

SAVIOURS OF MOTHERLAND

We celebrate 15 January every year as Indian Army Day to remember the event when General K M Cariappa became the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of Independent India. Kodandera M Cariappa took over as the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from General Butcher. He was an army officer with a distinguished career in the British Indian Army and later the Indian Army. In 1919, he joined the army when he received the King's Commission with the first group of Indian cadets. Before taking charge as Army chief, he administered the country's army on the west during the Indo-Pak War of 1947. He had a vital contribution to various re-attaining territories in Kargil. The story of his appointment is also very interesting. The story goes something like this - Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was having a meeting with senior army personals and cabinet ministers. He suggested that the post of first army chief should be given to a British officer because Indian officers have no experience in handling such a post. One of the army personnel present there objected to this and said that, "as we also don't have the experience of leading a nation, so we should appoint a British person as our first Prime Minister." After hearing this, Nehru realised his mistake and asked the person that would he like to become the first army chief? On this he suggested the name of Lieutenant general K.M. Cariappa who was also present there and thus he became the first army chief.

The day reminds us that independence wasn't just a fight of one day but a lengthy process. Indian Army Day is celebrated to recognise the efforts of this Man of Principals. He was known for his compassion & discipline. He inspired generations by demonstrating the highest standards of patriotism. It is said that, lucky are those who get selected for Indian army. With countries like the US, China, and Russia, our nation's army is one of the biggest armed forces in the world that operates on "Serve others before self" as its ultimate agenda. Discover more about the Indian Army Day's history, significance, and celebrations. As we all know, Indian army has a long and glorious history. Therefore, it is difficult to talk about everything in such a limited space. It would not be wrong to say that there would be no India without Indian Army. It is the backbone of the country. It is also one of the few institutions left in the country which could be considered as completely neutral and reliable. India became an independent nation after gaining freedom from British rulers in 1945 after almost 200 years. During that time, the country was experiencing a lot of chaos & riots as many refugees and people were migrating from Pakistan. Even though the country got freedom from British rulers in 1947, it didn't have the official reins of the Indian army in its hand until two years later, in 1979. Finally, on the day of 26th January 1950, the Constitution of the country was declared, and India became a republic country. Soldiers are one of the greatest assets of any country. They are the guardians of the nation and protect its citizens at all costs. The primary mission of the Indian Army is to ensure national security and national unity, to defend the nation from external aggression and internal threats, and to maintain peace and security within its borders.

We have taken for granted that someone is always deployed to guard our borders while we sleep in our cozy homes or there will be someone to take the bullets of the enemies and terrorists for us. We sleep comfortably in our homes because we know that even if we are not alert, there are some people who are always aware so that we can be safe. These people are part of the country's Army. The first priority of the Indian Army is to cater for the security of the nation, its unity and integrity, defence from any kind of external aggression and internal threats, and to keep peace and security within the borders. The Army also manages rescue missions at the time of natural disasters, calamities or any other disturbances, displaying their humanitarian face. Let us patch our ways and start giving real respect to the soldiers otherwise a time may come when there will be no one to defend our motherland. Long live India and long live Indian Army.

TWO PATHWAYS
- To wake up or
to run away

the start of religion/duty. More valuable in the world

The meaning of being spiritual is to move towards soul, knowing God, understanding the world and to make a proper use of physical objects. We have within us a controlling power by realizing which we can control ourselves. The development of that power is called spirituality. Whatever inventions have been made in the world so far are to provide facilities to the man but they are not worthwhile and valuable. If there is anything more valuable in the world, then it is the man.

Poison as well as nectar Among all the living beings in this world, man is the most valuable, and all the discoveries and inventions made by the man are still most valuable. That is why, first of all, man has to discover himself. We have already gone deep under the depths of oceans but have not yet fathomed the depths of human mind because in there is the poison as well as nectar. To take the poison out of man's heart and to keep the nectar intact and alive it should be our endeavour. We should try to divert science in this direction.

-Dr Archika Didi

With increasing age, dullness of mind and heart sets in.

