

GREATER RESPONSIBILITY

The courts hold greater responsibility in checking the veracity of the cases of domestic violence as recently a startling case has opened the eyes of many as the Domestic Violence Act was grossly abused leading to harassment of the victim spouse. The court in the UT of J&K has held that Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (DV Act) has been formulated and enacted to shield women from atrocities/violence and not cause harassment to other spouse. It is a very important ground reality that in some cases the provisions of the Domestic Violence Act, 2005 further aggravate the marital discord and disrupt the conjugal lives of couples which should not be the case. Though, the judge of Small Causes Court in J&K has fined the wife for abusing the aforesaid Act, the onus of understanding and uncovering such abuse of the law totally is on courts as no one should be framed as in the aforesaid case and face undue harassment. The cases of such natures should be publicized in a big way so that people should think a thousand times before framing someone into a false case under Domestic Violence Act. The court in Jammu and Kashmir gave very relevant observations while hearing a petition filed by a woman alleging domestic violence from her husband by saying that it is quite obvious that the object of Protection of Women (from Domestic Violence) Act, is to give protection to women from the violence which takes place when couples live in such domestic relation. This is to protect legitimate and genuine cases where the aggrieved person does not indulge in acts that defeat the purpose and object of the legislation. The Domestic Violence Act has not been enacted to cause unnecessary harassment to the other spouse. All said and done, the courts should assess the cases in a very fair manner so that no one could misuse the law and implicate the innocent in such legal intricacies.

STORAGE FACILITY ON CARDS

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is an agricultural Union Territory as majority of the people are indulged in agriculture and other allied sectors for their livelihood. As such, the agriculture and other allied sectors also play a crucial role in the economy of the Union Territory, the present UT administration, right from the beginning has been contemplating to improve the working conditions for the farmers besides providing them adequate guidance and latest equipment to enhance their produce. Giving priority to the welfare of farmers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has, several years back, set a target for doubling the income of farmers by 2022 and initiated a number of schemes for the welfare of farmers besides providing them financial security and support. Moreover, a significant scheme aimed to save farmers from unprecedented losses of their crops due to natural calamities or other accidents, was also started wherein the insurance of crops were done at nominal premiums. Taking forward all these farmer-friendly schemes to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Government initiated every possible step for successful implementation of the same so that all necessary benefits are provided to the farmers in every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir. Besides imparting awareness regarding latest scientific advancements and techniques in farming, the agriculturalists were also provided necessary financial support to purchase new machines and tools that too at subsidized rates. Now, coming to the rescue of all such farmers, the Government has decided to start a cold storage facility in the Union Territory for storage of fruits and vegetables for a much longer time. In a meeting of the UT Administrative Council held under the chairmanship of LG Manoj Sinha, necessary approval was accorded to the proposal regarding construction of a 5000 MT Multi Chambered Modern Cold Storage and Ripening Project, under J&K State Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd. To be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 2646.73 lakh at Jammu within next 8 months, the facility will provide necessary storage facilities to the farmers thereby saving them from the losses caused due to short shelf life of various agriculture and horticulture products. This landmark decision of the administration will go a long way in mitigating the sufferings of farmers besides helping in achieving PM's vision regarding doubling the farmers' income.

OFF 'D' CUFF

The Discovery of God

“how brightly the stars are shining!” Her husband replied: “Do you realize, just now you are standing next to the only human being who knows why they shine at all?”

Hans Bethe’s discovery only answered a minutely partial side of the real question; it did not reach the true crux of the matter. His discovery of the carbon cycle leaves another greater question unanswered: how does this carbon cycle come to operate in stars? A true believer discovers the answer to this question in the form of God, the Maker and Sustainer of the universe. It is He who has invested the stars with this magic property. Another fact which is fascinating to think about is the enormous synchronisation and harmonious existence of countless zooming stars and planets that remain in their orbits without colliding with one another – doesn't this awe-some fact point to the existence of a rational being behind it all?

