

HINDU TEMPLE IN UAE

Abu Dhabi is the capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where the first Hindu temple is ready. This is the largest Hindu temple in the world outside India. This temple was planned by two leaders - the President of the United Arab Emirates and the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi.

This temple of Abu Dhabi is a proof of how India-UAE bilateral relations have progressed in the last few years. The construction of this temple in this city of golden sands of the desert was conceived in 1997.

Built on approximately 27 acres at a cost of Rs 700 crore, this grand temple not only supports the faith of millions of Hindus working in the UAE but also destroys many stereotypes about West Asia. Undoubtedly, it is giving the message of communal harmony to the world.

India has always been a land of equality for all religions. The presence of all the religions of the world here confirms this. In such a situation, the beautiful thing about the temple of Abu Dhabi is that a Muslim ruler donated land for it and one of its walls 'Wall of Harmony' is built with the donation of Vohra community.

PM Modi, who was on his second visit to UAE in 2018, signed an MoU in the presence of the entire royal family and more than 250 local leaders. Then PM Modi had said that this temple will be a holy place, which will be a wonderful example of humanity and harmony.

Greening Wetlands

■ GL KHAJURIA

There is no well accepted definition of wastelands but Mr Bhumble has used the following definition for wasteland are those lands which are virtually unstable ecologically, whose top soil is completely lost, devoid of any vegetative cover. Such lands have developed toxicity in the root zones for the growth of most plants, both for growth of annual crops and trees". Further, this shall cover all ands affected by erosions, floods, soil salinisation and alkalisation, water logging and so on. On hilly terrain, wastelands on snow clad mountains bare and denuded fragile rock which over the years are geo- logically unstable.

Some three decades back, the consultative committee of Parliament chaired by the then Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi on August 23rd, 1985 stated that India has a land mass of about 329 million hectares and estimates are that approximately degraded whose productivity is far below its potential.. The broad sub-divisions of degraded land resources are in Agriculture (out of 143 million ha; at least 40 million ha or so are degraded) and in forestry sector, out of 75 million ha; 30 million ha have barely, some shrubs only, apart from the pasture and grazing and other uncultivated lands which are almost largely degraded. As, such we are having only 175 million of degraded lands in toto Amongst the major uses of land-Agriculture, forestry and grazing lands have been the most neglected and perhaps the most degraded areas."

In such an inexplicable situation1 wastelands are formed by misuse or overuse and the large livestock population, far beyond the carrying capacity of pasture lands has probably been the major factor in the formation of wastelands. Besides, impeded drainage due to the construction of embankments, roads, canals, railway tracks and other multihued development have created new wastelands. The denudation and decimation of forest covert have ushered in large scale erosions resulted into big allahs and ravine formation in the most degraded hills side down-below the plains. Water-lwing is another glaring aspect accruing from canal seepage which de-facto attribute the major part of degraded and wastelands.

Greening methodology:

Greening or so to say afforestation of all such wastelands is the paramount need of the hour and - covering of all such lands with suitable vegetative species prevents soil erosion, water conservation, removal of salinity from soil, restores soil microbiological activity apart from lowering soil temperature increase in water percolation and above all increase the agricultural productivity of adjoining lands. The methodology of afforestation is, however, site specific and some of the mostly degraded wastelands are usar lands, ravines, hill slopes, coastal areas, areas subject to seepage, river banks and other areas of black-ish water and as such different categories of wastelands demand different ways of treatments.

User lands: Such lands which 2onStitute a part of wastelands include saline, sodic and alkaline soils and such soils are met with on hard clay as well as on sandy tracts However, intermediate stages can also be met.

Sandy soils with high PH Value 1 can be found alongside major rivers and such soils are characterised by PH range from 9 to 10 severe L drought during summer and heavy frost during winter with temperature going down to 0oC preceded flooding , lire hazards and sand drifts, On such soils popular at 5 m interval in rows, 4 m apart is best suited. Introduction of certain species in between is of ample importance and such suited species are 'Syzygium cumini, terminalia arjuna' and Dalbergia sisso.

Denuded hill slopes : Hill slopes in Himalayas Shivaliks have their own sad stories to tell as in such areas, most of the top soil has been badly eroded to the extent of its total wash away which hinders planting on such barren and denuded areas So, in treating such areas, introduction of shrubs is the first step to go ahead and every precaution is to be ensured to avert biotic pressure. The shrubs should be preferably be nitrogen fixing and of the few are vitex negund Bana), Athatoda vasica (Brankers) wood fordia fruticosa etc. After the soil is reclaimed, the most suited plants needs planting (local species) supplemented and supported by soil conservation measures.

