science, mathematics, art, and sculpture that was breathtaking in thought, size, and workmanship.

Critics will say it is a waste of money; but can anyone put a price tag to the oldest living civilization in the world and what it means to its people?

It would surprise many to know that in many southeast Asian countries the Ramayana-the story of Ram-has been celebrated as in Thailand where the Kings are still named after Rama and in the grand palace the entire history of this great epic is carved on its walls.

But when I remember the trials and tribulations that the Hindus went through - the long-drawn legal processes to establish that the site was really the birthplace of Ram - my anger comes back. Again my mind asks - why did a court has to decide that Hindus could build a temple to commemorate the birthplace of Rama? A land which has been

inhabited for millennia by Hindus needed

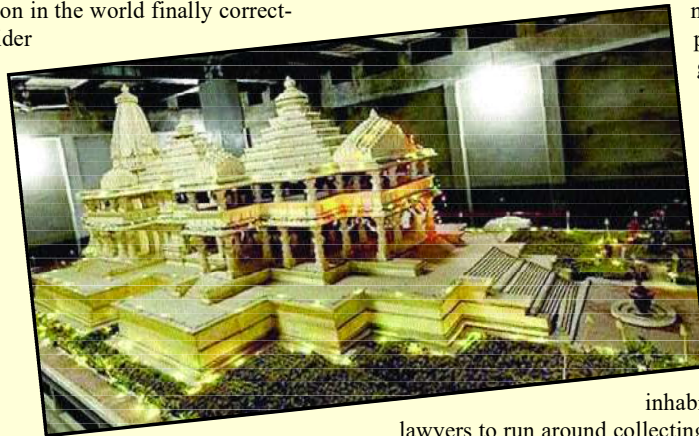
lawyers to run around collecting evidence and preparing arguments to establish that the Janmabhoomi was known throughout history as the birthplace of Ram? Kar Sevaks had to lose their lives for daring to claim what was theirs?

As we rebuild, we must remember to not dishonour our ancestors or their way of life. We must act with dharma. We must speak the truth of what happened to our civilisation, but without engendering hatred. We must act, but with calm collective resolve, not with insecure aggression. We must understand that Indian Muslims and Christians of today have nothing to do with what the pre-modern Europeans, Turks, and other foreign invaders did.

We must rebuild our temples and viharas as one people. With mutual respect, love and inclusion. We must recreate them as not just places of worship, but also as centres of knowledge and social cohesion, as they were in ancient times. We must not stop with the Ram Janmabhoomi ji temple. We should rebuild other places of worship which have become the victims and brutal attacks of raiders.

Rebuilding is a civilisational responsibility we owe to ourselves - and more significantly, to our ancestors, as well as to future generations. It is a statement to the world that we will not die. We are sanatans. We are eternal. And most importantly, we are united. All 1.3 billion people of India.

— R K Mattoo





glory restored
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 Pen is mightier than the tongue

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HISTORIC-EPOCH MAKING

BHOOMI PUJA FOR SRI RAM TEMPLE IN AYODHYA BY PM NARENDRA MODI & DISTINGUISHED INVITEES

BY SOMASEKHAR V K

Maryada (Most respectful) Purushottam Bhagwan Sri Ram as addressed with utmost respect by everybody in the nation epitomises the sacrifice and believed to be an incarnation of God in human form. He is personified with qualities that are divine and supernatural. He too has to undergo several ordeals; hardships when he adorns the human anatomy. Therefore, he becomes very venerable and we all worship him as God cutting across religions and also caste; creed barriers.

Just a caricature and an attempt to bring it into a real life palatable to a common man in a TV serial was a mega hit in year 2000(Y2K) It became most popular and a hit at that time.

During the COVID period the Ministry of Information & broadcasting decided to just re-telecast between March and April 2020 on National Doordarshan Channel. This broke all records for viewership globally for any TV show. DD National said on 16th April 2020 the show created world record of 77 million people watched the show in 1 day and beat the record set by the famous American TV show "Game of Thrones". This only shows that the people of this country especially the young which India proud-



ly can claim as the demographic dividend are fascinated. Goes to show how strong the belief and culturally strong undercurrents. Seeing its popularity, it is dubbed into various regional languages.

Obviously, this sentiment reflects in the birth place of Sri Ram which everybody believes is Ayodhya not withstanding some Leftist and liberal historians trying to raise controversies and give a twist to the whole issue.

Both Somnath and Ayodhya (Sri Ramjanma bhoomi) saw the popping-up of a mosque after demolishing the temple by invaders. Brute desecration of Sanatani deities was witnessed throughout the Islamic era and imposition of Islamic symbols of dominance and violence at their place. It is not only in India but many other parts of the world. However, at the earliest opportune time they were restored elsewhere but our political leadership led by the 1st Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru who had a very nar-

row sectarian view of our culture didn't see the necessity to correct them. True several hundred temples were demolished and its idols desecrated. That too systematically as the rulers who invaded wanted to destroy any symbol or sentiment attached to faith and religion because they knew that it would boomerang on them.

Sad but fact that this was continued even after independence by Congress men led by Nehru. However, some within the party like Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Munshi were very vocal and didn't approve of it. In the case of Somnath in Gujarat which is also the home state of the then powerful leader Sardar Patel, he didn't give up.

A trust was formed in January 1949, with the following objectives: (a) Rebuilding and maintenance of the Somnath temple, (b) Renovation of Dehotsarga - where Krishna parted with his body, and (c) General improvement of the neighbourhood to maintain sanctity. In addition to the above, as in the tradition of great temples being centres of learning, Acharya K M Munshi suggested that an All-India Sanskrit University and a goshala be constructed under the trust and make Somnath a cultural center, which was accepted. By end of 1949, about 25 lakh rupees had been collected for the temple restoration work. The Government of India and the Government of Saurashtra approved the rebuilding on 15 March 1950.

The foundation stone for the rebuilding of the temple was laid on 8 May 1950 by His Highness Jam Saheb. A silver Nandi was consecrated to mark this. The temple in ruins was pulled down on 19 October 1950. However, after the sad demise of Sardar in 1950, the heavy task rested with KM Munshi alone. Munshi was the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Trust formed for this purpose. Seeing Munshi's hard work and efforts to reconstruct Somnath,



Jawaharlal Nehru called. Munshi, who was Food and Agriculture Minister in the Cabinet and was stated to have told him: "I do not like your trying to restore Somnath. It is Hindu revivalism" Can the false Gandhi's Sonia and Rahul be different? Genes!

NOW TO AYODHYA: -

On Jan 16, 1950, Gopal Singh Visharad, an Ayodhya resident filed a case in the court of the civil judge, Faizabad, seeking permission to worship the deities installed at "Asthan Janma Bhoomi" popularly known as Ram Janmabhoomi, an interim injunction was granted which restrained the Muslim community from removing the idols. Soon, another resident went to court seeking permission to pray inside the temple.

It opened flood gates and many people and various Hindu organisations approached the court seeking permission to pray at the contested site in Ayodhya.

Compare this with what happened elsewhere in the world

IN 1918 IN WARSAW, AT THE END OF FIRST RUSSIAN OCCUPATION OF POLAND (1614-1915), ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS THAT POLISH PEOPLE DID WAS TO BRING DOWN THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CATHEDRAL THAT WAS BUILT BY RUSSIANS IN THE CENTRE OF THE TOWN. THIS WAS DONE DESPITE THE FACT POLES ARE CHRISTIANS BY FAITH AND JESUS CHRIST WAS WORSHIPPED IN THAT CATHEDRAL. THE POLES DEMOLISHED THE CATHEDRAL BUILT BY RUSSIANS BECAUSE THEY VIEWED THE CATHEDRAL NOT AS A PLACE OF WORSHIP RATHER A STRUCTURE THAT REMINDED THEM OF THEIR SLAVERY.

AROUND THE 12TH CENTURY, SPAIN WAS CONQUERED BY MOORS AND THE PEOPLE WERE FORCIBLY CONVERTED FROM CHRISTIANITY TO ISLAM. IN THE 16TH CENTURY, WHEN CHRISTIANS RECOVERED THE WHOLE OF SPAIN FROM MOORS, THEY GAVE MUSLIMS IN THEIR COUNTRY ONLY THREE CHOICES- RECONVERT TO CHRISTIANITY, LEAVE THE COUNTRY ALONG WITH THE MOORS, OR BE KILLED. ALL THE MUSLIM PLACES OF WORSHIP WERE CONVERTED BACK TO CHRISTIAN CHURCHES. THIS RE-CHRISTIANISATION WAS ALSO DONE WITH FORCE

If one were to study history carefully; shallow thinking and compromises with the British who tactfully used their divide and rule policy even while leaving our shores.

Partition was a big farce and was done most crudely and without application of mind. Most of these are surfacing now and with great difficulty we are trying to overcome them. Be it in Kashmir or even with China in the border; they are so fragile that no leadership subsequently also tried to resolve. Because they were of the same clan and continued with status quo. This is also the same with many such disputes. This includes the Ram Janmabhoomi; which incidentally continued with the British Policy of brazen injustice to Hindus.

After a few Muslims slaughtered a cow in Ayodhya, a pitched battle ensued between the Hindus and Muslim the butchers who had slaughtered the cow were decimated and subsequently the Hindu samaj attacked the structure (Babri) thereby damaging all its three domes and took possession of the Babri structure. However, Britishers forcibly took back the Babri Structure from Hindu Samaj and imposed a penalty on the Hindus to carry out repair work of the damaged domes. Since 1934 no Muslim has ever dared to enter the premises of the so called Babri mosque for worship or even for sightseeing!!

Here is a brief timeline: 1528 AD - Mir Baki, the Commander-in-Chief of Babur destroys the Shri Rama Janmabhoomi Temple at Ayodhya

Number of battles that have been fought from 1528 till 1934 was 76.

So, it is incorrect to believe that it was a Political idea when BJP didn't even exist or neither its old avatar Jan Sangh. Consistent struggle between the Hindus and some sections of Muslims continued.

Infact it is even ironical that no Muslim family stays in Ayodhya town within the "Panchakosi Parikrama" (5 km) which is the circuit surrounding the temple there are no minority population at all. This many aren't even aware. But mischief mongers found a single family and they started to raise a revolt through him. Thus, it went on dragging in courts.

The real issue is how the present-day Muslims view the Babri structure. Do they consider it as their holy place? If the answer is yes, then they end up owning the barbarism of Babur and others like him.

Most Muslims have now realised this and are keeping distance from such

The right way for Muslims is to distance themselves away from such vandalism and barbarism of the past.

When the Germans are asked to apologise for the crimes of Hitler, they do not hesitate to do so, clearly indicating that they do not own Nazism.

Hindus have asked for a peaceful return, through judiciary and negotiations, of only three of their holy sites (Ayodhya, Mathura and Kashi)

that were vandalised. Hindus are not asking for thousands of other temples that were plundered, looted, destroyed and mosques were built thereupon.

Unfortunately, Congress and their splinters thought that they are appeasing Muslims by opposing Hindu right to get back what belonged to them. This suited their narrative and thus a huge confrontation between two politically opposite hues started to build up.

As BJP started to grow; so, their political ideology of believing in Hindu ethos which was naturally their fundamental base as they were an offshoot of the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh. The later got comfort in pursuing their avowed commitment that was strong and part of their natural commitment of unifying Hindus.

RSS basic principle is to build a strong India going back to its roots and ethos. Towards this it believes firmly that it can be achieved by building character; discipline and physical fitness as well as addressing the issues that divide us. Hence it works with zeal and committed cadres to build a strong force that can combat any such threats.

Case in point is the Vivekananda memorial in Kanyakumari. When there was a huge conspiracy to convert fishermen and a well-designed scheme to use the rock for its purpose. It was the RSS that jumped into the bandwagon and sent its most powerful pracharak in Eknath ji Ranade. When it needed dedicated organisers to build its cause; this can be considered as big "Sacrifice" going to prove that threat and unity of Hindu samaj is more sacred than its own internal necessity. Something unthinkable for a nascent organisation. It worked. Today we see a huge monument there. Also, it wasn't built on Government support or funded by any Corporates. It was made up individual contribution of every Citizen of this country. That is how there is a sense of belonging and ownership. Rest is of course history. Similarly, you find this pattern reflected everywhere as if it is a template.

Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) which came into existence in 1964 when 2nd most dynamic Sarasangachalak Poojaneya M S Golwalkar (Guruji) along with S S Apte and Chinmayananda The delegation of the founders included Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan founder K. M. Munshi, Gujarati scholar Keshavram Kashiram Shastri, Sikh leader Master Tara Singh, Namdhari Sikh leader Satguru Jagjit Singh and eminent politicians such as C. P. Ramaswamy Iyer. Chinmayananda was nominated as its founding President. It was with the purpose of uniting all the Dharma Gurus and different mahants, sadhus and saints on a single platform to holistically decide about the welfare of the Hindu Samaj. Brilliant concept indeed. It was the Dharma Sansad that gave a clarion call to liberate Ayodhya (Sriram) Mathura (Sri Krishna) and Kashi (Shiva) Leaving aside several other temples that may have been destroyed.

This culminated into a plan of action and working forward. So, in 1989, opening of the Locks of Ayodhya by Rajiv Gandhi government gave it a fillip and a new opportunity. Subsequently, the momentum picked up.

So, from 1990 and due to some other undercurrents, that developed which threatened the unity of Hindus and most dangerous came this issue as very handy. Thus, culminating in an open virulent campaign by Sri L K Advani. His Rath Yatra evoked emotive spontaneous response.

RSS had to only collaborate its activity in support of the decision of the VHP and Dharma Sansad.

We all saw how RSS fought against the emergency. But for their planning and precision it would have been impossible to take on the might of Indira Gandhi and remove this blunder. It is their planning and execution that stunned even leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan (JP) and they became admirers. Infact many may not be aware that the coming together of several political parties totally in variance was possible due to the sterling effort of Sri Dattopant Tengadi who was heading the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) Trade union. But for his effort it would have been impossible to bring the likes of hawks like socialist leaders like George Fernandez; Madhu Limaye, Madhu Dandavate, Morarji Desai, Charan Singh and Jagjivan Ram and Chandrashekar on one platform. Let alone convincing Sri Lal Krishna Advani to join them. The kind of parleys he held and his ability to iron out the differences and make them agree on broad outlines was responsible for the defeat of Congress. Otherwise Janata Party Government wouldn't have come to rule at all. Infact there were 90 members of the Jan Sangh faction in the Janata Party that included Atal Behari Vajpayee, Sikandar bhakt etc. It's a different factor that they broke up very soon.

So, the point is that in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement also it was the backroom preparations of unifying Hindus and catching the imagination to mobilize them that paid huge dividends.

This systematic planning was done by Sri Moreshwar Nilkanth Pingley (Moropantji) as he was fondly addressed) was one of the few honed under the mentorship of both K. B. Hedgewar and M.S. Golwalkar. He remained a key link between the RSS and VHP as a 'trustee' (marghadarshak) of the VHP, and strongly influenced its conduct from 1980 onwards. The conversion of hundreds of Hindus at Meenakshipuram in 1981 led to organisation of the first "Ekatmata Yatra" by the VHP in 1983. Due to his excellent organisational skills,



Moropant was given the responsibility of planning, co-ordinating and executing the Yatra. During its planning, Moropant extensively travelled around India. His effective selection of routes to be taken by the Ekatmata Rath (chariots), magnified the impact of the Yatra. The Yatra in 1983 was followed by the "Ram-Janki" Rath Yatra in 1984. It was a precursor to the Ram Janmabhoomi movement. The aim of this Yatra was to reunite the Hindus, and to kindle the feeling of pride amongst them. Seven chariots travelled through Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, where Rama was shown behind bars depicting his state inside the Ram temple in Ayodhya. Moropant was appointed as the convener and controller of this Yatra. In 1986, the Faizabad court ordered the unlocking of the temple. was a founder member of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad many outside the RSS may not even know or have heard off. He was the master brain and brilliant organiser who initially brought up the "Paduka Pujan" (Symbolic Sri Ram's pair of sandals) Remember in the Ramayan-Bharat carrying it when Sri Ram went to exile?! Yes exactly to bring this significance. It was taken for darshan all over the country. After this came the bricks with inscription of Sri Ram. Every nook and corner of the country was covered; people performed poojas and sent their contribution to Ayodhya. These were the ones that was collected and kept in Karsevakpuram. This would be used in Temple construction. He was ably supported by Sri Ashok Singhal former Working President of the VHP.

Naturally; this got a fillip when L K Advani



Sri Ashok Singhal- Former VHP President a major contributor to the movement in the insert



A model of Ram temple at Kar Sewak Puram in Ayodhya. The Ram Lalla idol in Ayodhya was shifted to a temporary new location thus clearing the site to begin construction of a Ram temple.

BJP took out his Rath Yatra through out the country and it got a new dimension. That time Lalu Prasad Yadav was the Chief Minister in Bihar and he did the foolish thing of stopping the Rath yatra to please his other bosses in Congress. This went against the sentiment of Hindus and ignited more anger. Added to this Mulayam Singh Yadav was the Chief Minister in Uttar Pradesh. He went a step further and challenged the RSS. He said not a 'Bird can fly into Ayodhya' let alone anywhere close to the Temple. This aroused the cadres. So, a huge congregation assembled and they broke all cardons and challenged the Police also.

Ram Kothari (22) and Sharad Kothari (20) were killed in police firing during Kar seva at the Ram Janmabhoomi site in Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh in 1990. Their 'Balidan' doesn't go a waste! Family members of Kolkata kar sevaks who died in police firing at the Ram Janmabhoomi site 29 years ago hailed the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayodhya case and said the judgment is like Diwali and Holi for them. The Kothari brothers regularly visited the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) shakha near their residence at Burra bazar in central Kolkata. They went to Ayodhya responding to the Vishwa Hindu Parishad's call for Kar seva/ Several people, including the Kothari brothers,

were killed in police firing there at that time.

"Our entire family is very happy. We waited for 29 long years for justice. My brothers who died fighting for Ram Mandir would now rest in peace. It's like a second Diwali and Holi for all of us," Poomima, elder sister of the Kothari brothers, said on November 9. "Whenever the construction of Ram Mandir begins at the holy site, we will visit Ayodhya to pay homage to our brothers and all those kar sevaks who lost their lives she said.

After a long drawn out battle which ultimately went to Allahabad High Court and a 3-judge bench gave a split judgement on September 30, 2010 It raised many issues rather than resolving. Later it was challenged in Supreme Court.

There was another delay of almost a decade. Ultimately the five judges Supreme Court bench heard the title dispute cases from August to October 2019 continuously seemed determined to complete the hearing and give its verdict. On 9 November 2019, the SC gave an unanimous unambiguous order on the land to be handed over to a trust to build the Hindu temple. Even here it would have prolonged indefinitely because all inimical forces came together and determined to block. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi played a brilliant card. He appealed to the apex court to permit the undisputed land acquired by Government to be handed over to the parties. On 5 February 2020, the trust known as Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra was created by the Government of India.

"We welcome the verdict, it shouldn't be looked at a defeat or victory for anyone, rather something that would strengthen the sense of unity in the country," RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said.

On Kashi and Mathura, Mr. Bhagwat says that there was a historic background to the RSS being involved with Ayodhya. "As an organisation we don't otherwise involve ourselves in agitations and we will revert to our man making mission," he clarified.

Members of the Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra, the trust setup to oversee construction of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya, during its first meeting at Greater Kailash - I in New Delhi. Ram Janam Bhoomi Nyas Chief Mahant Nritya Gopal Das (3rd from Right) is also seen.

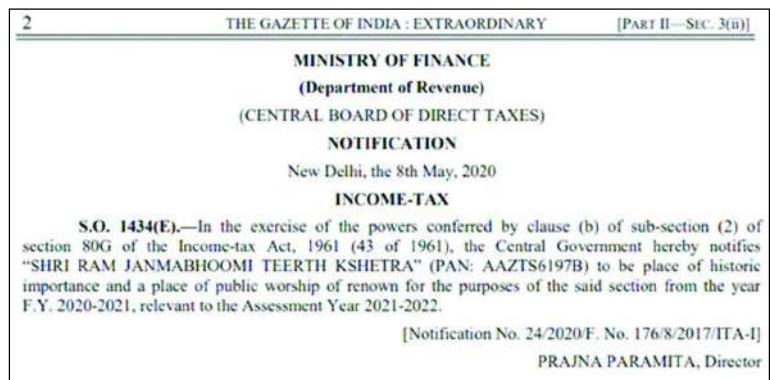
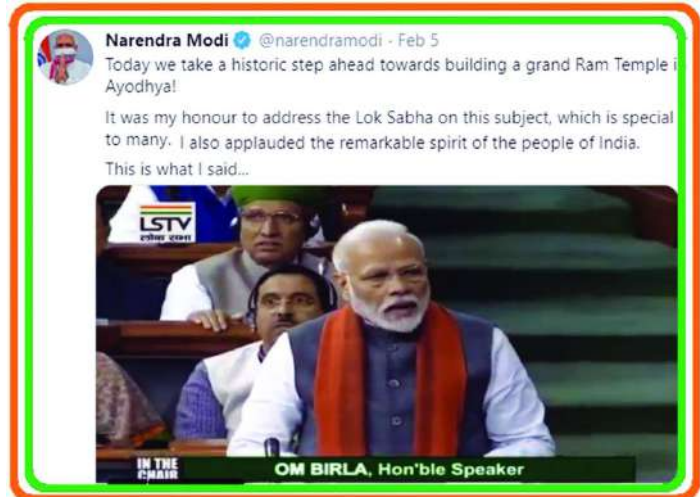
Ever since the construction has started in right earnest.

The first phase of construction had earlier begun on March 25, when the Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath had then gone to Ayodhya and participated in the "Pran-Pratishtha" rituals with saints and seers in Ayodhya city. He had also taken part in the ritual for shifting of the Ram Lalla idol to the new makeshift structure on March 2, just a day before Navratri.

Dr Manmohan Vaidya the present Sarkaryavaha of the RSS said. "The issue was no more limited to Hindus and Muslims or a temple or a mosque, but about the restoration of the pride of the country"

PLAN SOME OVERSIGHT

- The Temple will be built as a 2 storied structure-270 ft Long 145 ft Wide & 141 ft Height at a cost of Rs 7.75 billion.
- Ram Lalla idol will be installed in the ground floor while the first floor will house "Ram Durbar" or Court hall of Lord Ram!
- About 250 Lakh Cubic feet of Rajasthan Stones is to be used.
- Thirupathi Balaji Temple TTD Trust to donate 100 crore Rs for construction of Ayodhya Ram mandir
- The original design for the temple was prepared in 1988. A new design was prepared in 2020 in which the temple is 280 feet wide, 300 feet long and 161 feet high. The chief architect of the temple is Chandrakant Sompura along with his two sons Nikhil Sompura and Ashish Sompura, who are also architects.
- The temple complex will have a prayer hall, "a Ramkatha Kunj (lecture hall) a Vaidik Pathshala (educational facility), a Sant Niwas (saints' residence) and a Yatri Niwas (hostel for visitors)" and other facilities like a museum and a cafeteria. Once complete the temple complex will be the world's third largest Hindu shrine. A



model of the proposed temple was showcased during the Prayag Kumbh Mela in 2019.

- Three-day long Vedic rituals will be held ahead of the Bhoomi Puja.
- Holy water from various rivers across India Viz: Triveni Ganga of rivers Ganga; Yamuna;Saraswati at Prayag raj and Kaveri at Tala Cauvery-Karnataka and many others have been collected.
- Ground Soil was also sent from various Hindu temples; Gurudwaras and Jain Temples across the nation to bless the upcoming temple. Among the many was Sharada Peeth located in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) Soil was also brought from Nagpur; Headquarters of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.
- Ramlala's dress will be stitched by tailors Bhagwat Prasad and Shankar Lal; Shankar Lal's is a fourth-generation tailor to Lord Ram's idol.
- A time capsule, enlisting the history and facts related to the Ram





Janmabhoomi (birthplace of Lord Ram), will be placed about 2,000 feet below the temple construction site in Ayodhya to avoid any disputes in the future, said the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust member Kameshwar Chaupal. According to Chaupal, the "struggle for Ram Janmabhoomi", including the long-drawn case in the SC, has given a lesson for the

current and upcoming generations. Chaupal further said that the time capsule would be placed below the Ram temple construction site inside a Tamra Patra (copper plate).

During excavation of the construction site a five-foot Shivaling, seven pillars of black touchstone, six pillars of red sandstone and broken idols of Devi-Devtas were found. Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, said that since 10 days the ground at the site was being levelled and that is when the ancient artefacts were found.

APPEAL BY VISHWA HINDU PARISHAD: -

- 1) On August 5 Wednesday, 2020, at 10.30 a.m., all the revered Sant-Mahatmas, in their respective monasteries, Ashrams and all the devotees living in the country and abroad, sitting together in their homes or nearby temples or Ashrams, should offer worship to their respective adored deities, recite Kirtans, offer flowers, perform Aarti and distribute Prasad.
- 2) Arrange, as far as possible, to show the Poojan ceremony in Ayodhya to the local communities in your respective areas live on television / big screen in a huge auditorium / hall.
- 3) Decorate your houses, neighbourhoods, villages, markets, monasteries, Gurudwaras, Ashrams, etc., as much as possible, and distribute Prasad and also light lamps after sunset in the evening.
- 4) Resolve to donate, as much as you can, for the construction of Shri Ram's Temple of Nativity.
- 5) Coming to Ayodhya under present circumstances can cause a lot of inconvenience, so, observe this festival with great pomp and ceremony in your homes, nearby monasteries or local public places.
- 6) Using all means of publicity, make this grand programme available to more and more people of the society.
- 7) In all the above-mentioned plans and programmes, follow all COVID-19 pandemic preventive guidelines issued by the government and local administration.

This will also boost our economy by tourism in years to come with the way Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath working in tandem. Just mark my words. ■

{The author is an accredited journalist and the Associate Editor of Spade A Spade; you can send comments-Views to vks4spadeaspade@gmail.com}



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during his recent visit to Ayodhya placed the idols of Laxman, Bharat and Shatrughan on the new 'asans' at the Ram Janmabhoomi temple site.



Some among the idols depicting events in the life of Lord Ram, that are planned to be used as part of the construction of the Ram Temple, at a workshop in Ayodhya.



Ayodhya Ram Temple construction: Ram Lalla to be placed on 9.5-kg silver throne at makeshift temple near Manas Bhawan on March 25th 2020



INDIA TAKING OFF — THE SIDDHA WAY

BY BV ANAND

As I was contemplating on localized sustainable intervention, I came across the story of a famous Siddhar- Idaikkadar who lived between 500 BCE and 3000 BCE. As an enlightened being, Siddhar- Idaikkadar foresaw a famine before few years of its occurrence. He trained his goats to eat Erukku (Calotropis) leaves that grows abundantly in cemeteries and barren land, as these plants can sustain even during drought. He also built a house with mud walls, wherein the mud was mixed with a corn/ millet called as kuru-varagu (Kodo millet- *Paspalum scorbiculatum*). When the famine period approached, the goats developed body itching after eating Erukku leaves and hence used to rub their body against the course mud wall and as a result, the corn used to fall down. The Siddhar Idaikkadar used to collect these corns and made meal out of the corn and offer it along with goat's milk to the people affected by famine!



GOVERNMENTAL INTERVENTION IN LOCALIZING AND REJUVENATING VARIOUS SECTORS

The most prominent features in the above story is all about accurate forecasting, planning with sustainable and localized interventions. Only time will tell whether Modi's Government's intervention through Aatmanirbar Bharath along with unleashing populists measures and many legislations, has helped in sustaining and rejuvenating the future of India's economy. The pandemic has increased consumer comfort with contactless purchases, and 25 percent of Indian customers are now willing to use digital channels to buy high-value items. There is an unprecedented negative impact on the tourism/ hospitality sector, the Aviation sector, the Construction and Real estate sector and MSME's. India is having 500 million workers (90% are in unorganised sector) and 50 million of them are migrants. It is pertinent here to note that agricultural labour constitutes about 27% of the total workers in India (GoI 2011). The center needs to ensure the social security code to be allocated to migrants so that they get benefits even outside the state,



as it is a better mode than Aadhar.

Recent McKinsey report states that, the women are more vulnerable to COVID-19-related economic effects because of existing gender inequalities. Women make up 39 percent of global employment but account for 54 percent of overall job losses and women's jobs are 1.8 times more vulnerable to this crisis than men's jobs.

The COVID pandemic scare seems to be playing "Kabbaddi" with the Government's "Lockdown and un-lockdown" measures. Many mathematical modeling has failed in accurately estimating the spread of COVID, as they were based on few parameters and inaccurate weightages given to ground realities that are incomprehensible in nature. Whatever may be the scenario, the economy will takeoff only after the transcending the COVID Scare and after the lock-downs are lifted. One has to see if the Governmental interventions sprouts up the economy, or, will the situation remains similar to red-hot coal filled in a bamboo basket !