How ironical it is that that small discovery – of the carbon cycle – should have made a scientist lose himself in such a spontaneous outburst of feeling, when that should have happened only if he had discovered God. God is the greatest discovery that a person can make.

Maulana Wahiduddin Khan

Union Budget 2022-23: India @75 to India @100

■ DR PARVEEN KUMAR

Going on with the tradition, the first day of the second month of this year witnessed the presentation of much awaited Union Budget. Amid threat of third wave of COVID-19 looming large over the country, Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Finance minister presented her fourth straight budget, wherein she came up with financial statements and tax proposals for fiscal year 2022-23 (April 2022 to March 2023). She read out the Budget 2022 in the Parliament through a tab, instead of the traditional 'Bahi Khata'. No document was printed following COVID-19 protocol. Instead, the Budget copies are to be disseminated electronically with documents being uploaded on the Government website as well as being made available on a special app developed for the same. India's growth is estimated to be at 9.2 per cent, highest among all large economies. Effective Capital Expenditure of the Central Government is estimated at Rs 10.68 lakh crore in 2022-23, about 4.1 per cent of GDP. Total expenditure is estimated at Rs 39.45 lakh crore. Receipts are estimated at Rs. 22.84 lakh cr. FY-23 fiscal deficit target at 6.4 per cent of GDP Vs 6.9 per cent. According to Finance Minister, Budget 2022 lays parallel track of futuristic and inclusive blueprint for Amrit Kaal, big public investment for modern infra readying for India at 100, will benefit youth, women, farmers, SC, ST and other excluded masses and shall be guided by PM Gati Shakti master plan. This will be achieved through a focus on Macroeconomic growth, a microeconomic welfare focus promoting digital economy, Technology enabled development, Energy Transition, Climate Action Virtual cycle starting with public investment, crowding in private investment. In backdrop of COVID-19 restrictions still prevalent, the Budget 2022-23 has come at a time when most of the sectors of the economy are hit particularly the health and education. India's employment rate has plummeted. Historic unemployment and faltering growth not only exacerbated inequalities of income and wealth but also have led to an increase in the absolute number of poor people in India; an unprecedented and embarrassing reversal in poverty alleviation. The Economic Survey, tabled just a day before the Union Budget 2022-23, emphasized the need for the government to provide a buffer against stresses such as the uncertainty in the global environment, the cycle of liquidity withdrawal by major central banks, etc. The Survey

had pegged that in the Government's efforts to build a post-COVID economy, demand measures alone will not provide the solution. This is based mainly on the fact that a wide variety of factors such as consumer behaviour, technological developments, geo-politics, supply-chains, climate change could interact in unpredictable ways, and India will need to develop a supply-side strategy to deal with the long-term unpredictability of the post-COVID world. The major highlights of the Union Budget 2022-23 include:

PM Gati Shakti: To improve connectivity, 400 new generations 'Vande Bharat' trains with better efficiency are to be brought in during the next 3 years. Besides 100 PM Gati Shakti Cargo terminals will be developed during next 3 years and implementation of innovative ways for building metro systems. PM Gati Shakti Master Plan for Expressways is to be formulated in 2022-23, to facilitate faster movement of people and goods NH network to be expanded by 25,000 km in 2022-23. For this an amount of Rs 20,000 crore will be mobilized to complement public resources. PM Gati Shakti will be driven by 7 engines viz. roads, railways, airports, ports, mass transport, waterways and logistics infra. All the engines will pull forward the Economy in unison. A 'Parvatmala' project for conventional roads in hilly areas will be taken in PPP mode. Railways will develop efficient logistics for small farmers and enterprises with 'One station, one product' to help supply chain of local product.

Financial Inclusion and Ease of Doing Business 2.0: To ensure that none remains out of the formal framework of financial institutions, in the year 2022, 100 per cent of 1.5 lakh post offices will come on core banking system to facilitate financial inclusion. With the aim to take digital banking to every citizen, 75 digital banking units in 75 districts of the country will be launched. To further facilitate and promote the business and investment ecosystem in the country, the Government of India will launch 'Ease of Doing Business 2.0'. This will be in accordance with the government's commitment to follow the idea of trust based government.