Ravines: The major problem with such areas is that these occupy vast tracks and further such areas I are prone to soil erosions, scarce moisture ,fast run off, low precipitation, uncontrolled grazing, high temperature during summer and severe cold/frost during winter. Here, on such areas the main thrust should be on gully-plugging and once the gullies are plugged. Root cuttings are strongly recommended. After this being done, the most suited local spp. to site should be planted out to reclaim the wastelands and some of the most suitable viz Bamboos, grasses need preference at places for soil binding apart from introduction of Aeacias, Syzygium cumini Dalbergia Sisso and Caesia Siamea on flat top areas. Nothing can be achieved unless their depredations are controlled and insofaras aerial seeding on such areas is concerned as a method of greening the wastelands, the operation has proved to be costly one, apart from a futile exercise.

As a corollary, all out attempts have been made over the years in greening/afforestation of wastelands, of which successful results have been achieved to varying degree. The moot point to emphasize is to protect such wastelands from grazing, lopping and above all illicit cutting. Once the area is afforested it should form a permanent feature of the landscape. The system as such should be that the ground always remain covered.

Transformative Education Initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir : Paving the Way for a Brighter Future

Over the past four years, the education sector in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has undergone a profound transformation, driven by a series of pioneering initiatives aimed at revolutionizing the landscape of learning. This period has witnessed a concerted effort to enhance accessibility, quality, and relevance in education, guided by the principles outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP). Through strategic planning and collaborative action, stakeholders have embarked on a journey towards comprehensive educational reform, with a focus on fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and skill development among the youth.

At the forefront of this transformative journey is the implementation of the NEP, which has provided a strategic roadmap for revitalizing the education system in J&K. By aligning policies and practices with the principles of inclusivity and modernization, stakeholders have laid the groundwork for a more dynamic and inclusive educational ecosystem.

A hallmark of this transformation has been the introduction of innovative programs such as "College on Wheels" and the promotion of entrepreneurship through startup culture. These initiatives have not only expanded access to education but have also created new avenues for learning and skill acquisition. By bringing education directly to the doorstep of students and fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, J&K is nurturing a generation of dynamic and forward-thinking individuals poised to drive socio-economic growth and development.

Moreover, initiatives like "Design Your Degree" have empowered students to tailor their educational journey according to their interests and career aspirations. By providing flexibility and autonomy in course selection, this initiative has ignited a sense of ownership and agency among students, empowering them to chart their own paths to success.

The emphasis on research and skill development has also been central to the trans-

formation of the education sector in J&K. With 30 colleges actively engaged in research endeavors and 56 colleges offering skill development courses, the region is equipping its youth with the tools and knowledge needed to thrive in the modern workforce. By fostering a culture of inquiry and innovation, J&K is laying the foundation for sustained growth and development in key sectors of the economy.

Furthermore, efforts to expand educational opportunities have been evident in the establishment of pre-primary education in over 15,000 schools, catering to the holistic development of young learners. Additionally, the enrollment of over 1.21 lakh students in vocational courses underscores the commitment to fostering practical skills and scientific temper among the youth. By providing opportunities for hands-on learning and skill acquisition, J&K is preparing its youth to meet the challenges of the future with confidence and resilience.

In line with the commitment to universal

education, initiatives such as identifying and mainstreaming 46,000 out-of-school children demonstrate a steadfast commitment to ensuring inclusive and equitable access to education for all. Additionally, the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Sing India (PM SHRI) Yojana, with the approval for the upgradation of 233 schools in its first phase, reflects a commitment to infrastructure development and improving learning outcomes across the region.

As we reflect on the strides made in the education sector over the past four years, it is evident that Jammu and Kashmir is on a trajectory towards excellence and innovation in education. These transformative initiatives not only equip the youth with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed but also lay the groundwork for a brighter and more prosperous future for the region. Through continued collaboration and unwavering dedication, J&K is poised to emerge as a beacon of educational excellence, setting new standards for the nation and beyond.

SHIVAJI: HERO OF HINDUSTAN

we believe, grow in the coming days. For upon India is come ana awakening that cannot die. And the story of his life is eloquent with the message: Fear none! Fear but one thing, unfaith in our Destiny! For unfaith is Death.

A. SHIVA JI: A PRACTICAL MYSTIC:-

Three men of action in the pre-modernperiod of Hindu history fill our minds, with awe: Rana Pratap, Guru Gobind Singh, and Sri Shivaji: Each one initiated a great movement for national liberty. Each one was an idealist in Action, a practical Mystic.

