

NATIONAL SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM

Lauding the initiatives taken by the Government for promoting National Single Window System (NSWS) across the nation, the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal said that the National Single Window System would help realize Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of transforming red tape to red carpet.

While addressing a press conference after a review meeting on National Single Window System in New Delhi, Goyal said that PAN number is likely to be used as a unique identifier for API integration of data between ministries and states for ensuring single business user ID. NSWS also helps in reducing data duplication and filling same data in various forms using auto-population Module, he added. Pertinent to mention here that today meeting witnessed participation from 32 Central Ministries/ Departments, 36 States/ UTs and Industry Associations (CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM and PHDCCI). At meeting, several new ideas emerged from various stakeholders, especially on integration of data collection through a single time entry of critical information, the Minister said. Goyal also lauded the remarkable progress achieved by NSWS till date and said that a large number of stakeholders had availed benefits of NSWS right at the beta testing phase which is ongoing. He pointed out that NSWS had received nearly 76,000 applications/requests and about 48,000 approvals had been granted through NSWS. The minister noted that technical glitches in NSWS were as low as 514, meaning that the portal showed over 99 percent efficiency. Goyal added that 27 Central Departments and 19 states have been onboarded on NSWS. Schemes fully onboarded on NSWS include Vehicle Scrapping Policy, Ethanol Policy, Leather Development Program, hallmarking of jewellery, Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) certification. The Minister said that National Land Bank has also been integrated into NSWS. He added that 1 lakh hectares of land in different industrial parks and estates are available on NSWS. The portal will become a one stop shop for buying industrial land, he said. Encouraging more and more states to make use of NSWS, Shri Goyal said that states which use NSWS would be given better ranking on Ease of Doing Business Index. The Minister said that renewal of licences would also be brought under NSWS starting with 5 Ministries like Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles. The key objectives of the review meeting today were to ensure onboarding of investor-related clearances by Ministries/ Departments of Govt of India and by the State Govts and UTs, in order to meet time lines, to complete ownership by all the Stakeholders for smooth functioning of the NSWS, to increase usage of the NSWS by the industry and use industry feedback to improve systems related to EoDB/ ease of investor clearances; and to discuss the way ahead on a convergence approach to NSWS. It is an ambitious initiative which promises to be game-changer for increasing investments and reducing compliance burden in the country. The system would lead to convergence of all Ministries/ Department and States/ UTs through the 'whole of Government approach'. Various ministries, states and Union Territories have worked in close coordination with DPIIT and NSWS Team to bring this portal up and running. Industry Associations have given valuable feedback from time to time that helped improving and optimizing the system.

BAMBOO SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

The Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar had approved the formation of an Advisory Group for streamlining the development of the Bamboo sector. The Advisory group encompasses the representation of various stakeholders viz., academicians, researchers, innovators, progressive entrepreneurs, designers, farmer leaders, marketing specialists and policy makers. The inter-ministerial and public- private consultation is envisaged to dovetail the bamboo initiatives of the Ministries/ Departments and to help revamp the developmental architecture of the sector by incorporating synergy between all the sections related to the bamboo value chain. The restructured National Bamboo Mission (NBM) was launched during 2018-19 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. NBM mainly focuses on the development of complete value chain of Bamboo sector to link growers with consumers starting from planting material, plantation, creation of facilities for collection, aggregation, processing, marketing, micro, small & medium enterprises, skilled manpower and brand building initiative in a cluster approach mode. Over the years of the interventions through policy, facilitations and awareness creations, the bamboo industry is witnessing a phase change by the opening of multiple avenues of the resource utilization. Recently, the Prime Minister inaugurated the new terminal of the Bengaluru (Kempagowda) Airport in which the versatility of bamboo as an architectural and structural material has been proved and the destiny of this green resource defined as the 'green steel'. Apart from using in the construction sector as design and structural element, the potential of bamboo is multifaceted. Eco-friendly mouldable granules from bamboo can replace the use of plastic. Bamboo is a reliable source for the ethanol and bio-energy production due to its fast rate of growth and abundance. The market of Bamboo based lifestyle products, cutleries, home decors, handicrafts and cosmetics also is in a growth path. The National Bamboo Mission is striving to bring the benefits of this growing sector to the farmers and human resources of the Nation. The subject experts and other stakeholders who are actively working in the bamboo sector will advise about the areas to be focused as well as the policy interventions to be taken in coordination with other stakeholders of the sector. The Union Agriculture Secretary will be the Chairperson and Mission Director of National Bamboo Mission will be the Convener of the Committee. The members of the committee shall advise the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare on issues and technologies in propagation, plantation of bamboo & intercropping, primary processing, product development, value addition, market infrastructure and linkages, processing machineries, skill development etc.



