

## NONE ABOVE LAW

There is no logic in saying that administration discriminated while booking nearly a score of PDP leaders for violating COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) after they brazenly flouted the norms during an event to mark party founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's death anniversary because no one is above the law and if the law has been broken, culprit is bound to face the consequences. This could be better explained with a simple example that suppose a traffic cop stops a person driving a two-wheeler without helmet and Challans him or her; the one who is caught breaking the law cannot say that others are also driving without helmets as their turn will also come some day. In the same manner; the accusation of PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti that J&K administration is discriminatory and is biased towards her outfit is unfounded and should not have been made. It is pertinent to mention that an FIR was lodged in Police Station Bijbehara after 'Ihsildar of the concerned area wrote a letter to the SHO for taking immediate action. PDP President has sighted other parties' activities in this matter but as the aforesaid examples goes if other parties are also breaking the law, sooner than later action will also be taken against them as law is equal for all and no one is above the law. Pertinently, many stalwart leaders of People's Democratic Party were booked for the aforesaid violations of CAB. Those who were booked include former minister A R Veeri, Mehbooba Mufti's maternal uncle Sartaj Madni, PDP spokesperson Najmun Saqib and others. This is no excuse that other political parties are also taking law in their hands. Mehbooba being the experienced politician should have stopped her party's leadership from flouting CAB norms as already there is an unprecedented surge in the Valley with fresh cases rising exponentially. This is a mistake of PDP leadership and the action of the administration is befitting with no flaw or prejudice. Of course, other parties should also mend their ways while dwelling in public because such immaturity can lead to rampant increase in COVID-19 cases and the Government will never allow this to happen.

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### Redeeming the time

**A new year is:**

- The passing of TIME
- An opportunity to redefine our priorities
- An opportunity to redefine our purpose
- An opportunity to redefine our life's vision
- An opportunity to re-establish worthwhile goals
- An opportunity to bury the past and move into a new future

Time is a gift from God, and none of us know how much of it we are allotted. Only God knows how much time each of us has on this earth to make decisions that will impact eternity (Psalm 139:16). Ephesians 5: 15 -17 says that "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."When God says we should be "redeeming the time," He wants us to live in constant awareness of that ticking clock and make the most of the time we have.

Each new day brings us 24 hours, 1440 minutes, 86,000 seconds, each moment a precious gift from God each calling for us to be good stewards, mindful that one day we must give an account for how we spent the time God loaned us, how effectively we "bought up" the opportunities He provided. Time is the seed of eternity."To make our life count for eternity, we must be wise in how we spend our time today.

Time is a strange commodity-we can't save it, retrieve it, relive it, stretch it, borrow it, loan it, stop it or store it, but can only use it or lose it.

There are four wisest ways to redeem our time.

Spend Time with God: The First Commandment requires that we put God above all else (Exodus 20:2-3). Jesus reiterated this fact, promising also that if we put God first, then He will supply all our physical needs (Matthew 6:33). Yet in this fast-paced society with so many demands on our time, finding adequate time for God can be an elusive goal.

How can you consistently make time for God each day?

Simple: You decide to. Each day you must determine to put "first things first." You make a commitment that God comes first in your daily allocation of 24 hours. redeem my time is making a decision that God is going to get the first and the best of my time. And in order for that to happen...I have to say "no" to some things so that I can say "yes" to HIM. Every day...we must determine that God is going to come first in our daily allotment of 24 hours. If you'll spend more TIME with GOD...He'll give you the time of your life!

Spend Time with Family: Family is deeply important to God. God is a Family; and we were created to become part of that divine family. God desires that we ultimately become unified in a close family relationship with Him. That is why He created the physical family-to prepare us for that future. Thus, family time should be a high priority in our lives. We must be careful that we don't allow our own "leisure" activities to take the time that would be better redeemed on our family. The time for investing in your family is now:

If you don't invest in your FAMILY today...you'll be sorry tomorrow. Once your kids are grown...you can't go back and relive their childhood. You can't go back in time and train them to live Godly lives. Time is limited...and one of the wisest places you can redeem it...is on your family.

Separate Time for Yourself: Have you ever heard the saying that you can't keep pouring out of a cup that's run dry? If you're running on empty and haven't given yourself an adequate chance to recharge your batteries and take care of yourself (in whatever way that means to you) then you can't be the best version of yourself. You won't be the best parent, partner; daughter; son, friend, employee, or the best you that you can be. Time for yourself is time away from your To-Do list, your list of responsibilities and commitments. It's time away from the things you HAVE to do each day that sap not only your time but your Spiritual, physical, and mental energy. Jesus set for us a perfect example in all things so we could follow in His footsteps. One time, after His 12 disciples had returned from an unusually grueling stint of traveling and working, so much so that they didn't even have time to eat proper meals, Christ instructed them to go away, by themselves, to a remote place where they could rest awhile (Mark 6:31). We do need to strive to live balanced lives, exercising moderation in all things (Philippians 4:5). There is a time to commune with God, a time to be with family, a time to work, a time to play, and a time to be alone.