-Jiddu Krishnamurti

EDITORIAL

Triple-action approach for making rural India Atmanirbhar

■ DR KRITIKA RANA

Recently, the Ministry of Cooperation has released a draft of the model bylaws for PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies), wherein the PACS will be allowed to expand and diversify their businesses. A Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS) works at the grass-root level with gram Panchayats in villages. It aims at uplifting the lives of approximately 13 crore Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) by providing them with short-term and medium-term credit facility along with providing essential agricultural supplies and marketing services. The PACS do not stop at these, but also fulfils basic domestic requirements of its members by providing sugar, kerosene, grains, etc. But these commercial activities of PACS are constrained by the relevant bylaws, many of which are decades old and require revision and because of this, PACS cannot continue to run profitably by earning income from these limited sources.

Thus, in order to address this issue and to transform the 95000 PACS across India into vibrant economic entities, the Ministry of Cooperation under the leadership of Home Minister Amit Shah constituted a committee with representatives from NABARD, State Cooperative Banks, Vaikuntha Mehta National Institute of Co-operative Management (VAMNICOM), National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT), among others to prepare and upgrade the bylaws for PACS. These updated bylaws, also known as model bylaws, will focus on converting the present style PACS into Multi-Purpose Primary Agricultural Credit Societies or Bahudharmiy PACS by enabling them to diversify and branch out their businesses into more

than 25 sectors such as such as extending credit facility (short, medium and long term); distributing fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, etc., providing farm machinery and equipment; custom hiring centres; floriculture; setting up of hospitals, education sector, LPG/petrol/diesel dealership, Bank Mitra or business correspondence, insurance facility, data centre, locker facility, etc. to name a few.

Along with this, the Cabinet under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the setting up of multi-state cooperative seed society, hereby known as Bharatiya Sahakari Beej Samiti Ltd (BSBS), under the Multi-State Cooperatives Act, 2002. This society will play a major role in sustainable agricultural growth and global food security by preserving and providing quality seeds to the farmers. All agronomic techniques and other inputs used on the crop will be rendered useless if low-quality seeds are used. All cooperative societies are eligible to join and have their elected representatives serve on the board of BSBS. A system for the preservation and promotion of indigenous natural seeds will be developed, and the national level multi-state seed cooperative society will serve as the central organisation for production, procurement, processing, branding, labeling, packaging, storage, marketing, and distribution of high-quality seeds.

The annual seed requirement is for 787 lakh quintals, out of these only 372 lakh quintals is supplied by organised sector. Remaining 415 lakh quintal is in the unorganised sector, which comes from the farmers themselves. However, large amounts of this go to waste as they are unable to reach the deprived farmers on time. Having said that, the present Rs. 40,000-crore seed market in India is largely

dominated by the private sector where the farmers are majorly exploited.

To overcome this monopoly, the Bharatiya Sahakari Beej Samiti (BSBS) aims at utilising the network of all levels of cooperatives to ensure the role of farmers in the production and distribution of certified seeds under a single brand name. This direct contribution of quality seeds alone will increase the production by 15-20 per cent. The government also wants to increase the percentage of cropped area covered with quality seeds, expressed in terms of Seed Replacement Rate (SRR). For self-pollinated crops, the recommended SRR norms are 33 per cent; for cross-pollinated crops, 50 per cent; and for hybrids, 100 per cent. It is advised that the states should stick to these norms. Along with this, the BSBS will help in reducing the yield gaps by promoting Varietal Replacement Rate (VRR), thereby, enhancing productivity.

The setting up of BSBS will also help the government in capturing the organic food market which is rapidly growing due to rising health and environmental consciousness. However, despite having the largest no. of organic growers worldwide (16 lakh out of total 34 lakh), India's contribution to the market for organic products is only 2.7 per cent. This marginal contribution is due to smaller per-capita land holdings and insufficient output. This problem is further reinvigorated because of lack of institutional support: testing and certification facilities in the vicinity; insufficient logistical infrastructure; dispersed and fragmented producer base; lack of knowledge repository; insufficient innovative research & development; lack of concerted efforts to replicate successful organic farming models across all of India, and lack of identifi-

cation & development facilities. These issues are making India lag behind despite having 4th largest organic landholdings.

