

YEOMAN'S JOB

With success becoming a new norm for the police and other security forces in taming the terrorists and holding their anti-national activities significantly, the brave sons of India are achieving new feats on regular basis giving a tough time to terror mongers. As earlier the terrorists used to rule the roost especially in the Valley but soon after PM Narendra Modi took over the reins of the country, the security forces were given free hand which instilled confidence among them and the results are before everyone. The success which the security forces got in the last few years in eliminating the terrorists and containing their activities and area is unprecedented and deserves special appreciation from one and all in the country. Take the instance of Thursday, a major success has been achieved by the security forces and Police in Kashmir's Baramulla district by recovering a huge cache of ammunition in the shape of 11 grenades and 11 UBGL grenades. With this haul, a major threat was averted. Similarly, ten OGWs have been arrested from central and south Kashmir areas on Wednesday by the SIA thus telling the world that India has waged a 'war' against the terror mongers and those who are going against the interests of the country in J&K UT. Since the last few years the scenario in Kashmir has changed drastically with security forces witnessing success after success unlike earlier days when even the local Kashmiris used to tease them in full public view and stone pelting was in vogue. Without an iota of doubt, the changes which BJP Government led by PM Narendra Modi has brought in Kashmir has boosted the morale of security forces upto level next and now the terror mongers are running for life as they know that security forces are independent and they don't need orders to act against them. It is the PM of the country, who has taken robust measures to contain terrorism and sooner than later the UT of J&K will be free from terror and those who wanted to vitiate atmosphere will be either jailed or shown the doors of the other world.

SATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE

It always remained an endeavour of the present dispensation led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure overall development of the nation besides assuring provision of all basic necessities of life even to the man standing last in the row and various significant decisions have been taken in this regard. It was this people-friendly approach of the present Government that masses reposed undaunted faith on the able leadership of the Prime Minister and provided the same dispensation another opportunity to govern the country during last Parliament elections. The series of taking proactive measures for welfare of people also continued in Jammu and Kashmir soon after its transformation into an Union Territory. There is no doubt in the fact that the level of development recorded across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir during passage of the last more than two years was earlier never witnessed by people in the history of the erstwhile state. Besides initiating numerous mega-projects in almost every sector, the present Government also ensured adequate funding for the same so that no bottlenecks can hamper the ongoing works which are launched with an only motive to ensure equitable development in every nook and corner. The Government, not only provided adequate fundings in every sector but also maintained a proper check on the utilization of the same to ensure that they are spent only for the targeted purpose without any type of diversion at any level. As the budget of the Union Territory is almost ready and expected to be presented before the Parliament very soon, as per the sources, the Union Government in a recently held meeting reviewed progress of various projects and schemes presently going on in J&K. It has been reported that the government is quite satisfied with the progress achieved by J&K administration in various schemes and is hopeful that all the set targets would be achieved within the stipulated time frame. This satisfactory working of J&K administration where on one hand, will pave way for further sanctioning of various installments by the Union Government in respect of several ongoing projects smoothly, thereby providing a major fillip to the development process presently going on across J&K.

OFF 'D' CUFF

Human to Human Conduct

Human, you have long forgotten this, but since ages you have been involved in extending your web from the pure love of your parents, to being tied down by blood relations of brother-sister, uncle-aunt, etc. These gradually expanded to include social and economic connections, and last but not the least, you also included, unknowingly, into your circle those who indulged in sweet talks, flattery and amused you for social, economic or emotional gains.

The people who came under the purview of these relationships, associations and contacts behaved according to pre-determined behavioral patterns packaged to suit their image.

Some were showered upon with greater hospitality than others, depending on their social importance. The entire act became a mere formality, enhanced and garnished by acquired mannerism -- so much of hypocrisy, artificiality and falsehood that true, natural behavior was lost completely. Everything became a mind-game, a nautanki, a drama.

Human, the one who has 'soul', has forgotten his atmiyata, soulful and 'lovable' conduct.

Today, it is not about one human being interact-

The youth need to be enabled to become job generators from job seekers.

-A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

EDITORIAL

Why hue & cry over Burqa?

