


If we should be blessed by some great reward, such as fame or fortune, it's the fruit of a seed planted by us in the past.  
-Bodhidharma

DELIVERING ROBUST & SEAMLESS SERVICES

To strengthen good governance, transparency and efficient public service delivery to people of Jammu & Kashmir, the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), an apex-level autonomous institution of Government of India, has started capacity building programmes for senior officers of Jammu & Kashmir administration. The 4th such programme of 2 weeks duration, started at NCGG campus, Mussoorie. As per details, in July 2021, it was decided to train 2,000 senior officials of Jammu & Kashmir and an MoU was signed between the J&K Institute of Management, Public Administration & Rural Development (J&KIMPARD) and National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) to promote excellence in capacity building and reorient officers of the Govt of Jammu & Kashmir. Giving effect to this MoU, the NCGG has so far conducted 3 such capacity building programmes for the officers of Jammu & Kashmir.

In his inaugural address Bharat Lal, Director General, NCGG stressed the need to translate the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on good governance into concrete action. The aim is to reorient the officers to enable them to work with single-mindedness to improve the quality of life and create opportunities for the people of Jammu & Kashmir. The officers are given exposure to the best practices in governance from across the country to emulate these practices of good governance, transparency and efficient service delivery in Jammu & Kashmir. He highlighted the need to change the approach and act as facilitators to attract investment, promote entrepreneurship and boost job creation by ensuring public service delivery. He said that we are living in a highly competitive and globalized world, and therefore handholding of businesses to attract investment is the need of the hour. Asserting that everyone's time is precious, he stated that agile service delivery and valuing time must go hand-in-hand. He emphasized the challenges and said that this reorientation programme will enable the officers to provide technology-enabled solutions to address the problems of people. The 4th capacity building programme, which is going on at NCGG campus Mussoorie, will have modules designed by practitioners, experts and academicians in the field of public administration and good governance including e-governance. The capacity building programme is scientifically tailored to equip civil servants of Jammu & Kashmir to deliver robust and seamless services to the people. The cutting-edge knowledge and new skill set acquired during this programme will help these civil servants in efficient public service delivery to improve the lives of people. The National Centre for Good Governance, set up in 2014 by the Government of India is mandated to train civil servants of India and other countries. In recent pasts, the centre has also trained a large number of officers from Bangladesh, Kenya, Tanzania, Tunisia, Gambia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Laos, Vietnam, Bhutan, Myanmar and Cambodia.



OFF 'D' CUFF

### Why is it so difficult to forgive?

The ego exists on misery –more the misery, more the nourishment for it. In blissful moments, the ego totally disappears and vice versa; if the ego disappears, bliss starts showering on you. If you want the ego, you cannot forgive, you cannot forget – particularly the hurts, wounds, insults, humiliations, and the nightmares. Not only that, you will also go on exaggerating them. You will tend to forget all that has been beautiful in your life, you will not remember joyous moments; they serve no purpose as far as the ego is concerned. Joy is like poison to the ego, and misery is like vitamins.

You will have to understand the whole mechanism of the ego. If you try to forgive, that is not real forgiveness. With effort, you will only repress. You can forgive only when you understand the stupidity of the whole game that goes on within your mind. The total absurdity of it all has to be seen through and through, otherwise you will repress from one side, and it will start coming from another side. You will repress in one form; it will assert in another form – sometimes so subtle that it is almost impossible to recognize that it is the same old structure, so renovated, refurbished, redecorated, that it looks almost new.

The ego lives on the negative because the ego is basically a negative phenomenon. And how can you say no to bliss? You can say no to misery, you can say no to the agony of life. How can you say no to the flowers and the stars and the sunsets and all that is beautiful, divine? And the whole existence is full of it – it is full of roses – but you go on picking the thorns; you have a great investment