REJUVENATING MSME's

The COVID impact is most felt on the Urban labourers working in 80% of the MSME that includes the informal sector, the Real Estate and travel and tourism sector. While the Government has done the maximum to revive the MSME's (that contributes almost 30% of the GDP growth and 48% of

the exports) by pushing ₹ 3 Lakh Crores Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme. But this facility is yet to be availed by MSME's because many enterprises aren't aware of this scheme. Though RBI has infused Rs. 8 Lakhs crores in Banks, but banks are parking money by reverse REPO and thus have failed to pass on the Governmental initiatives to the MSME's due to the fear of failure in recovery. Moreover, there is surge of public deposits in the Banks and hence, liquidity isn't an issue anymore for Banks. May be, as Mr. D. Subba Roa (Former RBI Governor) says, the Government should explore creating a "Financial Council" under the Finance Minister to further build up the efficiency of the 5 major departments of the Ministry!

In the above context, the only hope is to strengthen Non-Banking Finance Corporations (NBFC) which is the true backbone of MSME's. NBFC's are capable of identifying, giving financial awareness to MSME's, giving loans, as well as the recovering the loans. This, despite the fact that 90% of the smaller NBFC's/ Micro Financing Institutions (MFI's), out of around 8000 NBFC's, aren't supported by Banks, though there is a greater demand at the bottom of the pyramid. The Government needs to give term loans to NBFC's with long term financing. The Government needs to transcend the

banks to give credit to NBFC's. Since, NBFC is the RNA of Finance sector- Micro-Small Enterprises, they are capable of ensuring the Government's Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme to percolates to the last mile! It's a welcome move that the central government is now planning to decriminalize the bouncing of Cheque and making it a civil offence, as more than 38 Lakhs cheque-bouncing cases are in courts.

DOMESTIC VALUE ADDITION-LOCALIZATION

The ministry of Commerce and Industry has asked other ministry's to prepare product lists with potential for domestic value addition. - This includes Steel, auto components, heavy machinery, telecom, consumer electronics and railways (role of value addition can be widened in case of rolling stocks, indiane many sub-assemblies, electric fitting and propulsion systems, signaling (At present 70% is local) and communication systems, wheel sets, in railways). Current norms of 50% local content can be raised to 75%. The ministries are asked to revise their value addition norms upwards and make them higher so that the domestic industry is encouraged to produce more. Around 60% to 65% of auto components are critical parts of Engine pistons, transmission drives, steering and body components, - which are imported by China, is under scanner. In the steel sector, domestic value addition is in the range of 15% to 50%-this needs to go up.

REJUVENATING REAL ESTATE SECTOR

The share of Real Estate in India's GDP is around 6.3% and was expected to reach 13 % by 2025. The present COVID crisis impact on the Real Estate is unprecedented and has eroded the market to almost zero during the lockdown. Real Estate sector are generally long term investments and hence the Banks need to shed their fear and support the sector. The sector's interdependency of migration of labourers to their native places, supply chain aberrations, cost overruns and liquidity crisis has hit the Industry.

The Real Estate sector's dependency on China, with regards to low-cost Iron and steel products, Construction equipments, Solar panels and electronic equipments has posed higher cost to the existing projects, but is an opportunity to the Indian Industries to gear up its production indigenously with Government support.

During 1990's many Real Estate Investments went to China, due to half hearted approach by India in opening up the sector. This resulted in many new townships being built in China, whereas for some who ventured into India- through their projects failed to take off due to many encumbrances and litigations related to land. Now, the Government plans to set up a Permanent



Working Group (PWG) to make specific recommendations to rejuvenate the Real Estate sector.

Real Estate in India hasn't grown its fullest potential due to various Governmental policies/ regulations and the same need to be simplified in terms of Land acquisition (on Win-Win Basis) and approval process without any political interference. The local bodies and Development authorities have become dens of corruption and unaccountable and hence the same need to be sterilized, even if it costs in debunking some of the provisions of the 63rd and the 74th Amendment. The CAG should become proactive in assessing the Governance at the local level. India cannot and shouldn't wait for a long time to witness this change!

AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING SCHEME

As there is an ongoing discussions regarding the demands of the migrant workers (in their native villages) to doubling their pay in MGNREGA jobs, but, the unlocking of cities are witnessing the surge of return of these migrant workers. The government has mooted a new Affordable Rental Housing scheme- which is a sub-scheme of PMAY- Urban- for the poor migrants with the unit size varying between 30 sq.mts to 60 sq.mt. Probably, 100% FDI into this scheme with a PPP model, will be mooted soon. Hopefully, many challenges to the implementation of this scheme like the identification of migrants, transcending the political influence in allotment, terms of rent, operation and maintenance, etc., will be mitigated through proper guideline.

REJUVENATING THE FARM SECTOR

There seems to be a great enthusiasm built

around the farm sector equivalent to a revolution. Legislations and Ordinances has brought in the Land reforms act to accommodate Non-Agriculturists to participate in the sector. Greater push to amalgamate the land indirectly vide the "Farmer's producer organization", opening up the barriers to agri- horticulture market with an intension to double the farmer's income. There is a need to create great awareness about the advantages of FPO's amongst farmers, and, even many Farmer leaders whom I spoke aren't aware about the FPO. There is a need to assess the extent of post harvest infrastructure needed in each taluk and the same need to be created for to establish a good supply-chain of farm products. The impact of greater concentration on farming is already seen 4% increase in the sales of Agri-equipments and tractors as well as personalized vehicles in Rural areas and lower tier cities.

Infact, it is observed that there has been positive surge in GST collection in predominantly rural areas-states like Madhya pradesh (+24%) , Chattisgarh (+22%) and Assam (+21%). The multiplier effect of success may lead to the organic development the lower tier cities. This is a chance for the Government/ local bodies ready to take up the challenge to invigorate and channelize development of lower-tier cities to achieve the Regional Balance in the overall state's Development.

There has been great enthusiasm shown by the Indian Citizens with the arrival of the French Rafale fighter planes. The honour given to these Rafale aircrafts seems to be greater than the honour that any French President gets when he arrives to India. The excitement of the Indian citizens are easily explainable as they were frustrated as they witnessed corrupt defense deals by the Congress with no new fighter planes getting inducted in IAF for almost two decades, that made the country vulnerable to the might of Chinese defense strength.

Upon witnessing that enthusiasm, I tweeted that Indians will be more proud if India can produce its own world class fighter planes. And India needs work systematically on perfect Governance uptill the local level, fill the Gender gap to surge the Education, SPORTS and Economic entitlement and empowerment. And most importantly, India need to produce atleast 300 each- world class mathematicians, Agriculturists, physicists, Engineers, Planners,

Economists, Entrepreneurs, Inter-Disciplinary Medical hubs, sports persons and Archeologists, in the next 5 years to come! Hopefully, the Visionary New Education policy will be implemented in totality to achieve this!

NEW EDUCATION POLICY- TAKING OFF!

It's a welcome move that the Government plans to spend 6% of the GDP on Education. We aren't sure whether 6% is sufficient or we need more than 6%. There is a need for an audit to be conducted to assess the cost of refurbishing of existing Government educational and sports infrastructure (Refurbishing infrastructure is generally ignored), cost of the provision of New facilities and the cost of appointing subject specific teachers to match with the New Education Policies. Greater emphasis should be given to the Girl's education in both rural and urban areas., since the Global Gender gap report states India's overall ranking is 108 and ranks 114 in Educational Attainment, ranks 147 in Health and Survival and ranks 19 in Political Empowerment.

NEED TO REJUVENATE THE HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

There are 1,60,713 Sub Centers (SCs) (1,57,411 rural + 3,302 urban), 30,045 Primary Health Centers (PHCs) (24,855 rural + 5,190 urban) and 5,685 Community Health Centers (CHCs) (5335 rural + 350 urban) functional in the country. The Government of India (GoI) has decided to provide Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) to ensure health for all by December, 2022 under the AB-HWCs (Health and Wellness Clinics), and has issued 124.6 Million PM-JAY (Jan Aarogya Yojana) card since 2015, for free health care, under Ayushman Bharath Health Care system that has empanelled 21,233 hospitals across the country. It's encouraging that IBM has announced - India specific AI based tools in health care sector and development of better models for early identification of disease/ disease prediction and analysis.

However, it's sad that India ranks 113 under the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)- [MMR- Number of Maternal deaths/ 100,000 live births- within 42 days o- before or after pregnancy), wherein, UN has fixed a target ranking to be less than 70]. India just has 988,922 doctors-majority in Urban Areas (One Doctor/ 1314 persons-India needs 2 Million Doctors and 6 million Nurses by 2030), 2.58 Million Nurses (Includes 7.86 Lakhs Auxiliary Nurse Mid wives- 1 Nurse/ 504 people- Shortfall of 2 Million Nurses). There are only 7,13,986 total government hospital beds available in India (0.55 beds per 1000 population-



abysmally low in India. India needs more doctors, Nurses and Hospital Beds.

When it comes to Health Infrastructure, it is observed that, there are many gaps that need to be filled up to make these Health Centers in Rural and Semi-Urban areas work efficiently, especially in the post LOCK DOWN scenario. When it comes to building infrastructure, there is need for Medical staff quarters/ Nurse Quarters / Staff Quarters- It is unfortunate to know that many of these Health Centers don't have adequate Medical equipments and the Medical staff is less compared with the prescribed Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS). Hence, the REJUVENATION of Health Centers in Rural areas should be geared up to the expected standards.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

It's encouraging that the Government has given the status of MSME for the tourism sector! Government continuously recommended the traditional medicine, praanayama and Meditation to rise the immunity levels of an Individual!. The post lockdown period should emphasis on calibrated opening of certain tourist religious places with scientific pre-conditions to improve the regional tourism. We need more number of archeologists with specialized team of Linguists, Human Ecologists, Biochemists, Psychologists, Statisticians, anthropologists, great historians, etc., and a vibrant Ministry of Culture and Archeology department to explore, excavate India's past glories, treasures and time lines. This will fix many false narratives and can create a big leap in both regional and international tourism!!!

There is a need to rejuvenate many archeological department's governed temples that are in dilapidated state. As the Ram Temple being planned in Ayodhya, there is a need to revitalize the Ramayana Trail tourism similar to that in Sri Lanka. Many people still don't know about a place called as Aavani- the area

believed to as the place where mother Sita merged with mother Earth, but the temple there is highly dilapidated and is under Archeology Department. There are many examples like that!

CONCLUSION

In the meantime, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) envisages the decade of 2020's as the "Global Climate Mitigation decade", as it expects more than 50% of the people will be exposed to water stress and hundreds of millions more people at risk of climate related poverty in the future! The Jal Shakthi program need to be expedited ensuring pure drinking water to every rural and urban Household. The global warming has lead to rise in sea levels devastating millions in coastal areas and many fatalities are the women and children who don't know to swim! This calls for Governmental intervention to train the women and children (in swimming) in the coastal areas, especially in India.

India revised its land restoration target to 26 million hectares from the previous 21 million hectares in the recently held United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and there is a need to re-define the "Waste Land- Classification" with an objective to restore and rejuvenate it further and reuse it as farm land. While, there is a need to achieve the forest cover target of 33%, the Aatmanirbhaar proposal to create more botanical gardens is a ray of hope for reinventing the traditional medicine. The Agasthyavana- Botanical Garden in Kuppam and in Kerala is a good example of Botanical Gardens. Not many know that there were similarities between the Siddhar-Agasthyar works on medicine with Hippocrates and the same is evident in his medicinal work-"Karunadhichutram". And, the great Siddhar Bogar who lived for sometime in the region which is presently the China, invented and introduced the "Cina-Caram"- Chinese salt, on his return to India. The AYUSH departments need to work proactively with the researchers in Ayurvedic- Siddhi- Unani- Homeopathy along with the Modern medicine to grow medicinal plants and validate- as well as prove its effectiveness in creating robust environment in rural and urban areas and also in treating various diseases!

The Siddhar way is nothing but the Localizing Sustainable Development, is neither the "Part to Whole approach" nor "Whole to part approach", but is a combination of both the approaches! The present situation gives a clarion call for the Siddhar way of living and development in India! ■

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A HOUSE FOR PRIYANKA VADRA

BY B. SOMESWAR RAO

HOUSING IN LUTYEN'S DELHI, like 'Z' security or red lights atop cars, is a status symbol in the political culture evolved by the Nehru dynasty. Just as India and Bharat are different from each other, residents of Lutyen's Delhi differ from the ordinary residents of the country and are more privileged. Efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to end the 'VIP culture' of those who acquire political power have failed because the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party too has, at least partly, imbibed this political culture as the privileged politicians enjoy attract people to politics (besides the chance to acquire huge illegal wealth. The late Ram Jethmalani estimated that Indian politicians and their cronies stacked ₹1500 billion in secret Swiss bank accounts).

In a rare major victory for Modi's efforts Priyanka Gandhi Vadra vacated on July 30 the Lodhi Road house she had been occupying for the last 23 years at nominal rent.

One of the steps by Modi to end the 'VIP culture' was that on July 1, the Centre had asked Priyanka, daughter of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who had ruled India for long, to vacate government bungalow No.35 Lodhi Road, allotted to her for which an ordinary citizen has to pay ₹ 20 lakhs a month, while she paid only ₹ 37,000 now and much less earlier. It was a one month notice to vacate it by August 1.

Many Congress leaders had protested against this "vindictive" action, defending her right to enjoy such accommodation. (Shahshi Tharoor may still be searching dictionaries for long unintelligible, unpronounceable words to condemn the action.) Sycophancy and loyalty to the dynasty are the main qualifications for Congress leaders. It is to be noted that political privileges are conferred only on those Congressmen (or women) loyal to Indira dynasty and not others. This started right from the days of Indira Gandhi's father Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first PM.

Nehru did not like Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India. So when his term ended, he was packed off from Delhi and sent to Patna in his home State, Bihar. There too he had no place to live. Hence he lived his last days in a damp room in an Ashram without medical aid. A leading and very rich lawyer, Prasad had sacrificed all for the freedom movement.

Sardar Patel was the first Deputy Prime Minister of India. He was also the Home Minister and would have been the Prime



Minister if Gandhi had not chosen Nehru (maybe not to be accused of favoring Patel, a fellow Gujarati). He integrated over 562 Princely States to make India a nation. His spinster elder sister had no house in Delhi and died in Gujarat in a small place.

P. V. Narsimha Rao, the PM succeeded by Indira loyalist Manmohan Singh, liberalized Indian economy. He kept Congress in power for a full term though it did not have a majority but its dislike for PV, whose centenary (2020) it ignored, was never hidden. He and the most honest Congress PM Lal Bahadur Shastri remain unmentioned at Congress meetings where party men vie with each other to praise the Gandhi dynasty. PV was not allowed to be cremated in Delhi, but it was done in Telangana his home State, without State honors. Congress leaders left the crematorium with his half burnt body on the extinguished funeral pyre. Gulzarilal Nanda, twice the acting PM, died in his rented house in Ahmedabad and the best President, APJ Abdul Kalam, refused a second term by the Congress, was confined to Rameswaram.

Sitaram Kesari, a name-sake Congress President, was literally thrown off and bundled out of Congress Head Quarters because the Gandhi clan disliked him. Though V. V. Giri was put up by Indira Gandhi against her own party's official candidate, N. Sanjeeva Reddy and was the father of the trade union movement in India, Indira chose to ignore him as he opposed blocking the railway strike and her bid for a 'committed judiciary' by promoting Justice A.N. Ray as the Chief Justice of India over three seniors. When Giri died in 1980 in Chennai he was cremated there itself. None of his children or wife got posts but his successor Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed's widow Zubeda had several terms in Parliament. Ahmed was immor-

talized as the President who signed ordinances from a bathtub and proclaimed Emergency. While PV was flown off to Hyderabad, Ahmed was buried in Delhi, right opposite the Parliament building, though he hailed from Assam. He was a favourite.

N. Sanjeeva Reddy, who had sworn in Indira Gandhi on her come back, chose Bengaluru to live in when his term ended, though he belonged to AP. He had no place in Delhi having defected to the Janata Party. Karnataka gave him not only the best government mansion available, Balabruvi, but also a car and other facilities. Before he shifted to the bungalow, Indian Express reported, he had sold off his private car!

Sonia Gandhi occupies a government building almost one-and-a-half times bigger than PM house. Rahul occupies another big government house separately though single. Delhi had no place for Prasad, PV, Patel, Giri, Reddy or Kalam but for years Priyanka Gandhi occupied a Government residence in Lutyen's Delhi at nominal rent. No one dared ask the obvious: in what capacity? This special treatment to the Gandhi family seems to be because the party believes in dynasty rule. A faction in the party sees Priyanka as a future Prime Minister as her brother Rahul, heading another faction, has proved himself unfit. That explains why, all of a sudden, the sycophant Indian media suddenly replaced all stock photographs of Rahul and Priyanka by new pictures (perhaps provided by Congress publicists) that look very much like those of Rajiv and Indira. They know that this does matter in India, where Congress Party took over the Indian National Congress, which was the freedom movement, ignoring Mahatma Gandhi's advice to wind it up and a family changes its name from Gandhi to Gandhi just to fool ignorant voters into believing they are related to Gandhiji.

Names and fake images, like VIP culture and caste, bring votes in India.

When ex PM Chaudhary Charan Singh died, his family had to vacate the Government bungalows. So was the case with another former PM, Chandra Shekhar. We read of the incumbent Prime Minister of India leaving 10, Downing Street the day a new Prime Minister is elected in the United Kingdom or a President of the United States vacating the White House as soon as a new President's term begins. Photos of one of the world's most powerful leaders, Vladimir Putin, filling petrol in his own car or of the Prime Minister of New Zealand driving her own car and picking up another celebrity, go viral on WhatsApp in India. ■

The Hindu Roots of Kashmir

BY PROF. SATISH GANJOO



The great Mughal Emperor abolished jazia and other unjust taxes imposed upon the Hindus. He also evinced great interest in the rehabilitation of the Pandits. Suka says, "The Emperor announced that he would without delay reward those who would respect the Brahmans in Kashmir and that he would instantly pull down the houses of those who would demand the annual tribute from them." The greatness of Akbar lies in his magnificent and fascinating policy of religious tolerance. Jahangir and Shah Jahan were not so tolerant. But their religious enthusiasm cannot be termed as fanatic. During this period, the Brahmans could perform their religious ceremonies after paying some tribute. But the whole scenario changed with the accession of Aurangzeb to the throne. With his bigoted fanatic and dogmatic approach, the Kashmiri Pandits were once again made vulnerable. Iftkar Khan, the Mughal governor of Kashmir during the reign of Aurangzeb, brutally tyrannized over the Brahmans to such an extent that they approached Guru Teg Bhahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, at Anandpur in Punjab and solicited his personal intervention with the Emperor. This ultimately led to the Guru's martyrdom and made Guru Gobind Singh to create the Khalsa to fight the oppressors. Muzaffer Khan, Nassar Khan and Ibrahim Khan were other governors of Aurangzeb who ferociously terrorized the Kashmiri Pandits. These celebrated scapegoats were once again forced to migrate from the land of their origin. It was the fourth disastrous mass exodus of the Aryan Saraswat Brahmans from Kashmir. During the rule of later Mughals, Kashmir witnessed the outbreak of the worst kind of religious intolerance. In AD 1720, Mullah Abdul Nabi, also called Muhat Khan, a non-resident Kashmiri Muslim, was appointed as Shaikhul Islam. In order to assert his religious authority, he asked the Deputy Governor, Mir Ahmed Khan, to start a campaign of persecution of the Kafirs (infidels) - as the Kashmiri Pandits were called. In order to satisfy his satanic ego, the Mulla issued six commandments:

1. No Hindu should ride a horse, nor should a Hindu wear a shoe;
2. That they should not wear Jama (Mughal costume);
3. That they should move bare arms;
4. That they should not visit any garden;
5. That they should not have tilak mark on their foreheads;
6. That their children should not receive any education. But Ahmed Khan refused to execute the mischievous decree.

The Mullah then excited his followers against the Kashmiri Pandits. He established his seat in a mosque, assumed the duties of the administrator under the title of Dindar Khan and let loose the reign of terror. The Hindus were wickedly tormented, their houses burnt and property looted. Hundreds of Brahmans were killed, prostrated, maimed and humiliated. They began to run away in large numbers and hide themselves in mountainous terrain. This was the fifth dreadful mass exodus of the legendary Kashmiri Pandits from their mystic motherland. Those who remained behind lived in the most horrific and terrible conditions generated by the Mullah and his gang. But soon he was assassinated by his rivals and his son, Sharif-ud-Din, became the new Shaikhul-Islam. The son improved upon the brutal methods of his father and inflicted most barbaric, cruel and inhuman tortures upon the vulnerable Brahmans. The plight of the Kashmiri Pandits during this period became tremendously miserable and tragic.

The Afghan rule in Kashmir (AD 1753-1819) was a period of cruelty, homicide and anarchy. W.R. Lawrence calls it the "reign of brutal tyranny." The barbarous Afghans employed every wild, inhuman, primitive, ferocious, cruel and brutal method to sup-



press the Kashmiri Brahmans. A pitcher filled with ordure was placed on the head of a Pandit and stones were pelted on it, till it broke and the unfortunate Brahman became wet with filth. Their brutality and atrocity crossed the extreme limits when Hindus were tied up in grass sacks, two and two, and drowned in the Dal Lake. The victimized Hindu were forced to flee the country or were killed or converted to Islam. There was horrible mass exodus of the Kashmiri Pandits, sixth one, to far away places like Delhi, Allahabad, etc. Many covered the long distances on foot. Hindu parents destroyed the beauty of their daughters by shaving their heads or cutting their noses and ears to save them from degradation. Any Muslim could jump on the back of a Pandit and take a ride. Mir Hazar - an Afghan governor, used leather bags instead of grass sacks for the drowning of Brahmans. Turbans and shoes were forbidden for them. The Saraswat Brahmans of Kashmir were also forced to grow beards and tilak was interdicted. The Afghans are now only remembered for their barbarity, brutality, ferocity, tyranny and cruelty. They thought no more of cutting of heads than of plucking a flower. The Shahrims, Chaks, Mughals and homicidal Afghans tore the fabric of society in Kashmir and left deep scars on it. When the Afghan oppression became intolerable, the Pandits turned with hope to the rising power of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. But they were suspected. The Afghan governor, Azim Khan, confiscated their jagirs and imposed jazia on them. Eminent Pandits were brutally killed, humiliated and their authority was

snatched. Nur Shah Diwani - a cruel Muslim official who was in charge of revenue collection, hatched a conspiracy in league with Azim Khan to eliminate the distinguished Kashmiri Brahmans. But this evil manoeuvre was exposed and a galaxy of Pandits saved. Pandit Sahajram, the Diwan, played a prominent role in the rescue operation. Azim Khan had appointed Sukhram Safaya, Mirza Pandit and Birbal Dhar as revenue collectors. Birbal Dhar could not collect the required amount due to failure of crops. The atrocious Afghan governor browbeated Pandit Birbal to make the payment of one lac rupees. Rowdy and boisterous soldiers were sent to threaten him and other Pandits. Sensing the Afghan tsunami, distinguished Kashmiri Pandits called a backstairs meeting in which it was resolved to invite Ranjit Singh for the conquest of Kashmir and salvation of the Aryan Saraswat Brahmans.

Accordingly Birbal Dhar and his minor son, Raja Kak Dhar, secretly left for Lahore with a petition signed by the prominent Kashmiri Pandits through which an invitation was extended to Ranjit Singh to take over the Valley. When Azim Khan came to know about these developments, he sent his soldiers to nab Birbal Dhar and teach him a lesson. But when these bandits met with no success, the cruel governor turned his guns towards the wife and daughter-in-law of Birbal Dhar. Both the ladies had taken shelter in the house of a trustworthy Muslim, Qadus Gojwari. Azim Khan asked Pandit Basa Kak to hunt down the innocent ladies. Basa Kak knew about the retreat of ladies but did not disclose it even after monstrous tortures and oppressive penalties. At last his abdomen was ripped open in the most barbarous manner and the dead body discredited - the most unfortunate and brutal crime against humanity in the civilized world. The poor ladies were also captured. Birbal Dhar's wife committed suicide by swallowing a piece of diamond. The younger lady was violently converted to Islam and handed over to an Afghan noble, who carried her to Kabul. Nervous to the marrow of his bones and crazy with rage, Azim Khan tormented all those Kashmiri Brahmans whom he suspected to be in league with Birbal Dhar. Prominent Pandits were detained in a concentration camp at Nishat Garden and ferociously tortured. But on learning about the Sikh advances towards Kashmir, he lost all nerve and solicited instruction from Pandit Sahajram Dhar. The illustrious Pandit advised him to send off his ladies folk to Kabul. It was the only way to save them from the ignominious treatment. Sahajram himself escorted the ladies to Kabul and saved them from disastrous shame. Azim Khan himself ran away from the Valley, leaving the admin-

"IT IS TO THE LASTING CREDIT OF BIRBAL DHAR THAT WHEN A DEPUTATION OF MUSLIMS HEADED BY SAYYID HASAN SHAH QADIRI KHANYARI APPROACHED HIM TO DISSUADE THE SIKHS FROM THE DESTRUCTION OF THE KHANQAH, HE MOVED IN THE MATTER, USED HIS INFLUENCE AND SAVED THIS HISTORICAL STRUCTURE FROM VANDALISM"

istration into the hands of his brother, Jabbar Khan. However, atrocious Afghans were crushed and the Sikhs annexed Kashmir. Some extremist Sikhs, including Phul Singh, endeavoured to knock down the mosque of Shah Hamadan. But celebrated Birbal Dhar, at a considerable risk to his own life, made them desist from this action. According to GMD Sufi, "It is to the lasting credit of Birbal Dhar that when a deputation of Muslims headed by Sayyid Hasan Shah Qadiri Khanyari approached him to dissuade the Sikhs from the destruction of the Khanqah, he moved in the matter, used his influence and saved this historical structure from vandalism." It reveals the true personality and character of a distinguished Kashmiri Pandit. During the Sikh rule in Kashmir, AD 1819-1846, the celebrated Pandits reclaimed their past glory and magnificence. They claimed back the prominent places of trust and honour. Cow slaughter was banned, temples renovated and the earlier wrongs rectified. The legendary Kashmiri Pandits received a healing touch after centuries of barbarity, ferocity and tyranny. But by the time, the Sikhs conquered Kashmir in AD 1819, about nine-tenths of the population had become the followers of Islam. Out of the 10% Hindu population, a large number had migrated to the Punjab and other provinces. The Pandits in general belonged to the middle class while the upper and lower classes were dominated by the Muslims.

With the formation of Jammu and Kashmir State; and, establishment of the Dogra rule in 1846, Kashmiri Pandits once again enjoyed comprehensive religious freedom and social emancipation. But on certain occasions, they became victims of intrigue and suspicions. The vicious communal forces also turned their wrath against them. During the communal disturbances of July 1931, shops and houses belonging to the Kashmiri Brahmans were not only looted but also burnt. Three innocent Hindus lost their lives. This commu-

nalism in the state politics aggravated and magnified with the passage of time. It was fed for years with vicious communal propaganda and brainwashing. After independence and accession of Jammu & Kashmir state to India, Kashmiri Pandits were pushed back to the barbarous Afghan era. They were given the sugarcoated doses of poisonous toxics. Article 370 of Indian constitution just reduced them to cipher and liquidated their population. Under the pretext of economic reforms, their jagirs were confiscated and distributed among the Muslim peasants. The administration of Shaikh Abdullah adopted malicious and pernicious approach towards the Saraswat Brahmans of Kashmir. They were taunted on one excuse or the other. Hindu temples were desecrated, looted and plundered. Minor girls of the community were forced to embrace Islam and marry the Muslim youth. Shaikh Abdullah tried to create "Shaikhdom" for his dynastic rule in Kashmir. But his dreams were shattered when he was arrested in 1953 for anti-national activities. In 1958, he was released but detained again after three months under the Kashmir conspiracy case. However, the case was withdrawn in 1964 because of political reasons. But he was arrested again in May 1965 for his subversive activities and released in January 1968. Again, in January 1971, a ban was imposed forbidding him to enter the Jammu Kashmir state. This restriction was lifted in 1972. During 1953-1974 Shaikh Abdullah characterized India as an imperialist power endeavouring to subjugate the people of Kashmir. He asserted that the accession of Kashmir with India was his greatest blunder for which history will never forgive him. He also demanded the right of self determination for the people of Muslim-dominated Kashmir, but ignored the Hindu-dominated Jammu and Buddhist-dominated Ladakh regions. The sophist Shaikh advocated plebiscite and unconditional withdrawal of Indian army from the Saffron Valley. He also campaigned against the import of food grains from India and asked people to eat potatoes grown in Kashmir. For such arguments, Shaikh Abdullah was nick named as "Aaloo Bab" --- Feeder of Potatoes. He made emotional solicitations that after death his body should not be buried in the subjugated Valley, but immersed into the sacred waters of Arabian sea. However, today his magnificent tomb stands on the banks of beautiful Dal Lake in Srinagar and is guarded by the Indian security personnel. By such gratuitous and conflicting statement, his secular credentials evaporated into thin air. The prospect of disloyalty and sedition began to haunt the Saffron Valley. Kashmiriyat switched over to political vandalism and bigoted fundamentalism. Shaikh Abdullah desperately held Indian

Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, a Kashmiri Pandit, responsible for the shattering of his malevolent dreams in 1953. The mortified Shaikh ambiguously decided to retaliate against the whole Pandit community in Kashmir. In vindictiveness, he instigated his associated that while making a choice between a Kashmiri Pandit and dreaded cobra, kill the Pandit first. A vicious campaign of terror was launched against the Aryan Saraswat Brahmins of Kashmir. They were refused entry to government jobs and institutions of higher learning. Besides hurling strong statement against the Government of India and Kashmiri Pandits, the Shaikh derided that the whole lot of Indian army cannot save the Hindus in Kashmir against the malevolence of Muslims. Farooq Abdullah also employed the same approach towards the crumbled Pandits when his brother-in-law, Gulshah, seized the chief ministership in 1984. The reactionary leaders- Afzal Beg, Maulvi Farooq, Mohi-ud-Din Kara and Maulana Masoodi; ignored the very existence of Kashmiri Pandits during their political adventurism. The Kashmiri Pandits were made to pay for every move on the political chessboard in Kashmir because they represented the pseudo-secularism, incognito-socialism and flowering- democracy of India. They were scolded and emotionally hurt in the Afghan fashion.