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

There is a great hue and cry over Burqa across length and breadth of nation. One fails to understand as to why there is so much noise and disturbance over the issue of wearing veil or Burqa by Muslim women. Enough unwarranted noise and heat has been created by the vested and selfish religious and political leaders which is a cause of big worry and concern for the countrymen. It seems that a planned conspiracy is being hatched by the narrow religious and political leaders who are hell bent to disturb the communal harmony in the country which is a very serious matter and it should not be allowed for the protection of the secularism and inter faith harmony. We should guard against forces who are trying to disturb the communal amity and mutual brotherhood. It is the moral duty of all of us to see and ensure that inter religious harmony is upheld and kept intact and in this direction we should work with sincerity. Ours is a multi religious, multi cultural and multi lingual society and there is unique diversity amid unity in the country and we should protect this unity in diversity which is the chief characteristic of the Indian nation. Nothing should be allowed to be done in the country which has the potential to disturb the peace and tranquility. These days the inimical forces are trying to disturb the peace and religious harmony and have thus made a mountain out of the mole hill. The private and personal issue of Burqa has been raised over a very trifling matter in a Karnataka school and it has been turned into pan India nature at the behest of the anti social elements. It is the irony of this country that each and every issue and even non issue is politicized at the altar of the secular democracy and this is a serious matter which concerns all of us. This time the non issue of Burqa has been raised and politicized by the selfish and vested religious and political leaders. Ours is a secular and plural democracy and nothing should be allowed to be done which will vitiate the religious harmony and inter faith unity. But by raising the issue of wearing of Burqa by Muslim women a dubious effort is made by some elements to disturb the communal amity and peace. Our society is a very sensitive one and there are the chances of disturbing the communal harmony by making efforts nefarious attempts to ruin the peace and tranquility although for a very short period because the responsible citizens work as a shield against the forces trying to disturb the communal harmony in the country. It is very unfortunate and unbecoming that these days the anti social elements are trying and conspiring to disturb peace and inter religious harmony and thus these forces trying to ignite communal fire in our multi religious society and this we should not allow being the responsible citizens. We are living in a secular country where religion is a private and personal affair and it nothing with the state. Our state is neither religious, nor irreligious, nor anti-religious but neutral in religious affairs and therefore state has to do nothing with religion of the people. Everyone in India is free to profess, propagate, practice and even embrace the religion of his or her choice and the state will make no distinction between different faiths in the social, political, cultural and employment and other development matters. It is very disturbing that efforts are being made to harm the secular credentials and ethos of this land and it is very unfortunate and it is the duty of all of us to guard against this tendency and allow the time tested secularism and tolerance to flourish so that the people belonging to various faiths will live and grow together. The constitution guarantees right to freedom of religion and faith to its citizens subject to peace, public order and health. Thus the religious freedom is not absolute but relative and so we should practice and propagate the religion sub-

