

PAY ATTENTION

It is unfortunate that under BJP Government at the Centre and LG Manoj Sinha's administration in J&K the specially-abled are lurching for the fulfillment of their demands. Though there is a chance that the J&K Handicapped Association which led the protest in Jammu is blowing things out of proportion because one cannot believe that the Modi government which has done so much for all the sections of society will leave this significant segment longing for demands. What is important is that if somehow there are some shortcomings in the facilities or schemes meant for the aforesaid community the Association should have approached the authorities and sit across the table to highlight the same as creating scenes in the region indicated that there is politics behind the whole gamut and certain vested interests are leading the differently-abled in a covert manner to satiate their political desires. As the representatives of the aforesaid association that both J&K and Central Governments have failed in all respects to address the issues of the differently-abled people. The accusations made by those leading the protest and the sit-in seem to be exaggerated because as per their version the aforesaid governments had done nothing for the differently-abled in the last many years. The protesters also alleged that the LG Sinha is not giving them an appointment for a meeting. Looking into the whole scenario it can be said that the government might be after something big for the differently-abled and that is why the LG Sinha must have been waiting for the right time to speak to the stakeholders as otherwise this is not possible that he refuses to meet any of the delegation having certain grudges. The government has time and again said that it is committed to the welfare of the physically-challenged and therefore it is hard to believe what the aforesaid association is alleging.

If there are issues with the community, the better way is to meet the concerned quarters and highlight the demands rather than going for a confrontational path which will further complex the situation and will also cause great inconvenience to the differently-abled persons who are being called to different places to stage demonstrations. Hopefully all the genuine demands of the specially-abled will be addressed as things have been reached to the concerned helmsmen.

JK Govt's order regarding withdrawal of posts discriminatory, arbitrary

The statement made by Manoj Sinha, LG Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir regarding re-advertisement of the posts recently withdrawn through a GAD order on 03.02.2021 has further alienated the youth of Jammu & Kashmir who were keenly waiting for the government to respond favourably to review their decision keeping in view their genuine demands and concerns of the aspirants. The youth in Jammu & Kashmir is already struggling due to high level of unemployment. While the selection process by JK PSC and JKSSB was in full swing, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the current order is also discriminatory for many, putting the job aspirants at a clear disadvantage. The subsequent government clarification talks about the revised recruitment rules after the reorganization of Jammu & Kashmir, but how do they justify the appointments made to the posts which were advertised prior to 30.10.2019 and were filled before the recent government circular.

For instance, a total of 70 positions of J&K Combined Competitive Examinations - 2018 which were advertised vide notification PSC/Exam/2018138 dated: 25.05.2018 against which interviews were held between 08.09.2020 to 26.09.2020 and the selection list was released within 3 days of the last interview. Similarly the selection process for a number of positions of Higher Education Department advertised vide Notification No. 10-PSC (DR) of 2017 dated 27-10-2017 were completed after 30.10.2019. For instance the selection process in the following disciplines English (86 posts), Bio Resources (10 posts), Environmental Science (10 posts), Water Management (10 posts), Bio-Technology (07 posts), Hindi (06 posts), Public Administration (10 posts), Human Genetics (02 posts), Music (25 posts), Nutrition (01 post), Urdu (05 post), Persian (05 posts) and Information Technology (05 posts) was completed during 2020 - 21 and the selection lists were released during the calendar year 2021. Similarly JK PSC conducted the interviews for 10 posts of Horticulture Development officer on 26.05.2021, the selection list of which was released on 07.12.2021. It is pertinent to mention that these 10 posts were advertised in 2011. Are the revised recruitment rules not applicable to these posts? The current government circular is discriminatory for all those applicants and job aspirants who applied well within the time proposed by the government and kept waiting for their turn to come. Today for no fault of theirs, they are subjected to emotional, mental and financial torture putting their careers at stake. Who will compensate for their lost time and effort as many applicants will become over-aged in case they are made to apply afresh.

It is pertinent to mention that after the abrogation of Article 370 & 35A on August 5, 2019 the selection process for all the earlier advertised posts was stalled for want of new rules. Further in November 2019, the government decided to reconstitute the JK Public Service Commission which was reconstituted in June 2020 severely affecting the selection process for all the positions advertised earlier. Has the government forgotten that the entire world was suffering from COVID-19 pandemic and due to lockdowns and government restrictions the examinations, interviews and other components of the selection process got delayed? Further why should the job aspirants bear the burden of the inefficiency of government administration which delayed the entire selection process? There are instances where the selections have already been made and only the result is to be declared, why should these candidates be made victim of such administrative incompetence. The government cannot have two yardsticks for the same notification and recruit some and re-advertise other posts, including those positions where written examinations have been held and interviews already conducted. If new rules and reservation policy had to be implemented, this should have applied to all positions advertised before 2019 and not to a select few, where the selections are either under process or have been completed, but results awaited. Perhaps, good sense should prevail. There are a lot of expectations from the government, especially after the reorganization of the State of J&K. This arbitrary decision could well alienate and frustrate the youth of J&K further and possibly be the last nail in the coffin, if the decision is not reconsidered and reviewed.