OFF 'D' CUFF

Everyone is here to help us cut our Karma

It is such a beautiful system. See everything from a broader perspective. Everyone comes into our life to teach us something or to be taught something by us. ‘ Either to wash off our karma or we theirs; and we miss those opportunities, getting bogged down with cause and effect, chain reaction, increasing our karmic load. We think that to wash off our karma there is some other path or some pundit or priest will help us do this and create

some punya, goodwill for us. We never think of generating some punya through our interaction with others – see what is the message in each situation - does the person you are interacting with need some love, is he irritated... please understand there is no other reason for others to be in your life. Also remember that all the time we play at the hands of our gunas, our emotions and miss these opportunities for growth.

-Meena Om

Why UP keen to be like Maharashtra?

■ VIVEK SHUKLA

The once laid-back Uttar Pradesh is shedding its image where nothing works due to political interferences and rank corrupt bureaucracy. Well, it is fast emerging as not only among the favourite investment destination in India, but it is also implementing projects swiftly. When it comes to implementation or under implementation of projects, it is only second to Maharashtra. In FY22, work on projects worth Rs 17.31 lakh crore were under implementation or in the final leg of implementation in Maharashtra. And if we talk about the Uttar Pradesh, according to data sourced from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy and Care Edge, it has emerged No. 2 with Rs 9.79 lakh crore worth of projects under implementation or in the final stage of implementation. While Odisha Rs 9.11 lakh crore and Gujarat Rs 8.95 lakh crore emerged No. 3 and 4, respectively, in the state league tables for the same year. There were Rs 8.73 lakh crore worth of projects under implementation in Andhra Pradesh - placing the state at No. 5 among states in FY22. In Uttar Pradesh, the proposals of investment worth Rs 3 lakh crore were implemented in the past five year period. That's staggering. It goes without saying that while states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have been both attracting investment and implementing projects, the entry of Uttar Pradesh in this list is both welcome and surprising. Surprising as Uttar Pradesh was till couple of years ago hardly known for working overtime to woo investors and ensuring projects being implemented in time. That's a huge paradigm shift in the nature of Uttar Pradesh. Surely with this kind of change, investors feel encouraged and happy that their project(s) are implemented in time. It gives confidence to all those investors who are planning to invest as well.

Naturally, the performance of Uttar Pradesh in implementing the projects is phenomenal to say the least. Imagine it is only behind to Maharashtra and ahead of states like Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi and Karnataka in terms of implementation of projects. It is suffice to say that it would go a long way in

attracting private investments by the corporate sector. It is critical to higher growth rates and economic development. More investment creates a multiplier effect in the economy by generating both direct and indirect employment, boosting consumption and fostering further development.

Well, the overall mood looks very upbeat across India most of the states in India are looking for investments and investors. In the recent past, we have seen Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Telangana courted global electronic majors, including representatives from Apple, Intel, Samsung and LG, as well as contractors and assemblers such as Foxconn and Jabil. Uttar Pradesh is promising more sops - ranging from concessional land to rebate on GST and capital and interest subsidy. The state is clearly going all out to woo prospective investors at a time when investment is needed to spur economic activity.

For India to grow, a healthy balance between co-operation and competition between the states is the need of the hour. The Prime Minister has called for 'cooperative competitive federalism' in his Independence Day Speech. The competition between states in achieving higher economic growth, and outshining each other on the parameters of development can only be a win-win situation for India.

Effective partnerships between the government and private sector in critical areas of infrastructure and long-term investments would expedite development. As Uttar Pradesh is a huge state with massive population, it requires investment from all the quarters for overall growth. Well, this is true for all states.