Spend Time on Others: Scripture is clear...self...shouldn't be our focus. We aren't redeeming our time wisely if we're preoccupied with ourselves. Jesus spent most of his time with 12 Disciples. In Mark 10:43-45, Jesus said, "If you want to be the greatest one, then live as once called to serve others. The path to promotion and prominence comes by having a heart that serves everyone. Jesus said that serving others is one of the wisest ways you could ever choose to redeem your time. Serving others...not yourself...is the way to get ahead in His Kingdom. If you want to make your life count for something...you need to redeem your time on things that count. May the New Year 2022 bring you more happiness, success, love, and blessings! Praying that you have a truly remarkable and blissful year ahead!

by Bishop Lalachen Abraham

## National Youth Day: Turn possibilities into realities

■ ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL

Every year 12 January, the National Youth Day marking the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda makes a significant churning underneath every individual. It is yet another quick opportunity to strengthen further the determination to achieve the resolution framed as part of welcoming the New Year. In the ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the nation is preparing a blueprint to take a transformational journey for the upcoming Amrit Kaal to complete the independence century of the nation. Today's younger generations have the most significant stake of responsibility in this proposed journey of the nation. Thus, the National Youth Day radiates the wisdom to scratch through the untapped potential of youth and streamline it to turn the possibilities into realities. It was the wisdom of Swami Vivekananda that restored self-respect & national awakening. He gave a clarion call to masses to raise themselves & work for the uplift of the nation. His transpired wisdom among masses led to believe that despite the adverse circumstance of the British Raj, India is a living entity and a message to nations of the world. His participation in the world parliament of religion, Chicago & subsequent travels witnessed the introduction of Vedanta Philosophy to the Western world. As the earliest architects of the patriotic sentiments, he called countrymen having linguistic, cultural & religious differences to adore Bharat Mata for the next 50 years as the only god that is awake. Since the lifetime of Swami, the world has changed drastically in many aspects, and two world war has been witnessed. It was the spiritual consciousness, deep & sound perception of historical forces of the Swami Vivekananda, that out of three predictions made by him in his Michigan University during last decade of the 19th century, two predictions have come true. His predictions related to India's independence for in next 50 years, and the proletariat revolution of Russia & diminishing the idea of communism turned out to be true. Yet another prediction for India's rise to great heights of prosperity & power far more than the Past is awaited to become true. Thus, the youngster would take the nation to the desired place for making this prediction accurate. Highlighting the role of youth in nation building Swami said, "My faith is in younger generation, the modern generation, out of them will come my workers. They will work out the whole problem, like lions."

India is a young, aspirational country. 65



per cent of our population is below 35 years of age. 62 per cent of our population is in working-age group of 15-59 years. It is estimated that median age in India would be 28 years by 2022-23, in contrast to 37 in China and 45 in Western Europe, which reflects that India's non-working population would be outnumbered by working people, leading to a favorable demographic dividend. The determination of our younger generation supported by the ecosystem of government & strong leadership is reflecting the green shoot of the very long journey. Now, India is emerging as a fast-growing nation. The increasing numbers of unicorn start-ups, the improved performance of Indian in the Olympics Games, the proven metal of Indian leadership in Silicon Valley, emerging strong women leadership, the scientific & technological advancement, achievements of the space sector, vaccination, among others, are few nodes, making us proud. A serious introspective exercise is needed in an individual & collective manner for the inner-self to act purposefully in the outer world.

The challenges of today's complex world are challenging entire humanity. The youth needs to learn from the repository of India's historical and ancient wisdom to take upfront action against the challenges

of the 21st century. If not tackled properly, the world will bear grave consequences leading to havoc and excisional crisis for the most beautiful creature of the universe, the Human. The ongoing pandemics, emerging threats from Global Warming, Climate change, Bio-terrorism, and drug trafficking, space wars are the demons that require significant attention and energy of youth to expand dimensions of their action. The younger generation also must extend the helping hand & careful responsibility for catering to the needs aged population. It is a heart-warming fact that now the younger generation is more climate-conscious. One thing that remains constant is 'Change.' Now, youth is the torchbearer of this change, and its speed & scale is increasing more than ever. The ongoing paradigm shift towards a digital economy and parallel emerging virtual world like metaverse are making the world a global village and signifying the wisdom of 'Vasudhaiv KutubKam'. However, such developments & their application require a serious & continuous ethical recalibration. It is the responsibility of value-loaded individuals to remain vigilant & prompt checkup that the upcoming innovations and technological advancements are ethically supporting the cause of humanity. Its ignorance can cause massive catastrophes