Livestock sector: Economic backbone of poor & marginal farmers

■ DR NEELESH SHARMA & DR SANDEEP KOUR

Dairy farming plays a vital role in the economic development of rural India. More than 70 per cent of the rural households still depend on the agriculture and livestock sector for their livelihood (FAO, 2018). Agriculture and its allied sector engage 53 per cent of the total workforce of India. The primary source of income for 100 million out of 147 million households is Animal Husbandry & Dairying. Out of that, over 70 million depend on dairy in toto for their livelihood.

The agriculture and allied sectors pillarized and remained strong during the pandemic, with a 3.5 per cent growth rate registered during 2020-21. The livestock sector is an essential subsector of Agriculture in the Indian economy, contributing 29.35 per cent (2019-20) in the total agriculture and allied sector gross value added (GVA), up from 24.32 per cent in 2014-15, as per the report of National Accounts Statistics (NAS) 2020.

The livestock sector contributed 4.35 per cent of total GVA in 2019-20. Therefore, the livestock sector is the backbone of the poor and marginal farmers. In the recent (2021-22) Economic Survey, dairy has been the single largest agricultural commodity and 5 per cent of the national economy, employing over eight crore farmers directly.

In budget of 2022-23, the Union Government has enhanced the budget allocation by 40 per cent for the livestock sector, 48 per cent for various central livestock schemes and 60 per cent dedicatedly for the livestock health and disease control program.

India is bestowed with a vast livestock population (53.78 million) comprising 192.49 million cattle and 109.85 million buffaloes (20th livestock census). The total milch-animal population of country is 125.34 million. The dairy sector contributes significantly to the national economy sharing 5.3 per cent of the agricultural GDP with milk as the leading agrarian produce of the country. Further, India is the largest milk producer (209.96 Million tonnes in 2021) globally, contributing 18.50 per cent of the world's total milk production (FAO Agricultural Outlook, 2016-2025). The projected milk production is 330 Million tonnes by 2033-2034 (NITI Ayog, GoI). Milk accounts for about

67 per cent of the total output value from livestock.

The dairy enterprise is one of the most desirable businesses worldwide. Annually, 8.4 million farmers depend on the dairy sector for their livelihoods, out of which 71 per cent are women (Agriculture Skill Council of India).

The rearing of cattle and buffalo is the old age practice in rural India. It can be considered a traditional business. One or two milch animals are reared to fulfill family's nutritional needs, and surplus milk is sold to neighbourhoods.

The commercialisation of dairy farming provides employment opportunities to unemployed youth. This business has immense potential of converting into a profitable venture.

With the increase in population, the demand for milk increases day by day. Besides this, various value-added products like cheese, cream, ghee, buttermilk, skim milk, flavoured milk, ice cream etc., can be made and sold, which will help in increasing the overall profit of the farm. The dairy product market is active throughout the year.

In addition, cow dung produced on the farm can be used to produce biogas, an additional source of income. Further, the slurry from the biogas plant can be used for making vermicompost. Compared to farming, the dairy sector is more promising as it is not dependent on rainfall directly and has huge demand of milk and milk products.

Jammu and Kashmir is one of the largest UT of the Indian Union.

It lies in Northern India between 32°-15' and 37°-05' N latitude and 72°-35' and 83°-20' E longitude. J&K is blessed with 82 lakh of livestock population (20th livestock census). The milk production of UT is 2541 TMT (ISS data, 2018-2019).

Agriculture and the allied sector contribute about 38 per cent to UT GDP, and 11 per cent is contributed by livestock. Dairy entrepreneurship has enormous potential in J&K. The Indian food and dairy sector is valued at Rs. 40 lakh crore, out of which around Rs 4 Lakh crore are from organised sector, and Jammu and Kashmir contribute to around 2-3 per cent.

The sector has huge potential of increasing the income of the people living in the rural areas besides

generating avenues for the aspiring entrepreneurs resulting in job creation and contributing to the economy of Jammu and Kashmir.

The entrepreneurs can breed calves, establish cattle feed farms, establish artificial insemination facilities, start milk processing units, etc. Food and dairy are the only recession-proof sectors and do not have any chance of a decline or de-growth among all the sectors and industries.

The Government of India has launched various schemes for assisting entrepreneurs. An entrepreneur can avail different Central government schemes like Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (DEDS), National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD), Kissan credit card scheme and DIDF (Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund).