The Uttar Pradesh government has introduced various formats in order to attract private investments, especially in roads and highways, airports, industrial parks and higher education and skill development sectors. In this backdrop, Global Investors Summit (GIS) is scheduled to be held in Lucknow from February 10-12. The state aims to attract investments worth a massive 10 lakh crores through the summit. One has to remember that any country or state makes a big leap when the leadership works and acts like a statesman.

Newspapers in digital era

■ SHYAM SUDAN

Once there was a time when almost everyone was addicted of newspaper reading. Generally, people used to start their routine activities with glimpse of newspaper pages. If someone missed a chance to read the newspaper on a particular day, then it used to be a boring day for him or her. Some readers were so much habitual of this activity that they never miss it at any cost. Every page and line of the newspaper were minutely observed by these newspaper addicted. No doubt Newspapers have changed the perspective of people in every walk of their life. we get every kind of information of all the fields of our life through this printed platform. The popularity of newspaper was very prevalent in our society due to its widespread availability and cost effective nature. Newspaper was the cheapest source of knowledge for everyone. But now with the advancement in technology and origin of internet everything has changed drastically.

This digital era has created a great setback for the printed platform i.e., newspaper, journals etc. Now, in this fast moving life no one has such an extra time for this kind of detail reading of printed material. Now, there are various sources of information and knowledge is available in other dig-



ital platforms. Our smart-phones are giving every kind of knowledge and news with accuracy and in detail. Gradually people are forgetting and abstaining from the reading volumes of printed materials. E-papers are easily available on every phone, computer and laptop. Nobody is willing to pay the

extra bill of this printed material monthly. There is no doubt that we have sufficient sources of knowledge now days.

But the habit of abstaining from newspaper reading is not good for us. Now our present generation is totally dependent on artificial intelligence for their memory and

sharpness.

At present we are using the contraction form of languages on our digital devices for our communication. This habit of modern generation has created a gap of accuracy for the languages.

This habit of digital learner gradually kills the beauty of language. For a single sum up of numbers we usually dependent on our calculators and other devices. Our children are unable to pronounce and write the correct spelling of words. Moreover excessive use of these digital devices has created various health related problems in our children.

In the printed material there is always bold and visible language is available. But in our digital devices we have seen a very small printed material with glittering view. It affects the readers' health at great extent. moreover we have seen many fake and hoax news on these digital devices.

There is no check over this problem from the source. But in newspaper we generally read authentic and relevant news and other printed material from the source.

The chances of fakeness and roasted material is very minimal. At present the future of newspapers is in doldrums but it is too early to say that it will completely obsolete. A newspaper can't die until the admirers of printed material are there.

When compassion becomes a myth

■ M R LALU

The epic Mahabharata gave a detailed version of male atrocity on a woman who was dragged to the court of the Kauravas while all her five husbands stood mute and lifeless. Pandavas, the husbands of young Draupadi were compelled to remain silent when she was molested at the royal court and an emasculated audience watched the event with insensitive servitude. The parents of the Kauravas could not witness the brutality directly as one was blind by birth and the other chose to embrace blindness as an indication of respect for her blind husband.

The epic presents contrasts in conspicuous details. The unbelievable devotion that Gandhari the mother of Kauravas had for her husband and the molestation of Draupadi in the court of Kauravas is one of the examples. Blindfolding herself she chose to stay away from the incredible beauty of the world which her husband was deprived of.

There could not be a better depiction possible than the blindfolding of Gandhari's eyes to live in tune with the blindness of her husband and the greatness that the epic attached to a male-female relationship. But the ruthless sarcasm that the courtiers had a reason to giggle on and the numbness that veterans like Bhishma stooped in when Draupadi's molestation took place, illustrate the skill with which the narrator describes the hypocrisy of a patriarchy.

Situation has not changed even today. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women came this year with same dullness and repudiation as it had been in the previous years.

That anything with regard to the suppression and violence against women at home and society remained the same with not more than few media debates and columns making ruckus in restricted platforms. The contrast that the great epic decoratively portrayed still remains a prophecy that the generations to come would seriously fail to learn lessons from the accuracy and approach with which the human double standards work.