In the wake of the above challenges, the Cabinet has further approved the setting up of a multi-state Cooperative Organic Society under the same MSCS Act, 2002, to serve as an umbrella organization for organic products. The proposed society besides offering institutional supports will also arrange financial assistance for the organic farmers through its member cooperatives, including Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)/Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs). It will also take on all promotion and development-related activities for organic farming. In order to lower the cost of testing and certification, it will appoint recognised organic testing labs and certification bodies that will adhere to the society's requirements. In other words, through its member cooperatives, this society will oversee the whole supply chain of organic products made by cooperatives and affiliated organisations. It will further use the brand and marketing networks of AMUL and other companies on a fee-for-service basis to adopt different business models, and it will simultaneously build the same on its own. To support all these initiatives, the society will have an authorized capital of Rs 500 crore with initial paid-up capital of Rs 100 crore.

Thus, this triple-pronged strategy in the form of Bahu-Uddesheya PACS, BSBS and Cooperative Organic Society will help the Prime Minister in realizing his dream of making India Atmanirbhar through the inclusive growth model and contributing towards the achievement of 'Sahakar-se-Samridh' objective.

(The author is faculty, RICM-Chandigarh).

DIGITAL J&K

Aapki Zameen, Aapki Nigrani portal revolutionizing revenue system

The J&K people are appreciating Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani move of the administration as a citizen friendly measure bringing in transparency and accountability in the land record system. Keeping pace with the innovation, Jammu and Kashmir government under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha launched a historic initiative of extending hassle free online access to Land Records to people which revolutionized the revenue world of the UT.

E-governance, having immense importance in today's world, raises the transparency, accountability, efficiency and inclusiveness in the governing process in terms of reliable access to all information by the citizens. Land Records Information System under the tag 'Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani' allows public users to search and view copies of scanned revenue data online on CIS Portal <http://landrecords.jk.gov.in/> and reduces interference of revenue officials in land dealings and give people right to access their land records at a click of a button, thereby reducing manipulation and improving the efficiency of Revenue offices substantially.

Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani is a sequel to the national pro-

gramme of Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) envisaging enhanced services to the common people in land matters. DILRMP was formally launched in the UT in April 2016 for improving online accessibility to Land Records System bringing an end to corrupt practices thereby ensuring quality services in Sub Registrar and Tehsil offices. Lieutenant Governor's administration ensured that the land record programme which was being implemented at a slower pace is speeded up and completed for the benefit of the common masses.

Under Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities on 'Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani', the government organized special camps at Tehsil and Block level offices, Niabats, Patwar Khamas and Panchayat Ghars to educate the public about the digital platform where people can access their land records with one click.

Ghulam Muhammad Dar, a beneficiary of historic Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani says he is grateful to the present administrations at Center and UT level for launching such technological innovations for land ownership which is a big

respite to a common man. Another beneficiary, Rajesh Kumar of Jammu says Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani has empowered common people to check their land records on their mobiles getting a rid of physically visiting revenue offices.

Government has also initiated the process of issuing trilingual land passbooks as a measure to fill the information vacuum and promote people's ease of access to the revenue records in Jammu and Srinagar districts. The first of its kind land passbook are being issued to the legal owners of land in Jammu and Kashmir in Urdu, English and Hindi languages.

Showkat Ahmed Rather of Tengpora Srinagar is all praise for the government's initiative, who says, "It is really a good step, everyone will be benefited. "Earlier getting revenue extracts used to take months. With Land passbook, now everything is with the people. We have been relieved of the cumbersome process and nightmare of visiting revenue offices", he said. For Khurshed Ahmed Reshi of Tengpora, the initiative will expose people who grabbed government land and built infrastructure on public land.

Political dynasties cripple democracy

■ M R LALU

India's political spectrum witnessed a complete transformation when an outsider from Delhi with a layman's profile invaded it. Decades of Indian politics was full of powerful transcriptions of dynastic narratives that defined, decoded and at times demonized it in various vernaculars.

Narendra Modi's invasion into the political domain of India came with an unprecedented force and it was an unpredicted exercise until a decade ago. And the main reason such an exercise seemed unrealistic and insensitively brushed under the carpet was the political force that controlled India for decades with the power it garnered by playing its political shrewdness on the innocence that India's landscape is inhabited with.