India well-poised to emerge as leader in dairying

■ PURSHOTTAM RUPALA

The country celebrated National Milk Day on November 26. The occasion is momentous because for one it will mark the 101st birth anniversary of Late Dr. Verghese Kurien, the man who is credited for ushering in India's 'White Revolution'. In many ways, the growth and advancements in India's dairy sector have been symbolic of the trajectory of the country's influence and impact on the global map. Under Narendra Modi's leadership, the country's milk production has gone up by more than 44 per cent and in year 2020-2021, we produced 210 MT of milk, that constitutes 23 per cent of the world's milk. India's per capita milk availability stood at 427 gram per day in 2020-21 as against the world average of 394 grams per day during the same period. The dairy sector in India has been largely organised under the cooperative structure and the cooperatives have played a pivotal role in increasing the negotiating power of dairy farmers and help set the price of Milk Procurement and Milk Sale in their area of operations. Unlike the scenario for crops like rice and wheat, the Government does not dictate prices of dairy products and is not involved in milk procurement. This has fostered the autonomy of Dairy Cooperatives and encouraged them to be market oriented. In fact, some of the leading dairy cooperatives in the country have managed to surpass private companies

in both performance and profits. India's largest dairy company Amul is an excellent testament to the power and success of the Cooperative model within the country.

Now, as we recover from the aftermath of the pandemic, it would be worthwhile to highlight the role played by the Government and the dairy cooperatives to support dairy farmers during the lockdown period and beyond. Milk procurement by the dairy cooperatives continued to rise throughout the pandemic as it accepted the diverted additional milk of the farmers which was otherwise sold to private and unorganised players. Milk procurement by the dairy cooperatives registered an increase of 7.9 per cent during 2020-21. To extend support, the Government of India launched 'Interest subvention on Working Capital Loans' component under the existing central sector scheme - 'Supporting Dairy Cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organisations engaged in dairy activities (SDCFPO)' scheme. Such measures helped our dairy industry remain resilient in the past two years.

To leverage the growing potential of technology, a digital platform called e-Gopala was launched to enhance ease and efficiency in the management of livestock. This digital platform can be used for obtaining Pashu Aadhaar, Pashu Poshan, Ethno-veterinary Medicines (EVM), Animal Breeding related services and information. Additionally, the

e-Gopala App also provides a platform for buying and selling of dairy animals, bovine semen, embryo etc. To supplement the exercise, a helpline for dairy farmers called Pashu Mitra has been established by the National Dairy Development Board that will enable farmers to directly have their queries on animal health and nutrition answered by experts. Given that Indian milk production is expected to reach 270 MMT by 2025, corporations will need to invest in processing facilities, and this provides an investment potential of USD 10 Billion within the dairy sector. There is a chilling infrastructure deficit of roughly 120-130 MMT in dairy sector, which translates into an investment potential of approximately USD 2.6 billion, with a 17-20 per cent expected return on investment over the next 9-12 years. Another impetus for enhancing investments in dairy has to do with our growing footprint in the exports market. For instance, India's cheese exports under the HS Code 0406 have grown at a rate of 16 per cent CAGR during the period 2015-2020. The major export destinations were UAE, Bhutan, and the United States of America. Presently, there are more than 75 milk deficient countries across the globe, with most of them scattered across Asia, Latin America, and Africa - this presents a ripe opportunity for India to make inroads into newer markets. To this end, recent initiatives like the National Digital Livestock

Mission will go a long way towards enhancing traceability standards and will enable Indian companies to meet the quality standards set by importing nations. To boost investments in dairy sector, DAHD has set up the Dairy Investment Accelerator under which entities like Gates Foundation and Invest India will collaborate to provide pro bono services that will include issue resolution, investment facilitation, assistance with export strategy, market research, location assessment, etc. More importantly, dairying has provided a reliable source of income to traditional farmers when crops have failed. The current Government's efforts have been concentrated on transforming the dairy industry from an unorganized to an organized sector, with the end goal of increasing farmers' income, and generation of employment across the value chain. The slew of recent schemes like the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, Raastriya Gokul Mission, Animal Husbandry Grand Start-up Challenge, and the extension of Kisan Credit Card facilities to livestock farmers, will usher in better standards and innovations within our dairy sector. Thus, on the 101st birth anniversary of Dr Kurien, we are confident that India is well poised to emerge as a leading exporter of dairy products in times to come.

(The author is Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying).

