


PROPER DISPOSAL OF PLASTIC

From our tooth brushes to our debit cards, most of what we touch today is plastic. Undeniably, plastic is the backbone of globalisation, the enabler of our modern lives. But a flip of the coin reveals the ugly side of plastic that we all must deal with - the 26000 tonnes of plastic that our country generates every day, nearly 10,000 tonnes of which goes uncollected. Despite the government's avowal to eliminate single use plastic products by 2022, policy implementation remains a challenge. The packaging industry, online delivery apps and industrial plastic waste continue to add to the conundrum. State bans on plastic, which commenced with Sikkim in 1998, have done a great job in bringing down the use of plastic but the real challenge stays at the used plastic management level. Stop treating plastic as waste and treat it as a recyclable resource like we treat newspaper. Less than 11 Kg, India's per capita plastic consumption is nearly a tenth of the US, at 109 Kg. And yet, our metros continue to suffer flooding caused by drains choked by used plastic, fish and animals continue to die in the country, gagging on inadvertent plastic consumption. The onus now lies on us, the citizens, to do our bit to save the planet from getting choked by untreated plastic. Here's how we can adopt some basic lifestyle changes that will help clean up the environment, a step at a time. For starters, respect the ban on low density micron plastic bags if it is applicable in your state. Even otherwise, start by refusing to accept thin plastic bags for all your groceries and vegetables. Carry cloth shopping bags to the market. Opt for the 'no packaging' options being offered by e-tailors or choose to forgo the plastic cutlery that inevitably turns up with your food delivery. Many conscious industries are now going in for minimal single use plastic in their packaging. Show your support by encouraging others, particularly the younger generation, to be eco-sensitive.

Milk pouches, plastic carry bags, bread wrappers and used shampoo bottles - all end up in the same bin with organic waste. Most municipal agencies are now charged with maintenance of separate bins for housing societies for wet and dry garbage. So remember to separate vegetable peels and fish bones from your bread wrappers. Plastic bottles and all other items can be cleaned and stored separately or they can also be sold to the Kabadiwala, who takes it to a recycling plant, or given away to voluntary organizations, which are happy to come to your doorstep to pick up plastic waste on a regular basis. Used milk pouches, rinsed and dried, will soon fetch a cash discount on your next purchase, if some states Governments have their way. Keep yourself updated on news that helps save your immediate environment. Oh, and remember to make compost from all your organic waste - it comes in handy in maintaining that kitchen garden! Traditionally, Indians have been known to re-use most products - PET water bottles, plastic shopping bags and plastic containers. With the rising use of single -use plastic however, the tendency to dispose of plastic products when the new one arrives has meant that much of discarded plastic ends up in the bin, or often, on the wayside.

Here's how you can harness another of India's traditional informal economy - that of the Kabadiwalas, who pick up disposed plastic and send it to the relevant factories for recycling. Housekeeping staff in housing societies is now trained to send segregated garbage to the proper agencies so that it can be recycled. Apart from online outfits that offer to collect your disposed plastic, there are entrepreneurs who are using this plastic to create employment among poorer sections of society, and creating useful products like furniture, toys and even shirts from the yarn that up cycled plastic yields. Essentially, all kinds of plastic that is disposed can be turned into a useful product after recycling. The possibilities of plastic bags, bottles and containers turning into sturdy products for home and industrial use are immense. For instance, high density polyethylene can be recycled to form the raw material for plastic bottles for household cleaners and shampoos. Garden hoses and traffic cones these days come from recycled polyvinyl chloride. Recycled polysterene is used in making packing cartons and most trash bags now are made from recycled plastic too. Carpets, cutting boards, colanders and containers - the list of products that use different kinds of re-used plastic is growing by the day!

Plastic is here to stay, but if we can make sure that we discard it properly, the planet can continue reaping the benefits of this marvelous human innovation for several more centuries. Inculcating the right spirit about plastic is the need of the hour. Make sure your neighbours, colleagues and friends follow the right ways of segregating and disposing of plastic products. It is the younger generations, who have grown up without the knowledge of alternatives to plastic that need to be educated about more viable alternatives like cloth bags instead of shopping bags. Let's pledge to take a small step to save our planet!



OFF 'D' CUFF

Pray the right way

For centuries, humanity has turned to prayer when all efforts have been exhausted. Regardless of the language, tradition or culture in which it is offered, prayer is a realisation that there is a Higher Power that can do more than we can.

Whether we pray for ourselves or ask for something on behalf of another, prayers often focus on achieving material gains of this physical world. This is because the physical world is what we know. So, what is it that we should pray for? As human beings, our knowledge of our lives and the world around us is limited. God, however, knows our past, present and future, and, as such, knows what is best for us. Our prayer to God should simply be for God's Will, not our will, to play out in our lives.