The transformation seems to be completely overtaking all narratives effectively erasing the dynastic influence. The desperation of the dynasts and their shenanigans have often been surfacing with an ostensible denial. Would family dynasties cripple Indian politics? Before answering this, let us know who forced the desperation emanating from a total collapse of one of the dynasties to invent exercises such as a revival Yatra across the country? The answer comes from the dynast himself. Rahul Gandhi from the supreme Nehru-Gandhi dynasty conclusively recognizes the threat and revealingly proclaims it with all sensibility. He says that it is not the BJP but the RSS, the ideological parent of the BJP that his party is fighting its war against. His quip seems to be a deliberate portrayal of Narendra Modi as an instrument in the hands of the larger framework of the Sangh. His lamentation on the Sangh Parivar is realistic as the reach and effect of the right wing group could overthrow the decades old dynastic supremacy. In his latest address in Haryana during his Bharat Jodo

Yatra he reminisced a little bit of the Indian epic the Mahabharata and to the gathering of his party cadre he said, the RSS is the 21st century Kauravas and India's selected billionaires are standing with the Kauravas. And the 'Tapasy' in him calls his party the conglomeration of the Pandavas.

To understand the significance of such an analogy, we need to know the epic importance of the two segments of the same royal family. On one side are the Pandavas the proponents of righteousness and on the other side are the Kauravas being immersed in treacherous demonization. Rahul Gandhi is seen beautifying his party with his refined vocabulary and emboldened oratory. So, the real threat according to him is not the BJP but the invasive power of the RSS. Hegemonizing India's political institutions, dynasties have transformed them into family enterprises and Rahul Gandhi is a product of such a family enterprise. His rise to political significance in India tells us tales of a feeble democracy and its antithetical impulses. For him, political powers emerging from outside the jurisdiction of dynasties do not count to be reliable and supposed to be unsustainable. RSS, on the other hand is seen to be tailed as a platform which efficiently moulds leaders for the cause of the country. Its imagination, capturing the gist of India's ethical and cultural veracity is often misread and embezzled. The hullabaloo on the RSS chief's views on Hindutva and his latest quips on India's minority essentially resembles the restlessness of an ideological opponent being unprepared for an intellectual dialogue.

Political dynasties in India have always camouflaged their real intent by misappropriating the democratic values of the country. The latest act of undermining the power of democracy in India

was the induction of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's son into his cabinet. A healthy democracy always creates space for fresh and genuine faces. This deteriorating trend in Indian politics began with the Nehru-Gandhi family which showed the way and served licenses to all the power centers that later metamorphosed into dynasties. Training centers of RSS, the Shahkhas, are probably busy in reversing this unethically political enterprise of the family dynasties. It keeps outsourcing its efficient cadre to the BJP and the situation emerging in the saffron party is by design dangerous for the political dynasties across the country and this caused Rahul Gandhi to come up with the Pandava-Kaurava analogy.

For a fact checking we can examine the trend in the RSS-BJP confluence. The list of its most prominent leaders deputed to the BJP by its parental organisation must startle us. Leaders like A B Vajpayee, L K Advani, Narendra Modi, M M Joshi, Nitin Gadkari, Pramod Mahajan and Ram Madhav are a selected few. The list is endless and the interesting aspect is that nobody among them comes with a family baggage. It is unnecessary to suspect their organisational efficiency. An ideological paradigm that A B Vajpayee is known to have brought into Indian politics is familiar to the Indian polity. Therefore, the Congress' scion is justifiably disillusioned about the RSS presence behind the BJP's dominance. When he says his fight is not against the BJP but against the ideology of the RSS, he convincingly comprehends the impact of Sanghism in Indian politics and the perils that the dynasty he represents has shrunk into.