But then the whole political scenario in Kashmir took a dramatic turn in 1974, when Indira-Shaikh accord was signed by virtue of which the Shaikh became the Chief Minister of the State after the lapse of 22 years. Ignoring the great expectations he had created among the people in Kashmir and his vigorous campaign for plebiscite, the sophist Shaikh began to speak the language of Indian nationalism, democracy, socialism and secularism. The slogans of plebiscite, self-determination and independent Kashmir melted away. But the Hate- India virus, infused by him into the blood of the Muslim youth in Kashmir, was exploited by other corrupt self-styled politicians for their own interests from time to time. A vacuum was created because the people were betrayed disillusioned, politically raped and left in wilderness by their own leaders. Omkarnath Ganjoo, who established the Index Branch of the Jammu & Kashmir Criminal Investigation Department under the directions of Union Home Ministry in early 1960 and managed the same upto 1986, established a powerful network in the State. He collected detailed information about the seditious, subversive and treasonous persons and sent the detailed dispatches to the government from time to time. He also excavated the nefarious designs of ISI- the Pak Intelligence Agency, and informed the concerned authorities. But the state as well as the

THE FINAL ASSAULT ON THE KASHMIRI PANDITS STARTED WITH THESE SLOGANS: "AAY ZALIMU, AAY KAFIROO, KASHMIR HAMARA CHOUDH DOU" "BHARAT KAY AIWANU KO AAG LAGADO, AAG LAGADO". BARBAROUS TERRORISTS FROM PAKISTAN, AFGHANISTAN, TURKEY, SUDAN AND EVEN SAUDI ARABIA PENETRATED INTO THE SAFFRON VALLEY

central administration lacked the determination and resolution to act. The programmes and policies of Bakshi, Sadiq, Qasim, Farooq and Gulshah were also damaging for the Kashmiri Pandits. They were continuously haunted by antagonistic, hostile and rebellious elements. Mufti Syed is even believed to be responsible for the anti-Hindu communal riots of 1986, when cows were slaughtered and temples destroyed in Anantnag district. From 1947-1986 about four lac Kashmiri Pandits silently migrated from Kashmir. Hypocritical atrocities and criminal ignorances of political leaders were responsible for these development. Pakistan, to avenge the defeat of Bangladesh, blatantly sponsored the violence and terrorism in the Valley, resulting in the turmoil of 1989-90. The then celebrated governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Jagmohan, wrote a detailed letter to the former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, on April 21, 1990, endorsing the alarming signals earliest transmitted by discerning Omkarnath Ganjoo. But cowardly Indian leadership was still unconcerned.

The final assault on the Kashmiri Pandits started with these slogans: "Aay Zalimu, Aay Kafiroo, Kashmir Hamara Choudh Dou" "Bharat Kay Aiwanu Ko Aag Lagado, Aag Lagado". Barbarous terrorists from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey, Sudan and even Saudi Arabia penetrated into the Saffron Valley. Brutal, wild and barbarous techniques were employed to hound and kill the Aryan Saraswat Brahmins of Kashmir. Even the helpless ladies were not spared. Sarla Bhat, a nurse in Soura Medical Institute, was abducted on 19th April, 1990, by JKLF militants who repeatedly gang-raped her and eventually killed her on 25th April. Girja Tikoo, a teacher from Bandipur, was kidnapped, raped and eventually shred to pieces by a saw mill on 4th June, 1990. Bimla Braroo from the Nai Sarak, Srinagar, who

along with her daughter, Archana, was raped in the presence of her husband, Sohanlal, before all the three were killed on 31st March, 1992. There are dozens of such brutal instances. Even wicked Afghans will be feeling sorry in their graves for the sanatic holocaust of the legendary Kashmiri Pandits. The barbarous murder of hundreds of innocent Brahmins of Kashmir caused their seventh and final agonizing mass exodus from the Valley. This was the final knock down of ethnic cleansing and genocide of the Kashmiri Pandits. The mass massacres at Sangrampora (1997), Udhampore (1997), Prankot (1998), Wandhama (1998) and Nadimarg (2003) were the follow up cleansing operations. Pandits in Kashmir dwindled from 10% in 1947 to fewer than 5% in 1989 and to less than 1% today. The pretended world bodies, contaminated human rights organizations, pseudo-secularists, self-styled leaders, so-called policy makers, tainted political parties and slack bureaucracy have failed to express serious concern at this great human tragedy. Danse macabre is going on. During 1990-2010, the security forces seized around 35,000 assault rifles, over 25,000 pistols, more than 30,000 kg explosives, about 2500 UMGs and RPGs, from terrorists. In the barbarous turmoil about 47,000 persons have been killed. However the goernment is keen to provide a healing touch to militants, terrorists and self-styled separatist leaders. But the Kashmiri Hindus, who were virtually exterminated from the Valley and living as 'internally displaced persons' in their own country - never demanded reservations or subsidies, never took weapons. They are the living example of patriotism, nationalism, dedication, determination and hardwork. Even after the "satanic" holocausts and genocides, reigns of terror, conversions and forced exiles - they have touched new horizons of success.

There are strong archaeological and historical evidences that Kashmir have Hindu roots since the times immemorial. The immigrants, missionaries, refugees and invaders from Central Asia, Iran and other lands, made every effort since centuries to destroy its very social and cultural fabric. It is a struggle for existence between aboriginal people of Kashmir - Hindus and Converted Muslims; and immigrants from other lands - Hamdan, Geelan, Bukhara, Afghanistan, Persia, Arak, etc. In this battle of survival, the Kashmiries have lost to the refugees who came for asylum but snatched the political, social and religious authority. The position of the people of Kashmir has become that of a wretched boat in the vast stormy ocean of power politics, tossed here and there, and likely to be crashed badly against the rocks of terrorism, fundamentalism and separatism. ■

THE NEW NORMAL

HOW WILL THE WORLD LOOK LIKE POST-COVID?

BY SHANKAR RAJ



As the world steps into the sixth month of the Coronavirus pandemic, the question being asked is when will we get back to normal life. So, what is normal life? Probably it is a reference to pre-Covid times when we threw caution to the wind, wrapped ourselves in luxury, cared two hoots for nature, travelled at will and partied late into the night. Junk food was our normal 'diet', we did not know our neighbours, sometimes even our kids!

Well, that life will, thankfully, not reboot itself for a long long time. Covid-19 has not only given us a universal jolt rocking lives, societies and economies and even the way we think, it has also triggered a tsunami, the ripples of which will continue lashing at us.

All we can do is to adjust to the new normal; well, that is the new buzz work; New Normal. We will have to learn to live with Covid; the world will be a new place for many of us and we will be able to adjust to this new normal, thanks to human ingenuity.

The new normal has led us to renew our love and appreciation for family life, home-prepared food, health & wellness, the local community and even nature and the good earth. Around this will revolve new ideas, new markets and new enterprises. And, of course, new economies.

The New World will have a new look. As Sunder Pichai, CEO of Alphabet said: It's now clear that once the emergency is past, the world will not look the same. But many parts of the economy are able to continue with some semblance of normalcy. Thanks to advances in remote work, online shopping, delivery options, home entertainment and telemedicine. At the same time, newer technologies like AI, Bluetooth exposure notifications and 3D printing are being used to help fight the disease head on.

Let us examine some of the contours of the new world:

Jobs: The pandemic has knocked many out from their jobs and comfort zones. Jobs would be absolutely necessary and for this, many will have to learn to re-skill themselves, adapt and innovate. For example, the hordes of Gulf returnees in Kerala have taken to agriculture,

ploughing, home delivery of grocery and food etc.

But those getting back to work will face a new reality as job profiles would be re-evaluated and rejigged. Companies may opt for sharing employee skills.

Experts say many traditional jobs may cease to exist in the new normal. New professions and new forms of jobs will emerge in the new vacuum.

The huge devastation caused by Covid across economies globally has led to massive job losses. Once booming sectors like travel and tourism, retail, hospitality, food, media and entertainment, have been hit hard. The massive disruption has raised doubts about the viability of certain jobs in the post-Covid world.

There would be fewer jobs in certain roles. The job profile will also change in certain roles. In India, logistics, customer service and sales shall continue to be the top three job roles by volume even five years from now.

There would be increased demand for digital skill sets in both existing and new job roles in the new world as more people would become digitally literate. Demands too would change rapidly. From real estate to wages or workforce, temporary shall become the new permanent.

According to a report by industry lobby group

Ficci, new skills will be required to navigate the jobs landscape. 3D printing, artificial intelligence-driven machines, and machine learning will also be in demand. "In fact, artificial intelligence (AI) will be integral to the future of work. These changes in the sector would require a comprehensive effort to re-skill and upskill the existing workforce as well as the new recruits," the report said.

The new normal would also require a massive reorientation in school and college curricula. The Ficci report says coding, creative digital programming (creating videos, digital content), data analytics and cybersecurity courses need to be introduced in schools. In short, India should be ready to create a workforce that can navigate the digital world.

Work Place: Increasingly, work would move from posh, glass wrapped tech parks to homes. In early days of the pandemic, Work From Home (WFH) was seen as a stop-gap arrangement. But with the arrangement working well, companies have started adopting the WFH system as the new norm. Many companies have started vacating high-rented office space and allowing employees to work from their villages or home towns. Home is not only where the heart is, but also where work is.

But the economies dependent on such tech



parks have collapsed. Security staff, cabs, cafeteria employees, high-end restaurants that sprung up servicing the tastes of techies have all gone for a toss.

Some do not believe that WFH may become a new norm and that face-to-face interaction will make a comeback. Not wanting to take a chance, these techies have vacated their flats and moved out to their native towns in order to save on fancy rents. This has led to a new business. Gyms, mid-sized hotels that ran out of business and other such spaces have become the new 'warehouses' to store the household goods of techies who expect to come back one day in the future.

WFH will obviously trigger a crisis as many of the tech parks were built with huge investments and loans. As companies move out, investors in these parks would see their earnings dwindling and find it difficult to service the huge loans they may have taken.

The challenge will be to put the vacant office spaces to new use.

WFH will also trigger digital dependence and sharing bandwidth in rural areas and villages would be a challenge.

Those who have their dwelling units in sleepless metros and towns may find it difficult to adjust to the boring environment of a flat. A business has started booming here too. Resorts that were forced to shut down have not become 'Workation' where techies can work and vacation amidst nature, swimming pools and fresh, crisp air.

Some companies have opted for a blended model - predominantly WFH with once-in-a-month face-to-face meetings.

If WFH becomes the new norm, daily commutes would drastically reduce and the tech corridors would hopefully see less of traffic jams. Employees would be less stressed.

But WFH has a flip side too. Employees have already started complaining that they are being forced to put in extra hour on the laptop. More work and projects are being pushed from board rooms to homes. But some companies have started thinking of evolving a new working hour culture and environment rather than pushing employees late into the night and upsetting their work-home balance.

Companies are also toying with paying the employees according to the place from where they work. Workers may have more autonomy, though debatable. There will be fewer excuses for making women drop out of the workplace.

Education: Schools and colleges have already moved online. Teachers dispensing lessons through mobile phones or TV have become the new norm. But unlike WFH, this may not last long as it will have a serious impact on the standard of education. Studies have also shown that online classes can lead to serious mental stress among kids and even affect their eyesight.



The 'walls' of the online classrooms may be the first to crumble and fall. Countries may adopt a blended model making use of online tools as well as in-person attendance.

This crisis is an acid test of our ingenuity, our capacity to break free from rigid ways of thinking. The future is still ours to make as the situation has been thrust upon all of us.

As the world moves to digital platforms, companies would need more data scientists/analysts. Increase in data sharing on digital platforms will raise the need for securing of cyberspace and therefore (the) need for trained cybersecurity specialists.

According to a Deloitte report, a few organisations are beginning to evaluate the benefits of an alternative workforce model. "For instance, a global business process management company sees employing alternative workforce for their blue-collar segment as an opportunity to recover and thrive post the immediate crisis. The company is also contemplating venturing into a shared employment workforce model with other firms," it said.

Apart from WFH, a concept called "walk to work" is also being worked out where jobs are available within a worker's easy reach.

Consumer behaviour: Almost overnight, Covid has transformed consumer behaviour in India with offline purchases shifting online. Consumer durables made a strong comeback after the lockdown, according to market research company Nielsen. However, consumers are, rightfully, shying away from touch points, the Nielsen survey showed, with 62% respondents saying they intend to increase online shopping by at least 20% in what seems to be a new 'normal'.

The Nielsen data has some other interesting findings. At present, only 24% consumers are visiting department stores, compared with 50% in the pre-Covid months. Home delivery from neighborhood stores has increased to 34% from 25%, and from department stores and food aggregators it has increased to 27% from 19%.

As consumer behaviour changes and people prefer to stay at home for fear of the pandemic, malls, hypermarkets, and large stores have introduced video shopping and curbside pickup to minimise touch points. Even fast-food chains like Dominos, KFC and Starbucks have

launched curbside delivery for consumers who don't want to step out of their cars.

Consumer priorities have also started changing, according to the Nielsen survey. Healthy food, hygiene, home entertainment and fitness are some of the categories that consumers will spend on while they will cut down on dining out, travel, luxury brands and tobacco.

In step with consumer behaviour and their fear of venturing out, companies have started making significant investments in technology, logistics and infrastructure.

Online platforms are storing products as close as possible to the sellers to reduce transit time.

Food: The new normal will witness a shift to home-made food and ethnic recipes. During lockdowns, metropolitan Indians shut down laptops and stormed kitchens to try out dishes rooted in cultures of their families and regions.

A huge wave of experimentation in regional and community-specific recipes became the new normal in many kitchens. Social media got flooded with yummy pictures of traditional home food.

Housewives in high-rise flat complexes became the new 'darlings' of the kitchen, dishing out exotic home food locked-down families and couples.

Some have shifted to online ventures with promise of making "home cooking simple". There are websites for everything that a home cook needs and doorstep deliveries of DIY kits with recipes in collaboration with top restaurants and home cooks are also being tried out.

But this trend may not last long as WFH pressure mounts. Door deliveries of foods that are hygienically prepared and delivered with least touch points would become a new norm.

In many ways, the new normal has a refreshing menu.

The new normal would take a long time though it may not park itself permanently in our lives. According to WHO emergencies director Dr Mike Ryan, trying to predict when the virus would disappear would be foolhardy.

He added that even if a vaccine is found, controlling the virus will require a "massive effort".

"It is important to put this on the table: this virus may become just another endemic virus in our communities, and this virus may never go away," Dr Ryan told the virtual press conference from Geneva.

"HIV has not gone away - but we have come to terms with the virus."

WHO epidemiologist Maria van Kerkhove added: "We need to get into the mindset that it is going to take some time to come out of this pandemic."

Till then, the new normal will be part of our lives. ■

BCCI AWAITS FOR SUPREME COURT TO HEAR BOARD'S APPEAL AS IT SEEKS TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES ON MULTIPLE FRONTS

BY VEDAM JAISHANKAR



How does the appointment of Hemang Amin as interim CEO of BCCI last week fly in the face of one-man, one-post clause as obligated by the Justice Lodha reforms?

Did it slip under the radar or did BCCI's top brass believe there was no contravention at play when they appointed Amin, Chief Operating Officer of IPL Governing Council (GC), as the Board's interim CEO, following the resignation of Rahul Johri?

An answer to this conundrum needs to be found, for, if the two-judge Supreme Court bench of Chief Justice of India Sharad Bobde and Justice L Nageswara Rao - who was earlier part of the SC-appointed Mudgal Committee which inquired into charges of corruption in IPL - rules against Sourav Ganguly and Jay Shah continuing as office-bearers, BCCI would have to swiftly fill the vacuum.

The bench is expected to sit on 17 August, roughly 21 days after Ganguly's term as president ends and he is forced into a three-year 'cooling period'. The board Secretary Shah is already in his cooling period, though BCCI believes that the clause, as laid down by SC-approved Lodha reforms for BCCI governance, applies only with reference to contesting elections and not for carrying on as office-bearers. The bench is to rule on this.

A possible scenario has now arisen that if the court rules against Ganguly & Co, Brijesh Patel, chairman of the IPL Governing Council, could potentially be made interim president of BCCI as well, on the lines of Hemang Amin's appointment. That is, unless there is a different set of rules for office-bearers and executives.

Roughly, the rules and regulations prevent individuals from holding more than one of 16 specifically mentioned posts. It includes administrator/office bearer, CEO & managers.

Thus if Amin, who could be classified as administrator, CEO and manager, is good to go for two posts, in IPL and BCCI, albeit in the interim period, it follows to reason that Patel too could be similarly utilised, if Ganguly is found ineligible to continue.

There is another key issue that has been



brought to the court's attention: that of CAG's request for recusal from both Apex Council and IPL GC. The CAG, the country's supreme audit institution, has stated that its representative was sitting in meetings deciding team selections, coaches, trainers, bilateral tours, multi-nation events, fixture of matches, cricket calendar, etc, which are not its field of expertise.

The CAG was expected to audit BCCI's accounts. But if it is part of the Apex Council which sanctions payments and ratifies them, how can it later probe and audit accounts of these very decisions?

Its application to SC states that "it is relevant to submit that the CAG's nominee in the Apex Council is just one of the nine members, and one of the seven members in the IPL Governing Council, and is therefore party to decisions, whether or not she/he is in agreement with those decisions."

It requests the court that it (CAG) "may be considered for intervention in the affairs of the BCCI/State Cricket Associations only for the purpose of audit..."

There is another issue that needs to be quickly sorted out; that of the players' body. Thus far their representatives seem to have talked only of enhancing players' pension, medical insurance amounts, pension to ex-cricketers' widows, etc. These have little to do with discharging Apex Council duties. Thus could the players' representatives instead be fitted in the cricket committee, where these issues could be discussed threadbare?

The concept of players representatives in the Apex Council was an off-take of the Cricket Australia (CA) model which was hailed as ideal for BCCI. However, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the CA model is not flawless and is therefore not something to emulate.

CA is almost broke after its investments in the stock market blew up in its face. This forced it to cut wages across the board, lay off dozens of staff besides seeking to place some of them in super markets jobs, etc.

If anything CA and a whole lot of other national boards are currently looking up to BCCI to rescue them from certain bankruptcy.

The truth is, BCCI and Indian cricket desperately need leadership to overcome the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. There are plenty of painful decisions to be made in the near future. Pay cuts, whether of staff, consultants, players, etc are inevitable. Additionally a number of domestic tournaments may have to be deferred or scrapped altogether. Entire domestic tournament schedules and formats have to be compressed and re-worked. Bilateral tours and series need to be renegotiated to attract maximum eye-balls and revenue. Legacy issues pertaining to Kochi Tuskers and Deccan Chargers also need to be sorted out. Many of these are tough, dark decisions and need the firmness of experienced, far-sighted leadership.

It is for this reason that the decision of the SC bench is so eagerly awaited. ■

COVID-19 IMPACTS AND WATER-2020 & WATER-2021

BY DR V V RAO



The sudden onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has imposed massive health and economic load on communities around the world, and affected every sector of civilization, including the water sector. The need for water utilities to strengthen their flexibility so they can continue to provide critical water and wastewater services in a more variable and coming uncertain future.

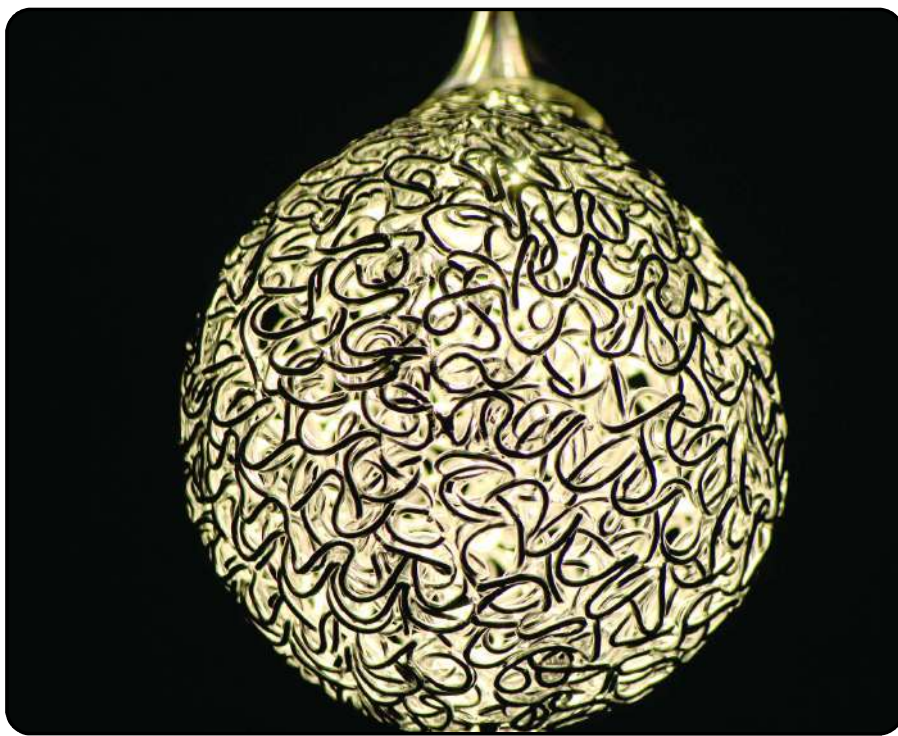
The pandemic led to "significant water demand reductions from industries in the leisure, hospitality, and transportation sectors, and moderate to significant reductions in water demands from other industries, such as retail and wholesale trade, manufacturing, and construction. The largest reductions in pubs, bars, and restaurants; big drops in schools, hotels, and real estate; and little to no changes in most other sectors, including high-demand sectors like agriculture, health care, and national defense.

Initial random estimates suggest that Residential demand increased by 15 to 25 percent during the lockdown, while non-residential demand declined by 25 to 50 percent. The full impact of the pandemic will not be tallied or understood for some time, after individual and governmental responses are implemented and evaluated.

Changes in demand have affected utility expenditures, employment and revenue, water bills, water and wastewater operational conditions, and building construction water quality. The longer-term impacts for example, unemployment remains high, people continue to work from home, or there are deeper changes to the economy. We do not yet know the extent or duration of these impacts.

Moreover, as businesses reopen and implement best hygiene and disinfection practices, water use may rise dramatically further. These changes can be worsened by unseasonably warm/cold weather, which typically increases outdoor/indoor water use. Such rapid and dramatic changes in water use can aggravate existing and expose new system weaknesses. Management of these weaknesses is likely to be even more difficult as system operators are adjusting to reduced staffing, working remotely, and other changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under normal conditions, the regular flow of safe disinfected municipal tap water keeps water and plumbing free of corrosion, leached minerals, and bacteria. When water systems are shut down or inactive for weeks or months, residual



disinfectants in water, such as chlorine, can fade away.

Under abnormal conditions some of the potential hazards must be prevented before reopening old, new businesses or water systems because the risk of stagnated mud, all types of water prone bacteria, corrosion of plumbing, leaching of lead and other metals, and the presence of disinfection by-products. More routine risks, such as contaminated surfaces in bathrooms, kitchens, and fountains, are also present but typically managed by well-understood cleaning and disinfection practices.

PROACTIVE RISK MANAGEMENT:

Immediate action is needed to ensure the safety of water during reopening and sustaining for longer periods, improve the financial conditions, operational flexibility of utilities in the face of greater variability and uncertainty. Water utilities, government agencies should work on proactive risk management plans: Such plans can help water utilities and agencies prepare for and mitigate a wider range of risks such as:

- Extreme climatic conditions.
- Health threats like the COVID-19 pandemic,
- Failure of key infrastructure in terms demand distribution between residential and commercial. The Cape town reported that while demand across its service area was down only 4 percent in April compared to the previous year, impacts on its three major subsystems were much larger on distribution systems,

which was around 25%. Due to demand ratios varied exponentially even though the net demand variation looks less impacted.

- Digital technology for forecasting realistic demand at various levels. Digital technologies, such as advanced meters and sensors, improved demand forecasting tools, remote operating tools, and real-time water quality monitoring, can help provide real-time data and information on water demand and system performance, developing problems.
- Municipalities should accelerate the pace and scale of digital monitoring and operational technologies.
- Water utilities should proactively update their pricing and financial policies. Anything is free may not sustain longer periods.
- Water utilities should consider purchasing commercial insurance products that provide coverage for business interruptions.
- Enhance sustainability for both water supply and conservations
- Most important is how to serve disadvantaged communities.
- Finally, national and international aid agencies and international lenders can provide financial assistance to address revenue shortfalls and maintain infrastructure investments.
- National governments and international aid agencies should increase financial assistance and accelerate the disbursement of this assistance. ■

ON PROWL OF YOUNG ACTORS

BY VIJAY HASHIA

With the death of young actor Sushant Singh Rajput, the Bollywood is once again in the media glare for its "Nepotism, Lobbyism and Underworld" connections. While the first two words are common with any organization but having underworld links is eerily reminiscent of Dawood, Abu Salam and Chotta Shakeel etc gangs. The bigwigs in the industry are on prowl of discriminating new comers with own entourages. The new comers enter tinsel town for a quick buck, may reach to the pinnacle or fail but Shushant was exceptionally gifted actor with enough of talent. The social media has been abuzz with SSR's death as are TV channels and it is argued the death is a murder. There is a massive surge in the number of tweets and on the face book deluge of messages openly attacked the Bollywood godfather bandwagon, Mahesh Bhat, Javed Akhtar, Karan Johar, Anuraag Kashap, Aditya Chopra and host of other biggies for their nepotistic approach with the new comers. The cry has gone louder both with hissed and louder invectives for Sushant's investigation by the CBI which is bolstered by outspoken Kangana Ranaut in a TV interview.

When these young aspirants feel humiliated by mocking in the open audiences which is at the behest of biggies, lobbies and gangs, they get dejected. They are hounded for hefty sums and on resistance threatened to quit for not adhering their commands. The young enthusiasm wanes to take any drastic step even at the cost of own life. The death in such a scenario may be induced or non-induced. Instances of such deaths through harassments, mocking are numerous to quote.

In one of the recent instances, filmmaker Abhinav Kashyap who worked with Salman and Arbaaz Khan in Dabangg took to face book to reveal that Salman and his family sabotaged his career after Dabangg. In his tweet, the director revealed to have undergone sustained contriving, bullying and mental torture. He further adds that after project sabotage, he had to return his signing fee of ₹ 7 Cr plus interest to the tune of ₹ 90 lakh. He also pointed out how talent management agencies preyed on unknown actors by introducing them to Bollywood with a promise of bright future. Even the hired Bollywood media is highly manipulated and corrupted to the dictates of bigwigs.

Internal lobbies bully new actors to silence. When one speaks of truth, some at the behest of bigwigs call him a liar, mad and psychotic. Girl gangs of the industry make fun of these new actors mostly who have been removed from



films. Paid media make fake and fun stories to destroy their careers at the behest of bigwigs. Some may fight back and survive while others may fall to incendiary narrative. In her recent interview to a TV channel, Kangana Ranaut openly blamed Mahesh Bhat for hooting and throwing slipper at her when she refused to the role of a suicide bomber offered in a movie. She further added Javed Akhtar threatened her to apologize Hritik Roshan.

In 2011, a Wiki leak cable report stated, a close nexus between Bollywood film industry and the underworld. It said, the industry welcomed funds from gangster mafia groups. Film producers, directors and actors towed mafia dons to fund sponsoring which has become deeply entrenched and pervasive. From the gangster Haji Mastan to Sanjay Dutt, Mamta Kulkarni and Vikram Goswami to Monica Bedi and Abu Salam and from Dawood Ibrahim and Mandakni to Ali Baga Budesh and Chhota Shakeel all had been involved in extortion, terrorism, killings and murders in the BW. Jay Panda, BJP National VP and spokesperson has gone on record that Shah Rukh Khan and others have links with stooges of ISI to create mayhem on Army in J&K. Conducting and sponsoring of mega awards are predefined and pre determined as to who the awardees should be leaving the young promising actors disenchanted. Kangana Ranaut goes on record to question how has Alia Bhatt for a role of 10 minutes in 'Gully Boy' been awarded while as a highly rated "Chihhore" could not be considered for film fare award of 2020.