And the intelligence of literary magnets, the writers, profoundly revealed the truth that a society is supposed to function and the values they propounded were indicative of a disaster that the human minds would probably drag the entire humanity to.

To be precise, the silence with which we usually register our anger on the violence against women in a cele-

brated civilized society such as India is a result of the societal emasculation that we propose to push our life through. Except candle light marches nothing solid seems to be emerging zealously stormy, capable of putting efforts to stop the brutality.

Deep and dark in our minds we break open the windows of violence and unleash the power of horror degrading everything that we considered as humane. What motivated a young man to be too ruthless to slice a human body into thirty five pieces and refrigerate them for a convenient disposal on a day-to-day basis? Aftab Poonawala had easily chopped off his live-in girlfriend's body without even the slightest of humanitarian sentiments.

To imagine the level of atrocity a young man would dare to commit, needs an animalistic hard-heartedness and medieval savagery. Marinated in unparalleled barbarity, there would be many young minds getting ready to give us a jolt of horror. As usual, dialogues and symposiums would make conclusions, mostly pinning blame on Netflix episodes of investigative horror shows that depict brutal human behaviour in decent fashion and well crafted intonation.

That being one of the reasons rampantly influencing the emotional intelligence of young minds, the contribution that distorted family atmosphere and the radicalised religious beliefs help young minds gravitate towards ferocity cannot be undermined.

Children becoming scapegraces at a young age cannot be justified without the whole society being brought to hold the responsibility. Undeniable invasions by social media into the young minds and unjustifiable ethos thrown into the mental framework of children by different religious literatures effectively disseminate and harvest brutality aplenty.

No murder or outrage on a woman, for that matter, should be toned down as a mere act of situational violence. This could also be a well thought out plan or at least an accumulation of behavioural stimuli gathered from the existing ill-gotten sentiments of a family or society. What if a child grows seeing violence being carried out on his mother or any other female member in his family? The sentiments he is nurtured with and progress through would definitely hold a tremendous impact on his mental build up. He can, without any legitimate reason be irrevocably indignant and unparadoxably brutal on anybody he disagrees with. Statistics revealing the quantum of aggression on

women across societies is a decisive interpretation on the skyrocketing trend of violence. This also shows and meticulously reveals the hypocritical element of religions which had successfully established this notion of male hegemony substantiating the same with religious legitimacy. The outrage and ruckus in the Iranian streets should also be counted as a reaction to the impact of the hysteria that the male dominance has been hammering human sentiments with. A tendency to capture and rule the feminine in the society works harder and resentment of any kind against such a move would be overthrown as an attempt to denigrate the already glorified male authority. Be it in the family or in society, the dominant narrative is mainly focused on rewarding the male supremacy and for some societies it is an act of decency and a sign of distinctive social upbringing. All such vitriolic strategies are based on an idea that religions could successfully preach and teach; that a woman being a creation sprung from the rib of a powerful man is supposed to be submissive to his muscularity. From her very young age, as a girl to her adulthood, she is frequently made to believe that she needs to take orders from the male population in the family. This gives an advantage to men who tap all the possibilities to unleash his unruly self on the girl who he chooses to live with. Shraddha's case and many other such incidents bring intuitions amounting to be a serious lapse from the side of both the families. While boys are blessed with autonomy to live their lives in freedom, girls normally are destined to remain in the family's confines.

To make a choice is what the mistake that Shraddha did but the price she had to pay was her life.

While analysing this gut-wrenching horror, the subconscious feel it gives is not less than an insight that the families in our country are mostly entwined in a baseless and duplicitous familial bonhomie; that the effect of deceitful interactions and mannerisms make many families silent cauldrons. Extremely privileged to have access to education and health, the present generation is more informed and intellectually settled than the past generations. Life-giving values being dispelled by the arrogance of modern intelligentsia, the new generation is seen to be distanced and the estrangement inside the families forcefully pushes young minds towards the predatory intentions and monstrous motivations of unknown individuals. But we should not allow compassion to become a myth.