Dirty politics of political vendetta

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

Politics some say is a dirty game and some others opine that politics is the last refuge of a scoundrel. But there is no way out from politics as it is indispensable for the human society particularly in the modern times and the only requirement is that the politicians should not do dirty politics rather believe and practice pure and clean politics whatever be the circumstances. However the era of clean politics seems fading away and in its place dirty politics of vendetta is resorted to harass the opposition leaders and for remaining leeches to power and not allow others to taste the power and so the opium of power has intoxicated the ruling dispensation BJP in a big way as the party and its leaders and the BJP government does not leave any opportunity to intimidate and harass the opposition leaders in order to continue its rule without any obstacle, resistance and to be more specific without any opposition to its governance and policies and programs. I, as an unbiased columnist, has no hesitation in opining that the ruling BJP and its leaders have stooped too low in its dirty game of political vendetta for its selfish and vested interests. It is very unbecoming and disturbing that the BJP leaders are attacking the congress, AAP and other opposition parties by resorting to worst kind of political vengeance and vendetta to keep the congress, AAP and other political parties away from assuming power and there is political vendetta in full swing against the opposition leaders unashamedly. It is so sad and unprecedented in the Indian politics that the BJP is busy in the game of dirty political vendetta against its opponents so as to demoralize them to the extent that they will shun the idea of assuming power. The BJP and its leaders and party spokespersons seem to be experts in political vendetta to harasses, demoralize and intimidate its political rivals to remain saddled in power and not allow the congress, AAP and other opposition parties to taste power. The BJP led NDA government has left no stone unturned to implicate congress leaders, Shiv Sena leaders and the leaders of AAP in false and frivolous cases which have no base and substance. Thus has the NDA government under pressure used and misused the powerful institutions and agencies of the country against its political opponents

so that they will be scared and not allowed to think of assuming the power in different states of the country and at the centre. It is very unfair and unjust that on the instructions of the BJP, NDA government the CBI, NIA and other all powerful agencies of the government are used by the government to lodge false cases against the top congress leaders. Congress Working President Sonia Gandhi and young congress leader Rahul Gandhi had been grilled by CBI in case relating to National Herald and its funding. They had been questioned for days together in order to harass and demoralize them so that they will shun to oppose the anti people policies and programs of the ruling dispensation. Earlier Rahul Gandhi was grilled and questioned and grilled by ED for ten hours in a case linked with 2012 court complaint where BJP's leaders Subramanian Swami had alleged the Gandhi's formed a shell company to acquire National Herald's assets worth Rs 2000 thousand crore illegally. Thus Rahul Gandhi was implicated in false and baseless cases of money laundering in order to make him quite so that he will not oppose the current government of Modi. Similarly, top congress leader Sonia Gandhi was questioned and grilled for days together in the same money laundering case relating to National Herald. But no substantial evidence against Sonia Gandhi and Gandhi scion Rahul Gandhi has come to light. It is very disturbing that the false and frivolous cases are framed by the CBI at the insistence of BJP against AAP leaders and the deputy chief minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia. Sisodia has been questioned by CBI for nine hours and Sisodia rightly claims that he is pressurized to join BJP but CBI denies the allegation made by Sisodia. He further alleged that pressure was put on him on the side to leave AAP, and that he was lured with an offer to become Chief Minister. The Delhi deputy chief minister of AAP government Sisodia was questioned in the case of Delhi excise scam but no worthwhile evidence of the hanky panicky surfaced against Sisodia. Sisodia also claimed that it became clear during questioning that there was no scam in the excise policy and that the case was a pressure tactic to make the BJP's operation louts successful in Delhi. AAP head and chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, described the case against