While one wonders on the untimely mysterious death of Sushant Singh Rajput, the question taking rounds is what could have driven an educated engineering background talented young actor to take his life? Prima facie it looks a suicide which the post mortem report reveals is due to asphyxia (a suffocation depriving oxygen supply to body) but Sushant's death is taking rounds in every fora that it is a murder. May it be remembered, in the past the dead bodies of Jiah Khan involved with Sooraj Pancholi, Divya Bharati wife of Producer Sajjid Nadiawalla and Parveen Babi involved with Mahesh Bhat were taken to the same Cooper hospital for post

mortem where Sushant's dead body was taken and fingers are being raised to Mahesh Bhat's connection with doctors to dispose of favourable death (post-mortem) reports.

The stories abound and one of the reports says, Rhea the girl friend of Shushant deleted all pics from Instagram three days before SSR's death. Another report came to the fore that Sushant had started a company with Rhea and her brother Showik 'Vividrage Rhealityx Pvt Ltd' and Sushant the only investor had put around ₹ 18 Cr into it managed by his girl friend Rhea. This was not divulged to the police during Rhea's nine hour interrogation. It is also pointed out that if Sushant was invited in the PM's oath taking ceremony in N.Delhi on 30 May 2019 but why his name was omitted from the list of members who met PM in the aftermath during Oct 2019. Who finalised the list?

A case was filed by Sudhir Kumar Ojha in the CJM court against six prominent Bollywood makers for abetted death of Sushant. Soon, reports came out that his depression could have stemmed from the fact that seven big production houses had banned Sushant from films, Dharna Productions (Karan Johar), YRF Films (Aditya Chopra), Balaji (Ekta Kapoor), SKF (Sajid Nadiadwala) Salman Khan Films T Series and Dinesh Vijan, clearly points that these production houses were not allowing fair opportunities for the meritorious and were promoting own progeny, friends and acquaintances. The same coterie constantly belittled Sushant on stages and other TV chat shows like "Koffee with Karan" etc to make him feel insignificant. Actor Shekhar Suman said Sushant had changed SIM cards 50 times for the last six months because he was receiving death threat calls. While his phone was with police custody after death, his Twitter and Instagram accounts were tempered, his number of followers diminished, he was shown following director Mahesh Bhatt and his popular TV serial 'Pavithra Rishte' was removed from the U tube. One also wonders whether his death was linked with the death of his manager 28 year old Disha Saliyan who died just eight days before his death under mysterious circumstances reported to have committed suicide by jumping off a high rise building in Maland, Mumbai.

The fact that Bollywood is entangled in a quagmire of underworld dons who control the actors and movie makers. Crime continues unabated and criminals are given free hand to corporate ilm makers to meet their personal ends. The mystery death of Sushant is a big question and as the uproar grows louder and as Kangana Ranaut supported by Subramaniam Swamy came out openly, seen is will the truth triumph and justice prevail? ■

BONE AND JOINT DAY 2020

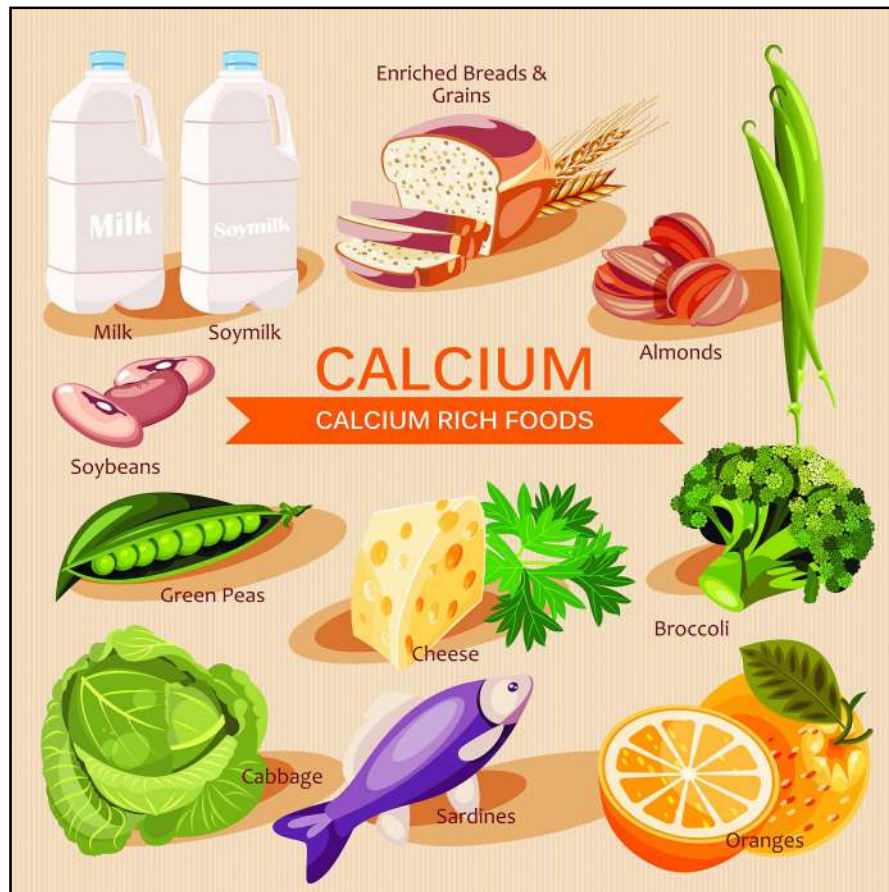
BY DR. M K MAM



Bone and Joint day is celebrated all over India by the Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA) and all its state chapters on 4th of August every year since 2012. The primary aim is to create awareness among people about the bone health, various orthopaedic illnesses which can be prevented or treated and be useful to the society. It was on this day in 2012 the President of IOA asked members to have at least one free surgery for poor patient and that activity is taken care of every year on that day. We have public awareness programs at state chapters to sensitize the society about the increasing impact of bone and joint disorders, how to prevent and treat them. People are educated about the importance of maintaining a sound bone health and what all can be done for it. The activities that are being organised also include free surgeries for deserving patients by members, free Bone Mineral Density (BMD) camps, health education programmes for general public, highlighting bone health- having stronger bones. We usually have a week long activities from 1st. to 7th August-- Bone and Joint week.

Bone and Joint day is not a mere celebration, the day gives orthopaedic fraternity an opportunity to reassess and evaluate their performance and usefulness to the society. It gives an opportunity to introspect and think about their role in the society in improving bone health of the people, in prevention and / treatment of bone and joint disorders, and whether all this is cost effective and within the reach of a common man. It gives us an opportunity to honestly look into ourselves to find how far we are fulfilling the social obligations and what all can be done to make it better.

Coming to bone health, it is important that we sensitize and educate the people, administrators and the health planners about the importance of bones and their health. Bones along with the joints and muscle provide shape, form, support, stability, movements and enable us to do our day today physical activities. Bones provide protection to many of our delicate internal organs like brain, spinal cord, heart, lungs etc. Bones also serves as the main store house of the minerals - calcium and phosphorus. The marrow present in the bones produces the blood cells. In short, the bones are very important for the body and must take due care of their health. Poor bone health means



bones are weaker. Somehow or other, bone health is neglected by the people in general, with the result we come across lot many patients of poor bone health i.e. osteoporosis and its after effects. Weak bones i.e. osteoporosis is a major and a serious health problem as fractures of spine, hips and wrist bones occur just with a minor trauma. There is lot of morbidity and mortality associated with these fractures. It is expensive to treat, puts tremendous financial burden on the person and the family. It results in lot of disability, affects quality of life and performance of the person. It also results in loss of work days and the workplace productivity thus further affecting the economy of the person, the family and the society. As such we should love our bones - take all necessary steps to maintain their health.

Physical activity is very essential for overall health of a person including that of bones. Bone become stronger when loading increases on it. Weight bearing exercises i.e. when bones and muscles work against gravity and resistance, certainly make the bones and muscles stronger. It has also been found that frac-

ture rates are lower among people who perform more of weight-bearing activities as compared to sedentary people. Insufficient or lack of physical activity certainly leads to weakness of bones- osteoporosis, falls, fractures and all other medical problems. Exercise has to be regular and of sufficient duration and intensity. Around 30 minutes per day (150 minutes a week) of physical exercise should be fine. Simple walking, running, dancing, jumping, rope skipping, climbing the stairs and playing outdoor games are some of the weight-bearing exercises which can be done depending upon one's capacity and health status. Walking in fact is safe, can be enjoyed by almost anyone. It improves bone mineral density in lower limbs, strengthens muscles and joints and is also good for heart, lungs and overall health of a person. Basic thing is that we should avoid sitting for longer periods. In fact, we should move more and sit less. Simple mantra is that we should be active as much as we can and as long as we can.

Yoga certainly has a positive effect on the physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing of a

person. It strengthens muscles and bones. It also improves flexibility of the joints and balance. Studies show that yoga done every day can prevent osteoporosis and in some cases can also slow down its progression. Yoga should be done under the guidance of an expert. Best thing about yoga is that it is doable, effective, safe, does not involve much of expenses and can be done at home.

Essential thing is that physical activity - exercise or yoga has to be a regular lifelong activity. It has to be a part of our daily routine, yes it has to be part of must to do things of our daily routine. Somehow or other we usually do exercise and become serious about it only when we have a problem, this has to change. It is a fact that doing exercise when one is fit and fine, helps the body including our bones to remain fit and fine for long time to come.

Balanced diet rich in calcium, vitamins especially D, C, K, proteins, magnesium etc. is essential for the growth and development of the bones. However, there are also certain things like smoking and alcohol that adversely affect the bone health, as such have to be avoided.

Calcium is an essential mineral for growth and development of the bones, so a diet rich in calcium has to be taken. Men aged 50-70 years should consume 1000 mg per day of calcium and the women age 51 and older and men age 71 and older should consume 1200 mg per day. Intakes in excess of 1200 to 1500 mg per day may not have much of benefit, it may increase the risk of developing kidney stones and cardiovascular problems. Milk and dairy products like yogurt, cheese etc. are rich in calcium and high in calcium absorption, thus are useful foods for prevention of osteoporosis and maintaining the bone health. In addition green leafy vegetables like broccoli, turnip greens, mustard greens, dried figs and nuts like almonds also provide calcium. Adequate calcium intake in childhood is the most important as bones are developing and growing. It is always good to meet our requirements by eating calcium rich foods and have supplements only when we do not get it through diet.

Vitamin D is important for calcium absorption and mineralization of bone. Vitamin D deficiency is characterized by inadequate mineralization of bone. An intake of 800 to 1000 international units of vitamin D per day is recommended. Exposure to sun light does provide vitamin D by way of skin, however because of the life style changes of staying most of the time indoors, most of us are not able to make use of this free source of vitamin D, as such vitamin D supplement is needed in most of the people. Vitamin C is also essential for bone health. It helps in maturation of collagen and stimulates bone forming cells - osteoblasts. Vitamin K, A, B12, magnesium, phosphorus and proteins also have a role in



maintaining bone health.

Smoking and use of tobacco products affect lungs and heart is a fact, that is well known to many. However, most of the people are not aware that it adversely affects the bone health. It has a negative influence on bone mineral density. It damages bone cells and reduces blood flow to bone. Smokers have almost double the risk of osteoporosis and hip fractures as compared to nonsmokers. So a big NO to smoking.

Alcohol damages bone cells directly and inhibits calcium absorption. It also damages the liver - the organ where activation of vitamin D occurs. Chronic alcohol abuse certainly increases the risk of osteoporosis and fractures. As such consumption of alcohol has to be avoided.

Soda and colas are not good for bones. They contain lot of phosphoric acid in addition to caffeine which drain calcium from bones and thus decrease bone mineral density.

Excess intake of coffee is also not good for bones as the caffeine in high amounts may induce loss of bone. It appears to interfere with calcium absorption and also increases its excretion. It is always good to enjoy a cup of coffee with addition of milk in order to take care of calcium loss.

To summarize, there is an utmost need to introspect and evaluate ourselves as regards how useful and relevant we are to the society and then have required necessary measures. There has to be an action plan for maintaining the bone health. The people must follow a bone healthy life style which includes enough of physical activity, intake of diet rich in calcium and vitamin D, avoid smoking and excess



intake of alcohol. ■

(Dr M K Mam, Formerly, Vice Principal, Prof. & Head of Orthopaedics, Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, Punjab Past President, North Zone Orthopaedics Association)

A LOST NATIVE

BY COL (RETD) HIRA LAL KHER

I have just retired from the Indian Defense Services, namely the Indian Army, and I am now in the process of reorienting myself in an entirely different world. After putting in about 30 years of service with the Indian Army, I have come to realise that one is only born as a fauji. Now that I am looking back, the previous years of my life are rewritten by the colours of service shades.



The other day I was wondering why I experience such a sense of unease with the civilian environment; after all, I was born and brought up in this environment. I have been educated and groomed around this setup, yet it makes me feel so out of place after my retirement. How has the military training of such a short period successfully remoulded my personality forever and managed to erase the previous impressions and beliefs I had? From what I can see, the norms have changed, so have the ways of life that seem to be acceptable. Is this rather newly developed idea and way of life going to be of any advantage to me, or shall it put me in distress of unknown dimensions? All these answers feel like they will come forth in due course of time, but one thing is for sure, I am finding myself in a different environmental pool in which floating appears to be difficult, and if I'm being honest, swimming across will also be a very hard task.

Anyway, I am (Retd) Colonel Hira Lal Kher from rural Kashmir. My family belonged to the Khar family of Batsargam, Kulgam Kashmir. Batsargam was a small beautiful village that fell within the district of Kulgam, in the now infamous valley of Kashmir! There were about ten Hindu and four Muslim families that considered Batsargam as home back then. With all the Pandit families having moved out of Batsargam, my village is no more the same as it used to be, and I would not mind if it is called something else now. It has now become the victim of the unpleasant change in its culture, demography, structure, form, and shape in every respect.

A small Hindu majority village in the entire district was made Hindu free within no time. Obviously, everything in the village has changed for the worse as far as Kashmiri Pandits are concerned. Most of the families in my village were small-time landlords. The primary profession of all the residents was farming. In the villages, jobs were taken up as additional sources of income, and in some sense, they were also con-



sidered a social status symbol. Education was not on the front burner for most families back then, but it had started gaining importance, and efforts were made to educate the children more and more.

There were hardly any private schools in the villages and towns around Batsargam, and the source of education was mainly Govt schools. The teachers those days were highly committed even though they weren't all that qualified. Many teachers were hardly educated, and their contribution was obviously negative as they used to create an environment of disinterest and poor performance. However, it is important to mention here that few of the teachers were highly committed, and whatever students of that time achieved in their life subsequently, a major portion of the credit goes to these class of teachers. Respected teachers like Bashir Ahmed (Maths), Bashir Ahmed (Science), Deena Nath Ji (Maths), Bushan Lal ji (Science), Md Ayub (Non Medical), and many more stalwarts who have made a great deal of contribution in laying the foundation of many successful professionals subsequently. So by effect, their contribution to the society in general, and individual students in particular, is praiseworthy. I have my personal gratitude to all these Gurus and salute them with humility.

This is similar to the story of the rest of the valley, that is why you would find an overall

development in the field of education in Kashmir. There may be many more factors, but the contribution of a few teachers, especially those of science and maths are the major contributors to this development. We, the students of the valley, never felt out of place or inferior in knowledge when we moved out of the valley for further education or training. The other factors, like the cheap fee and free education for the poor, also contributed simultaneously. The fee was paid annually and was in the range of six to eight rupees. Many students did not pay, and it used to be written off for them. Similarly, uniform and books were provided free of cost. The overall support system was very kind and facilitating. All credit goes to the system that existed then, except for the enrollment of underqualified teachers within the establishment. Lots of incompetent, uninterested, and unfit teachers were employed during that time and subsequently. Although separate schools existed for boys and girls, coeducation was also accepted as a norm. Come to think of it the culture of Kashmir back in the day was based in progressive values while also balancing our local traditions.

A lot of teachers and allied staff were following the leftist ideology. These teachers were generally well-read and committed to their profession. Surprisingly most of these teachers joined Jamaat later and supported the separatist ideology. In fact, I am told that these teachers played a

critical role in providing support to the anti-national movement while being part of the system and taking full benefits from it. Why these developments were not picked up by Govt agencies in general and the designated agencies that supposedly work for the security of the countrymen and women, is a million-dollar question. Anyway, the attitude of the elders to educate their children irrespective of sex was changing and changing fast. There are many logical reasons for this change. The disadvantages of not being educated were being realised more and more. One such aspect was letter reading and writing.

During my childhood, I had regularly observed the postman being requested by people on a routine basis to read their letters. These were letters that people received from their children who used to go outside the valley with the aim of earning some extra money during the winter season. This is the period of the seventies and early eighties; back then, these letters at times carried a lot of secrets of the families, and the local postman was privy to all these by default. That is why the postman was well received and respected during those days in rural areas, more because of character than the fear of letting the secrets out.

In 1982 I went to Madras for my engineering. At that time, it was superficially peaceful back in the valley, but a sense of discomfort had set in. This could be sensed by those who allowed themselves to be exposed to it. More importantly, the situation could be well-read by those who took a pause from the routine of life and allowed the mental faculty to analyse the existing environment and suggest alternatives. Such people took intelligent decisions about their future and left the valley in a planned manner. Such people did not go through the difficulties and troubles of the forced migration process. The majority of such people were from the cities and a few from the villages. The rest of the Pandit community refused to smell the coffee, although they drank it hard and raw later when the distress struck. Many threads of the incoming situations did exist, and all one needed to do is track one such thread. The Campus of the University of Kashmir was one such place, where the display of the fast-changing environment was free, open, loud, and clear. More than regular education, other ideologies were openly debated and propagated. It is during this time that open celebrations used to be held whenever the Pakistani Cricket team won a match against us, which was, unfortunately, getting more and more discomfiting for nationalists.

During those days, there used to be protests all around the valley for every irrelevant issue, and we Pandits were the targets. Imagine, an incident of firing in Afghanistan would lead to a strike in the Valley, and the pandit students in the colleges would be invariably made the targets. Also, during these times, Hindus remained

indoors to avoid trouble and considered each incident as an isolated case. I suppose the situation existing at that time was gaining momentum rapidly for future events to follow. This wave was neither read nor evaluated properly by the Pandit community and other minorities. Thus, the telltale signs of ensuing trouble were unfortunately ignored, and a heavy price was paid by all of us subsequently.

Kashmiri Pandits who are considered to be a community with special attributes could not understand how our central Govt pampered the then ruling family of the state. There were various speeches of Sheik Abdulla at various gatherings that almost threatened the merger of the state with Pakistan, and within the next few days, you would find the same Abdulla making a statement in Delhi that no power on earth could take Kashmir away from India. In those days, the Govt at the centre was intellectually inept and lacked foresight. It was as if they were all intoxicated during the day and sozzled during the night. It is this state of mind that made the politicians of the valley, in the beginning, think that the regions of Ladakh and Jammu did not matter and the fate of the state would be decided by the politicians of the Valley. This sense of false superiority is something that was expressed by the politicians loud and clear in the time to come. It became a monster that did a lot of harm, and this harm continued until the year 2014. It is this overconfidence that made Dr Abdulla state that even if Mr Modi comes to power many times, no power on earth can revoke Article 370 and 35A because he and his family had continued to get away with everything anti-national until then.

A certain section of people within the valley are well aware of who has harmed the valley the maximum and how. They also know that many parties like Pakistan, China, etc. are interested in finishing Kashmir once and for ever if they are given a chance. It is clear to them that Pakistan and Afghanistan are both failed states, and no such country can do any good to the valley. Unfortunately, the intellectuals and moderates in the valley are shit scared of the rogue elements who are out there to target such people and their ideologies. I have no doubt about the intellectual competence of my community, but I am sure, in this regard, most of the community failed to pick up the leads.

What the Kashmiri Pandit community should not forget is that most of the Kashmiri Muslims are converted Kashmiri Pandits and that too not many years back. So the intellectual attributes of the Kashmiri Muslims, wise as they are, are no less than those of the Kashmiri Hindus. This was very evident from the status of the three regions of the state. Both Jammu and Ladakh were left behind in everything and that too, with the support of politicians from both these regions. Honestly speaking, the most suitable region when we talk of development is the Jammu

region because of obvious reasons such as proximity, accessibility, and favourable weather, but Jammu was left high and dry. Apart from the dominant nature of Kashmiri politicians, it was the lack of commitment, foresight, dedication, and planning of politicians from the Jammu region that harmed the city. They are mainly responsible for neglecting Jammu. While the politicians in the valley recommended the opening of schools, politicians in Jammu were interested in opening local liquor shops. Obviously, the damage was done to the roots of the society, then expecting the tree and its fruit to be healthy and tasty is like chasing a wild goose.

I have seen quite a few of such scary incidents in Kashmir, which should have been eye-openers for the administration and should have stood out to the minorities of the valley. One such incident was the one which took place in Habba Kadal area post, at a ceremony where Dr Farook Abdulla was taking over as the president of the state party. Some people in the procession raised Pakistani flags during the ceremony. The atmosphere was full of undesired expressions to notice. Since not many Hindus were part of the procession, such activities were neither observed nor reported with the intensity and importance that they deserved. Moreover, there were people with the procession to moderate such activities. I was shaken up by the sheer number of people participating in the procession. My imagination of how destructive such a procession could turn if it was instigated haunted me for weeks. A few bad elements are more than enough... The next day while sharing the details with one of my friends, I was educated by him that procession management is an art, and these artists know how, where, and when to channelise it as per directions received from the organisers. It is a sort of harnessed energy for the purpose of displaying one's strength, and at times it takes a destructive shape.

The other scary incident was when Mr. Z A Buttoo was hanged in Pakistan. The amount of loot, burning, and destruction that took place in Kashmir was more horrifying than an English World War movie. I witnessed the entire scenery unfolding in front of my eyes. There were mobs that looted shops, burned properties, and they were absolutely ruthless. Every village was on fire, and in some cases, close relatives participated in the process of destruction. The fire and smoke covered each and every village and town, it engulfed the valley. In fact, people participating in these activities were seen carrying the looted material. Suffice to say that telltale signs were bold and clear for the Kashmiri Pandit community to take note off, but these early warnings were unfortunately ignored. Those pandit families who read the situation well did not go through the hell of migration and established themselves well in advance. Thus a huge price was paid by almost the entire community. I am more surprised by the lack of fore-

sight of the Pandit community from Srinagar, who were by and large mobile and could have planned and executed an early exit cum settlement outside the valley. I was studying in Srinagar and knew all too well that most of the Pandits from Srinagar were well connected outside the valley. It was not that hard for them to relocate in a planned phased manner. The villagers, however, had little time to think and were under the impression that the Indian Army would come for their rescue. They also had huge immobile assets such as land and cattle, which could not be disposed of so easily. It is also true that the magnitude and intensity of the crisis were kept secret by Kashmiri Muslims to such an extent that they did not inform their Hindu neighbours in advance. While everything appeared normal during the day, the situation underneath was highly turbulent. It is these turbulent currents that took the shape of a volcanic eruption, the magnitude of which surprised each and every one. In many cases, the Kashmiri Muslims participated in destroying the properties of their neighbours after looting them. Some even compelled the Pandits for the distress sale of their assets. The Govt at the centre during those critical years was practically nonexistent. There was no stability, and its survival was on a day to day basis or maybe less than that. It was during this period when a complete cultural tran-

sition took place with sonic speed.

In the late seventies and early eighties, audio systems in buses played Hindi movie songs, and people of all ages enjoyed listening to those numbers. A few years later, this music was replaced by the preaching of Islam. I used to observe these things. There are many observations of a similar kind during that time. Therefore, to say that everything was sudden is neither true nor practical. The situation got further momentum, and the recipe was cooked enough for a great taste of all-round death and destruction. Surprisingly the Muslim community eagerly waited for this dish to be served to them and liked the sweetness of the poison initially but never found a suitable antidote for reducing the pain that this sweetness caused to their community. The victims of the violence were the ignorant, the innocent, the simple, the noble, and the harmless. In the history of mankind, there is no parallel example of cruelty to a community that has never been involved in any kind of violence, even under distress situations. The previously recorded forced migrations of the same community, from the same place, at the hands of the same community is a testimony to this claim. No doubt, genocides have taken place in many parts of the world, but in those cases, both the parties were involved more or less, be it directly or indirectly. But in the case of the Kashmiri

Pandits, who have a record of being peaceful and nonviolent, the action of planned killing with an aim to eliminate or convert the whole community is even worse than what we now call a genocide. Furthermore, it is important to mention here if the majority community of 97%, with some percent of it well-armed, threatens the minority of 3% it is a proof of them being cowards and fundamentalists. A level playing field would have shown different results and even then it would not have been justified to select the methodology of inhumanity and insanity.

I am surprised with no reaction from national and international human rights bodies. Nobody in the world took notice of it, and no action was initiated by national and international human rights organisations. Such organisations are not caged with the constraints of vote bank politics or other appeasement compulsions. The miseries continued thereafter, and this community continues to live deprived of all the constitutional guarantees of this nation in particular and international bodies in general. The emotional, social, and physical distresses continue. In spite of our relentless hard work to avoid getting sucked in this whirlpool, the deliberately manifested destructive eddy currents of pain and helplessness submerge us repeatedly. The mental pain, agony, physical distress, and fatigue that the community has been unnecessarily subjected to,

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YOUR NARROW BEAM OF LIGHT TODAY CAN BRING COMPLETE SUNSHINE TO FAMILY TOMORROW

needs to be recorded in all possible prints, forms and signatures and preserved to display for generations of humanity to come. It will be a document of mammoth dimensions and holocaustic effects that historians will get horrified to analyse. It will be a testament that will convey the absence of any government and nongovernment body during this period in the country. It will also stand as proof of biased decision making at international levels, including the UN. Kashmiri Pandits have all the rights to denounce the UN for not taking up their case at that time as it does for other communities on a regular basis. A small step by the UN at that time would have been of great help and would have saved a lot of human lives. It would have reduced the intensity of pain and destruction that the community went through then and continues to suffer through till this day. UN, as a body, must hold its head in shame for this serious neglect in which one of the world's most peace-loving communities was planned to be eliminated. A group of scholars and volunteers need to put in this effort for the sake of the entire community and humanity as a whole.

After my retirement from the Army, I decided to visit some religious places in the valley, which we, as a family, used to frequently visit like Kheer Bawani, Manzgam, Nagbal, Martand, etc. Manzgam was my favourite place to visit as a young boy. We used to go there as a family and enjoy a couple of days of stay there. It was full of natural beauty. I was shocked to see the place being encroached. I was told that the intent of the locals was to encroach the entire temple property. If it hadn't been for the efforts of Mr Kuldeep Raina, this religious place would have been taken over and converted. A lot of effort has been made, and many facilities are made available by the team that looks after this place, but the attractive surroundings are lost forever. Incidentally, the sadhu (Late Shri Sukh dev Giri) who used to be there in the temple did not migrate and was murdered brutally. Does it not indicate the scale of insecurity that prevailed at that time and the distress that the community was facing? If a saint in a temple cannot be spared, then one can imagine how bad the situation was then and how destructive a mentality existed.

On my return journey, I decided to take the route via my village to show it to my family, who had not seen it before as I got married post-migration. I used to tell them the stories of my beautiful village, but once we halted there, the situation turned out to be quite the opposite. My son refused to get down from the vehicle. It was very challenging for me to convince them that my village indeed was beautiful then, and the present form is totally different. Our stay that lasted just around five minutes' was so draining that I have failed to put it in words. The place which belonged to me for generations and generations was now illegally occupied by out-

siders, and it was me who was not welcomed there. Most of the places are either encroached or being misused. The area of Ganash Bal (Temple area) has lost its semblance of a temple, and the charm in the surroundings feel like a distant dream. It was a temple of meditation, with no buildings but an environment of peace and harmony with all the creations and elements of nature. There was no restriction for any one to visit or rest in its premises irrespective of faith and belief system. Its majestic tree cover was a constant reminder of power and supremacy of nature and the Almighty to all the visitors and devotees. The same place has now been converted to a village with an incredibly toxic environment, giving a feeling of visiting a radioactively affected area. In fact, worse than that. It was shocking to experience the ground realities. The exact assessment of the change can only be done by those who have lived there prior to our forced migration because the parameters of comparison are available for constructive analysis.

In my village, all the houses belonging to the Pandits had been burnt off in one go and just in one night. One could only find heaps of the ruminants of debris. All of the construction material that our families took generations to build were now of no use to the local population. The land encroachments were everywhere. I found the situation highly compromising, disgusting, annoying, frustrating, and intimidating. I could hardly recognise the place. The complete alignment, layout, and surroundings had changed. Apart from a few fading landmarks, everything had changed. What frustrated me the most was the casual behaviour of locals as if nothing had happened. It was a painful experience. Although my intention was to spend some time there, I was restless and distressed with the existing environment there. A place which is mine legally, socially, culturally and traditionally has been forcibly made alien for me and a sense of insecurity and discomfort has set in, which is frankly, just soul-crushing. The property that we as a family worshipped and looked after like a spiritual gift is now in ruins. My home is being misused and exploited by people who are neither known to us nor were part of the village. These people, disinterested and ill-behaved, have changed this heaven into hell, full of pain, destruction, and disbelief. I wish I had not taken up this tour as it has ended up shattering me emotionally, spiritually, and physically. I could not sleep for some time after this visit. The encroachment of land was to the extent that the village had lost its original orientation and alignment. The five minutes I spent in the place I once called home, felt like being put in boiling oil. I saw drugs being cultivated in the gifted land of this area. This area is the most fertile land and used to be the rice bowl of the valley. Now it has become a drug-producing area. I consider a drug menace the worst crisis on the planet. I am sure very soon there will be many

addicts around that area. What a tragedy!