Next-Gen Telecom services: To further speed up the communication service, India will also auction 5G airwaves this year to facilitate a roll out of the next-generation telecoms service in 2022-23. Issuance of e-passport will be rolled out in 2022-23 for the convenience of citizens in their overall travels.

Housing for Poor: The Budget has an

outlay of Rs 48,000 crore allocated for completion of construction of 80 lakh houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in rural and urban areas in the year 2022-23.

Agriculture: Regarding agriculture sector the finance minister told that procurement of wheat, paddy, Kharif and Rabi crops will benefit over 1 crore farmers. NABARD will facilitate fund with blended capital to finance startups for agriculture and rural enterprise. An amount of Rs 2.37 lakh crore has been kept towards direct payments for minimum support price. The year 2022 to be Year of Millet, there will be a support for post-harvest value addition for millet products. Kisan drones will be used for crop assessment and spraying of pesticides. Ken-Betwa River linking project at a cost of Rs 44,000 crore will benefit 9.0 lakh hectare of farmer land. To ensure that the citizens of the country take a non toxic diet and to promote sustainability, Chemical-free natural farming will be promoted throughout the country with a focus on farmers' land in 5 Km wide corridors along the river Ganga, in the first stage.

Education and Health: One class, one TV channel' program of PM e- VIDYA will be expanded from 12 to 200 TV channels. This will enable all states to provide supplementary education in regional languages for classes 1 to 12. COVID-19 has necessitated online education. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has also proposed to set up a digital university to provide education that will be built on a hub and spoke model. The pandemic has accentuated mental health problems in people of all ages. To better the access to quality mental health counseling and care services, a National Tele Mental Health program will be launched.

Safe water: Safe water is an essential prerequisite for healthy life of the citizens. To ensure adequate and safe drinking water an amount of rupees 60,000 crore has been allocated for providing access to tap water to 3.8 crore households. To promote green energy in the country, the batteries and mobiles have been made cheaper. There will now more of electric vehicles.

Digital currency: In a major push for digital currency, Sitharaman stated that digital rupee will be issued using block chain technology by the RBI starting 2022-23.

This will give a big boost to the economy, the Finance Minister said. She added that income from the transfer of any virtual digital asset shall be taxed at the rate of 30 per cent.

Tax deduction limit increased: Both Centre and States government employees' tax deduction limit has been increased from 10 per cent to 14 per cent to help the social security benefits of state government employees and bring them at par with the Central government employees.

Defence Atmanirbharta: To promote Defence 'Atmanirbharta' 68 per cent of the capital procurement budget for Defence has been earmarked for domestic industry to promote Atmanirbharta and reduce dependence on imports of defence equipment. This is up from the 58 per cent last fiscal. Private industry will be encouraged to produce defence equipments.

Kavach: A length of 2,000 km of rail network will be brought under the indigenous world-class technology KAWACH, for safety and capacity augmentation. Last year, the government had decided to set up an asset reconstruction company that will take over the bad loans of banks, giving them the flexibility to finance the economic recovery. The proposal to set up a 'bad bank' has also been cleared now. According to the State Bank of India, Chairman Dinesh Khara, the proposed 'bad bank' has 'now received all necessary permissions including from the Reserve Bank of India. It is ready to commence operations with 15 cases worth Rs 50,335 crore to be transferred by March 31, he said. The government is also going ahead with the strategic transfers to implement new Public Sector Enterprise (PSE) Policy; the strategic transfer of Air India has been completed. Strategic Partner for Neelanchal Ispat Nigam has been selected; public issue of LIC is also expected shortly and others in process for 2022-23. Towards employment generation, initiatives like Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for achieving Atmanirbhar Bharat has received excellent response with a potential to create 60 lakh new jobs and additional production of 30 lakh crore during next 5 years.