for all stakeholders. The solid individualistic foundational values can achieve collective good in a sustainable manner. It is high time that everyone & especially youth, must internalize that means are equally important as the ends at this juncture. In the above context, it is the need of the hour that every individual & particularly the youth invest themselves to realize the goal of taking the nation to great heights of the prosperity of power. The youth of India has an unbounded potential for achieving the objectives envisioned by our forefathers. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government of India is leaving no stone unturned to provide the ambience for maximizing their potential. The Modi government is practicing the intense spirit of activities as preached by Karamyogi Swami Vivekananda, and it is reflected in the implementation of government schemes. Administering more than 150 Crore vaccines doses in a time-bound manner; Supplying indigenously manufactured vaccines & aids to more than 95 countries through Vaccine Maitry initiative, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Infrastructure development, Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, International Solar Alliance among others are testimonies to it. he policies have been designed to make India a 5 trillion US \$ economy by 2024-25 and a knowledge superpower of the world. The National Education Policy, Industry-academia Linkages, nurturing the entrepreneurial skills, world-class infrastructure, Promotion of sports culture, improved R&D ecosystem, among others, are a few measures to integrating youth in Nation Building. Affirmative actions are resulting in social upliftment of the downtrodden sections of societies and building a Just society. However, with the prompt efforts of civil societies, local & state governments, Private players, Media & active citizenry & all other relevant stakeholders, the implementation needs to be ensured in the letter & spirit. This National Youth Day is an apt moment to improvise on the intense spirit of activities by emphasizing the will, right approach & character to achieve our individualistic goal synchronized with the national goals. Let's our action during the Amrit Kaal take us closer to realizing the 3rd prediction of Swami Vivekananda by turning possibilities into realities for making India as leader of the 21st century.

(The author is Union Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs & represents Bikaner constituency in Lok Sabha)

## Statehood for Jammu: RSS needs to invoke its 2002 Kurukshetra resolution



■ PROF HARI OM

On June 30, 2002, a political development of far reaching importance took place at Kurukshetra. That day, Akhil Bharatiya Karyakari Mandal (National Executive) of RSS adopted a comprehensive resolution on the issues facing J&K. The resolution, inter-alia, demanded abrogation of Article 370 and division of J&K State into three separate entities, with statehood to the Jammu province and Kashmir and the Union Territory status for the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region. The RSS resolution, in addition, said that Central and the state Governments should hold a dialogue with the 'Kashmiri Hindus, hounded out of their homes by Jihadi Muslim elements' to find a way for their safe and secure rehabilitation in the Kashmir valley 'which has been their home for thousands of years'.

The RSS had earlier appointed a three-member committee headed by a former Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Justice Jitendra Veer Gupta, to go into the demand for the division of J&K. The other members of the committee were Bajrang Lal Gupta, a Delhi University Professor and Bal Apte, a key RSS ideologue and former Rajya Sabha MP. Bajrang Lal Gupta and other RSS leaders had also visited my University residence and discussed the whole issue for more than 90 minutes.

The Kurukshetra resolution partly endorsed the resolution adopted by Vishwa Hindu Parishad's Kendriya Margdarshak Mandal (Central Advisory Committee) at Hardwar on June 23, the same month. The resolution of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), a front organisation of RSS, had advocated division of J&K into four separate states. Besides, the creation of separate states for Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, the VHP had suggested formation of a buffer state out of areas northeast of Jhelum river between Kashmir and Jammu to provide a home for Kashmiri Hindus driven out by the radical Islamists. The Hardwar resolution, which included a factsheet containing umpteen instances of discrimination against Jammu and

Ladakh, had also described the regime of the then Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah as a 'Muslim Sultanate'. Sadly, however, the then BJP-led NDA Government didn't consider the Kurukshetra resolution. As a matter of fact, the then Deputy PM and Home Minister LK Advani opposed the idea of reorganising J&K on a regional basis. On July 3, he dismissed the trifurcation demand and said that 'there is no question of any division of J&K and it doesn't favour any such action' and that 'any such move will not help and will only weaken India's case'. That day, he also met with RSS Chief K S Sudershan at the New Delhi's Jhandewalan headquarters of the organization and told him that the Vajpayee Government didn't endorse the Kurukshetra resolution on J&K. Advani took the line he took despite the fact that J&K BJP itself had on three occasions adopted resolutions seeking 'reorganisation of J&K on a regional basis'. Very significantly, on July 21, 2002, the then J&K Prantiya Prachark Indresh Kumar defended the Kurukshetra resolution at Dehradun. "Our demand for separate statehood for all the three regions of J&K is a step towards their bright future and it should not be seen as a division of the state but as its reorganisation. The demand for separate statehood for Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions was based on the geographic, historic and development conditions of those areas," he had said. He had also accused the Kashmiri leadership of 'grossly discriminating' against the interest of other areas of the state, Jammu province in particular, and said that 'in the legislature system the state is such that despite equal distribution of population, Jammu gets only 37 seats against 46 of Kashmir'.