Most of the Islamic terrorist outfits have used drugs as a source of huge income, which they used for the purchase of arms and ammunition—what a tragic exploitation by an ideology.

It was a very draining, painful, shocking, distressing, horrifying, and maddening experience. Imagine the property on which our buildings existed 30 years back is being encroached, and semi-permanent structures are built by those who neither belong to the village nor are even remotely known to anyone in my family.

Assuming that this encroachment has taken place without the active support of the local community and administration in a structured manner is outrightly foolish and devoid of any logic. The fact is that the properties of Kashmiri Pandits in the valley are up for grabs and these are not isolated incidents, it is a pattern. This cannot be done by known people, so the other alternative is to settle unknown outsiders and name them whatever suits as per the situation. Well, if it is for the welfare of some community members, then locals should give them a place in their property. It appears that the aim is to allow encroachment on our homes by the Muslim community for some years, and then they would grab it. It must be happening all around the valley wherever the Pandits have their properties.

Who the hell says that state administration existed there for the last 30 years. If it existed, some action would have been taken, and the properties of the Pandit community could have been identified and freed from encroachers. Necessary legal action should have been initiated so that others would get discouraged from resorting to such activities. But nothing of that sort seems to be happening on the ground, although administrative orders to that effect exist.

When the men, material, and machinery are together out there to target a particular minority, tall claims of Govt Of India have no meaning. Because of poor response, or shall I say no response, from the administration, the Pandit community is in such distress, that they have to sell their properties. That serves the most desired objective of the local population in general and Islamic fundamentalists in particular. I was also told that maximum loot is done by the families who have one or more members in the police department because they fear no law. I don't know how far it is true, but there are signs of such a phenomenon.

Staying there any further was neither healthy nor desired. The drive back to Srinagar was full of old memories of happy times and comparisons with the present situation. Although the village is physically there but its soul is dead. The reincarnation of Kashmir is possible only if conditions on the ground become conducive again. In its present form, THE NATIVE IS LOST FOREVER! ■

SHEETALNATH — THE LISTENING POST OF KASHMIRI PANDITS

BY SURINDER KOUL



Sheetalnath has an old history of Sheetaishwar Bhairav temple as one of the thirteen Bhairav places consecrated around Srinagar District behind it. But it came into eminence due to the efforts of Pt. Hargopal Kaul who used to organize Kashmiri Pandit youth and address them in the large ground of the complex

During, before and after, India's freedom movement, stalwarts like, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan and Mahatma Gandhi addressed the Kashmiri people, from its holy ramp. Sheetalnath became a natural platform of freedom of expression of the Kashmiri people. Martand, daily Urdu newspaper of Pandits was run from the premises of Sheetalnath. Educational institution Hindu High School was also housed in one of the building in Sheetalnath.

Sheetalnath, served as a hub of resistance during the infamous "Parmishori Case" in July 1967. Kashmiri Pandit launched an agitation for the return of the Pandit girl Parmishori, eloped with one Muslim boy Ghulam Rasool Kanth, to her widow mother. Her name was also changed from Parmishori to Parveena Akhtar. The agitation spontaneously turned into communal intensity. As usual different stories with different versions started pouring in about the elopement of the girl. One of the versions was that the KP girl was working as a salesgirl in Super Market, located in LaLa Rukh Hotel, Lal Chowk Srinagar. There she was trapped in cash deficit, which was pre-planned by her Muslim co-workers to entice her for marriage. Whereas some said both were in love with each other and one fine day the boy fled along with her to a safe zone in the Downtown area. The news spread like a wide fire in the valley. The communal hue to issue gave an opportunity to Kashmiri Pandits to vent to their resentment against the government, which was already undercurrent.

This outrage was raised by minority Kashmir Pandits for the first time after independence, which sustained for one and a half months. Sheetalnath turned nerve center for Pandits where leaders emerged like Prem Nath Gassi, Gopi Krishen, Shambo Nath Kachru, Amar Nath Vashnavi, Kashi Nath Dulloo,



Prem Nath Bhatt, Tik Lal Taploo, Hadey Nath Jattu, Amar Nath Ganjoo, Pushkar Nath Karnal and Balji Handoo delivered emotive speeches. An Action Committee of Kashmiri Pandits was constituted which organize protests, dharana and peaceful Satyagrah by five volunteers, continuously for days and weeks. None of the protestors resort to the damaging public the property, burning of civil transport or looting of any shop or any business establishment, despite brutal police actions and firing of tear-gas on women folk at the Regal Chowk, Srinagar led by one Kapoor IPS officer then. A similar heavy police lathi charge was also let loose on KP agitators in Lal Chowk area by the then Late D.N.Kaul DIG Srinagar. One day large gathering of KP was blocked within sheetalnath by Kashmir Armed Police under the direction of DIG Srinagar. Pandits were not allowed to move out, if and when any attempt was made by Pandit protesters to move out, they were lathi charged from the entry lane of the temple. KP community would religiously converge in Sheetalnath every day to attend anti Government speeches and chalk out next line of action.

Interestingly, KP innovated a unique strategy of alerting neighbours during police action in midnight or danger from anti-social elements. They would bang their alloy plates or blow conch shells from the top of their houses.

Satyagrah of KPs turned out to be comprehensive weapon in Srinagar which went on unhindered for weeks. The potency of the KP peaceful movement put the state government baffled to this extent that the then CM, G M Sadiq almost had decided to resign from the post. Eventually, the Jammu region got also involved and Jan Sangh party leaders Shiv Charan Gupta, Rishi Kumar Kaushal and Makhan Lal Hakar landed in Srinagar in support of KP and to take stock of the situation after meeting their party unit in the valley. The state administration swung into action and arrested protesters at random in large numbers, in which nearly twelve hundred were Pandit government employees, lodged in Central Jail. In central jail, the agitators were not spared from torture. The hardcore criminals were given free hand by the jail authority to beat and bash the Pandit agitators on the behest of ruling masters. Dozens of Pandits were severely injured with deep wounds and cut marks on heads.

Communists did not stay back; they deputed Rajeshwar Rao, CPI leader to Srinagar in August, when KP had converged all their fronts under one banner to recover the Pandit girl from the Muslim captivity. Before leaving for New Delhi from Srinagar, Rajeshwar Rao, was briefed by the state Govt according to their Machiavellian. He did not have the nerve to

counter check the version fed to him by meeting the agitating KP to understand their issues. In Aug, the Jan Sangh leader Late Balraj Madhok landed in Srinagar and met CM. G.M.Sadiq. What transpired between the two having different ideology remained unknown? On the following day Balraj Madhok fiery statement, "Kashmir is an integral part of India. Accession with India is final. The plebiscite is impossible. Those who want plebiscite should vacate Kashmir and go to Pakistan", infuriated Muslim majority and they resorted to complete hartal on the next day and condemned Madhok for an anti-Kashmir provocative statement. Muslim groups assembled to counter KP agitation and Satyagrah by hurling pro-Islamic slogans near Govt. Girls College, Chowk, when KP Satyagrah was going on. Ruling leadership made the best use of Muslim hooliganism to suppress the KP agitation. Late Sadiq's close cohorts Peer Giasuddin, Noor Mohammad, Zanib Begum, Sajida Begum and Miss Mehmooda and one Burza family played a pivotal role in reversing the peaceful agitation into communal and violent hue. T.N.Kaul, the then Foreign secretary also flew in Srinagar as an emissary of PM to calm down the KP movement. Now the number of incidents of looting and burning of Kashmiri Hindu minority shops and houses had started. Nine Kashmiri pundits were killed either in police savagery or in mob lynching in Khanyar and other areas of Muslim predominant enclaves under the darkness when Pandits were returning to their homes after peaceful Satyagrah.

Public pressure was raising high on the central government to bring the situation under control in Srinagar. Y.B.Chavan, the then Union Home Minister arrived at Srinagar on 2nd Sept 1967 to work out an amicable solution of the burning situation. He met CM, G.M.Sadiq and Late D.P.Dhar State Home Minister to gauge the turmoil and steps to be taken to restore normalcy. Chavan had extensive conversation with DP to about the situation from both the point of view of both communities and how to come out of this quagmire as PM was eager for its resolution. Chavan desired for meeting with the KP leadership to acquaint himself with the grievances and their expectation. But the real KP leaders H.N.Jattu, AN Vaishnavi, Tek Lal Taploo had gone underground. Whereas, the other community leaders Late A.N.Ganjoo, P.N.Karnal were in central Jail Srinagar. Chavan met selected KP delegation who revealed woeful tales of discrimination in state employments, promotions, admissions in technical institutions, allotment of contracts that were surreptitiously practiced by State Government.

Chavan assured them protection, security and safety. They were asked to present a charter of demands in writing. One of KP delega-

AT SHEETALNATH, THE HORDES OF KP WERE INFORMED THAT THE CHAVAN HAD ACCEPTED ALL DEMANDS AND WAVED A WHITE SHEET OF PAPER SIGNALING THE ENDORSEMENT OF GOVT. ON THEIR DEMANDS EVEN RETURN OF THE GIRL. ON THE CONTRARY, THE DELEGATION DID NOT ASK FOR THE RETURN OF THE GIRL. STATE GOVT. ANNOUNCED OF CONSTITUTING GAJENDERGADKER COMMISSION TO GO INTO THE NITTY-GRITTY OF THE STATE SERVICES COMMUNITY WISE BREAK UP.

tion member visited CM's house on the next day morning revealed what had transpired between Chavan and KP delegation? Subsequently, DP paid a midnight visit to Central jail in his private car to meet KP leaders for getting their petition reviewed with minor changes in draft and affixation of their signatures. Credit did go to late DP Dhar who saved the Govt. services of nearly twelve hundred jailed KP employees from punitive action from the State Administration by incorporated the demand of condoning the employees for their absence from duty?

In Jammu, rumour was floated that KP agitation was aimed at in getting a government jobs, but not to get eloped Kashmiri Pandit girl back. This interpretation was given none other than Dr Karan Singh, former cabinet Minister and his band of associates. Such statement from Jammu left KP sympathy less even from Jammuites. Within two days times all jailed KP were released.

At Sheetalnath, the hordes of KP were informed that the Chavan had accepted all demands and waved a white sheet of paper signaling the endorsement of Govt. on their demands even return of the girl. On the contrary, the delegation did not ask for the return of the girl. State Govt. announced of constituting Gajendergadker commission to go into the nitty-gritty of the state services community wise break up. KP agitation rose up with big bang which shattered politics vertices in the state but it later crumbled in rubbles. Many lives were lost. Community sacrifices went down the drain. Whatever a little respect they had that too was dashed.

Late P.N.Bazaz, renowned journalist and one-time member of the Glancey commission published a booklet "Kashmiri Pandits Agitation and its Aftermath", in which he attributes the sustenance of the agitation was based on two factors., First, Bakshi's political group supported the agitation to get back to power, and second RSS and Praja Parshad group of Jan Sangh supported KP for their own political gain. He totally overlooked the hard reality of setting of communal trends in the state political governance and administration against which KP joined their ranks and file.

He could foresee the failure of agitation due to a lack of vision among their leaders.

The immediate fall out of the agitation was that DP Dhar, a genius politician to the core, known as the king maker was removed from Home Ministry to Education Minister which he could not reconcile. Later, he was shifted from State politics to centre where he later became an Ambassador to USSR.

A gulf between majority Muslim community and KP community came into effect on social and political levels. KPs were gradually relegated aside. Hashim Qureshi, 1971 Indian Airline hijacker, now settled in Srinagar, pointed out that the agitation of KP had sowed the seed of mistrust among Muslims towards KP. Other major outcome of KP agitation was that seventy percent of Muslims were absorbed in jobs, promotions; admission in technical institutions, contracts, scholarships, and bank loans in the state on the basis majoritarianism. The rest of non-Muslim communities comprising Hindus, Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs, and KP were to be accommodated within 30% leftover in the state.

On political scenario division within Democratic National Conference started surfacing and Mir Qasim advocated for political forays of Jamiat E Islami to counter pro-Pakistani propaganda. Late Sadiq and his men disapproved of this political combination. With coming of late Mir Qasim in power after demise of Sadiq, Jamiat's and subversive got footholds made inroads in police and education departments.

Late T.N.Kaul was upgraded and posted Indian Ambassador to USA in 1968.

Though the Democratic National Conference headed by late G.M.Sadiq as CM supported by State Cabinet D.P.Dhar, Mir Qasim, Mir Lasjan, Peer Gayasuddin, Mohammad Ayub Khan, Abdul Ghani Lone, Mufti Mohd Syed, Kanwar Ranjit Singh, Trilochan Dutt, Girdhari Lal Dogra were all leftist bent of mind yet the politics of the State remained Kashmir centric and communal in practices.

We as KPs continue to be fooled by all because we have more leaders less followers with divergent political claims. ■

Government Ownership Of Banks And FSDR Bill

BY ASHOK PEER

Fifty-one years ago in 1969 Government of India (GoI) under the Prime Ministership of Mrs. Indira Gandhi nationalised 14 major private sector banks, and six more were nationalised in 1980. What led then the GoI for bank nationalisation? Not much of background documents and conversations among the various stakeholders and record of the sequence of events are in the public domain.



Based on readily available information, that, L.K. Jha, the then Governor of Reserve Bank of India, was not in the know of the things from the beginning; he was brought in at the last minute, I.G. Patel, then Economic Affairs Secretary was given just 24 hours to draft the legislation- Banking Companies Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings (Ordinance) Act, V.V. Giri stand-in President signed the ordinance a day before he stepped down to contest the election, Morarji Deasi, then Finance Minister resigned in protest a week before the ordinance was passed, and P.N. Haksar, the then Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, piloted and oversaw the implementation of bank nationalisation, indicate that nationalisation was a political move rather than a dire need of taking banking to rural areas as it was expressed and presented in public.

Notwithstanding this clear indication that the bank nationalisation was a politically motivated move, there are votaries of bank nationalisation arguing that it has served the country well. It facilitated the flow of credit to agriculture that saved farmers from usurious money lenders and helped the country in achieving self-sufficiency in food grain production. It also made credit accessible at a reasonable cost to neglected sectors, like Small Sector Industries (SSI) and small businesses etc. They argue that private banks hadn't capacity to generate resources to expand at the needed speed and to give the farmers and the small sector industry access to credit at a reasonable cost. It brought banking near to the vast rural population, garnered deposits lying idle with them and put



those to productive uses. It also generated employment within the banking industry and outside of it. However, they agree that the government's interference caused corruption and inefficiencies in the system, and the public is bearing its cost, which has escalated with passing years.

The opponents have equally strong arguments against the bank nationalisation. Firstly, the bank nationalisation they argue was a clear political move of Mrs. Gandhi to gain an edge over the old guards in the Congress party which in the long run was bound to damage polity, economy and banking in the country. Secondly, it opened the gate for the government to nationalise other industries; the insurance industry was nationalised in 1972 and the coal industry in 1973. Thirdly, the government's ownership of banks has led to weak regulatory supervision and oversight. Fourthly, political class/governments use banks to gain political favours. As the economy expanded, the complex web of murky deals and unholy nexus between the political class and big business made Public Sector Banks (PSBs) as conduits to generate money for funding elections. And lastly, the cost of inefficiency and corruption due to political interference defrayed by the public keeps on rising. The massive growth of frauds in PSBs and a huge pile of NPAs, they carry, are pieces of evidence of wrongs of bank nationalisation.

Both votaries and the opponents of bank nationalisation have valid arguments to support their cases. In my view, there is no clear

cut winner, but I am inclined to stand with the opponents. In my opinion, the successive governments after the economic liberalisation of 1991 should have begun to disinvest in PSBs in a phased manner and passed the ownership to private hands. Unfortunately, no government was interested in losing the ownership control of PSBs. The present government also hasn't so far shown any firm inclination. The successive governments having fiscal constraints - Government having little leeway for increasing spending - used PSBs to jack up credit expansion to impart stimulus for economic growth and job creation. And during the economic down-cycles, Governments push PSBs harder for credit growth. This more than often becomes a source of creation of bad assets in the banks and financial indiscipline among the borrowers.

PSBs are burdened with bad loans and with the corona pandemic showing no sign of abating, the NPAs are only going to grow higher. Some commentators estimate that level of NPAs may double to ₹20 lac crore in six months from now. Some PSBs will again need recapitalisation to remain afloat, and GoI may not be in the position to do it. The situation may turn severe with time. The GoI may not be left with many alternatives but to pass the burden of loss in a PSB to other stakeholders, including depositors. It may disinvest its holding in some PSBs and let private hands run them. There was a piece of news recently in the press saying that the government is planning to privatise five

PSBs. In the recent speech by the Governor Of Reserve Bank Of India, Shaktikanta Das suggested the revival of the FSDR- Financial Sector Development and Regulation (Resolution) Bill, 2019. The proposed bill hasn't explicit 'bail-in' clause as it was in the 2017 version of the bill. Instead, it empowers the RA (Resolution Agency) to 'cancel or modify' the failed institution's liabilities barring those covered by deposit insurance. In simple language, it means that a depositor of a failed bank may not get her deposits over ₹5 lac paid back from the failed bank.

It doesn't make a sense to a depositor to put his hard-earned money at risk by letting Government / political class continue to hold ownership of PSBs and use them as vehicles for securing political gains and pushing up higher credit growth when they are grappling with non-performing assets. The depositors bear the adverse consequences of burgeoning NPAs. The depositors in these banks become riskier with reducing net returns. Besides, depositors also bear the cost of recapitalisation of these banks. The government doesn't turn any money. It has money that the public pays in the form of taxes and that it borrows from the market (public). Thus, the government has a limited amount of money that it spends on public good and country's development. You may ask as a sovereign it can print unlimited quantity of currency notes. It can. But doing that has horrendous economic consequences for the country. Being the owner of PSBs becomes incumbent upon the government to recapitalise these banks to save them from failing and protect the interests of all

stakeholders.

The government, as said, has limited resources so it can't keep on infusing capital into these banks when no fruitful financial and economic returns from them seem possible. Between 2011-12 and 2018-19, Government invested ₹ 2,91,504 crore in keeping these banks afloat. Had PSBs not facing massive problems of bad loans this money could have been utilised for important social and developmental purposes, say for the building of hospitals and schools, and the development of rural infrastructure. The government's holding of PSBs is perceived by the people as if deposits in these banks were covered by 'sovereign guarantee'. This perception that deposits in them are underwritten by the sovereign, meaning that PSBs are safer than Private Banks (PBS) for Indian Aam Aadmi depositors may no longer hold when the persistent losses and bailouts of PSBs become ubiquitous. Deposit only up to a maximum of ₹ 5 lacs per customer per bank is insured by Deposit Insurance & Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). Under the wrong impression of complete safety of deposits in PSBs, depositors skip doing the much-needed risk assessment before depositing money with a bank.

It is widely acknowledged that the strength of the banking sector is critical for a country's economy to grow handsomely. With PSBs controlling more than 60 per cent share of banking assets reeling under the burden of NPAs, the desired economic growth taking India to \$5 trillion economy is unlikely to happen, unless the much needed structural, regu-

latory and legal changes are made in the public sector banking space. In my view, the changes are bound to happen and time of FSDR bill becoming a law is not far. So, it is also time for a depositor to learn to evaluate and reduce the risk her deposit carries in a bank. A deposit above ₹5 lacs in different banks will carry the varying magnitude of risk. In some banks, it will be riskier and in some less risky. There is a proverb attributed to Miguel Cervantes, the author of novel Don Quixote, "It is part of wise man to keep himself today for tomorrow, and not to venture all eggs in one basket". The depositor should, like Cervante's wise man, to think of tomorrow and not venture all eggs in one basket. A depositor can mitigate the risk by spreading her deposits among healthier banks and also by splitting the joint accounts into individual accounts. ■

(Note: Please don't get scared. Deposits with PSBs, irrespective of their value, are presently safe. Sound financial health of these banks is essential for the financial stability and economic growth of the country. So in the coming years, we are likely to see changes in many laws and regulations concerning the banking and insurance sector. My piece is not to scare you. It is an attempt to make you aware that in the world of finance, there is no free lunch and nothing in it is entirely risk-free. Therefore, it is incumbent upon everyone to acquire some level of financial literacy to manage his savings and investments better. For any query, you are welcome to write to me on my e-mail address sashokpeer@gmail.com or call me on 9619885161)



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INDIAN PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

DR R K RAINA



Indian population, before the British rule, was dependent mainly on two classical indigenous Ayurvedic texts, Charka Samhita and Sushruta Samhita for medicinal, pharmaceutical and surgical therapies. These books are still important and useful for the discovery of new drugs not only in India but everywhere, particularly in the institutions where research work on drug discovery is based on natural products. During the British regime the semi processed pharmaceutical products were manufactured in India, then exported, refined and brought back to be sold at higher prices. But soon the foundation of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry was laid on sound footing by three Indian scientists P C Ray, T K Gajir, and A S Kotibhaskar. By 1909 three pharmaceutical industries namely, Bengal Chemicals, Alembic Chemical Works and Bengal Immunity were up and running and meeting up to 13% of country's requirement. With the start of the world war (1939-45), acute shortage of drugs was felt in the country, many other players jumped in this business and almost 70% of the requirement was met within the country.

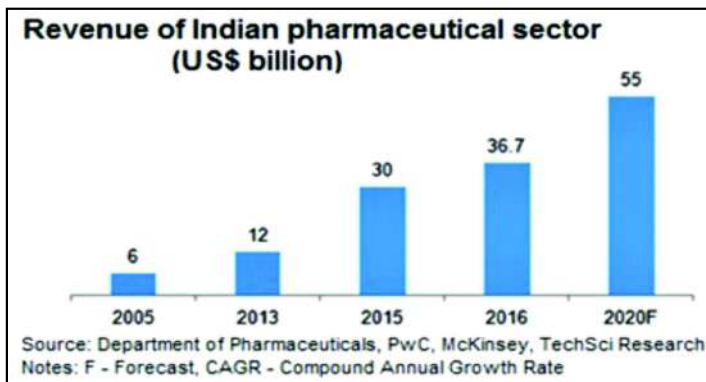
Because of the lack of financial resources Indian pharma industry was not a part of new technology and drug discovery process but liberalization of the governmental policies on foreign investment pushed the growth of Pharmaceutical industry in the country. Two public sector companies, Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL) and Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd (IDPL) came up in 1954 and 1961. HAL was established with the technical assistance of World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) while as IDPL was established with the technical assistance from USSR. These two companies played an exemplary role in building up technical competence in pharma industry as well in establishing a strong bulk drug industry in the country. The Indian manufacturing pharmaceutical industry achieved the marvelous growth of ₹100 crore in 1962 up from ₹10 crore in 1947. HAL commenced with the bulk production of Streptomycin sulphate, Penicillin-G, 6-APA and Ampicillin while as IDPL at its three centers across the country started with the production of life saving drugs at affordable prices.

Around this time new drug discoveries were happening in the world, multinational companies started to dictate by not passing the technology for the production of new drugs in our country. These companies would protect their products by a number of process patents to prevent others from manufacturing the product. Famous case referred everywhere is that of Eli Lilly, who protected their anti-infective Cefaclor by filing thirty-two patents. But even then, scientists at Ranbaxy laboratory developed a new process to manufacture the product. The authorities therefore, decided to revisit the patent laws of the country which were already in place since 1911. In 1957, the Government of India appointed Justice N. Rajagopala Ayyangar Committee to re-examine the patent act for its wider applicability. In 1967 once amended bill was reintroduced

by about 50% and thus their monopoly also decreased. It is worth mentioning that organizations such as Indian Council of Medical Research and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research significantly contributed towards the growth of pharmaceutical Industry of the country. The processes developed by Central Drug Research Institute, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology and National Chemical Laboratory were successfully transferred to private organizations for commercialization, help was provided to upscale the processes for large scale production of the products. Industry fell back on these organizations for support. Many companies were benefitted and thus the pharmaceutical sector took an upward trend in development. Looking into the profit margins offered by pharma sector, the number of production units in forty years

increased many folds. More than 16 percent growth was registered in pharma sector until 1995. With India becoming part of WTO's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement, in 1995 a significant change happened in Indian Intellectual property protection. Patent protection was introduced for both products and processes for a period of 20 years. In December 2005, the TRIPS pact was amended to incorporate specific safeguards to ensure that the public health concerns

of affordability and accessibility for a large section of people in developing countries were not compromised. Manufacturing the bulk drugs and formulations still remained the main stay of pharmaceutical industry. The reputed pharma companies started focusing on patenting new products. The steep progress in pharmaceutical sector of India also saw some controversial hiccups. World Health organization reported that more than 30% of the drugs produced at that time were of substandard quality. Between 2015 and 2017, 31 FDA warning letters were issued to Indian Pharmaceutical Companies on Data Integrity issues, manipulation or fabrication of test results. Immediately quality control measures were taken up in the country which was technically and scientifically supported by ICMR and CSIR. Many of the production companies also got accredited by WHO to produce high quality standard products. The Central Drug Standards Control Organization (CDSCO), the drug regulatory authority of India conducted a nationwide survey in 2009 and announced that of 24,000 samples that were collected from all over India and tested, only 11 samples or



and referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee and later passed as Indian the Patents Act, 1970. This Act repealed and replaced the 1911 Act so far as the patents law was concerned. However, the 1911 Act continued to be applicable to designs. The provisions of the 1970 Act were brought into force on 20th April 1972 with the publication of Indian Patent Rules, 1972. India did away with product patenting but notably introduced process patent regime. Which in simpler terms meant that products of chemical reactions and mere admixtures, not showing synergistic behavior are not patentable in India. It significantly meant approval for novel processes, or the methods of making products are patentable in India. These changes in the Indian patent laws are seen as a great shift towards the progress of the pharmaceutical industry in India. The lack of product patents in India and permission for process patents resulted in the reverse engineering for developing new processes for the important drugs patented elsewhere in the developed world but unprotectable in India. Drugs for all disease segments started production in India, imports from multinational companies dropped

0.046% are spurious. In 2017 a similar survey found 3.16% of the medicines sampled were substandard and 0.0245% were fake. There was a pan India drive to advise the industry to increase the quality control norms and establish quality control and quality assurance laboratories to maintain the WHO norms in the production industry. In the picture you can see author with former Director General Prof S K Brahmachari meeting the heads of Pharmaceutical Companies in Jammu and Kashmir. A recent survey indicates that the Indian Pharmaceutical sector has given employment to approximately 2.86 million people, through 20,053 plus units in the country. By appointing best scientists, adopting new technologies, creating proper scientific temperament towards research and production, Indian pharmaceutical industry is ranked 3rd in world in terms of volume of production and 14th in terms of value. There is no doubt that the best pool of scientists in Indian pharmaceutical industry has the potential to steer the industry to still higher level. India is now the largest provider of generic drugs globally. Over 80 per cent of the antiretroviral drugs used globally to combat AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) are supplied by Indian pharmaceutical firms. Indian pharmaceutical industry supplies over 50 per cent of global demand for various vaccines, 40 percent of generic drug demand in US and 25% of all medicines in UK. There are reports that Indian companies received 304 Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) approvals from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) in 2017 and in 2018 it received a total of 73 tentative approvals and 415 product approvals. India's domestic pharmaceutical market turnover reached ₹1.4 lakh crore (US\$ 20.03 billion) in 2019, growing at 9.8 per cent year-on-year basis from ₹129,015 crore (US\$ 18.12 billion) in 2018. As per Economic Survey 2018-19, government expenditure for health sector (as a percentage of GDP) increased to 1.5 per cent in 2018-19 from 1.2 per cent in 2014-15. Pharmaceuticals exports from India stood at US\$ 19.14 billion in FY19 and US\$ 13.69 billion in FY20 (up to January 2020). Pharmaceutical exports include bulk drugs, intermediates, drug formulations, biologicals, Ayush & herbal products and surgicals. Generic drugs with 70% market share form the largest segment of the Pharmaceutical industry in India. Over-the-counter (OTC) medicines constitute around 21% of the market while patented drugs have a 9% share. Based on annual turnover, Anti-Infectives (13.6 per cent), Cardiac (12.4 per cent), Gastro Intestinals (11.5 per cent) had the biggest market share in the Indian pharma market in 2018. It is estimated that Indian pharmaceutical sector will grow at a



AUTHOR WITH FORMER DG CSIR DR S K BRAHMACHARI IN A MEETING WITH PHARMA COMPANIES OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Compound Annual Growth Rate of 22.4 per cent to US\$ 55 billion by the end of 2020 and to US\$ 100 billion by 2025 (pre COVID19 estimation). The medical device market is expected to grow to US\$ 25 billion by 2025. India's biotechnology industry comprising biopharmaceuticals, bio-services, bio-agriculture, bio-industry and bioinformatics is expected to grow at an average growth rate of around 30 per cent a year. All these estimations are pre COVID19 pandemic, sudden changes in worldwide priorities during and post pandemic may see a great change in the economics of pharmaceutical sector worldwide including India. There is a great speculation that many countries may shift the manufacture to India in view of the common belief that the virus has been engineered in Wuhan China, creating mayhem in the entire world.