What is the right technique for praying to God? There is a part of

God that is already inside us, and prayer then becomes a communication with a divine Power that resides within. God hears our prayers no matter what language in which they are uttered.

What is important is the sincerity with which they are offered. When we come to God with humility, and when we surrender to God's Will, we can be sure that peace, love, joy and harmony will prevail.

Prayer is a conversation where we talk to God.

By contrast, meditation is a conversation where we listen to God and open up for God's grace in our lives.

As we learn the technique of meditation, we learn the means to communicate with God in the right manner, such that we become recipients of the unbounded grace that is being showered in our direction.

Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj

Breakdown of Patel’s action derailed Kashmir Policy

■ ER PRABHAT KISHORE

Article 370 of Indian Constitution has been revoked by the Parliament on 5th August 2019 and Jammu & Kashmir has become fully integrated with the country having the benefits of all central laws as well as public welfare schemes.

Technically, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh came into existence as Union Territories on 31st October 2019, the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, the architect of present-day unified India, who was actually the choice of first Prime Minister. Due to Gandhi's immoral intervention, he was illegally kept away from country's leadership, paving way for Kashmir, China border and various other problems in years to come.

If one goes through the happenings between 1946 to 1950, it is evident that Kashmir problem is nothing, but is a result of lack of vision, determination, decision, courage and involvement of a vested interest of ambitious politicians. Like Hyderabad & Junagarh, Maharaja of J&K Hari Singh had also not signed the instrument of accession upto fixed deadline, 15th August 1947.

The Maharaja had executed a stand-still agreement with Pakistan and wanted to have similar link with India also, but Indian leaders had no interest.

Initially Sardar Patel was dealing affairs tactfully. Jinnah adopted a policy of coercion & force and cut-off supply of food, petrol and other commodities. Military pressure was also applied through border raids.

At Patel's initiative, Planes were diverted to Delhi-Kashmir routes and communication equipments were installed between Amritsar & Jammu. Patel wrote to Maharaja on 21st Sept, 1947 that 'Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan will convey you the gist of our conversation on all matters affecting the interest of Kashmir. I have promised him full support and co-operation.' Patel had virtually instructed the Maharaja to appoint Mahajan as his Prime Minister. Patel also sent Guru Golwalkar, RSS chief, to Srinagar to brainwash Maharaja regarding futility of independent Kashmir and convey the message that Pakistan will never tolerate your independence and will engineer a revolt. Guruji assured Maharaja that Sardar Patel would look after Kashmiri people. After Maharaja expressed his readiness to sign the instrument of accession, Guruji returned back to Delhi on Oct 19 and briefed Sardar about the happenings. On 15th October 1947, J&K Prime Minister complained British

regarding lack of supplies and border raids by Pakistan, but British had nothing to do.

In the valley, there were contrasting views between the two national personalities.

Seeing Sheikh Abdullah's vision & ambitious approach, Patel had negative thinking about him; whereas Nehru has aversion for Maharaja and affinity for Abdullah. Actually, Maharaja had arrested Nehru in June 1946, when he was fighting for Abdullah during 'Quit Kashmir' movement. Nehru's sole aim was to reinstate Abdullah and dethrone the Maharaja. Sheikh Abdullah was at loggerheads with Jinnah. He was against going to Pakistan for his own personal reasons. He had ambition to become the Prime Minister of Kashmir, but he was fully aware that Jinnah being the champion of Muslims he had no chance in Pakistan.

In 1947, Government of India received intelligence reports that Pakistanis were preparing to enter Kashmir. Nehru pressurized that accession should take place with the co-operation of Abdullah and a letter was written to Mahajan, the PM of Kashmir, that as Abdullah is anxious to co-operate in handling with external danger, power should be shared with him without in any way jeopardizing Maharaja Position.

As Maharaja Hari Singh had agreed in principle for the accession, there was no need to take such hasty steps.

Before Mahajan received the letter, 5000-armed tribesmen from Pakistan entered Kashmir, burnt Muzaffarabad, shot dead Lt Col Narayan Singh (in Command of the State forces), captured power house at Mahura and switched off Srinagar's electricity. Brig Rajinder Singh, Chief of Staff of State, engaged raiders for two days in Uri, but he and his team were allegedly killed.

The raiders were near Baramulla, just 40 miles from Srinagar.

NWEP CM encouraged tribesmen to enter Kashmir and Pakistan General Akbar Khan openly acknowledged Pakistan's involvement. Jinnah told Mountbatten that if his conditions were satisfied, he whole thing would be called off. The British Commander of Gilgit Scout, Major Brown revolted against Kashmir Government and handed over Gilgit to Pakistan. On 23rd October 1947, the Maharaja wrote to Patel that nearly whole military of a particular community had either deserted or refused to co-operate.