ject to reasonable restrictions. All the religious faiths are free to eat dress and follow the culinary habits as per their choice but this should not lead to any disturbance in the communal harmony. Muslim women are free to dress as they think fit and so they can wear veil or Burqa as per their religious injunctions. But then to enter the school in the religious dress is not allowed because it leads to distinction between the boys and girls belonging to various faiths. Every school has its dress code and uniform and the students are allowed to enter and study in the school only in the dress code of the particular school. The uniform dress code fosters the concept of equality which is a fundamental right under the constitution and therefore all of us should contribute towards equality and not do anything which has the potential to disturb peace and communal harmony. It is so sad that a trifling issue of wearing or not wearing Burqa has been allowed to snowball into a major controversy which can disturb the communal atmosphere in the country. The issue of wearing of the Burqa has spread to various parts of the country and the women are incited and provoked to stage unwanted demonstrations and protests in favor of the Burqa. There was no Burqa controversy during the last seventy five years of the independence but now this non issue has been raised to weaken the plural and secular fabric of the country. The Burqa issue and controversy is a big conspiracy of 'Tukde Tukde' gang to disturb peaceful religious harmony in the country. Forces working to disturb the peaceful communal amity should know and understand that responsible citizens of India will not allow them to harm peace and communal harmony at any cost because tolerance and respect for all religions is ingrained in the flesh and blood of the Indians. Thus any attempt to disturb the peace and tranquility is bound to fail as secularism and communal harmony and tolerance is very dear to Indians and so the time tested secularism and pluralism will not fail howsoever the anti-social elements may try. The secularism is the fait accomplie of India and no one will be allowed to harm the peace and communal amity in the country. We are living in the twenty first century and it is so unfortunate that we are falling prey to the forces of doom and are unnecessarily raking the futile issue of wearing of the Burqa which is a private affair and this should not be mixed with the public life. In this age of development and progress we should be concentrating on ways to grow and develop but alas we are only attending to the orthodox and conservative ways and raising useless issues which may harm the communal harmony in the country. Thus are the gullible masses and in the particular case of Burqa issue the Muslim women incited and provoked to protest in favour of the Burqa. One fails to understand as to who is objecting to the use of Burqa but only entering in the premises of the schools and collage in Burqa is not allowed as it fosters inequality and makes distinction between the students belonging to various faiths and thus should the dress code and uniform of the institution be respected for the fostering equality. There should be no distinction between the students belonging to different faiths and all the students should be allowed in the educational institutions in the proper uniform and dress code. Thus Burqa controversy and issue should not be allowed to impinge the secular and plural ethos of the land. In brief there is no place for hue and cry in the name of Burqa and this should stop at once for the interest of the peace and tranquility. Be assured that the responsible citizens will not allow anyone to disturb the communal harmony as tolerance and secularism are ingrained in the blood of the people.

(The author is a retired Educational Officer and Columnist).

Delimitation draft report needs to be reviewed

■ ADV SANJAY RAINA

The erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed unprecedented violence for more than last three decades unleashed by Pak sponsored proxies and terror outfits aided and supported by Pak Army and ISI. But on August 5, 2019 the Articles 370 and 35-A were repealed and erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two Union territories viz UT of Jammu and Kashmir and Union territory of Ladakh. Since creation of UT of Jammu and Kashmir Both center and UT administration are trying to put J&K back on the path of peace and progress and to a certain extent they are successful in ushering new era of Peace and development in the region.

Center Govt as per its commitment intends to bring electoral reforms in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir so that every segment of the society finds representation at political and social level. In pursuit of peace and development, Govt of India also initiated the process of delimitation of the constituencies in UT of Jammu and Kashmir. Few days back, the draft proposal of delimitation commission was put shared with associated members of commission, which is presently trending in public domain as well as on social media. After reading and analysing the proposed draft, it was found that the so called delimitation proposal is fraught with internal contradictions and if implemented in letter & spirit would prove disastrous for region and country. Policymakers at Delhi have little understanding and vision for UT of Jammu and Kashmir and are shooting in darkness, helter-skelter without hitting the target. Being a local and having understanding of area, topography, demography and above all mindset of local populace of the majority community and predicament of minorities on their survival in the existing circumstances, I would like to suggest following points needs for consideration before finalizing delimitation report.

If Rajouri-Anantnag Parliamentary constituency is created as per the proposed draft, it clearly transpires that center is buckling under Kashmiri centric political parties for clubbing twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch with vale of Kashmir to materialise vision of Sheikh Mohd Abdullah which he contemplated as greater Kashmir by merging all Muslim majority areas of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir with Valley. The irony of the times is that Nationalist Govt at center is purposing such absurd idea keeping in mind that by doing this center govt will be able to control valley with help of people of Peer Panchal and also neutralize the negative elements in valley without understanding the physique of the people of the region. If we unfold the events of last fifteen years there was a demand from twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch to merge them with Kashmir province, simply on the basis of their religious affinity, now the question is that whether the central government understands this sinister design or facilitating the same on the advice of some black sheep who are hell bent to disturb twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch which are part and parcel of Jammu region since

time immemorial and people in the region enjoyed peaceful co-existence before negative influences started percolating from valley in the region.