The pharmaceutical sector has received cumulative FDI worth US\$ 16.39 billion between April 2000 and December 2019. Under Budget 2020-21, allocation to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is ₹ 65,012 crore (US\$ 9.30 billion). ₹6,429 crore (US\$ 919 million) has been allocated to health insurance scheme Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). The 'Pharma Vision 2020' by the government's Department of Pharmaceuticals aims to make India a major hub for end-to-end drug discovery. The Union Cabinet had given its nod for the amendment of the existing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy in the pharmaceutical sector in order to allow FDI up to 100 per cent in green field pharma and 74% FDI in the pharmaceuticals sector for brownfield pharmaceuticals projects under the automatic route for manufacturing of medical devices subject to certain conditions and ratification issued post COVID19 pandemic. Based on the overall revenue (except for Piramal where only pharma business division revenue is considered) the top 15 pharmaceutical companies in India are:

1. Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited: **INR 273.28 Billion**
2. Aurobindo Pharma Limited: **INR 164.99 Billion**

3. Lupin Limited: **INR 159.55 Billion**
4. Cipla Limited: **INR 155.77 Billion**
5. Dr. Reddy's Laboratories: **INR 144.36 Billion**
6. Cadila Healthcare Limited: **INR 120.50 Billion**
7. Intas Pharmaceuticals Limited: **INR 108.86 Billion**
8. Glenmark Pharma Limited: **INR 91.86 Billion**
9. Torrent Pharmaceuticals Limited: **INR 63.01 Billion**
10. ManKind Pharma Limited: **INR 52.00 Billion**
11. Biocon Limited: **INR 43.36 Billion**

12. Piramal Enterprises Limited: **INR 43.22 Billion**
13. Wockhardt Limited: **INR 40.57 Billion**
14. Divis Laboratories Limited: **INR 40.26 Billion**
15. Abbott India Limited: **INR 34.24 Billion**

Although pharmaceutical industry is doing so well for Indian economy yet there are some pressing issues that competent authority needs to address to ensure consistent and healthy growth of the industry. It is observed that (a) from middle of 2019 China has increased the cost of raw material by more than 50%, (b) that Government regulators fix the price of some major bulk drugs for pharma companies and (c) that government agencies decide on the price at which industry can sell their products in the market. This leaves very little room for pharmaceutical community to build a profitable business. Another issue which pharma businessmen are worried about is that the list of price-controlled drugs, by the department of pharmaceuticals under the ministry of health and family welfare, has swelled from 74 in 1995 to almost 860 in 2019. While already working on thin margins as claimed by industry, many pharma companies showed little interest to modernize and upgrade for digital manufacturing for continuous production capabilities instead of age-old batch to batch manufacturing. Curiously Indians have not been able to invent new drugs because it involves lot of money and time. It is very important to mention that India's public investment in R&D as a fraction of GDP has remained stagnant over the last two decades at around 0.6 per cent to 0.8 per cent of GDP. This is well below the investment made in R&D active countries such as US (2.8 per cent), China (2.1 per cent), Israel (4.3 per cent) and Korea (4.2 per cent). To attract the pharmaceutical industry and assume number one status in the world post Covid-19, it is argued that government may invest up to at least 2 per cent of its GDP by 2022 in research, development and trainings for modernizing and upgrading facilities. ■

Author is Former Chief Scientist, CSIR-IIIM.

SOUL AS DESCRIBED IN SHRI GITA

BY T.N.DHAR 'KUNDAN'



Our scriptures say it and our sages have advised us to understand that we are not the body that we live in; we are something beyond that. Our body is our abode, our dwelling, Deha and we are the in-dwellers, Dehin. So, it is our bounden duty to figure out our real nature, what we in reality are and what our essence is. Once we do that we shall have realised our self. Shri Krishna, while enjoining upon Arjuna to do his duty and fight, has described this at length and in multiple ways. Let us try to understand what all has been explained in this connection in Shri Gita.

First of all whatever is, has been divided into two groups, that which is born and that which is not born. Whatever is born has to die, Jatasya hi dhruvomrityuh. The soul, that is the real I in our body, is unborn and thus will never die, Na jayatemriyatevakadachit. The body is born and has to die. The soul is not born and, therefore, does not die. It discards the old worn out body that it had adopted and adopts a new one in its place just as one changes clothes,

Vasansijeernaniyathavihayanavanigrihnati naroparani, tathashariranivihayajeernani- anyanisanyatinavanidehi. Here this I has been described as one adopting the body or in other words the soul residing therein. This leads us to the principle of transmigration of soul, which essentially says that the unborn soul adopts a form again and again. While in one form, it seems to grow from childhood to old age and then gives up that body and takes up a new one,

'Dehinosminyathadehekaumaramyauvana mjaratathadehaantara-praptirdheerastatranamuhyati'. So the death is seen as the fourth stage in this growth. Elsewhere this division in two groups has been explained as one which is finite or Kshara and the other which is infinite or Akshara. Here again it is made clear that the form and the body is finite since it is born and has to end one day. But the soul or the essence of a being is infinite, immortal and never ending. Obviously, therefore, we should not get stuck up with the mortal frame but should try to realise the immortal self. Then only shall we attain the truth. The form or the body is our possession. It is a tool for us to function in that form. It has been made clear that the soul is superior to body, senses, mind and the intel-

lect, in that order:

'Indriyaniparanyahuhindriyebhyahparammanah.

Manasastuparaabuddhihyobuddhehparatast usah III-42'.

Again, it has been emphasised that *'Antavantaime deha'*, these bodies have an end but the soul within the body is eternal *'Nityasyoktahsharirinah'*. The soul thus seems to be like air. It is everywhere; it is a part and the whole, both. It neither kills anything nor is killed by anything.

'Naayamhantinahanyate'. It was not born ever, nor does it die. It is not something that sometimes comes into existence and sometimes ceases to exist. It is unborn, eternal, constant and most ancient. When body is slain, it does not get killed, *'Na jayatemriyatevaakadaachit, naayambhutvabhavitavaanabhuyah. Ajonityahshashvato-ayampurano. Na hanyatehanyamaaneshareere'*. The soul is immutable and does not undergo any change. It is indestructible, eternal, unborn and changeless. Once we know this fact and understand it fully we will realise that we cannot kill it or cause it to be slain, *'vedaavinashinamnityamyenaam-ajamavyayamkathamsapurushahPartha! Kamghatayatihantikam?'*

Chapter II of Shri Gita has dealt with this topic at length. It has explained that the soul is subtle entity within various and different gross forms. It leaves one form and adopts another. While in one form it acts through that and according to the properties of that form. It is beginning-less and thus endless but the form it takes has a beginning and an end. We attach these properties, mistakenly though, to the soul. This wrong and erroneous impression is what is called Maya, or an illusion because it is not a reality. Maya itself means something Yawhich is not Ma. At the level of an individual being the reality is a soul, Aatma and at the level of the entire creation it is the Super Soul or the Paramaatma. The job of a seeker is to realise either. Once he realises one and knows the reality of that entity he ipso facto knows the other and comes to realise that the two are in effect one and the same. That is why it is called Advaita or non-dualism. The Lord has made it clear that the entire creation exists in Him like pearls on a string, *Mayisarvamidehamprotamsutremamighanah-iva.* When He showed His universal form to Arjuna, he could also see everything in Him, even gods, sages as also Brahma, the creator, *'Pashyamidevanstava deva dehe, sar-*

vanstathabhuvisheshasanghaan.

Brahmaanam-ishakamalaasanasthamrishinchasarvaan-uragan cha divyan'. Our Upanishads too are replete with statements and explanations about the All-pervading Entity called the Divine or the Super Soul, Paramaatma: *'Ishavasyam-idamsarvam'* Elsewhere it has again been emphasised in these words:

'Uttamahpurushastvanyahparamaatmetyudahrtah, yolokatrayamaavishyavibhartyavyayaishwarah' - This Supreme called the Super soul is distinct in as much as it is indestructible Lord who pervades and sustains the three worlds'.

When a being dies, we observe that its gross body along with all its external organs are intact, of course if the death is natural. The only thing visibly absent is the air or the breathing that was earlier there. This gives an impression that the soul is this air. It may perhaps be because of this that air in Roman is called *atmos* or *Aatma*, from which the term *atmosphere* is made. But it is also a fact that a being in spite of breathing can be without any semblance of life in it. This clearly proves that the soul is something beside the air that we inhale while we are alive. Our scriptures have identified this air as a different entity, called *Prana* or *life essence*. This has further been sub-divided into five types, 1. *Praana*, 2. *Vyaana*, 3. *Apaana*, 4. *Udaan*, and 5. *Samaan*. 1 is in nose and mouth, 2 is below naval, 3 gives strength to the body, 4 is in the upper portion of the body and the 5 is in the digestive system. Soul is different from it. While we are awake, we are guided by this soul. When we are in dream, the soul is active and on coming out of it, the soul says, 'I saw a beautiful dream'. When we are in deep sleep then also the soul is awake and once we get up it says, 'Oh! I slept like a log'. This soul has two distinct properties. It is in the form of light, *Prakaasha*. It is self-illuminating light. Then it has awareness that it is light. This is called *Vimarsha*. When we perceive these two properties we have realised the self, which is nothing but God realisation because the soul and the super soul are one and the same.

This soul is unique in as much as it has *Jnatratva*, *kartritva*, *bhokhtritva*, faculties of knowing, doing and enjoying. Yet it remains unaffected by the worldly chores, *Prapancha*. It is at once within and without the body it has adopted. It is at once subject and object, knower and that which is sought after. ■

WILL PRIVATE RAILWAYS WORK?

BY G. VIRAT SINGH*

India runs the world's largest railway and though it is subject to very harsh criticism by the people - the ultimate consumers - it must be admitted that the Indian railway system is one of the best in the world for its sheer magnitude, if nothing else.

And now the Bharatiya Janata Party-led NDA (National Democratic Alliance) government at the Centre is said to be moving towards the privatization of the railways - a move that has been widely condemned, criticized... and also praised. The pros and cons of the move, therefore, need to be analyzed and understood.

The Indian Railways operate train services covering all classes of passengers, meet social service obligations by connecting several remote locations in the country. They also play a very important role in the movement of goods, thereby helping the economy. Trains are the cheapest logistic system both for passenger and goods transport, in spite of huge leakage of its revenues due to corruption.

The fact that for over seven decades of independent India, a separate railway budget used to be tabled in the Parliament shows the importance of the railways - called a lifeline. The railways played a major role in large-scale migration of labour and internal tourism. Air and road transport have been out of reach of most people as a large segment is under poverty line. The traditional 'third class' associated with Mahatma Gandhi has been abolished passenger amenities improved. The jam-packed unreserved compartments, however, continue.

It is a well-known fact that the Indian Railways applied the philosophy of cross-subsidy for travelers in passenger trains through higher freight charges. With more focus on revenue generation, the Indian Railways has now embarked upon dynamic demand-based pricing, besides use of railway properties for trade and opening doors to private players in the Rail services sector.. The private operator will obviously focus more on profit than on meeting social obligations. But more of middle-class people than ever before are taking



flights. Privatization did help civil aviation. Will it also be the case in railways?

Indian Railways has invited 'Request for Qualification' proposals for scrutiny of vendor capabilities from those who can bring modern trains for operating services on 109 Origin-Destination (OD) pairs of routes in 12 clusters on existing rail infrastructure by 2023. This is considered the first step towards filing of tenders by those qualified.

Many fear this is negation of India's socialist goals. In fact, the Expert Committee headed by Bibek Debroy had, in 2015, recom-

seasons. It is contended that the invitation to private operators covers only a fraction of the total train operations (five percent of 2800 mail and express services) of the Indian Railways. It is claimed the main objective is to introduce a new travel experience to passengers who use planes and air conditioned buses to travel. This means the rich and upper middle class. Will the poor also benefit?

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC), in which the government is the majority stakeholder, was awarded the pilot train Tejas operations

between New Delhi-Lucknow and Mumbai-Ahmedabad sectors recently. The cost of travel in Tejas train run by IRCTC between New Delhi and Lucknow was higher than in the Shatabdi train on the same route even as the speed of the trains was more or less the same.

However, Tejas is not the first private train run in Independent India. Very few know that in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra Killick, Nixon & Co. still runs the Shakuntala Railways. Built by it during the British Raj the 190-km narrow gauge line runs between a district headquarters town Yavatmal, and Achalpur in Amraoti district. Only one return trip per day is run. The one-way ticket cost was ₹150 in 2016 (it may be more now)

Strangely, when the railways was nationalized in 1952, this line was neglected. The tracks are still owned by the firm that laid them in the nineteenth century

The Centre has already notified that a "Rail Development Authority" would be set up as a

"recommendatory/advisory" body to advise it on promoting competition, efficiency and economy besides protecting the interests of consumers.

It remains to be seen whether the private players, who would invest to make money, will get more people to pay the higher fares unless there is a definite improvement in the service and efficiency.

It will be a major measure like demonetization of high denomination currency notes which caused great trouble due to the way it was implemented.

One only hopes the lessons learnt then and from Shakuntala Railways will make the step less painful. ■



mended that the way forward for the Indian Railways was "liberalization and not privatization". From the point of view of encouraging growth and to improve service, the Committee felt that a regulatory mechanism was a prerequisite as it would also help in promoting healthy competition and protecting the interest of all stakeholders.

But the Railway Board, in its justification for opening doors to private operators, maintains that over five crore intending passengers could not be accommodated for want of capacity during 2019-20 and the travel demand was 13.3 per cent in excess of service, especially during summer and festive

Pandemic Bonus for Energy Sector: Will it benefit Consumers or is it just a crutch of Discoms to coverup their inefficiencies?

BY SOMASEKHAR V K



Amidst the pandemic and also huge set back on economic activity which incidentally was also a concern even prior to COVID 19; Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced Rs 90,000 crore liquidity boost for discoms. This as one of the 15 measures to combat the economic effect of coronavirus pandemic induced lockdown, which has worsened the already precarious finances of these discoms.

"Discoms today are facing unprecedented cash flow problems," Sitharaman said in a press conference. This one-time time liquidity infusion will help in clearing the outstanding dues of the power Discoms by state-owned financial institutions.

State-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) will infuse the liquidity by raising an amount of about Rs 90,000 crore from the market against the receivables of Discoms. The state governments will provide a guarantee.

This will be used to pay the central public sector power generation companies, transmission companies, independent power producers and renewable energy generators.

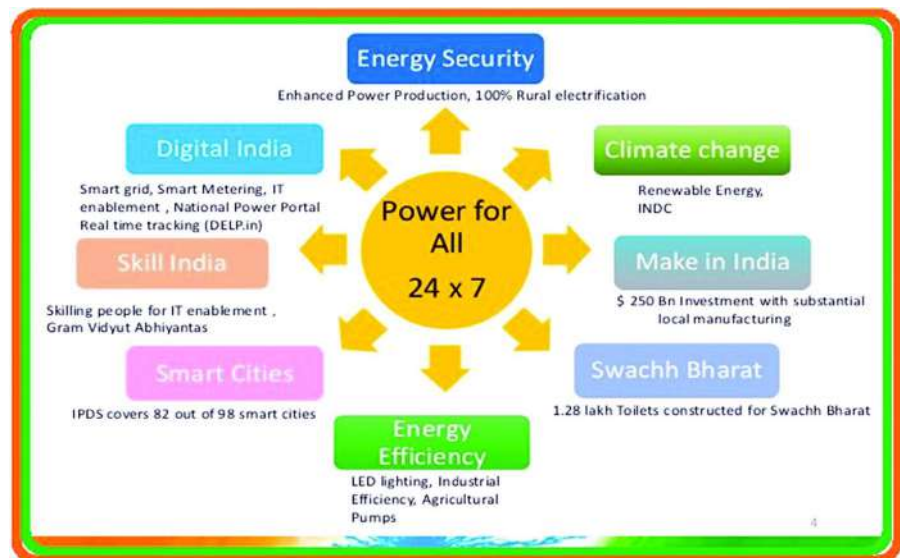
All this will be passed on to the final consumers and industries.

They would have not been in this situation.

With the power sector caught in financial distress over burgeoning discom losses- made worse due to COVID 19- a single financial package may not be enough. Deeper sectoral reform and relook may be in order---an issue that has now been red flagged by the Power ministry to the 15th Finance Commission as it readies its final report.

A key request made to the Finance Commission is seeking relaxation for states in the borrowing limits under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budgetary Management (FRBM) Act and expand borrowing space for states especially for power dues related concerns.

The power ministry is learnt to have written



A CUSTOMER IS THE MOST IMPORTANT VISITOR ON OUR PREMISES. HE IS NOT DEPENDENT ON US. WE ARE DEPENDENT ON HIM. HE IS NOT AN INTERRUPTION IN OUR WORK - HE IS THE PURPOSE OF IT. WE ARE NOT DOING HIM A FAVOUR BY SERVING HIM. HE IS DOING US A FAVOUR BY GIVING US THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE HIM- MAHATMA GANDHI

to the 15th Finance Commission drawing attention to the exceedingly worrying situation of discoms and has made several suggestions for a reboot, so that these may be accommodated in the final FC report.

Power minister R K Singh has also directly taken up the issue with the 15th Finance Commission.

Commission is preparing to comprehensively address the 'elephant in the room'- the discom issue and its overall impact on a state's financial health as well as the efficacy of the Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY)- in light of the power ministry communication. Concern has been raised by the power ministry over how several states have exhausted the borrowing limits under the FRBM Act.

In such a situation, they will also not be able to stand guarantee to the Rs 90,000 crore central package announced.

The Power ministry has sought that the Finance Commission re-examine the FRBM borrowing limit for states so as to allow discom losses/dues to be included. The ministry has sought the FC make this recommendation in its report to pave way for states to amend the required laws for the same and to open up borrowing space for states to clear pending discom dues.

The ministry has further suggested that provisions be made so that dues to National Thermal Power Corporation be directly deducted by RBI from state budgets- a NTPC proposal.

Over 14,000 crores are due to be paid to NTPC from various state electricity boards. At discoms 'end- their overall dues to power producers are at a whopping Rs 90,577 crore as on March 2020. Over 80% of these are overdues with highest pending dues in Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, J&K and Ladakh.

NTPC has been seeking that the provisions of the Tripartite Agreements (TPAs) that were renewed in 2016, may be invoked to get dues from discoms cleared. As per the TPAs- to which the RBI, Power ministry and states are signatories- the RBI is authorised to directly deduct due amounts from states and pay it to power producing companies. However, the TPA is not usually resorted to due to the impact it may have on a state's finances.

We are all aware that till 2003, Power sector was run by Government owned Public sector undertakings through boards. This sector amongst all others is very important in many ways. Power lights up the homes; it is essential to any Industry which is vital for the nation's economy.

Obviously when there is a monopoly and total dependence without choice; automatically corruption also is inevitable; exploitation as well as irritation plays havoc. Unfortunate but that is how it is.

Whether it is BSNL; Air India-Indian Airlines; LIC or for that matter major industries like ITI, HMT and many others. Total dependence leads to temerity; arrogance and despondency. These are just illustrations.

If only they realised Gandhiji's advice and wonderful description of Consumer even though it is a repetition:

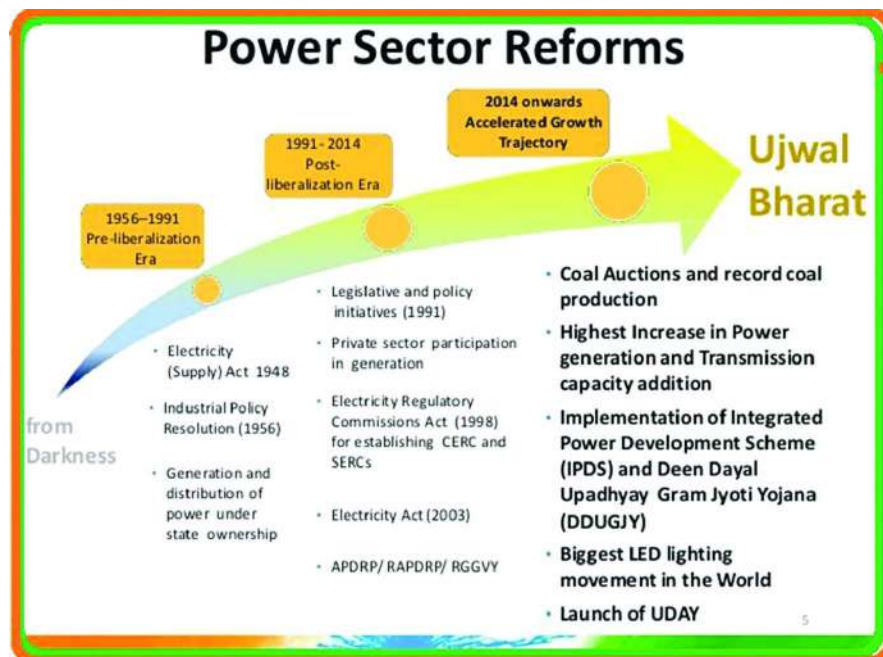
If only this mantra was religiously followed then we will not have been in situations that we see in such organisations.

When unbundling of the Power sector took place in 2003 in the Energy sector in 2003 the reform was definitely welcomed by Consumers. Because there was no way that any Government could spend huge amounts only for the power sector. Therefore, opening up the sector was not only inevitable but right way to go. Creating an independent regulator CERC and KERC in Karnataka is the consequences of this unbundling recognising the role of every stake holder including Consumers.

Obviously, the 1st sitting of KERC was not only tumultuous but the Discoms were against it and objected to Commission issuing directives. They even went to High Court in an attempt to question the authority. It was defeated in a different tale altogether.

The first commission with Philipose Matthai, IAS, (Retd) did an outstanding job of laying the foundation. His far-reaching decisions such as going after Transmission losses and also asking Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) to study and give a route map was path breaking. Even today ESCOMs haven't followed these directions and unable to reduce the losses.

Understanding the inabilities of Consumer Organisations to competently take on technical experts head on by encouraging another new concept Electricity Consumer Network (ECON) which was meant to independently build the capacity of Consumer activists to effectively



handle issues. It is a different matter that a corrupt activist vitiated and destroyed it for his own ambitions.

Can you ever imagine KERC coming up with a new concept of "Standards of performance" which specified a new concept of time bound addressing of grievances and automatic punishment? Even this was slowly diluted and thrown out of the window in the guise of lack of adequate equipments, Staff to handle it.

Another alibi from the initial stages that we often heard was that the ESCOMs that they are suffering because of agriculture and financial stress created by them? But even this myth has been busted.

A new study done by Pune-based non-profit organisation "Prayas" which concentrates only on Energy and Health- shows that India's agriculture sector cannot be held responsible for financial stress on electricity distribution companies (discoms) and for declining groundwater.

The study titled, Understanding the Electricity, Water & Agriculture Linkages, argues that not only is the subsidy given to agriculture in India overestimated, the relation between subsidy and declining groundwater is also wrong. Most agrarian reforms in India are directed towards eliminating subsidies and increasing tariffs for agriculture consumers as they supposedly burden discoms and decrease groundwater levels. In order to prove that power consumption in Indian agriculture is overestimated, the report cited the instance of large discrepancies in data regarding the number of pump-sets given by different official agencies.

For instance, in 2006-07, there were a total of 474, 296 electric pump sets in India, according to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). However, the fourth minor irrigation census esti-

mated it at 53,556. Similarly, in 2011-12, the CEA estimated 559,334 electric pumps in India, while the 10th Agricultural Census in the same year estimated 544,700 pumps. In 2018-19, the CEA has estimated 5,85,589 electric pumps, while the 5th minor irrigation census said there were 315,176 electric pumps.

Based on these facts, the study has concluded that state governments and cross-subsiding consumers are financing theft and discom inefficiencies under the guise of agricultural consumption. The researchers suggest that feeder separation for agriculture and general electricity consumption could have solved the issue; however, the government has failed to achieve this.

Similar is the story with groundwater and its association with subsidy. The study breaks the myth that subsidised electricity provided to agriculture leads to unregulated pumping of groundwater. While it might be one reason, the study says there are other factors too, which influence farmers' behaviour.

To understand the possible role of electricity tariffs, the researchers compared the actual electricity tariffs payable by farmers in some major groundwater-using states. These states are also the same where groundwater has reached critical or overexploited levels. These states include Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Haryana and Karnataka.

They concluded that the relation between low electricity tariffs and over-extraction of groundwater are not uniformly applicable across states. On one hand, Punjab and Haryana offer low tariffs and have a high percentage of overexploited units. On the other, Rajasthan has high tariffs on electricity but it has a high percentage of overexploited units as well.

♦♦TO BE CONTINUED IN SEPTEMBER ISSUE

ACHIEVER BHAVANA PRADYUMNA

BY S. SHYAMA SUNDER

Bhavana Pradyumna is a Carnatic vocalist, Currently based in Paris. Vidwan Padmamalini



Raghunandan is her first Guru and She was under her tutelage until she completed Masters from the Madras University. She also had the opportunity to learn from great Gurus like Vidwan Anoor Anantha Krishna Sharma, Sangeetha Kalanidhi Shri. Chitravina Ravikiran, and Vidwan Chitravina Narasimhan. She is currently taking advanced lessons from Dr. S Ghatam Karthick. She started performing at the age of 12. Her first concert was at Tirumala tirupathi devasthanam, Bengaluru. She is a trained Bharatanatyam dancer as well.

Her grand parents were from Srirangam in Tamil Nadu, Mother born and brought up in Bengaluru. Father came for work in Bengaluru and settled in Bengaluru.

INITIAL JOURNEY:

Bhavana was born in a musical family, and got married into a family where music, arts, and theater was celebrated. At a young age of 22, in the year 2010, Bhavana Pradyumna was awarded the title "Sri Ramanuja Paduka Sevaka", by Varthamana Mudaliyandan Swami, for her contributions to Carnatic Music. With this blessing guiding her journey, Bhavana moved to US with her husband, the same year. In US, She got in touch with people like Tsong Soon Lee, Director of Ethnomusicology at Emory university, who identified Bhavana's talent, and Knowledge, and who provided opportunities to her to get engaged academically. She Started giving Workshops as part of Ethnomusicology, and eventually she not only was the director of South Indian Music Ensemble, but was also the course director, teacher of Indian Classical Music as a Major subject at Emory University. She performed at the prestigious "Schwartz Center for Performing Arts". She had accompanied Arrangetrams across US. She was teaching Bharatanatyam at Kalaivani Dance & Music Academy.

AROUND THE WORLD:

When things were going fine in US, and when it was easy to settle down in US, a humble idea to explore the world brought Bhavana to Paris, France, with her family. Though setting foot, and making a mark was extremely difficult in France, compared to US, steadily but surely Bhavana started making a mark in the Paris Cultural scene. Bhavana got an opportunity to perform across France, Netherlands, UK, Portugal, Germany, and Italy. Icing on the cake was when Bhavana Received an invitation from



the Moroccan King Mohammed VI, to perform at the world famous "Fes Festival". Bhavana is only the Second Carnatic Musician to perform at this highly revered festival.

CARNATIC CONSERVATORY OF PARIS:

It was her Pure passion for Music, and It was Bhavana, and her Husband Pradyumna Kandadai's Service minded effort to add a drop of water to this Mighty Ocean of "Indian Arts & Culture", that inspired them to start Carnatic Conservatory of Paris (CCP). They both believed that Promoting arts can add to building better societies. They promoted Pure, Traditional, High quality Carnatic Music and Indian Classical art forms through "Carnatic Conservatory of Paris".

In the past Five years, CCP has conducted ten events across two countries and has provided an opportunity to more than forty artists, across seven different nationalities, to perform at these flagship events. CCP provides scholarships for students to gain access to high quality Carnatic music learning. Through such endeavors, they aim to embody CCP's objective "To Promote Diversity and Harmony through Music and Dance".

CCP conducts two annual events: "Paris Tyagaraja Aradhana", and "Nritya Nada". Apart from these, CCP has recently conceptualized a series for touring artists, called "Sanatana". "Sanatana" would be presented in "French", and in "Sanskrit" languages alone.

The big difference CCP is delivering to the cultural scenario of Paris is that CCP is the only association, which is creating a platform to celebrate high quality carnatic music and Indian classical art forms. CCP also keeps an open door policy to encourage artists, and music lovers across a diverse cross-section of people. They

also bring together people from diverse backgrounds. The events are quite global in nature. One can see an Indian, an European, and a Srilankan sitting together to cherish an Australian, or a Taiwanese present Carnatic Music, in France!

RAGA & YOGA:

Event: International Yoga Day 2020

Edition: Surya Namaskarah

"Raga & Yoga" is a concept pioneered by Bhavana Pradyumna. It was conceptualized with a vision: To beautifully confluence the melody of Raga with the poise of Yoga. Yogis, and Yoginis would perform yoga, while Raag aalaap (Carnatic music Melodic combinations), and Mantra chantings would blend in, to create positive vibrations, and a peaceful experience.

Bhavana Pradyumna has been presenting "Raga & Yoga" Live across France, as part of "International Yoga Day" celebrations, for last three years.