According to the Finance Minister, the Budget 2022-23 also sets priorities aiming at inclusive development, productivity enhancement and investment, sunrise opportunities, energy transition, climate action and towards financing of investments. The silver lining for the country's economy is the overall sharp rebound and recovery of the economy; as reflection of India's strong resilience. With 'Sabka Saath', 'Sabka Vikas' and 'Sabka Prayas', the same momentum will go on. (The author is a Scientist at SKUAST-K).

Miles to go & promises to keep

■ DR M A SHAH

Completion of languishing projects and new initiatives in J&K are indeed hallmarks of Good Governance in J&K. I know that for more than 60 years, we were having only three Medical Colleges (one due to curtesy of local visionary doctors, which used to be locked once/twice in a week as a harassment dose). But from the last three years, we have been witnessing that around nine (9) Medical Colleges have been made operational besides AIIMS is under progress. A friend of mine visited DRDO hospital in the outskirts of Srinagar and was full of praises for the excellent facilities for SARS-COV-2 patients. The wisdom of the Government to set up Jammu and Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation (JKIDFC) to speed-up pending/languishing projects of more than 20 years old is another milestone. These initiatives shall soon be recognized by the common people as many of the projects are in completion mode. Night and international flights were a distant dreams; this too came true during this period. In the early morning I saw, someone have calculated Electric load of Kashmir Division is 1410MW and generation capacity of 2500MW is promised. The attitude of thankfulness and gratefulness to each and all, Muslim or non-Muslim, neighbor or non-neighbor, is the way to be thankful to God. This reflects a winning attitude toward life. The recent District Good Governance Index (DGGI) of Jammu and Kashmir covers 10 sectors and 58 indices with 116 data items, which include Human Resources and Development, Agriculture and allied sectors, Public health, Public Infrastructure and utilities, Environment, Justice and public safety, Commerce and industries, Economic Governance, Social welfare and Citizen-Centric Governance. In its true sense, if good governance is to be taken to the grassroots level, the district is a basic and an important unit. The good governance not only defines the rules of the game but

also initiates and determines the structure of institutions. However, good the policies may be, if the capacities of the institutions implementing these policies are not matching the rigour of the policies, the policies will not be able to deliver what is expected of them. Keeping in view the growing population and indeed technological explosion that too at a dazzling speed, I believe, the districts for good governance should have.

1. A full-fledged university (in fact a multidisciplinary university) as per NEP 2020 in each district. The oldest degree college in a district can be converted, where we have expansion options, or a new land can be identified (not like land of Central university of Kashmir) somewhere in the outskirts of the district (probably on foothills). Students in near future should go to universities on cycles and burden of lodgings and boarding on parents should be minimized. This university should have functional office to mentor all educational institutions of the district in a well coordinated manner. It should have a placement cell, an innovation hub, and a visionary to head this house of wisdom, surrounded by wise Board of Governors (BoGs).

2. Medical College with a Hospital, having facilities of Nursing and paramedical training should be the priority of the government for each district. Allied health care education has to be improved and institutions be established in all districts as per new scheme with an increase in intake. This should also be on the outskirts of the district. Open dispensaries having atleast one nurse and assistant with first aid and medicines in every village. It will avoid the burden on district hospitals and well off people should come forward for establishing Nursing institutions in districts.

3. Agriculture College in a district is the need of the hour. Agriculture Department has enough land (no doubt scattered) and manpower too to run colleges where periodical training programs can be imparted to in-services employees and farmers/growers. We can increase agriculture productiv-

ity through skilled agriculture graduates. Set up Agriculture Technology Parks to promote technology incubation and dissemination and promote sustainable methodologies. It includes study of horticulture, forestry, conservation, natural resources, agricultural products, production of food.