This proposal of delimitation commission also reminds us of Dixon plan of late fifties wherein, it was proposed that Chenab river is a boundary between India and Pakistan and all the Muslim majority areas including valley shall go to Pakistan. This proposal of delimitation commission to carve out new Parliamentary constituency and giving open access to valley based politicians to exploit people of Peer Panchal region on the basis of religion and muslim brotherhood can prove counterproductive and exercise in futile. Allowing Kashmir based political spectrum and clergy to influence people of Rajouri and Poonch for secessionist ideology and movement thus extending the territorial limits of vale of Kashmir to this nearly peaceful region instead of arresting the secessionist movement sponsored by Pakistan and its agency ISI within four walls of valley and insulating Jammu province in toto.

Presently Jammu Poonch constituency is Hindu majority and minorities of twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch feel secure and confident that atleast parliament member of this constituency looks after their interest and raise issues pertaining to them in the parliament of India. Now the question is if new Parliamentary constituency is carved out and named as Rajouri-Anantnag PC, with Muslim majority region a Muslim will be elected as MP then who would represent the minorities? Should nationalist govt at center sacrifice minorities as scapegoat for so called national interest? The underneath physic of all Muslim denominations is one and the same. Govt of India must understand this basic instinct of Muslim brotherhood and think hundred times before carving new PC constituency as it is fraught with very dangerous consequences.

If new Parliamentary constituency as proposed by delimitation commission in a draft put forth in a public domain is implemented in letter and Spirit shall definitely boost migration of Hindu minorities in search of green pastures for their survival elsewhere in India. With the creation of UT Hindu minorities just heaved a sigh of relief and felt bit secured and stable but with this new proposal of delimitation commission minorities will certainly become nonentities in the region. Uncertainty has started looming in the minds and hearts of the Hindu minorities and has become skeptical about their generations future. I have expressed my views what I could gather from the ground and my experience of last thirty years of public life. Over the years the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir went through ups and downs, trouble and turmoil, mass exodus of Kashmiri Hindus from valley, violence of unparalleled magnitude and mayhem, Govt of India must be very careful and cautious before initiating delimitation process and carving out new constituencies so that people get succor rather put to harassment, resentment and leaving their homes and hearths for peaceful and secure future somewhere else in the country.

that between 2011 and 2017, 259 people all over world lost their lives while taking selfies. Unfortunately, more than half of these cases are from India. After that comes Russia, America and Pakistan. This study was done on basis of newspaper reports, which also means that the actual number of such fatal accidents could be much higher. Again, we do not know the number of incidents in which people taking such risks may have narrowly escaped or been injured. Psychologists have made several speculations about why selfie accidents are so common in India. One, it is said that for the first time, the smart-phone has made the camera available in hands of everyone. The picture which could be taken earlier only on certain occasions, can now be taken at any moment. That's why the trend of taking photos with mobile cameras has increased very fast in India. In almost every public or private place, in every public or private function, people will be found taking photos and taking selfies. The second reason is that countries of the world that have rapidly adopted social media after the advent of smart-phones, with

Drug de-addiction policy: Explicit war on drug abuse in J&K

Drug Addiction has assumed the magnitude of a silent epidemic in J&K and despite its high prevalence; the awareness about the problem is low. Jammu and Kashmir lies in the vicinity of the 'Golden Crescent', a name given to South Asia's opium producing countries Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan which produces 80 percent of the world's opium and is considered as the prime source of illicit drug trade. Under such a scenario, it becomes more imperative to curb the menace of drug abuse in J&K.

In order to combat this rising societal problem, the Jammu and Kashmir government has released its maiden drug de-addiction policy so that various departments and the masses are involved in the efforts meant for combating the menace of substance abuse here.

J&K is the first UT in the country only after Punjab state, which has a drug de-addiction policy of its own. Substance abuse required a multi-pronged strategy and the policy incorporates social, medical and legal aspects to address the issue better.

The policy while stressing the need to have standards of care in drug de-addiction centers and remove the taboo surrounding the problem also inculcates setting up of drug de-addiction centers with proper guidelines and standards of care.

These centers are being set up in all district hospitals under a centrally-sponsored scheme to improve the access of facilities for those seeking help for substance abuse.