In the budget for year 2020-21, Rs. 3,289 crore was exclusively allotted for Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

In 2020-21, the Union Finance Minister announced Rs. 15,000 crore for Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund to support entrepreneurs in dairy processing and value addition and cattle feed infrastructure. The government's intent will boost local manufacturing and consumption of locally produced goods and help the national consumer become 'Vocal for Local', thus taking India forward on the path of self-reliance. 'Kaladi' is the best example of local dairy product in the J&K, which can explored at the national level. The Government of J&K has launched four major flagship schemes under UT CAPEX.

The said attempt aims to bridge the gap between demand and supply of livestock products and promote entrepreneurship in the sector, thereby supplementing and complimenting other centrally sponsored/UT sector schemes for inclusive development of the livestock sector.

Dairying has been recognised as one of the exercises pointed at allaying the neediness and unemployment.

Selling milk is a sustainable source of income for dairy farmers. So this business has immense potential to improve social status, economic development, and enhanced nutritional support as a whole.

(The authors are from Division of Veterinary Medicine, SKUAST-Jammu.)

Controversial Burqa issue sub-judice

■ OKMAR DATTATRAY

The issue of wearing or not wearing Burqa is pending in the High court of Karnataka and as such is sub-judice and so the people belonging to different faiths should not raise this sensitive issue till the final judgment on the issue will not be delivered. All the people should abide by the law and not take law into their hands, as matter is being deliberated by the high court. The court has given the instructions to the state government of Karnataka wherein it has asked the government that no student should come to school in a religious attire and dress till final judgment will be delivered. The high court has also asked the government to open the schools for regular class work. Since the sensitive matter of Burqa is sub-judice and so the different parties and stakeholders should not stoke further controversy and therefore the people should abide by the court orders and do nothing which will precipitate the matter and desist from politicizing on this issue which has the potential to disturb the communal harmony in the country. Therefore, people should not take the law into their hands and trust the high court where the matter is pending. The top court-supreme court of the country has declined to hear the appeal against the verdict of the high court on the ground that the high court has not given its interim judgment in the matter and the case regarding Burqa issue is pending in the high court and therefore there is no question of hearing the appeal against the decision of the high court as it has not delivered its interim verdict. The top court has also commented that the Burqa issue should not be politicized and also not to be made a religious issue and therefore no religious angle should be attached to the issue in question. Thus the issue of wearing of the Burqa should neither be politicized nor made a religious issue so that no communal and religious passions should be raised on this issue of sensitive matter. The Supreme court has also said that it is for the protection of the fundamental rights of the people and the guardian of the peoples' rights and so it will hear the case relating to Burqa at the appropriate and

opportune time in future and till then all people should observe utmost restraint so that the communal passions are not raised and the communal harmony is not disturbed and mutual brotherhood is upheld and kept intact. In our plural, secular, multi religious and multi cultural society there is no place for raising religious passions of the people and people belonging to various faiths live like brothers and sisters and therefore nothing should be done which will disturb the communal amity in the country. Therefore till the sensitive case of Burqa controversy is heard by the supreme court at the appropriate time, no one should stoke communal and sectarian feelings on the issue which is pending in the court of law. So all are required to abide by the law of the land and not take law into its hands but wait till the important and sensitive issue is decided by the highest court. But as of now, the Supreme court has declined to hear the appeal against the order of the high court and it has agreed to hear the case at the appropriate time. Thus till the case of Burqa controversy is decided by the top court all the parties should show utmost restraint so that communal amity and mutual brotherhood is kept intact. The youth congress has also filed a petition in the Supreme court and has petitioned that the case of Burqa involves the basic question of the fundamental rights and has appealed the court to pronounce the verdict on the question of involving of the fundamental rights in the Burqa case. Therefore what is required is that all the stakeholders and parties should observe restraint and do nothing which will have the potential of disturbing the communal amity and harmony in the country. It is everybody's knowledge that when any issue is sub-judice and pending in the court of law, it should not be raised by the public till the matter is not decided by the court and on the same analogy no one should either raise the issue of Burqa controversy in public nor politicize it as doing so has the danger of disturbing the religious harmony and mutual brotherhood. Therefore no one should stoke communal passions on the sensitive issue of the wearing or not wearing of Burqa. Since

we are living in a secular democracy and so for upholding of the secularism and secular tenets the issue of Burqa controversy should not be raised and the matter should best be allowed to be resolved by the judiciary and all citizens should abide by the judgment of the court when it is delivered in future. Therefore the instant case of the Burqa controversy needs to be settled in the court of the law so that an amicable decision will be delivered at the appropriate time and till then all should observe maximum restraint in the interest of maintaining communal harmony and mutual brotherhood. So, what is needed is that all the people should abide by the law of the land and not take law into its hands so that religious harmony is maintained for flourishing of the multi religious culture and religious harmony. Thus it is the bounden duty of us all to help the powers in the maintaining of the communal amity and mutual brotherhood and for this we should contribute our bit for preserving of the mutual brotherhood and communal harmony in our multi religious country.