They came to join Shivaji's banner; they came from different classes and communities. Brahmins and Prabhus, Mavlas and peasants, men from the uplands, men from the lowlands; they came to co-operate with him in freedoms work. They risked their very lives to serve him. For eight months was he kept a captive at Agra. His soldiers remained loyal to him. All stood by his cause in his absence, why?

They knew he was there to serve others, to free India, to guard the Hindu faith. He did not love power; pomp, or show. He was essentially religious. This man of action was a mystic; alone the mystics had become mighty men of action. At an early age he learnt of the tradition that Bhavani the Goddess had in a vision to Maloji declared that one from his family would arise to be the liberator of his race. At an early age, too, Sivaji hears from his mother, stories of the greatest heroes of Ramayana and Mahabharata. And the Dream entered into his heart of being the Man of his Destiny, the man who must liberate the Hindu Race. The Dream mingled with his work until he achieved the great Deed of his life. He went to the woods and meditated on the fleeting nature of the world. Then came to him the great message of Sant Tukaram: "Go and labour" for the welfare of the people.

Soon after, he fell again into other Worldly mood. He met Sant Ramdas and asked to be initiated, "I am your disciple." He said, "I wish now to leave my raj and be near you to serve you every-day." Then spoke the saint to Shivaji the message of Krishna to Arjuna: "Yours is the Kshatriya dharma, to defend the country and serve the Gods,"

Ramdas stands at the foot of Shivaji Palace one day. Ramdas wants alms. Shivaji gets a document written making over his entire raj as alms money to the saint. "You are giving me your entire kingdom," says Ramdas, "What will you do now?" Shivaji, in utter humility says, "I shall wait in attendance upon you as a disciple." Then says the saint to him, "Remember Rama and Janak. They did not renounce their kingdoms. Return to your raj and do your dharma." And Shivaji holds the realm as a trust

from his Guru and God for the service of the people. It is easy to understand his simple habits and his love of the simple folk.

Napoleon was a man of force, but an egoist. Shivaji was modest in the hour even of the greatest triumphs. Cromwell had in him a mystical vein, but he lacked the guidance of an inspired saint like Ramdas ji. Cromwell was a mystic, but a fanatic. History stands a witness against his deeds in Catholic Ireland. Shivaji did not harm the Muslims. He did not pull down a single mosque. He had a respect for Muslim saints. Ceasar was a great general but was ambitious. Shivaji's ruling passion was not to gather power for himself but to serve the Hindu Race. Alfred had a beautiful heart, but he lacked the creative shakti of Shivaji.

Here, to our mind, is the secret of Shivaji's greatness, that moving on the plane of action, his yearning and aspirations and ideals moved in an atmosphere of the spiritual. Yes, Shivaji is of the race of practical mystics. And if a nation has one such man to lead it, there is Hope for it; however dark the night.

Stanton Coit has rightly said, "According to thine opportunity, thou must be the strength of the Weak, the refuge of the sorrowful. Thou must have compassion on those within thy reach who are worn with toil. Thou must defend and cherish the young; bless and support the aged; welcome strangers who come thy way; comfort those who are distressed in mind and body. Be assured if thou failest, none other- not nature, nor man, nor angel, nor creator- will render the service or bestow the love due from thee."

In Shivaji's heart was love immense for the poor, the needy and the uncared for. If there is one religion which India and the nations need today, it is the religion of service and sacrifice.

"So many Gods, so many creeds, So many ways that wind and wind, While just the art of being kind Is all this sad world needs!"

In 1680, Shivaji was on his death bed. His friends and relatives were around him and they wept. He consoled them, "Weep Not," he said, "Life is short; Liberty's work is incomplete: I go."

For peasants and the village folk worked Shivaji: for them he wandered from place to place. How many of India's youths are ready today to dedicate themselves to the service of the poor, peasants and the village-folk? Cities are soulless: in the hearts of the poor and the humble village-folk is the holy Shrine of Freedom.

(The author si President Home of Aged & Infirm, Ambphalla, Jammu)

Management of Govt Medical College Jammu in shambles

Despite facilities by Govt patients suffer; Private practice adding pinch salt to woes of the poor

■ CH. RASHID AZAM INQLABI



In Jammu and Kashmir the medical facilities provided by the Govt are appreciable, there is no shortage of funds or qualified manpower in the UT, but a lack of proper planning and a lack of administrative skills surface at all stages in running the health and medical institutions, whether it is medical college or district hospitals, or any other institution, lack of good governance and planning felt everywhere and public is paying the price. We never plan to keep in view future challenges or to provide better facilities to the general public but we take it lightly and treat the patient like animals. The projects executed keeping in view the petty interests. The persons remained at helm of affairs often, high jacked by some influential lobby. The public in general has to face the music for the slackness of our planners whether they are, politician, bureaucrats, or technocrat.