Edition: Surya Namaskarah- Surya (Sanskrit for Sun) is the main source of energy for all living beings on earth. Namaskarah (Sanskrit for Salutations) is an way of showing respect and reverence by recognizing, and honoring divinity in Others. Surya Namaskarah is a set of 12 asanas (Yogic poses), performed to internalize the positive energy radiating from Sun.

Bhavana and her husband Pradyumna Kandadai initially collaborated with Bengaluru based Prasanna Keshava of "NamVara Studios", to record 12 Surya Mantras, and Raag Aalaap in the Carnatic Raga Surya. They initially roped in Bengaluru based Yoga Guru, Smitha Casuba to support the project and to perform Surya Namaskarah. As and when the project took shape, One Surya Mantra, and a Two minute snippet of Surya Namaskarah was opened up to



the world. All Yogis and Yoginis were invited to perform Surya Namaskarah, and share their videos with CCParis. 6 continents and 29 countries come together to perform Suryanamaskarah for Carnatic music. Yogis and Yoginis of different race, religion and age have performed. This truly reflected the essence of Carnatic Conservatory of Paris (CCParis), which is "To spread harmony by celebrating diversity: through Carnatic Music!"

Bhavana was able to Collaborate with a lot of associations to bring the Project to Fruition. EKA [UNITY] & Eshani Lasya- Portugal, Association Bindu & Guru Karthikeshawara-France, Globe for Change & Anish- India, Namvara Studios & Prasanna Keshava KS - India, Smitha Casuba- India, and 86 Yogis, and Yoginis from across the world joined hands in the times of Global Pandemic, to make the project possible, in just three weeks. "This remains one of the most cherished three weeks of my life" says Bhavana.

Through this edition of "Raga and Yoga", Bhavana through her voice connected the world. "Raga and Yoga" is blessed to receive love from across the world to promote universal brotherhood, good health, peace, and harmony through Carnatic music and Yoga, while celebrating diversity.

The video was released by Indian Embassies in France, Germany, Finland and Estonia, Portugal.

Edition Surya Namaskarah was recognized by "Indian Council for Cultural Relations, ICCR", and Ministry of Ayush as well.

A Global Launch of the Video was done by Padma Shri Dr HR Nagendra, Chancellor of S-Vyasa university (Swami Vivekananda YOGA Anusandhana Samsthana), on the occasion of 6th International Day of Yoga, IDY 2020.

MUSIC CLASSES:

Bhavana has a very unique skill in imparting Carnatic Music Knowledge. She makes it absolutely blissful, and enjoyable. She believes that a teacher should connect with the inner passion of a student. She said that when a Student starts to learn, it is many times at a nascent level of interest. If a teacher teaches a student understanding their strengths, and weaknesses rather than following a set pattern of imparting knowledge, then a Student's learning would be much more easier, and quicker. At the age of 20months, her son used to identify more than 50 Carnatic ragas. She has students from the age of three to more than Sixty! She is teaching an autistic Kid for about 8 years. The Kid is progressing very well in Music. She gives individual Carnatic music Vocal classes as well as Group classes. She was one of the early teachers to have adopted the use of technology to provide remote classes. This has enabled Bhavana to provide classes to students from across the world. This enabled Bhavana to continue to give Carnatic



classes to Students during a global pandemic

RECOGNITIONS:
Bhavana was awarded "Paris Achievers Award" in 2017, by GOPIO (Global Oranization of People of Indian Origin). For the last two years, She has been the face of "Nada Yoga" in Paris, performed as part of International Yoga Day. She was recognized in Local French newspapers for her contributions to French society, as part of a four city tour promoting "Raga & Yoga", in collaboration with "Association Bindu", as part of the International yoga Day, 2019. Her work has been featured in several leading newspapers, and Magazines. Bhavana had an opportunity to present Compositions on Moon, as part of "La Lune" festival in Paris, celebrating 50years of moon landing. It was a great recognition of Bhavana's efforts, contributions to Indian Culture, and French society, when Indian Embassy in France released on its twitter handle, an Audio-Visual medley of Bhajans presented by Bhavana along with her students from different nationalities, cultural backgrounds, as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th year Birth Anniversary.

All the events conducted through CCP, in the year 2019, has received High Patronage from

Indian Embassy in France. It was a true honor for Bhavana to be a part of two separate delegations to represent Indian community in France. As part of the delegate, Bhavana had an opportunity to meet the Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi. She also had an opportunity to meet the Defence Minister of India, Shri. Rajnath Singh. It is a great recognition, and a lot of encouragement for the consistent, humble contributions that CCP, Bhavana Pradyumna have been doing to promote Indian Culture, and to serve French Society.

Future Plans: Smt. Bhavana Pradyumna speaking to Spade A Spade said, their future plan include to contribute more towards spreading and organizing events to make Indian culture and its rich heritages reach more people. ■

(The author is former Principal Correspondent for The Hindu worked at Hassan and also former Senior Staff Correspondent worked for The New Indian Express at Ballari. He is the Suvarna Karnataka Rajyotsava Awardee for the year 2006 and also Karnataka Madhya Academy annual awardee for the year 2003.)



ALLIANCE INVITED



► A KP family is Seeking suitable alliance for their fair complexioned son Gaurav Dar, born on September 1, 1988 at 10.55 am in Agra (UP), 5'-7" tall, done his MCA from Amity Noida and presently working as Senior Technical Specialist at Nuance Communications, Bangalore with net annual salary of ₹14 lakhs. Interested may contact the family on 9319121986 or Krishandar@gmail.com.

► Seeking Suitable alliance for our son born on August 2, 1990 at Jammu at 6.05 p.m, height 5'-10", done his BE (Electronics and Communications), MBA in Finance and Marketing, presently working as Business analyst in Softobiz Technologies, Chandigarh, interested may contact with Tekni and Kulawali at Email : kjpandita1@gmail.com / Mobile no: 941918506.

► Alliance invited for our son born on October 7, 1992 at 8.08 am in Mumbai, 5'-9" tall, Done his B.E from Pune University and presently working as SAP senior Consultant in Birlasoft LTD Pune, presents settled in Mumbai; interested may please contact Rakesh Misri: email: rmisri07@gmail.com; Mob No: 8879439678.

► Suitable alliance invited for our son born on 16 July 1989 at Srinagar kashmir at 5.45 PM, 5'7" Feet Height BE (E&C) from Bangalore. Presently working in reputed MNC Bangalore. Interested may contact 8639007579/ Whatsapp no. 9449089569 & Kindly send tekni / Kulwali via whatsapp or EMAIL ID: rkbond1@gmail.com.

► Suitable alliance invited for legally divorced (got married in 2015 and separated in 2017) KP boy Sankalp Kaul, born on January 28, 1986 at Nagpur, at 04.40 am, B.E in computer sciences from Rajasthan University, M.S from New York University, 10 year of working experience in US, currently settled and working in seattle for T, Mobile company as senior project manager, green card holder, interested people may contact. Ashok Zalpuri (Mama) 9810374473 - Mail ID - consultzalpuri@gmail..

► Suitable postgraduate alliance invited for our 13 July 1990 born son, Height 171 cms, BE (EEE) BITS Pilani and MBA IIM Ahmedabad. Presently working in a Bangalore based E- Commerce Company. Parents retired Senior Scientists from Dehradun based DRDO & CSIR laboratories. Contact 9412901552 / email : ashk.kaul@gmail.com.

► Wanted suitable match for our daughter born on 8th July 1990 in Mumbai, pursuing research with a handsome fellowship in a reputed organization in Bangalore. Interested may kindly contact 9819919972/ 9920958267.

► Seeking suitable matrimonial alliance from respectable KP families for our dear daughter, M.E. (BITS Pilani -Hyd; Biotechnology), B.Tech ; Born : 8 July 1993, NOIDA, Time : 11.41pm ; Height - 5'. 4". Working as a Sr. Research Analyst. Throughout merit holder. Interested may kindly contact our family with Tekini / Kulaavali on Mob: 7982907003 /

WhatsApp - 9412224683 / Email : paannyaar@rediffmail.com

► Suitable Alliance invited for my son Born 2nd Feb 1987 at 2AM Ht.178cms BTech Computer Science Working as Technical Specialist in a MNC at Bangalore, drawing handsome salary. Interested please contact: 9972037989. 6005209670. Email: puneetkoul@outlook.com.

► Suitable well established alliance wanted for our daughter working as a senior manager in a well reputed IT company. Born july 1980, HT 171 cm, MBA in International management. Interested are requested to mail tekni and details at rentick@yahoo.co.in. Or contact 9890601501, 9823191393.

► Suitable alliance for our son born 11.2.1988, at 12.40 PM at Srinagar. He is B.Tech from IIT Kanpur, 2006-2010, MBA from IIM Calcutta 2012-2014. Worked at Deloitte Hyd., Deutsche Bank Mumbai, Optiver Europe. Presently working at Wink and Nod Pune. Package seven figure. 91884-7673754, 91884-7664947.

► Suitable alliance invited for our son born on 16 July 1989 at Srinagar Kashmir at 5:45 PM, 5'7" Feet Height, BE(E&C) from Bangalore under VTU Belgaum. Presently working in MNC Bangalore. Interested may contact 8639007579/Whatsapp 9449089569, kindly send tekni & kulawali at Email ID rkbond1@gmail.com.

► Seeking alliance for our son, born on September 12, 1988, at 4:35 am at Srinagar (Mangalik), 5'-9" tall, done B.Tech, MBA, Working as a zonal sales manager in Himalaya Drugs Limited. Presently residing at Bangalore, family originally from Ladwuna, Ganderbal, Kashmir, presently in Jammu. Interested may contact: bhan.nirmal@gmail.com; 9419789200/ 9797638481.

► Alliance invited for our son Gourav Zutshi, born on November 4, 1992 at Jammu, 5'-11" tall, done his BE (ELEC&COM) from RVCE college, Bangalore, M. Tech(embedded systems) from BITS Pilani under (wip)2018, working as level 6 engineer in CISCO at Bangalore since July 2015 with a package of 6 figures per month. Parents settled in Subash Nagar Jammu valley address Ram Bagh Barzulla Originally from Narpuristan Fatehkadal Srinagar. Interested may contact: 9419184816 Mr Shanti Zutshi Mail ID zutshi103@yahoo.co.

► Suitable alliance is invited for our son Jammu born, on 17 Jan 1992 at 3.21 PM. He is slightly mangalik, & is serving in a leading MNC at Bangalore on a responsible post. Our family is residing permanently at Bangalore. Bangalore based Kashmiri girl is preferred, interested may contact: -9110407243, 7899671219, 9986779942.

► Suitable alliance is invited (preferable from Indian Defence Services / Doctor) For our daughter 162 cm's, 1988 Srinagar born, MBBS Doctor in Indian Army, Rank Major, presently pursuing M.D. at Command Hospital, Bengaluru. Interested may

kindly Contact: pran-nathraghu@gmail.com/ 9036341369, 08023646162.

► Suitable postgraduate alliance invited for our 13 July 1990 born son, Height 171 cms, BE (EEE) BITS Pilani and MBA IIM Ahmedabad. Presently working in a Bangalore based E- Commerce Company. Parents retired Senior Scientists from Dehradun based DRDO & CSIR laboratories. Contact 9412901552 / email : ashk.kaul@gmail.com.

► Suitable alliance invited for our daughter 5'5" born 28-04-1991; 19.53 hrs. at Navi Mumbai. She is MDS in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, a fellow specializing in Trauma, Oral Implantology & working for a Dental Chain-apart from her independent consultancies at Bangalore. Interested may kindly send Tekni & Kulawali to vkmiya@vkmiya.in or contact at +91 9323806743

► Suitable alliance invited for our son born 1-10-1986 at Lucknow at 12.58 (noon). Ht 6 ft, B.Tech Bangalore, MS (USA) MBA (USA) working in California since 2014 in a leading MNC, currently on H1B visa, Green card applied. Interested may respond at roopkhat@yahoo.com

► Seeking suitable matrimonial alliance from respectable KP families for our dear son, BE (E & TC); Born: 29 June '89, Srinagar, Kashmir (Time: 9.12 am); Height - 5'. 8". Working at a Sr. Position in ACCENTURE - a global fortune 500 company. Throughout merit Holder. Recently awarded by the Company. Interested may kindly contact our family with relevant details on Mob: 7982907003 / WhatsApp 9412224683; Email : paannyaar@rediffmail.com

► Suitable alliance is invited for our daughter, born on 5 Feb 1989 in Srinagar, Ht 166 cm. BBA (Symbiosis International University) MBA (JU). Working as Manager in Axis Bank, NCR. Interested may correspond with Tekhni & Kulawali on sateshbhan57@gmail.com or 9419121525

► Wanted a suitable alliance for my son born on 12th Feb 1983 at 09.25 am in Jammu (J&K) having done B.E (NIT JAMSHEDPUR); M.E (IISC) & PhD (Switzerland) & working presently as Scientist in a top US MNC with a handsome salary. Interested may contact me on e-mail kumarashok09@rediffmail.com or pushpasapru@yahoo.co.in or on phone numbers 09810676454/ 09871742340 / 09419195789

► Wanted suitable matrimonial alliance for my B.Tech (I.T.) Graduate son born on 14.08.1990 at 6.29.35 pm Jammu. Height 180 cms. Working as Senior IT System Engineer at Bengaluru. Interested can Contact on Mobile No. 6005482814 & 9419211563 or mail sticku34@gmail.com

► Suitable alliance for our daughter born 13/06/1987 at 1/02 AM at Srinagar, 167 cms She



ALLIANCE INVITED



is BE/MBA IN IT Working as senior analyst in US Based MNC at Bangalore. She is legally Divorced, the last marriage lasted just 15 days. Interested may contact Vijaykumar on 9374156011 or mail vijayksru@yahoo.com

➡ Suitable alliance invited for our daughter born on 14th March 1991, 165 Cms, has done Masters Alliance invited in Computer Science Engineering-ME from IISc Bangalore (Indian Institute of Science B'lore) & BTech Computer Science Engineering from a reputed Engg institute/university of NCR. She is presently working as Sr Software Engineer (Research & Dev) with a leading US MNC based at Bangalore. We are looking for a suitable boy with good educational background working in Bangalore or the nearby metro city. Interested may kindly send Tekni, education details & kulawali through email at dkbdp@hotmail.com

➡ "Suitable Alliance invited for our Son born on March 29, 1987 at Mumbai. B.E (E&C- Gujarat Univ.). Presently working with Infosys- Mysore. Parents based at Baroda. Interested may contact: +918320147182 / +919979626039; Email: satishhrraina@yahoo.co.in / satish.h.raina@gmail.com."

➡ Seeking a suitable alliance for our son born on 7th June 1988, 3:41pm, has completed BSc. Biotechnology, PGDC in Clinical Research from Med. University Apollo Hospital, Delhi, currently working as Site Report Reviewer(Lead) with a reputed MNC (QVIA) in Bengaluru, with a good package. Interested may respond & contact 9419890745, 7889912643, EMAIL:rajnimattoo.rm@gmail.com

➡ Suitable alliance invited for our son, Vivek Munshi, Born in Srinagar on June 17, 1989, at 11.40 am, ht. 175 Cms. B.tech CSE Bangalore. Regular post graduate Diploma in finance from Manipal university. M.B.A. operation from symbiosis. Presently working as Deputy Manager in US Multinational at Bangalore. Interested may Contact: 9149605543 / WhatsApp 9469808816 / 01912566703; E.mail: rameshmuunshi5@gmail.com.

➡ Seeking suitable alliance for our daughter born on February 6, 1990 at 1.25 p.m at Jammu, 5 ft 6 inches tall, BE (Computer Science) and working as HADOOP Engineer in IT for an Investment Bank at Bangalore Interested may contact: 9538502338 or manoramadhar@gmail.com

➡ Alliance is invited for my only daughter born on 08-09-1988. She has done B.Tech and Masters and is presently working with a reputed MNC (one of the big 4 consultancy firms) at Bengaluru having a seven figure annual package. Intered may communicate on nimi.kaul61@gmail.com"

➡ Suitable alliance invited for our son Vikram Ganjoo, 5'8" tall, born at Pinglena Pulwama, Kashmir on July 31, 1988, BE (Computer Sciences) from Mumbai University and MBA (Finance), working at Bangalore in a reputed IT company (Spiens

Technologies India Pvt. Ltd). Interested may contact: 9419100696 (M L Ganjoo) and 9971558120 (B N Ganjoo).

➡ Alliance invited for our daughter born May 24, 1990 at 5.50 p.m. Jammu, height 162 cm, MBBS, Diploma (Family medicine). Interested may contact: 9797873596, 9419140754, 0191-2555024, 9419195170. Engineers and other professionals with good qualification shall also be considered. Email: akkandkoul@gmail.com.

➡ Suitable alliance(working) invited for my son Srinagar born, Oct 4th '88, 0318PM, 6'3", MBABCS, Business Executive L'Oreal NOIDA. Contact mknadir02@gmail.com, 9450100109, 7889736499

➡ Seeking Suitable Alliance for my son 167 cms. tall born in Ghaziabad on 7th July 1990 at 18.42 hrs. B.E.(CS) Working with MNC at Gurugram. Interested may pl. contact at 9219551200, 9818721322. Email: bimaltiku@yahoo.co.in

➡ Suitable alliance invited for my daughter, born Jan 1989, 9.00 PM at Jammu, Ht 155 cms, qualifications: B Arch, from MSU Baroda, Working as Poject Arch. at Bangalore. Interested may send tekni and biodata. Contact email kherdliip@gmail.com Mob no 9900711444. 7338262020.

➡ Seeking suitable alliance for our daughter born on 9th December, 1993 at 2:15 p.m. She has completed B.tech in ECE and is currently working as Assistant system Engineer in TCS Bangalore. If interested kindly contact 9622204345.

➡ Alliance invited for my daughter, born in September 1988, 165 cms tall, has done B. Tech from Bangalore & M.Tech from VIT University, Vellore (TN) and is presently working in Bangalore with a MNC as a Technical Officer (R&D), soon joining a UK based MNC in Bangalore as Consultant with a good package. Interested may contact with tekni: Subash Kaul, Mob: +91 9797742432; 9419142432; subhashkaulpnb@rediffmail.com

➡ Alliance is invited for our daughter born Nov. 30, 1992 at 3:42 AM in Mumbai. Height- 164 cm, B.E (Comp. Engineering-Gujarat Univ), P.G (Animation-Gujarat Univ). Presently working in an internationally reputed Noida based company as an Animator. Parents based at Baroda. Interested may respond with Tekni and Bio-data to susheel819@yahoo.com. Mob: +91 9898046098 / 9898086097

➡ "Suitable Bangalore based match invited for my daughter born 12th Nov 1987 height 171 cms, BE, PGDSD, MBA IIM Bangalore working in a reputed Bangalore based Software Co. Interested may contact on prepep@gmail.com or 9419154760/ 9469304438/0191-2505918". a Suitable alliance sought for Kashmir Brahmin doctor girl doing her MD, height 170 cms, born at Jammu on July 13, 1991, from suitable hindu brahmin boy, preferably Kashmiri pandit family. Contact: Dr. K K Raina at

9764000034 or email: kkr_302@yahoo.com.

➡ Seeking suitable alliance for our son (slightly Manglik) born 28th June 1987 at 9:35 am Srinagar (J&K), height 5' 5". He has done B.E. in CS from PES Mandya, Karantaka and is working as Sr. Software Engineer in HPE RnD, Bangalore. If Interested please contact me on 9419301425 / 9622204345; Email: walisk1955@gmail.com

➡ Suitable alliance invited for our son born December 1985, Height 175cms, M.A Economics Bangalore. Working in responsible position in sale Dept of a reputed company in Gurugram (Haryana). Non speaking Kashmiri family settled in (New Delhi) Further details Contact: 08447553360 or 09891302209.

➡ Suitable alliance invited for my Medico Daughter [BDS+PG Journalism] born on 13.10.1990, 11.05 am, Jammu, Ht. 162 cms, Working as Assistant Editor Mumbai. Family settled in Bangalore. Interested may contact: 9535702344, Emailopenderbali@gmail.com

➡ A suitable match for our daughter 174cm, born oct 26, 1990, Graduated in Applied Finance & Economics from Macquire University, Sydney & Masters from Holmes Institute, Sydney in 2014. Employed since 2014 & presently working as Accounts Associate with Scottish Pacific Business Finance, Sydney. Permanent resident of Australia." Boy willing to relocate to Australia preferred. PI contact 9872992186, Mail id sadhubansilal@gmail.com.

➡ Alliance sought for my only son born October 27, 1981 at Srinagar (KMR) at 4.10 p.m. (tulla Rashi), 157 cms tall and done his BE from CSC (PTU), presently working in iGate Pune, interested my please mail: sraina1970@rediffmail.com; Mob: 9419105774 / 9419188930 / 020- 27401750

➡ Alliance sought for my daughter born 26.11.1987, 4.24 PM Srinagar KMR Ht. 153 cms. She has done BE from Chandigarh, MS from Purdue University USA and MBA from Loyola University USA. She is currently working in CHICA-GO, USA. Parents based at Gurgaon Preference, boy working in USA. Interested, may please mail Tekni / Kulawali at dl.thusoo@gmail.com Mob 07838952577/09999053798

➡ Suitable alliance sought for our son, born November 1975 at Srinagar, Kashmir. Bsc in computer science from Bangalore University. Presently doing his own business. Married in November 2010 but unfortunately had to go for divorce. Marriage lasted for one month only. Interested may kindly contact. Mobile: 09419105275, 09055504144 Spade a Spade MARCH 2020 MATRIMONIAL 41 Email: spadeaspade@rediffmail.com; editorspadeas

BOLLYWOOD BUZZ

BY
AJAY CHOHTU,
PUNE



AR Rahman: There is a whole gang working against me

Ace music director AR Rahman has opened up about the reason he has been composing music for fewer Bollywood films these days. Rahman has composed the music for Sushant Singh Rajput's swan song *DilBechara*.

While speaking to Radio Mirchi, Rahman said, "I don't say no to good movies, but I think there is a gang, which, due to misunderstandings, is spreading some false rumours. When Mukesh Chhabra came to me, I gave him four songs in two days. He told me, 'Sir, how many people said don't go, don't go to him (AR Rahman) and they told me stories after stories.' I heard that, and I realised, yeah okay, now I understand why I am doing less (work in Hindi films) and why the good movies are not coming to me. I am doing dark movies, because there is a whole gang working against me, without them knowing that they are doing harm."

He added, "People are expecting me to do stuff, but there is another gang of people preventing that from happening. It is fine, because I believe in destiny, and I believe that everything comes from God. So, I am taking my movies and doing my other stuff. But all of you are welcome to come to me. Make beautiful movies, and you are welcome to come to me."

Simi Garewal: I applaud Kangana Ranaut, she is braver and bolder than I am



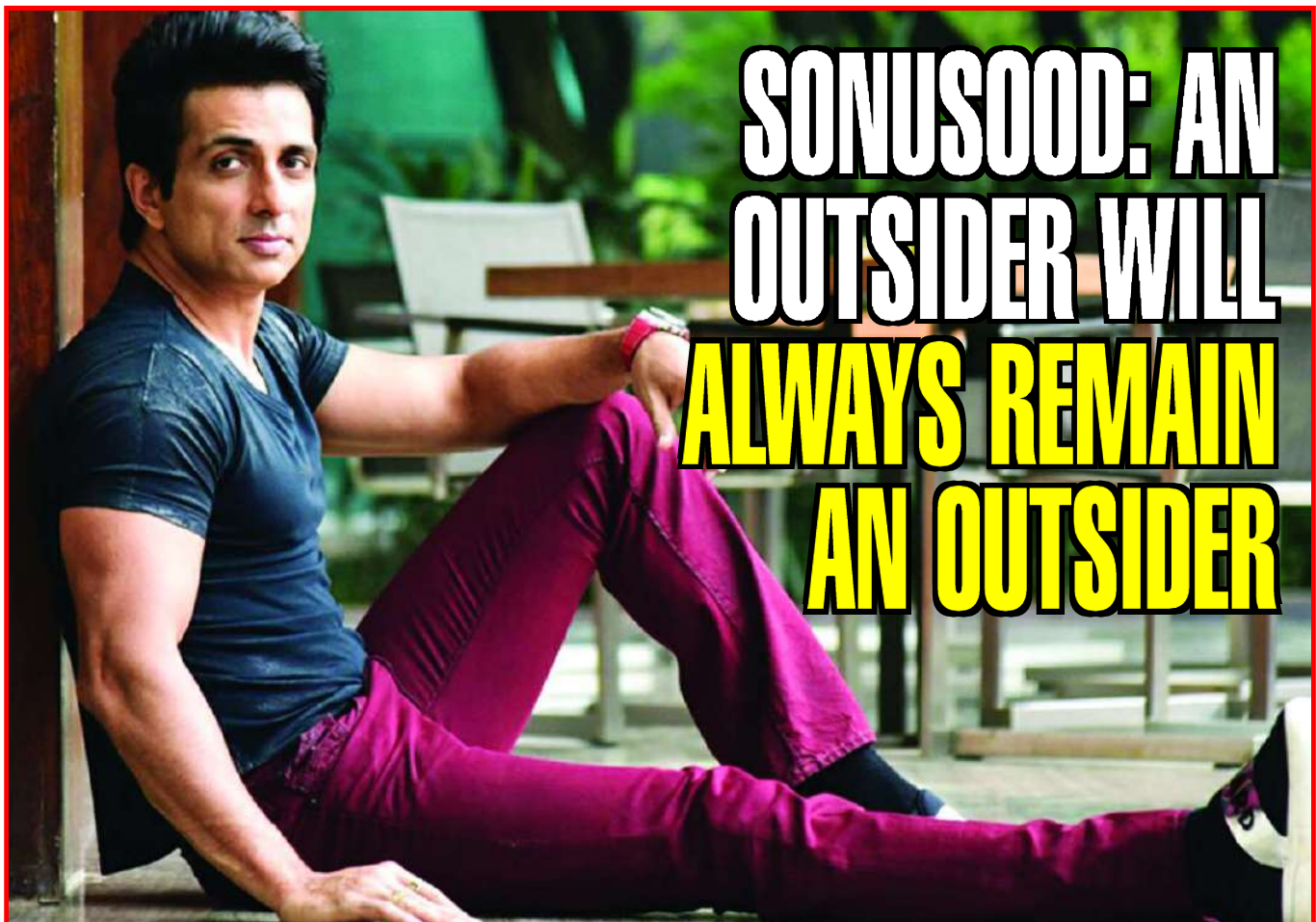
Former actor and popular TV show host Simi Garewal has lauded Kangana Ranaut for her comments about the death of Sushant Singh Rajput. Ever since Sushant died by suicide on June 14, Kangana has been speaking about nepotism in Bollywood and the film industry's alleged aversion towards outsiders.

Saying that she too has faced the brutalities of the industry and has had her own share of struggles, Garewal tweeted late Saturday night, "I applaud #KanganaRanaut who is braver & bolder than I am. Only I know how a 'powerful' person has viciously tried to destroy my career. I stayed silent. Because I am not so brave..."

She added in subsequent tweets, "I don't know what all of you felt after watching #KanganaSpeaksToArnab ..but it has left me quite depressed.. I'm distraught at what #SushantSingRajput endured .. and also what many 'outsiders' go through in Bollywood.. it must change! When George Floyd was killed in America it set forth an awakening. In the same way #SushantSingRajput's death may be the harbinger of an awakening in Bollywood.."

Kangana Ranaut spoke to news channel Republic TV on Saturday evening about the death of Sushant. She again accused producers like Karan Johar and Aditya Chopra for shortchanging him. She also said that she, too, was told that she will meet a tragic end. The actor also alleged that she was dropped by 18 brands and called the people in Bollywood "emotional vultures".

Stating that she will return her Padma Shri if she is not able to substantiate her claims about Sushant Singh Rajput, Kangana concluded, "I am telling you, if I have said anything, which I can't testify, which I can't prove, and which is not in public domain, I will return my Padma Shri."



Actor SonuSood has opened up about the nepotism debate that is at this moment raging in the Hindi film industry. The debate caught momentum after Kangana Ranaut brought it up in the wake of Sushant Singh Rajput's death, alleging that people in Bollywood might have put negative thought in Sushant's mind.

Sushant, whose *DilBechara* released posthumously on July 24 on Disney+ Hotstar, died by suicide on June 14.

In an interview with *India Today*, Sood said, "When an outsider comes to the city and makes it big, it makes us very proud and gives every new-comer hope. But when something like this happens, it leaves all of us heart-broken. The pressures are real. There are thousands of people who come to the city looking for work every day, but there are very few who get that big break."