However, things changed dramatically on August 5, 2019, when Narendra Modi Government not only scrapped divisive Article 370 and discriminatory and illegal Article 35A but also divided J&K State into two Union Territories - UT of Ladakh and UT of J&K. Unfortunately, the Modi Government didn't treat Jammu like Ladakh. The people of Jammu province, on the one hand, hailed the August 5 historic reforms, and, on the other, regretted that the discriminated against and persecuted Jammu province was not separated from

and 'misogyny'. It refers to a way of thinking that men are superior to women and that women are their accessories, and they can do what they want with them. This way of thinking has not only led to social inequalities but also a culture of systematic discrimination and in the extreme rape culture. When men think like this, they are bound to make insensitive jokes that trivialize assault, molestation, catcalling and harassment. This mindset is often rooted from young boys not being taught how to respect and behave with women and due to this these same boys make dirty jokes with their female friends. The mind of a child is often like a sponge-the involuntary absorption of information takes place, and a child often imitates the practices of whom he sees as a role model. This psychology can perhaps best be seen through another example of when a young boy sees his father treat his mother coldly, ignoring her and referring to her as property.

This way of thinking is passed on from generation to generation and is instilled in boys from a young age, but due to the ever-increasing wave of social enlightenment the situation can be looked upon optimistically. I think that there is dire need of 'A Voice For Women' movement which act like a wave of feminism to be sprung up within India and the movement acts as a joint effort to support women in the country to overcome such obstacles and to organise to fight

Kashmir whose leadership had left no stone unturned since 1947 to muddy the Indian waters in J&K and erode the distinct identity of Jammu province calculated to creating a Kashmir-like situation in this highly strategic region. It's a different story that the BJP leadership at the local and national levels gave the hurt people of Jammu province to understand that their 72-year-old night of discontent and despair had ended and 'a new day of rational hopes and just aspirations' dawned. They gave the people of Jammu province to understand that they were 'on threshold of a new era' and that time of the 'singing birds has come' and the 'voice of turtle' will be heard in Jammu province. Nothing of this sort has happened. The people of Jammu province continued to suffer as before at all levels and in all spheres. One can site innumerable instances to establish that Kashmir, which became non-Muslim free in 1990, continues to get preferential and differential treatment and the powers-that-be in the UT and at the Centre continue to make unjust, invidious and humiliating distinctions between the people of Jammu province and Kashmir Valley.

A reference to just one latest instance would be enough to lay bare the disparities between the claim of the BJP leadership and the ground realities. The Department of Higher Education the other day reportedly identified colleges in the UT of J&K where Honor Courses will be introduced. It identified 27 government colleges in Kashmir for 4-year (3+1) Honor Course, as against only eight in Jammu province; 12 colleges in Kashmir for 5-year Honor Course, as against only five in Jammu province; and 26 colleges in Kashmir for 3-year Honor Course, as against only 12 in Jammu province. If it's not unjust, invidious and humiliating distinction between the people of Jammu province and Kashmir Valley, what is? The whole point is that the people of Jammu province will get what they legitimately deserve only if the UT of J&K is bifurcated and separate Jammu State created. The RSS would do well to invoke the Jammu part of the Kurukshetra resolution failing which it will be presumed that it didn't really mean what it said on June 30, 2002.

for the rights of women politically, socially, and economically. A voice for women or feminism means equality and sameness and treatment that is exclusive of gender. It fights for women to not be killed in the name of honour, to not be treated like objects, to not be harassed, to not be exploited, to not be looked down on, to be treated fairly, the abolishment of gender roles that stereotype people, equal pay, same rights and other things that encompass an end to social injustices by carrying out educational activities for the women population of India. A voice for women movement has become a banner for unity and organisation for demanding a change in the way of thinking of the men masses. This movement within India will done a lot of good, and it continues to enlighten women about their rights and enlighten men on how to act as allies. It acts as a support system for women. The movement will also inspire the emergence of several Non-Governmental Organisations which will also work towards the aim of gender equality within India. Furthermore, the definition of gender-based violence which extends to emotions has also been established. Last but not least let us hope that this 'A Voice For Women' movement continues to live on and flourish and all of us should play our part in helping humanity grow.

Mool Raj,  
Doda.