Sisodia as completely fake and said his deputy will head to Gujarat for parties ongoing election campaign. It is obvious that the fake case is lodged against Sisodia to prevent him from canvassing in the forth coming assembly elections. The BJP fears anti-incumbency and as such political reverses in Gujarat and thus is threatening Sisodia by leveling fake cases. Earlier Satyendar Jain was sentenced to jail for six months and the BJP is preparing to put Sisodia in jail and this is the worst example of political vendetta. It is the belief of the Delhi citizens that Sisodia is a staunch honest and some compare him with the great martyr Bhagat Singh. The BJP seems to be uneasy on the good and people friendly policies of the AAP government of Delhi and hence is the BJP resorting to leveling of fake cases against the AAP leaders and its Deputy Chief Minister Sisodia. Unfortunately, BJP is not allowing the AAP government to function properly and even the LG of Delhi is also obstructing the governance of the AAP Sarkar and this is the great tragedy. The BJP leaders are issuing unsubstantiated statements against the AAP government and they are in fact becoming obstacles in the good and transparent governance of Delhi by the AAP. Similarly cases are framed by ED against Shiv Sena leader and MP Sanjay Raut in connection with the prevention of money laundering case pertaining to Rs 1034 crore in Patra Chawl scam. The ED had summoned Shiv Sena leader and MP Sanjay Raut in a money laundering case involving his close associate, Parvin Raut. ED attached assets worth over 11 crore belonging to Sanjay Raut's wife and his alleged close aide, Parvin Raut, under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Sanjay Raut has said that ED action is to shut my mouth. One fails to understand are all BJP leaders milk washed? And it cannot be true because in politics all are naked in this Hammam because, 'Iss Hammam Me Sab Nangay Hai' is the apt phrase to describe the dirty politics of political vendetta. To conclude, BJP should desist from its politics of political vendetta against its political opponents because by resorting to political vendetta the space of the opposition is shrinking which is not good for our democracy.

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

Achieving Atmanirbharta in Agriculture

The darkest scar of colonialism in India probably came in its final days when Bengal suffered a great famine in the early 1940s due to the unfair policies of the British government in the backdrop of World War II. The famine, in retrospect, drives home India's sheer dependency even in terms of meeting its need for food. Right after Independence, India had to import a large quantity of food-grains from USA and other developed economies and due to successive wars in 1948, 1962 and 1965, India faced an acute shortage of food. Thus, the famous slogan was given by former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri - 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan'. Fast-forward to 2022: India's agriculture exports touched a historic high of USD 50 billion (FY 2021-22). The highest-ever exports were achieved for staples like rice, wheat, sugar, other cereals and meat. As per the provisional figures released by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), agricultural exports have grown by 19.92 per cent during 2021-22 to touch \$50.21 billion. This remarkable feat has been made possible on the shoulders of several key initiatives taken by the Central government to increase the production of food grains in recent years.

However, the story of India's Atmanirbharta in food starts almost five decades back. In 1950-51, India was suffering from food shortage with occasional droughts and famines which compelled it to import food grains. A rapidly growing population was creating increasing pressure on agriculture, with food production and productivity unable to keep pace. Even at this point, the agriculture sector was contributing 50 per cent of the GDP, showing how dependent our economy was on agriculture.

Green Revolution that began in the 1960s enabled the nation to make great strides in domestic food production and significantly contributed to progress in agriculture and allied sectors. The main focus areas of the movement were (a) farm mechanization by substituting the use of cattle with modern tractors and other machinery to increase productivity, (b) the use of hybrid varieties of seeds for better yield, and (c) using the new dams constructed post-independence for better irrigation. It transformed India from a food-deficit nation to a food-surplus country. India has achieved self-reliance in the production of food grains in the last several decades, and it is a mammoth achievement for our agriculture sector as well as the overall economy. Today, India is the world's largest sugar-producing country and holds the second position in rice production only after China. India is also the second largest producer of wheat with a share of around 14.14 per cent of the world's total production in 2020. India is also inching towards self-reliance in pulse production. As per the 4th Advance Estimates, the production of food grains in the country is estimated at 315.72 million tonnes which is higher by 4.98 million tonnes than the production of food grains during 2020-21. It is worth noting that our farmers grew record food grains during the deadliest pandemic of the century while the whole world was tottering under the impact of COVID-19. To facilitate farmers during the lockdown, more than 2,067 agriculture markets were made functional. The Kisan Rath application was launched in April 2020 to facilitate farmers and traders in transporting Agriculture/Horticulture produce. To build the confidence of the farmers, the Government of India has been declaring the

Minimum Support Price for Kharif and Rabi crops before sowing seasons, ensuring remunerative prices.

Agriculture continues to be the prime pulse of the Indian economy and is at the core of the socio-economic development of the country. It accounts for around 19 per cent of the GDP and about two-thirds of the population is dependent on the sector. The growth of other sectors and the overall economy hinges on the performance of agriculture to a considerable extent through its backward and forward linkages. It is not only a source of livelihood and food security for a large population of India but also has a special significance for low-income, poor and vulnerable sections.