On October 25, at the meeting of the defence committee of the Indian cabinet, Patel offered to help the Maharaja, but

Nehru's first reaction was 'Maharaja must associate Abdullah without resistance'. On 26th Oct. in crucial meeting at Nehru's residence, Mahajan as well as Abdullah pleaded the urgent need for Indian troops.

Patel asked Mahajan to return Kashmir and to convey the Maharaja that the Indian army was on its way. On the same day the Maharaja signed the Instrument of accession in Jammu and requested in writing for military assistance.

Under pressure from Nehru, Maharaja agreed to install Abdullah as the head of administration along with Mahajan. On 27th October 1947, over a hundred planes and a Sikh battalion were in Srinagar. Patel first time visited in Srinagar on 3rd November 1947, studied the situation and ordered the enemy to be drive out. As per Hari Singh-Abdullah formula, Abdullah had to run valley and leave Jammu to Maharaja. But Abdullah started interfering in Jammu. Patel went to Srinagar to handle the issue, but Abdullah was rigid to be the premier for the whole State. The leaning Nehru wrote to Maharaja "Sheikh should be the PM and should be asked to form the government. Mahajan can be one of the ministers and formally preside over the cabinet. You could be its constitutional head".

This letter completely changed the whole scenario at a crucial juncture. Nehru was afraid of Patel that he would not allow Sheikh to do, whatever his ambition was. Viewing Abdullah as the key of Kashmir's future, Nehru decided to manage Kashmir himself.

To assist him N G Ayyangar, a former Dewan of Kashmir, was inducted into the Indian cabinet as a Minister without portfolio. Nehru violated democratic propriety by intruding into the domain of his own Home Minister Sardar Patel.

A rift had been created between Patel and Nehru and a series of hot letters were exchanged, in which Patel offered even his resignation; to which Nehru wrote that as PM he must have a certain liberty of direction.

On Mountbatten's persuasion, Nehru had agreed to refer the matter to UN and also obtained Gandhi's reluctant consent. Patel strongly opposed the move, but Kashmir was now Nehru's baby. Patel wanted whole Kashmir, even if it meant for war. In a private conversation, Patel said 'Jawahar Royega', which came true 4 years later when Abdullah was sacked and arrested on charges of conspiracy. The Indian army found that the only way to completely remove the raiders from Kashmir was to

attack their bases and supplies in Pakistan. India warned that unless Pak denied assistant & base to invaders, she would be compelled to take action.

Mountbatten confused Nehru that any such move would undermine his foreign policy and progressive social aspiration. In UNSC, Nehru's representatives Abdullah and Ayyangar could not put forward the issue firmly and outperformed by Pak's Zafarullah Khan.

Following Ambedkar's refusal to draft Article 370 for special status to Kashmir, Abdullah approached Nehru; who eventually directed Ayyangar, also a member of Drafting committee, to frame it.

Not only Patel but Ambedkar and all leaders of constitutional assembly, except Maulana Azad & Ayyangar, were in opposition on this issue. They felt that limited application of Central laws to J&K would create a lot of problems rather than solution. But the matter being Nehru's childish insistence, no one interfere.

Dr Karan Singh, the son of Maharaja Hari Singh & later on Sadar-e-Riyasat of the State, recalled 'while Pandit Nehru was dealing directly with Jammu & Kashmir; it was Sardar Patel who carried on the correspondence with my father, which ultimate led to smooth political transition in J&K'.

Unhappy with Nehru's handling of Kashmir, especially the offer of a plebiscite, the reference to the UN, the ceasefire that left one-third part of the State in Pakistani hands, free hand to Sheikh and the removal of the Maharaja, Patel occasionally dropped remarks on these issues. But he never tried to dismiss the decisions in absence of Nehru, even when he served as acting PM. In the mid-fifties, he chatted with Rajaji, "Till Babu's death, I used to oppose and fight with him. But now I have given up. In view of Gandhi's last wish, any open criticism would look bad. But he would not remain silent if he found Nehru causing irreparable harm to the country".

Thus, breakdown of Patel's tactful action and Nehru's personal recalcitrance for Sheikh's ambition, entrapped the Kashmir Policy and darkened its future indefinitely.

The Central Government's initiatives to mainstream Kashmir with the Republic of India will lead a step forward in fulfilling Patel's vision of 'Sashakt & Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

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Time to take action against Pak supporters

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

The former Chief Minister of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and the PDP President, Mehbooba Mufti does not leave any opportunity to express her love for Pakistan and her hate India campaign is not new as ever since the formation of People's Democratic Party, as she is spewing venom against the Indian state & is openly siding with the terrorists only for the vote bank politics.

These days Mehbooba Mufti is in desperation and out of frustration she is advocating the restoration of the statehood and revival of controversial article-370 and article 35-A of the constitution of India to keep the special status of the Jammu and Kashmir in order to reap the dividends of the separatist tendencies and browbeat Indian leadership.