He added, "An outsider will always remain an outsider. When I came to the city, I already had a degree in mechanical engineering, I thought people's approach towards me would

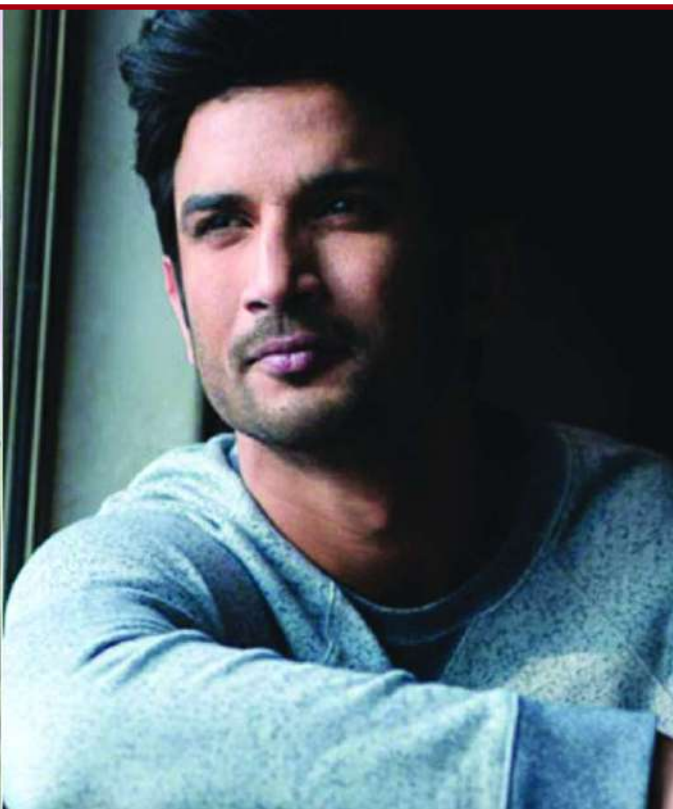


be different. But it wasn't. I never got an entry into office. I realised in those first 6-8 months that the journey is going to be tough."

SonuSood, best known for films like

Dabangg, *Singh Is Kinng*, *Jodhaa Akbar*, among others, has recently earned praise for helping stranded rural migrants get to their homes by arranging transport for them.

ANURAG KASHYAP: SUSHANT NEEDED VALIDATION FROM YRF



Anurag Kashyap shared his experiences of working with Sushant Singh Rajput. Even though filmmaker Anurag Kashyap never collaborated with the late actor a couple of times. In a recent interview with NDTV, Anurag recalled those experiences and said that the debate of outsider vs insider has become misguided now.

In the interview, Anurag acknowledged that Sushant "was a very successful person." But he also pointed out that like many other actors in the film industry, Sushant picked films to further his career.

Anurag Kashyap recalled that he first met Sushant Singh Rajput after he had locked the casting for Gangs of Wasseypur. He shared that at the time, Mukesh Chhabra (casting director and now director of DilBechara) used to sit in his office at Phantom Films. He said, "I told Sushant that I met you a little late. You are a boy from Bihar, had I met you before, I would have cast you in my film."

Anurag went on to share that the film HaseeTohPhasee, which ultimately starred Sidharth Malhotra and Parineeti Chopra, was first set up with Sushant. "We were making a film called HaseeTohPhasee. We started that film with Sushant and then we went to Parineeti. Parineeti was handled by YRF. He went and spoke to YRF. YRF gave him a deal and said

we will sign you up, but you do Shudh Desi Romance. He signed up with YRF and dropped HaseeTohPhasee," the filmmaker told NDTV. He added that HaseeTohPhasee was a film of an outsider and Sushant dropped it "because he needed validation from YRF. It's with every actor. We don't hold any grudges. We got to make the film with Sidharth Malhotra. Everybody does that."

Anurag Kashyap also revealed another instance when he wanted to work with Sushant Singh Rajput. The incident occurred before the release of MS Dhoni The Untold Story. Anurag recalled, "Mukesh took my script to Sushant. Sushant heard the script, Dhoni released and became a super hit. He didn't call me back. It's not like anybody's upset. I'm so used to this. Because in this industry, when outsiders come in, they seek validation. And one can't blame you, it is a choice that you have made."

He added that Sushant was keen on working with Dharma Productions. "The boy was very talented but at that time, he chose Drive over a film that I was doing."

Anurag Kashyap concluded, "People definitely love Sushant Singh Rajput. I just wish that love poured out when his films were releasing. I wish that love poured out in a film like Sonchiriya."

FORECAST - AUGUST 2020



ARIES (MESHA)

CAREER: This month is going to be very good in terms of your professional front. Your work is going in the right direction says your this month career prediction. Your activeness will bring productivity in your work during the mid of the month. While there are few chances that some may lose their job or controversy may caught some, but relax! You have got a hold on this and you will be coming out winning. For Aries, you should avoid taking any important decisions regarding your career or business. Enjoy your job as it will bring a good paycheck. Love your job and it will be easy to work. Stay focused as you have capabilities. August says, do not get too much indulged in the debates with the colleagues as unnecessary arguments will not give you anything.

FINANCE: Dear Aries, Money is usually attracted so attract it, do not spend it. There will be a cash flow but do not spend too much on shopping, you have to control your horses or else it will be a matter of challenge in personal and professional front. Do one thing, think twice before investing or lending money. Think about yourself in the first case. Avoid doing unnecessary things. Save your money in the first half as towards the end of the month you can enjoy with it. You have to wait for Luxury items.

ROMANCE: No man can live without love, So my dear Aries, you have to be little careful with your partner. Some of you might have arguments with your partner but you are sensible and your patience can avoid this thing. This month will bring you closer to the one you love but there is no hurry. Do not rush into proposing your partner as August is not the ideal month for this. Newly married or married ones, this month brings chances to conceive. Always remember, efforts show that you care much about the relationship than yourself.

HEALTH: August month brings out the goodness in this regard for you. Enjoy your work life. Good health ensures a happy life. Some of you take good care of your breathing related issues while some of you have to keep a check on your diabetes. Nothing beats a really good drive, it says a lot about us. This month prediction says, take good care of you while driving. Health wise, it is a good month and you can have some extra cookies!



TAURUS (VRISHABHA)

CAREER: Welcome in the month of August as it is going to be exceptionally well for you in terms of career prospects. Business men, Entrepreneurs, you are going to negotiate well with your customers and clients during the second week of the month.

August is going to do wonders for the people seeking for job or trying to switch for better job offers. You may find that you get an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take a job that is very appealing to you. Don't shy away from taking it, as it will do wonders for your career, advises your Taurus monthly predictions. The period of uncertainty is going away from your professional life. Your hard work is going to give fruitful results by the end of this month. Stability was the only key in your job and by the end of this month, you will feel it! Excellent performance from your side will make you a more optimistic person. So, from career point of view, you will pat your back as you truly deserve it. You are on the right track and keep going on with this positivity.

FINANCE: The month of August is really profitable for you and you will be able to have a perfect balance in your income and expense, says your Taurus monthly horoscope. Your investments in the month of August need some careful planning as it is a matter of money. Expenses can be little high but you are very stable to handle this situation beforehand. The last week of the month wants you to be thoughtful as you want to save money, this can be done with careful planning and you will be able to save a good amount of money too.

ROMANCE: The first week of the month may feel like you are not getting the support of your partner. You want to have mutual respect and cooperation but it seems that the other one is not thinking the same. These things will be a little challenging on the romantic front and to get over it, you need to give some significant efforts with your partner on the love aspect of your life. The more you try to ignore the arguments, the more you will get the chances to save your relationship. You will be able to see a good time in your love life as soon as you start making the needed changes. You may also get caught up in a situation where you may find your partner cheating on you.

Singles, the end of this month is really supportive and fortunate for the proposal you have been planning for long, predicts your Taurus monthly romance horoscope. Go and try your luck as it is really lucky for you.

HEALTH: Health and fitness, Both are very crucial in a person's life and this month says that you are going to enjoy your health and work simultaneously. Go and try out some recreational activities as it will keep you fresh and physically active. The more energy comes when you become an all rounder and take care of both your mental and physical well being. Some of you will find out that your old health issues are vanishing and you are coming on the right track. Congratulations, you controlled your health problems! Before sleeping, talk to your partner about the day's experience as it will ensure a good night's rest. Even a few minutes of meditation before sleep would serve you very well, advice's your Taurus monthly horoscope.



GEMINI (MITHUNA)

CAREER: This month will be full of changes in your professional front and you need to keep your confidence high to deal with whatever that comes up for you, says your Gemini monthly horoscope. In work culture, people like to criticize, but there is no need to get your involvement in this. Keep yourself aside from

unnecessary debates and discussions and your focus will not be shifted from your work. Communication is the key to win hearts. Your personality is good enough to handle this, whether it is verbal or written. Your wisdom can save you from the unwanted troubles. So all in all, you are going to flourish in career field provided you are ignoring things that are not related to your work. Your current job is good for you as for now, so avoid any job change says this month's career horoscope prediction for you.

FINANCE: This month will register minor problems with the flow of income but as you are well organized, you will take a good care of your expenses. For businessmen or people who have taken a loan scheme, this month brings a great relief as its likely to be totally paid off, says your Gemini monthly horoscope. If you work in the entertainment industry and dedicating yourself into this, you are likely to receive a lot from financial point of view. Make sure you are doing as much promotion and advertising as possible in order to maximize the interest that has been building in your establishment. The last week of the month is not an appropriate time for investing in luxurious items. This month will be a start for a lot of Gemini for their job and income, predicts your Gemini monthly horoscope.

ROMANCE: This coming monsoon is bringing so much love in the air. You are passionate, and it is best for your romantic life. Take a step ahead in your love and companionship. You will prefer to have conversations over phone call with your beloved. You will use the social networking sites to stay connected. You just want to enjoy romantic pleasures and this will make you feel like distracting your partner with a few saucy remarks during the lovely conversations, says your Gemini monthly horoscope. If you ask out for the permission of getting married to the elders of the house, you may find some problems in this but most likely you will get the approval. Singles who are looking for partner will definitely get in touch with someone they can plan ahead their future with, just take this relationship forward after the second week of the month. This month brings a favorable time for couples planning to conceive.

HEALTH: You may need to monitor your health closely if you are suffering from blood pressure, blood sugar problems and lung related issues. This month these areas require special attention for Gemini. Try to take it easy, rest up and eat right. If you are worried about any of your conditions worsening try to see a doctor to soothe your mind, says your Gemini monthly horoscope. The second half of the month will help you recover from the complications. Keep yourself away from any stress and strain as it is not going to be beneficial for you. Try to drink plenty of water and avoid eating fast foods. Stay healthy and fit.



CANCER (KATAKA)

CAREER: If you are eagerly waiting to hear from the recent job that you have applied for, good news may very well come into your way and you will be given a wonderful opportunity, says your Cancer monthly horoscope. On career front, you require some more focus. Be positive and keep the good thoughts flowing. You are excellent in your job but lack of concentration may affect your performance. Tough times require plenty of spirit and you have lots of it. Explore all your options and keep scanning the horizon for that one great opportunity, advises your monthly predictions. The last week of the month will give you chances to do business deals, so be careful as one wrong step from your side and your responsibilities may be given to the others. If you are working as a business man, you are likely to be flooded with good partnership deals in the month of August. You can expect the appreciation and a raised status for your professional front.

FINANCE: The people belonging with Cancer zodiac will definitely have a great balance in their personal and financial life along with the income & expenses. The flow of income is good despite of some challenges in the career front, says this month's prediction. You are creating good ways to invest the money. This is indeed a good month for investing money in land, gold and certain long term policies. You are smart enough and you are saving by cutting down the expenditures you make this month, so that you can spend and save money in a good balance. You may find that you gain financially from an unexpected source and this is one of the best time to start saving, says your Cancer monthly horoscope. Keep your eyes and ears open and continue working hard. The stars may reward you in ways you don't expect!

ROMANCE: This month will be a lot more about focusing on the positive things in your love life than talking about the arguments. Your nature is going to decide your relationship with your partner, says your Cancer monthly Horoscope. You will find that the more charming and more self-confident you are the more your partner responds to you, emotionally and physically. Be both a good communicator and a good listener if you have just stepped into a new relationship. The first week of the month will however try to bring some stresses which may lead to arguments if you take it a little too personal. To avoid it, try to be as much understanding you can get. Best of luck for this and remember compromises can be good also, especially when it brings harmony in the relationship.

HEALTH: This month will enable you to enjoy your work and health in a good way, says your monthly predictions. Protect yourself and your family against minor ailments like cough and cold as the weather is changing and you have to take care of it, says your Cancer monthly horoscope. Travel carefully with proper planning. You are advised to be careful while doing anything as minor injuries are likely to happen if you are not following this thing. Pregnant ladies should take very good care of themselves as you are with a proper diet plan. Include fresh fruits and dairy products in your diet.



LEO (SIMHA)

CAREER: This month is going to be an extremely favorable month for your professional life, says your Leo monthly horoscope. This month will inspire you to achieve your long-term goals and will also provide monetary rewards over the years. Your performance is combining itself with the opportunities and making you more valuable to your employer. Your ideas will be appreciated and implemented in the organization. Your hard work is going to pay you back and there are chances that you are going to land into your first job or that new job which was more or less a dream job for you. Your pending project or business deal is going to be finished and finalized. In the second half of the month, authorities are going to give you a raise and businessmen are going to expand their horizons. A positive attitude and excellent interpersonal skills will take your career to new heights, says this month predictions.

FINANCE: This month is going to be good in terms of income and your expenses are also under control. The first week of the month needs a little care in terms of your financial life. If you are in business then you are going to get profit and it is quite high when in the second half of the month. You can even use this time to consider your options for expanding your business in the future. Focus on your biggest accounts, says your Leo monthly Horoscope. You will find that you are able to broaden the kinds of products or services that you provide them. If you are thinking to invest in property, then you can go for it as this month is suitable to invest into these things. You can make good money from your investments too. Some of you wanted to buy luxury household items for so long, last week of the month is ideal to buy such things.

ROMANCE: Love is blooming in the air and it will be all good and fun for the Leo. The month of August will be full of romance and romantic moments. Those of you who are married will enjoy romantic pleasures and dinner dates will help you get cozy. Singles, you may find yourself swayed by the charm of the other person and there are high chances that you will find your soul mate. The last week of the month is going to be auspicious in terms of marriage and it will bring high chances to fix marriage. For some, you will rekindle your romance and both of you will get away with the past issues, predicts your Leo monthly horoscope. This can help in bringing back an old couple together too. In the last week of the month there are chances of unwanted pregnancy.

HEALTH: You will be able to enjoy your work and personal life to the most, says your Leo monthly horoscope. You have been taking care of your health and because of this your recovery from the past health issues are vanishing. During the mid week, you should avoid drinking cold drinks and alcoholic beverages as they will do no favors on the health front. Also, make sure you do not smoke. Eat healthy food and follow the good habit of running and exercising. Children should be careful when playing outdoors. Take care of your mental and physical health with yoga and meditation. Go for morning or evening walks. Sit in the park as it will give you peace of mind.



VIRGO (KANYA)

CAREER: The first week is demanding to be little cautious on the work front. Businessmen, you are advised not to take important decisions during this week. It is the only time where you need to be careful, Virgo. The remaining month is indicating good signs for new ventures. Some of you have a work which is not completing and you are stuck into it, but relax, this month is going to be cleared. Self-confidence and dedication will make the period something to look upon. You will be on the accurate place of work and life. There are high chances of getting your first and a new job too. Creativity would help your personalities as they head into one of the best periods of their life. This is also an excellent period for actors and musicians as they do some of the best work, predicts your Career monthly horoscope.

FINANCE: This month is going to offer you good chances to enjoy a financially stable life and with the controlled expense and you will be able to save some good amount too. You will be able to clear your dues and cover up the loan you have taken in the past years. You will be thinking about making a major purchase, perhaps a new car, motor bike or some other big luxurious item. It is a good time to pursue this option, so take this month to consider your various options, even though it would mean a major spike in your expenses. Your financial aspects are positive, so go in for the item that you have been hoping for, says your Virgo monthly horoscope. If you are planning to invest in the last week of the month, you can expect some good money in return from that too. Dear Virgo, you are going to get a good financial month.

ROMANCE: August month is the time to enjoy the romantic pleasures. It is a month where you will find yourself being loved by your partner. The understanding between you two is brewing in a good way. Your partner loves you and it is giving you all kinds of strength. You will give hundred percent in making up on the bad times and find out a really interesting time for you and your partner. If you are waiting for a potential partner for marriage, there are high chances that you find someone by the end of this month, says your Virgo monthly prediction. Find balance in your work and love life. The fourth week of the month is going to be really challenging for the married couples. Try to understand the situation of your partner and things will be sorted out easily. There are high chances of pregnancy, so if you are not planning for a child, take the necessary precautions.

HEALTH: August month will be full of positivity and good health. You are going to have a good color of your life. The work is also balanced and it is giving you a healthy atmosphere where you are away from any kind of stress related problems. You will be able to maintain

a perfect balance between your health and personal life. Some of you have sensitive throat, so try to avoid eating fast food and aerated drinks as throat infection is indicated at this time, predicts your Virgo health horoscope. Be very careful while driving as vehicle may cause harm. Wash your face thrice in a day as it will keep your skin healthy. Keep yourself covered up if you have to go outside, and wear sun block if you have to be in the direct sun.



LIBRA-(THULA)

CAREER: This month is going to be outstanding for Libra on the job and career front. For those who work in the sales, you may come out with new business ideas to increase your sales. For the people working in the travel and tourism industry, are going to have work-related journeys for the promotion of their ventures in the month of August. To all those who are in business should get ready to enjoy the good times and success, as their creative ideas will attract an increased sale, predicts your career monthly horoscope. This will help the business to expand. These will be fruitful, however, so enjoy them even if they bring stress. They will benefit you in the long run. If you are working honestly, your superiors are going to notice your hard work and you may receive financial remuneration. There are high chances of getting a good job too. If you have given any competitive exam recently, there is high indication of clearing it.

FINANCE: This month you will see an excellent flow of income all throughout the month and you will enjoy the kind of money you will get in the month of August. The first week of the month needs your careful expenditure as unavoidable expenses are predicted. The second half of the month will be relaxing and you can enjoy spending your hard earned money with your family, says Libra monthly horoscope. You really feel the need to get out and socialize. Spend your money on things that bring fun and frivolity to the group. You don't need to be stingy with your funds, go ahead and treat the group but at the same time make sure you do not spend on anything unworthy. Some of you will realize the fact that making money is important but creating memories is way better than this. If you are planning to invest, the second half of the month seems to be a productive, when you can expect good returns on the luxury and property you have paid interest in.

ROMANCE: This month seems to bring a really good time for your romantic life. August indicates a favorable month for your love life. Recently your love life has been full of ups and downs. Some of you are feeling cheated because of the recent breakup and you will also reflect back on recent events and realize that you can not always predict what is going to happen in the world of love! There is a hope of a potential new romantic partner, says your Libra monthly horoscope. Your prospects for romance continue to be bright. Take it all in stride and enjoy the good times while they are here. Singles who have been looking out for partner will find someone really interesting to be around with. If you are planning to start a new relationship, make sure you do not go overboard with it. Play safe and you will definitely find an answer to how you see your love and relationship in life.

HEALTH: This month will be a good time to go for excellent enjoyment of health and work life. You have maintained your health by avoiding all the unhealthy eating habits and this is really helping you to achieve your fitness goals. If you do not want to go for a gym then you can try out fitness classes. It will be very helpful to lose weight plus it will make you feel lively and cheerful says your Libra monthly horoscope. Share recipes for healthy alternatives to fattening snacks. These activities will make exercise fun and will bring you closer to your friends. You will be also able to recover from your old health issues when you start looking out for the ways to improve health conditions.



SCORPIO-(VRISHIKA)

CAREER: You are likely to get small boost to your career, most probably without leaving your current job and be a little cautious while you are having communication, whether verbal or written. You should increase your contacts in the second and third week of August, predicts your Scorpio monthly horoscope. It will create some better business deals and your career will rise. Your job will help you to excel. Find the opportunities that help you focus on it. You will be appreciated by your managers and colleagues for your hard work and determination at work. Those who are planning to start with a new business venture, can go ahead with it. For some, job change is indicated. If you are a student, you are likely to find good options and guidance for your further studies. You can also look out for guidance from your teachers and parents as they know you are capable enough and a right direction will make you a promising candidate.

FINANCE: This month is going to be exceptionally well in terms of financial condition. You will experience an enhancement in your financial prospects, says your Scorpio monthly horoscope. There are strong indications that you are likely to be entrusted with an important responsibility at work. You need to fulfill all your deadlines and complete your task intelligently. In return, monetary rewards and chances of promotion are indicated. Your expenses will be high in the first week, but it will stay under control in the second half and you are likely to enjoy good returns from the previous investments. You will be able to use your money well and pay off your domestic responsibilities like travel, house hold items and other important stuff. You can invest in the month of August and expect good benefits in returns.

ROMANCE: This month will bring an excellent time on the romantic front for Scorpio, says your love monthly horoscope. Just be careful in the first week because unnecessary arguments are not good for your relationship. There are high chances of romantic encounters for both singles as well as for the ones who have been in a relationship for a long time. In the second half, couples in a long-distance relationship may get some good news about the unexpected arrival of your partner and it will be incredible for both of you. August is the

month of total togetherness for some of you. You are going to meet your love interest and proposals are likely to get accepted. Married couples will get high chances of conceiving if they are planning for a child in this month of the year, predicts your Scorpio monthly horoscope.

HEALTH: August wants you to sit back and relax for a while. You will be able to enjoy your work life and your routine habits to the most, says your Scorpio monthly horoscope. Life is full of hustle and bustle but you have to take the best care of your body. Few of you can go for small surgeries that will free you from the pain. Do not walk too fast. Kick your feet up and watch a movie. It will do your body good. If you are planning to travel, make sure you keep all the necessary stuff with you.



SAGITTARIUS-(DHANU)

CAREER: This month will be excellent on the work front and finally you are getting back on the track after constant troubles of the professional life, says your Sagittarius monthly horoscope. You have worked really hard and it is the time where your performance is really going to be appreciated. The one who communicates well is noticed by everyone very clearly. So just work on your communication skills. Enhance your personality as it will boost your career for good, Sagittarius. You will be able to increase the contacts with the help of good communication and will get good professional prospects. If you are working as a businessman, you will find good deals to go with. This month brings a good time for new business venture and start ups too. However, it is not a good time to switch and you just stick with your present job and wait for the right time. If you are planning for further studies, this month brings the best time to start exploring what you can get with your future prospects.

FINANCE: The first week of this month could bring some of the issues with regular income but rest of the month will be having an excellent flow of income, says your Sagittarius monthly horoscope. The first week will make you spend a lot and more than you expected, but you are smart enough and you will control your expenses. You like travelling, exploring and this month you will spend money on this hobby. Certain household items and appliances will be purchased for your benefit. You can invest in the second half of the month to get better results, says your monthly predictions. Spend wisely and save some amount of money. It will be very good for your unexpected expenditures.

ROMANCE: Love is needed by everyone and August is bringing an outstanding time for the romantic pleasures. Your romantic life will get a good pace and you will be on the cloud. There is a spark of romance and sensuality in your relationship, even if you have been together for a very long time. There will be some extra caring and affection present, says your Sagittarius monthly horoscope. Some of you are going to encounter romantic pleasure for the first time in your life. This is healthy for your relationship and you should not be afraid to express it. If you are married and are planning for a child, August is a favorable month for you. This month has high potential to meet your new partner. You will also get the approval of elders if you are planning to marry. Proposing in the second half of the month can be really a good decision, since there are high chances of the acceptance.

HEALTH: Your health will stay excellent, making it possible for you to work long and hard, predicts your Sagittarius monthly horoscope. If you had fallen behind on your work due to some health issues, this month will be the perfect time to put in a few extra hours to catch up. You will be able to take advantage of your low stress level and high energy and enjoy some active time with friends. With a good routine and food habits, you will be full of liveliness and energy. Pregnant ladies, you ought to be careful with your baby bump.



CAPRICORN-(MAKHARA)

CAREER: This month said to be excellent and your performance is going to be beneficial for you and for your team. You will motivate your team members in a way that everyone will notice and you are going to have an excellent professional life, says your Capricorn monthly horoscope. Those who are in creative field will be showered with excellent ideas and thoughts to expand their horizons. Those who are self-employed will be able to negotiate well in their respective areas. This is the right time when you are going to have a better job offer and you should consider it twice before rejecting. If you are working as a business man, you will have good ideas to go with and have good results from the chances you take. You can also get new opportunity of partnership and deals that you have been waiting for long. This month calls for rejoice, as the uncertainty is going to end and you will have a stable work life.

FINANCE: There has been a tough time for your financial life in the past and this is the time to get over such issues and enjoy the time that life brings in of the monetary satisfaction. There will a lot of chances to have an excellent flow of money, where you can actually consider yourself rich and stable, predicts your Capricorn monthly horoscope. You are likely to get a financial gain in the last week of the month which was not at all expected and it will be a pleasant surprise. There are indications that you can recover your old dues and may win disputes related to land ownership. Do your best in the workplace and your bank account will show the lucrative results of your commitment, says your Capricorn monthly horoscope. You can get good return from the previous investments. If you of thinking of investing anywhere, you can go for it.

ROMANCE: This month will be a little troubling for your romantic life as some unexpected changes are foreseen, says your Capricorn monthly horoscope. The first week will be challenging. You will really feel you need to curl up with your partner, turning off the phone, and just spending time together more to keep your romantic life on track. Stay away from any argument with your loved one. The rest of the month will give you ample opportunities

to rekindle your romance. These are moments you will both cherish. If you want to propose, except first week, rest of the month is fine to do so. Some of you might need a help to clear out things in your relationship and for this, your elder brother or sister can be called upon. If you want to make things fine, you need to be more concerned about your relationship than your ego.

HEALTH: The month will hold a fine balance in terms of health. You will have a feeling of energy and positivism around yourself. Nature will give you optimistic outlook. If you love pets and want to have one, you should go for it. Wear those things that make you feel confident and comfortable. You will find some ways to maintain your good mental and physical health. Children are advised to be careful when they are playing outside or are on a camping trip, minor injuries are indicated this August month.



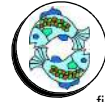
AQUARIUS-(KUMBHA)

CAREER: For Aquarians, this month is full of opportunities. You have all the chances to prove yourself and your performance will satisfy your employers. Do not underestimate yourself as you are capable enough to handle your work. If you are working in a team, you are likely to be promoted as a team leader as you strive to work for the good of the whole team. This month, you are getting new responsibilities just because of your hard work and you should continue doing this predicts your monthly horoscope. There will be stability in the career front. The last week will give you rewards and you may get promotion owing to many financial gains. If you want to be an entrepreneur or start your pre-decided business with your fellow mate, August is not showing any signs in this direction, avoid starting this in this month. You are working towards your goal and you are succeeding in it.

FINANCE: Dear Aquarians, there will be a handsome amount of income flow during this month. You are an idealistic sign and you know how to keep your expenses under control. You believe in communal living and you go extra mile to help your loved ones, but this time you need to be careful. Be cautious while assisting someone on the financial front. Some of you may feel the pressure of the loan taken for home or studies. You are always guilty of buying the unnecessary stuff, so try to avoid it in this month. Luxury items should not be entertained, as it will put some pressure on your bank account. Plan to save some amount of money as unexpected expenses can always come up. August does not bring any hopes in the investment sector. So Please do not take any chances during this month.

ROMANCE: The month of August brings the time to cherish the romantic moments with your loved one. Space and freedom are essential for you, as you respect individuality. This may lead to some sort of arguments in the first week of the month. Do not involve in any conflict with your partner. If you feel that there are chances of a fight, try to separate yourself from that situation for some time. Give priority to the relationship on the first level. Singles, you can go ahead and propose to the one, whom you like very much and want to have a relationship. The second week of August is ideal for your purpose. The soon to be mommies need to pay special attention.

HEALTH: On this front, you will enjoy a healthy work life and personal life. You should take rest and one thing that needs special attention is your eating patterns. Have proper meals in a day. Drink plenty of water, your skin will radiate. Include lots of fresh fruits and vegetables in your diet. Your old health issues are going to be over in this month. You are advised to go for morning or evening walks in the park as it will give you a sort of positivism.



PISCES-(MEENA)

CAREER: Pisceans are known for their powerful imagination and creativity. You are going to excel well in your work. Your performance will turn around the graphs of the organization. You are beneficial for your employers. Those who are working in the fields like photography, designing, building will get award of recognition for their excellent work. This month prediction says that you are having all the chances to showcase your abilities. Do not let loose this chance and grab the opportunity. Your personality is so original that it inspires many of the people working with you and it is a really good thing. Your career is going to take a flight and all the planets are favoring in this. Go ahead, this month is yours on the career front.

FINANCE: You are going to have an outstanding month in terms of the flow of income. You have worked quite well and this month your increment is going to be awarded, says this monthly prediction. Some of you may attain financial gains out of nowhere and for some, this month will give them their first salary. You are a good manager and your expenses are under control. If there is some sort of plan to invest money, then you can count on this month as it is indicating positive signs for this aspects. Purchase of land or flat will be profitable. You can afford to pamper yourself with few luxury items.

ROMANCE: You are capable of loving selflessly and this month is going to be very fine in terms of romantic life. If you are in a relationship for a long time and desire to get married, then you can use this month as there are extreme chances to get an approval from your elders. On the other hand, if some of you are planning to propose your love interest, be a little cautious as this is not the ideal time to do this. Couple who are married and have babies will be little worried for their children. Teaching them family values and spending time will make them a happy person.

HEALTH: August is going to be very good in terms of your health, says this Pisces monthly horoscope. You should try to go for a small trip where a beautiful landscape will soothe your soul. People who are having some issues related to blood pressure or heart, you need to take care of yourselves. Try to stay calm and do not consume much of salt as its not good for you. Live, love and laugh, these things will make you feel so relaxed and relieved.

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