As per the National Sample Survey, the estimated average monthly income per agricultural household increased from Rs. 6426 in 2012-13 to Rs. 10,218 in 2018-19. To enhance the income of farmers, the government has taken initiatives across several focus areas. Income support is provided to farmers through PM KISAN Scheme, crop insurance is assured through the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, and irrigation facilities are ensured under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchay Yojana. Access to institutional credit is being provided through Kisan Credit Card and other channels. Under the e-NAM initiative, markets across the length and breadth of the nation are now open to farmers, to enable them to get more remunerative prices for their produce. The umbrella scheme Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) ensures Minimum Support Price (MSP) to farmers for various Kharif and Rabi crops while also keeping a robust procurement mechanism in place. The government has also announced to convert more than 3.25 lakh fertiliser shops across the country as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samrudhdi Kendras. These will be centres where farmers can buy not only fertilisers and seeds but also implement soil testing and avail useful information about farming techniques. Further, with the introduction of One Nation, One Fertiliser under 'Bharat' brand name in the entire country will facilitate an increase in availability and reduce the cost of fertilisers. To make Indian agriculture future-ready, initiatives like National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, the promotion of scientific warehousing and the adoption of drone technologies have been undertaken. The government has also taken several steps to increase investment in the agriculture sector such as setting up an Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund, promoting organic farming through Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, and creating a Long-Term Irrigation Fund and Micro Irrigation Fund. Under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, entities such as farmers, start-ups, government agencies and local bodies benefit from setting up eligible infrastructure projects. Under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) Scheme, grants-in-aid are given to state governments on the basis of the projects approved in the State Level Sanctioning Committee Meeting (SLSC). Agriculture is at the epicentre of the country's journey towards Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) with farmers at its core. The Central Government has been taking up significant steps for upliftment, empowerment and stability of farmers in a holistic manner. The time is not far when the face of the agriculture sector will be transformed due to persistent government initiatives and investments.

PROGRESSING J&K  
Bee-keeping ventures emerging as new hope for J&K youth  
NBHM aims to promote Bee-keeping, self-sustaining employment avenues in rural areas

Bee-keeping ventures across J&K have emerged as epitome of new business among the local unemployed youth. Many people in Jammu and Kashmir, most of them youth, are able to earn a livelihood, because of honey bee colonies that have come up in different regions across J&K. With time, more and more young men and women are turning towards bee-keeping as dozens of local honey brands have earned good reputation across the markets.

Honey processing units established under the apiculture development scheme will go a long way in helping the beekeepers as the department is facilitating the processing of crude honey produced by the farmers free of cost. The beekeepers are provided with a logo as well as testing for successful marketing of honey for remunerative returns. The honey processing units consist of automatic honey processing plant, moisture reduction unit, storage chamber, and bottling unit. It performs multi-functions, including preheating, processing, moisture reduction, filtration and bottling of honey.

Pertinently, the department is promoting Ramban White Honey of autumn season under 'One District One Product', which is known for its best quality, colour and taste. Bee-keeping forms the potential part of integrated farming and can play an important role in doubling the farmer's income, being a non-competitive off-farm activity. It also has a potential of employment generation due to wide agro-climatic diversity enabling round the year bee flora availability. Notably, National Bee-keeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) aims at promoting Bee-keeping and providing self-sustaining employment opportunities among farmers and unemployed youth in rural India. Under the programme, beneficiaries are provided with bee boxes, live bee colonies, tool kits and training.

Waseem Rafiq Bhat, a resident of Aglar village of Shopian district, received active support from Department of Agriculture in his venture. He currently owns about 1,000 bee-colonies. Apart from ensuring a sustainable livelihood for himself, he engaged more than 10 youth of his village in Bee-keeping, who now possess their own colonies.

Similarly, another bee-keeper, Farooq Ahmad Shiekh, who hails from Kupwara, said that he gets honey three to four times a year from his 100 apiaries established in his backyard in Handwara. "I get two harvests in Kashmir and another in Jammu and earn sufficient for my family. Though, at times due to climate changes bee mortalities lead to losses but most of the times I generate good profit," said Farooq, adding that Kashmir nectar comes from the organic flora in the vast forests and demand for the pure honey is amplifying tremendously on almost daily basis.