Secularism and pluralism which is so

dear to all of us should be maintained at all costs so that the people belonging to various faiths continue to live like brothers and so for as the flourishing of the secularism and pluralism is concerned, all of us should give our valuable contribution so that the tenets of secularism are strengthened. So it is

the duty of all of us to work for the

growth and flourishing of the multi religious culture of India and for upholding the secularism and tolerance we should

contribute our might so that secularism and multi religious culture of the country is kept safe and intact. For this all the responsible citizens should contribute towards it so that communal amity is always maintained.

The Burqa politics and controversy should not be allowed to be raised by the vested political parties more so when the elections are round the corner. Therefore there should be no politics over the issue of wearing or not wearing the Burqa.

No one should be allowed to politicize

the issue for political expediency and

vested interests. It is very sad that Jammat Ulma Hind has assembled a large number of Muslim women in Malegaon Maharashtra and incited and provoked them to protest in favour of Burqa but this should not be allowed to happen when the matter is sub-judice. All should abide by the law of the land and not politicize the sensitive issue. No religious and political organization should be allowed to exploit gullible masses on the issue of wearing Burqa and it is so good that a case has been filed against the leaders of Jammat Ulama Hind by Maharashtra police. The selfish politicians are raking the issue of the Burqa and thus dividing the country on religious issues, the division of the country cannot be allowed on the basis of religion.

The Chief Minister of Assam Hemant Biswas Sharma has no issue with the Burqa but he wants that the students should go to school in proper dress code and uniform. The BJP leader and centre minister Giriraj Singh has favoured the application of uniform civil code for all Indians and he says that the time is ripe for having a common civil code for all Indians. To conclude we can say that there should be no Bawali and polities on the sensitive issue of wearing or not wearing the Hijab by the Muslim women as we are living in the twenty first century and should not be regressive and retrograde anymore and should focus on development.

Yes we should appreciate having freedom so far as the culinary habits of the people belonging to different faiths is concerned and so far as the freedom of attire and dress is concerned but then the students should go to school in proper uniform only and not in religious dress so that the spirit of uniformity and equality is fostered in the country. Anyway no polities should be allowed on the issue of Burqa and all those exploiting the gullible masses on the issue of wearing the Burqa should be dealt with iron hand so that they will not succeed in dividing our multi religious society. For the flourishing of the Ganga - Jamuni Tehzeeb, we should allow diversity in uniformity.

(The author is retired Education Officer and Columnist).

YOUR COLUMN
Make displaying mobile numbers on vehicles mandatory

Dear Editor,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper I would like to draw the attention of Transport Commissioner J&K to an important public issue related to display of mobile numbers on all types of vehicles like cars, two-wheelers, public transports, load carriers and other types of light and heavy vehicles.

With the rise in population and consequently increase in number of vehicles on roads, it has become really tough to manage traffic. The parking on the other hand is another challenge for authorities for regulating smooth flow of traffic. The display of the contact number of the owner will help the traffic regulatory authorities as well as public to contact and check the unauthorised parking. It should be made mandatory to display contact number at the corner of front glass as well as on

the back glass by the owner of vehicles.

This will help in contacting owner by any one as well as by the traffic police in case of emergency or wrong parking. This will help in managing the movement of traffic in cities and towns. This suggestion, if implemented, will be beneficial for all. Even the use of stolen vehicles can be easily checked. We the residents of UT of J&K in general and residents of Udhampur in particular have faith in the present administration and hope that our demand and suggestion may kindly be considered.

**Arun Kumar Gupta,
President Book Sellers Association,
Udhampur.**

Don't throw waste food in polythene bags

Dear Editor,

Through the columns of your newspaper, we would like to appeal to general public once again not to throw garbage or waste food, wrapped in polythene bags, on roadsides. It is really very strange that people

often throw the garbage in streets despite the fact the JMC has deployed a plenty of garbage collecting vehicles in each and every street of all wards of Jammu. Still, some people throw the garbage and the waste food packed in polythene bags on roadsides. The people keep their houses clean but always throw garbage in open. Modi government has launched the Swachh Bharat programme with great publicity but still there is no effect on the people. The situation turns worse when the senior officers residing in posh localities especially in government accommodations too throw garbage and waste food in open. On a visit to Gandhi Nagar government quarters area, you can find stray dogs spreading garbage bags in open. If qualified government officers are not aware then what one can expect from others. JMC staffers openly say that we number of times tell them not to throw garbage and waste food in open but no one cares. After all they are officers. A strict messages should be passed to all and JMC must levy some penalty for throwing garbage in open.

**Harish K Sharma,
Gandhi Nagar.**