Parties converted into family enterprises are evidently depicting the ideological and structural decline of India's democracy. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in

Tamil Nadu is wary and shaky at the rise of K Annamalai, BJP President of the state. Stalin's incompetence to counter the intellectual eloquence and political shrewdness of Annamalai became another reason for his son's induction into the cabinet. Annamalai, on the other hand is a disciplined party cadre of the BJP and emerging as a crucial challenger to the DMK dynasty in Tamil Nadu where its principal opponent AIADMK has shrivelled into insignificance. Annamalai's deep-rooted Hindutva conscience and his fine tuning with the Sangh have made him the suitable choice for the party. Pandits, watchful of the degradation of the Indian political system seem to be appreciative about the manufacturing mechanics of the BJP workers by the Sangh. Undoubtedly, its new generation leaders are equally capable to row the party across turbulent political waters. Tragically, political dynasties are often seen fulfilling the familial requirements by being in power and in democracy, if parties stoop into familial entanglements, we will witness the downfall of the democracy and its most important institution, the parties. Irrespective of electing its new president, the Congress party is still seen heavily leaning on the Nehru-Gandhi family and the image makeover Yatra by its leader indubitably tells us the intensity of degradation the party has come across. The rise of a dynasty in any party indicates the fall of its genuine leaders and the party's disconnect from the grassroots. It seems the political discourse that the Sangh and its affiliates are trying to ignite in India's political spectrum is to question the obfuscating impact of the dynasties and their debilitation of India's democratic edifice. Rahul Gandhi's revival strides made him sense this tremor.

Understanding politico phobia

■ MAHADEEP SINGH JAMWAL

Politics is a combination of two Latin words 'Poli' and 'Tics' where 'Poli' meaning "many" and 'tics' meaning "bloodsucking creatures"- robin Williams. Our great democracies still tend to think that a stupid man is more likely to be honest than a clever man, and our politicians take advantage of this prejudice by pretending to be even more stupid than nature made them." Bertrand Russell. Politico phobia, or the despair of politics, is a catch-all term that envelops a wide range of individual fears ranging from political process, as well as from politicians. Election season is generally filled with character assassination. Campaign promises, and mudslinging heighten the effects, with each side trying desperately to convince voters that "bad things" will happen if the other side is elected. Difficulty with Indian voters is that we are not so aware about the value of our one vote, as a single vote can make a critical difference in the ultimate outcome of the election. We have never been taught that one of the penalties, for not wisely taking the elections, is that we end up being governed by our inferiors. "Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the people and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters"- Abraham Lincoln. We

are indecisive as to where we have to stand on the issues that are the real concern of the common man. We are mostly unfamiliar with Curriculum vitae (CV) of the contesting candidates thus we become victim of psychological catechize of political parties and their "psychological torture" that include all methods, techniques and circumstances which are intended or designed to purposefully brainwash and to suppress the self power of individuals in analyzing things, without using the conduit or effect of severe physical pain or suffering. Siphoning off of our analytical senses is a great hammer on our freedom of expression and use of our franchise. "Our freedoms are vanishing. If we do not get active to take a stand now against all that is wrong while we still can, then maybe one of our children may elect to do so in the future, when it will be far more risky and much, much harder." - Suzy Kassem. Politicians have a tendency of avoiding direct answers to questions that are irritating to them. During election season, it seems that the entire country takes sides. From major corporations to individual religious leaders, politicians seek endorsements that they feel can help their bid for election. The way politicians obsessed with power lust conduct arranged rallies, door to door campaigns, this way Elections are a significant source of stress. It would be virtually impossible to escape the election sea-

son altogether. The elections are woven into the fabric of our society. Election declamation is everywhere, from the kiosks to the marathon broadcast by paid channels. Psychological torture is weaponry in the hands of the politicians and their hired strategists use it to drive votes toward a particular candidate or party. Paid campaigners, with whom we tend to imagine conversations with people from the other side as if we were talking directly to the leaders of that side, drive votes away from political opponents that may involve strategies to project factual or misleading statements about the opposing candidate's limitations or claims that an election victory for the opposition will lead to outright disaster projecting doubt about competency. A hired battalion by political parties especially by the ruling slot becomes active to constantly target and troll those who put their political opinion about ruling parties' performances. The trolling is to achieve a specific result such as disrupting a rival's online activities, purposefully causing confusion or harm to other users or manipulating a political process. Politicians search for evil in their opponents but they forget that they must first look at their own reflection. Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly and applying the wrong remedies-Ernest Benn.