The government has also launched Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) to help the affected come out of opium addiction, a life-threatening menace. Substance abuse is responsible for an increase in crimes, increase in moral degradation and lower participation of the youth in economic activities.

If it is not addressed properly it can lead to annihilation of our young generation.

The menace of drug-addiction is spreading widely and quickly taking the form of an epidemic and places where a bus cannot go, the deadly drugs reach.

To tackle this social evil in J&K, the Government has come out with a detailed mechanism to supervise and review implementation of Drug De-addiction Policy and has even roped in civil society members so that drug menace is fought effectively.

Under this mechanism, UT-level Policy Implementation Monitoring Committee and Jammu and Kashmir Division Level De-addiction Centre Monitoring Committees have been constituted.

The UT Level Committee has assigned the task of suggesting changes in the Drug De-addiction Policy from time to time as may be deemed necessary and try to look for financial support for various de-addiction activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

Similarly, the Divisional Level Committees have been assigned the task of inspecting the existing de-addiction facilities in Jammu and Kashmir and grant or cancel licenses after thorough inspection of infrastructure, manpower and standards of care.

These committees are also supposed to advise various stakeholders from time to time for implementation of Drug De-addiction Policy on ground and look at monitoring of prescription drug abuse and suggest remedial measures to the Drug Controller.

The Policy focuses on various key aspects including prevention, rehabilitation and integration, training and sensitization, community participation, generating awareness, upgradation/establishment of drug de-addiction centers.

It lays out a comprehensive action plan for addressing the drug addiction issue in its entirety.

Pertinent to mention here is that there has been a steep rise in physical, mental and substance-use disorders over the past two decades across the UT.

There has been an alarming shift in the pattern of substance use in terms of rise in the number of female users, decreasing age at first-use, increasing use of solvents, injectable-opiates and use of steroids as well as increasing drug related deaths (over-dose and accidents).

More so, for effective surveillance and law enforcement, the government has also formed the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) in coordination with the Excise and Agriculture departments to map the expected cultivation areas and take remedial actions in terms of destruction of the illegal crops on both private and government lands.

The ANTF has further been asked to formulate an action plan to prevent such cultivation in the next season.

The ANTF will also undertake extensive awareness generation drives to inform the public on the associated risks and issues, and accordingly plan a calendar of activities.

The Task Force will institutionalize the mechanism for promoting wide ranged reporting on illegal cultivation, transportation, trade and consumption of drugs and their synthetic derivatives; through NGOs, PRIs and volunteers.

In summary, the implications of policy decisions need to be considered explicitly not only to prevent harm but to promote health.

It can be said that major improvements in health can only be addressed by broad-based impacts that benefit both high-risk groups and the general public.

In this aspect, the UT of Jammu and Kashmir has taken a lead by addressing this serious societal issue on a large scale.

India also included. What is called the craze of selfie in the whole world, it has actually been promoted by the social media. It is a media with which crores of people are connected and in which there is a competition to grab the attention of the people. In a competition to outdo each other, people try to capture their own weird selfies and are often ready to take any level of risk for it. At this time it is a matter of concern all over the world that how to stop this trend? Australia has also issued an advisory on selfies. At many places, warning boards have been put up in accident prone areas. Such boards were also put up during Kumbh. India's Ministry of Tourism and Mumbai Police have also identified such dangerous places. There is also a suggestion that just as there is security guards on beaches; guards should be posted at railway stations as well. Creating awareness in this matter and including such subject in the curriculum of children can also be adopted. Somehow this dangerous trend has to be stopped.

Vijay Garg.

YOUR COLUMN
Selfie addiction dangerous

Dear Editor,

The audacity to take selfies while standing in front of a moving train, took lives of four youths in Gurugram. The deceased youth, in 20 to 25 years age-group, were standing on railway track and were so busy in taking selfies from mobile that they could see the train coming behind. Ajmer-Sara Rohilla Jan Shatabdi train coming from behind, was in its speed, and passed over the young men before they step aside from track after taking photographs. This is not the first case of someone losing his life while taking a selfie. Taking a selfie in risky situations has now become a new category for accidents occurring all over the world. Well yet latest studies are not available, but in year 2018, the Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care did a study regarding selfies, wherein it was found