4. The legal education and justice system need to be restored. We need to have law schools for bright students just after 12th class in each district. Our courts will not deliver justice unless capable advocates are not groomed by all means giving lessons of modern technology, leaving no scope of cheating and false statements. Actions, communications and messages could be reproduced even after decades by detectors and e-eyes. Districts should install as many cameras as possible in public places. Timely justice and safety cannot be achieved without efficient advocates and capable judiciaries.

5. Regarding environment, Jammu & Kashmir is indeed paradise, Khusrav is true even today. For this sector, if we can restore the running water channels which used to provide fresh water to hundreds of villages for drinking, agriculture and for construction. This can be achieved with little investment and in association with environment enthusiasts and lovers. The banks of these water channels need to be guarded and protected at vulnerable places. One school should adopt one water canal for monitoring and guidance can be sought from Chairman NLCO.

6. Two lane roads with proper stopping having shelter facilities should be made on priority in each district. The construction agencies including BDOs/ PWD/R&B/ CPWD/PDD/ JS/IT should work in coordination for any construction and its utility and connect them with technical institutions. These offices should be in Polytechnic colleges and students need to work on live projects. Even link roads should be double lane and NIT has good expertise in the area.

7. Commerce and industries should have

following priorities in the district (i) Village & Small Enterprises (ii) Industries other than Village & Small Enterprises (iii) Trade & Commerce (iv) Mineral Development (v) Registration of Partnership Firms. This will address unemployment issue to some extent.

8. Overhaul Social Welfare institutions. Take guidance from social science experts. Social welfare means an ongoing attempt to take care of particular needs identified in the society. This means that it can be designed as a systematic set of programs that assist the population in different stages of their lives but, that system comes from an effort and intention to provide that social welfare situation on the first place. Political governance, legal governance, economic governance, and corporate governance are the most well known and in fact, these subtiles overlap with each other.

9. Use bottom up approach as is being done in institution of high repute. Citizen-Centric administration means placing citizens at the centre of modern public administration. This can be achieved by addressing the immediate concerns of citizens i.e. transparency, efficiency, stability and continuity in the governance systems. Take good people on board.

The good governance provides a very important set of pillars, which are effectual in the design of an economy. The four of them are the most useful ones for every economy: transparency, accountability, rule of law and participation. For achieving above goals, all institutions of higher learning should extend support to district administration for establishing the houses of wisdom. Even educated individuals and groups of people in the district can extend support in making their district a model of good governance. The competition between districts through the Good Governance Index will be of great benefit to the general public of Jammu and Kashmir. It is indeed a good initiative.

(The author is presently teaching Nanotechnology at NIT Srinagar).

YOUR COLUMN

Why people get depressed?

Dear Editor,
I will be very thankful to you if you publish this letter in your esteemed daily newspaper. Everywhere you look, people these days are stressed out. Many reach a breaking point and sink into depression, a mental health issue, yet it is so common today. Many people I have seen who self-harm and hurt themselves. Some youngsters are worried about their career, some are depressed about their family, some are sad

because they are lonely, some are insecure because of comparing themselves to someone. Anxiety and depression are isolating illnesses, but sufferers are hardly alone. By measuring the frequency of symptoms associated with anxiety and depression, poor sleep, memory problems, concentration problems, and difficulty learning. Believe that our forefathers and mothers were much happier that we are today. Or, at least, that they were less depressed and anxious. Everyone I meet tell me that they are sad, depressed, insecure and worried. When I see students, some are playing, eating, and having fun while there are many other students who are quite and standing alone. I wonder what they are thinking. Do they need someone? Are they afraid of some-

thing? Are they waiting for someone? Are they depressed? Why people seem to be suffering more, because our relationships and community ties are weaker. We're more focused on goals such as money, fame, and image. Our expectations are too high, probably because of the emphasis on 'you can be anything you want to be' and highly positive self-views. There are probably other reasons. I doubt that technology is the major one, as tempting as it seems, these upsurges were in place long before cell phones and Facebook. Instead, something else in our culture seems to be making people unhappy.

Mool Raj,
Doda.