Now she is saying that there is no harm in bursting of fire crackers to celebrate the win of the enemy state of Pakistan in cricket T-20 world cup.

It is very unbecoming and unfortunate that the people of Kashmir have celebrated the win of Pakistan team in the cricket match against India. This is anti-India and is against the sovereignty of our state and as such this anti-national act cannot be allowed and tolerated.

But it is strange that the Mehbooba is saying that there is no harm in the jubilation of the youth of Kashmir over the win of Pakistan team in T-20 world cup against India as it is the game and everybody is within his right to express his thoughts and his or her expression of the jubilation on the win of the cricket match by Pakistan against India.

Mehbooba Mufti, who has earlier taken the oath of office and secrecy under Indian constitution as the chief minister of the erstwhile state of the Jammu and

Kashmir, should realize what she is doing and thus she should not provoke the youth of Kashmir against India.

When some action under the law of the land is taken against the youth who raise the anti-India and pro-Pak slogans on the eve of the win of the cricket match by Pakistan against India, she openly condemns such action against the youth of Kashmir. It is very ridiculous that Mehbooba on the one hand is saying that the Kashmiri youth are within their right to express their thoughts and emotions on the win of the cricket match by Pakistan and on the other hand she is denigrating the Indian government for leveling cases against the Kashmiri youth for their anti national activities.

According to Mehbooba, these are muscular policies of Indian state and these will not work in Kashmir rather it will boomerang and all the responsibility rests on the central government if some untoward incident takes place.

Mehbooba always talks the language of the Talibani's and she is not ashamed of her unbecoming conduct. Her double speak is exposed as she is talking of the high handedness of the disciplined security forces and the so called atrocities committed by the security agencies but she herself is enjoying the security cover of these very security forces of India.

Mehbooba is always denigrating the Indian government and denouncing its policies and calls these as the muscular policies which according to her has the potential of back firing.

She is talking the language of the terrorists and she has the soft corner for the terrorists and calls them as the freedom fighters fighting for their rights. According to her those who indulge in the anti India sloganeering and Pro-Pak slogans are the misguided youth who

should not be charged for their anti India acts as they are innocent to her.

Earlier during her term of the chief minister-ship, she said that the stone-pelters were innocent boys and as such no cases should be filed against them.

Leveling of the cases against them will further alienate the people of Kashmir from the mainstream and this will be against the unity and integrity of India.

Therefore according to her the tears of the Kashmiri's should be wiped by the Indian government and the healing touch should be given by the powers to win the hearts and minds of the youth. According to her there should be no tooth for tooth and eye for eye policy adopted by the government while dealing with the terrorists and she advocates for the soft approach towards the terrorists to whom she calls as the misguided boys. Mehbooba only advocates holding of the dialogue with the Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir issue. She wants Indian government to engage in talks with Pakistani government to settle the issue of Kashmir as according to her only talks with Pakistan is the only way to go forward in the Kashmir tangle. Mehbooba suggests Indian government to hold the much needed talks with Pakistan to address the Kashmir issue. She forgets the consistent policy of the Indian government that the talks and terrorism cannot go together. Mehbooba talks the language of Pakistan that the Indian government should talk with the Pakistani establishment to end the deadlock between the two states.

Therefore according to her the talks should be held with the Pakistan to address the Kashmir crisis as she talks of dialogue and reconciliation to end the Kashmir tangle to the satisfaction of all. She not only talks of the holding of the

dialogue with the Pakistan but she is also advocating the talks with the terrorists to end the bloodshed in Jammu and Kashmir. Thus, Mehbooba does not lose any opportunity to denigrate and denounce India and at the same time to shower praises on the Pakistan which is amply clear on the jubilation of the Kashmiri youth on the winning of the cricket match by Pakistan against India. Mehbooba openly said that there is no harm in bursting of the fire crackers by the Kashmiri youth on the Pakistani win in the cricket match with India and she says that no action should be taken by the government against the youth involved in the anti national sloganeering.

Thus as per her view anti India and pro Pak slogans are the corollary of the freedom of expression guaranteed by the constitution of India and thus the youth of the Kashmir are within their right to express their jubilation over the win of the cricket match by Pakistan and thus no cases should be slapped against them by the government.

It is very unfortunate that the anti-national sloganeering has taken place in Kashmir and all those who have indulged in anti-national activities should be identified and booked under the laws of the land to foil the nefarious designs of the anti nationals. All this boils down to the fact that the Mehbooba has soft corner for Pakistan and the terrorists and her love for the Pakistan is not hidden from anyone. Government of India should clip the wings of Mehbooba Mufti so that she stops in indulging of anti-India tirade. Enough is enough and now she should be made responsible for her anti-India activities so that she shuns path of leveling of false and baseless charges against India.

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