The profession of a Doctor is treated as a noble profession. Doctors suppose to save the life of even the enemy, Doctor is not suppose to treat the patient, keeping in view their caste , creed or religion or financial status. The public in general believes that Doctor is next to GOD, who saves their life as per their best ability but exception is seen some times , as seen in Srinagar some years ago , Doctors refuse to admit the pregnant Tribal Lady in hospital and she deliver the baby on road side in extreme cold during winter. The Medical College Jammu is a prestigious Health institution in Jammu and Kashmir. Public in general suppose that they get best health facilities in it. The majority of people living in rural area are poor, belonging to below poverty line, or even people of middle class family can not offered the expenses of private hospital.

All is not well in all medical colleges of UT particularly in Jammu medical college. I had recently bad experience of Medical College Jammu when I had to face many

difficulty when I spent some days with patient (my relative) in Medical College Jammu. The patient has to run from pillar to post for minor things such as checking of BP or for injection, for minor tests. There is complete mess prevail in Medical College Jammu. Doctor seems to be tired, inattentive towards patient. It is difficult to trace the doctors in rush in emergency, as doctors are not wearing aprons. Recently Administrative secretary Health and Medical education visited the Medical College Jammu, the doctors who accompanied him while on round are in formal dress not wearing the aprons or Identity cards as seen in press release .

Senior doctors often remain busy in private practice they come to medical college only to relax or mark their presence or introduce their self to the patient so that they can increase the number of patient in their private clinic. Senior doctors have good contacts with persons who matters in the administration. Senior doctors high jacked the system even does not allow the young doctors to bring reform in the present systems. I have heard from some of the patient about some Doctors who had positive approach towards the patient and doing commendable job. The root cause of pathic condition of GMC is defective recruitment rules of medical colleges. The successive government is also responsible for the prevailing mess and worse condition of medical colleges, and health institution, which have made the defective recruitment rules for medical colleges in Jammu and Kashmir.

The junior resident doctors are doing commendable job , they tries their best to give the best treatment to the patient but junior doctors are not deployed as per actual requirement of Hospital , no senior doctors even registrar or consultant generally available in emergency or in ward .Senior doctors often ignored the call of even from the office of principal GMC when requisition is sent for the round of senior doctor but often they deputed the P. G students or consultant.

It is difficult to bring immediate reforms in medical colleges of union territory with in a specific period, as per existing recruit-

ment rules and regulation. The civil societies, the intellectual of all political parties , religious organization, social organization, Press , has to play their role for improving the working of Health institution otherwise we have to face the music sooner or later .

All of us has to play our role to reform the working of GMC so that in public general , poor people or patient can avail best medical facilities in hospitals. To provide the best medical facilities to the public is great challenge for Govt but not most difficult, we can achieve this gol if plan properly and defective recruitment rules are re-visited. It is needs of hours that Government immediately bans the private practice of Doctors working in medical colleges.

The system of Medical College Jammu require , immediate attention of Lieutenant Governor on priority basis in order to give good working atmosphere to the doctors , paramedical staff, patients and general public. Govt needs to bans the private practice of doctors of medical colleges immediately in the interest of good governance and patients. Otherwise everyone has to pay the price for the mess prevailing in Medical College Srinagar and Jammu whether he is doctor, patient or politician or bureaucrat.

There is complete lack of control on the staff deployed in wards and other places as observed during my days spent in Medical College Jammu, they often pass responsibility on one and another: Doctor not available in wards during night hours. The condition of wards is worst as regard to cleanliness is concerned. The wash room's condition is bad to worse. Doctor remain non available during night in the wards.

As per existing recruitment rules administrative secretary is not in a position to transfer a Doctor from medical college to another , if the performance of Doctor is not up to the mark , then how the administrative secretary or principal of medical college can control the working of doctors. The judges of High court, Chief secretaries of States ,IAS, IPS, IFS officers, even Governor can be transferred from one place to another place but due to defective recruitment rules Doctor of medical col-

lege cannot be transferred to another medical college then why the doctors bothered for the orders of the secretary health and medical education department. The recruitments rules are so defective that in Urdu a proverb fit for these rules.

" Puri Tani He Bigeri Hui Ha "

For pathic condition of medical college only LG Manoj Sinha can set the things right by directing for updating the recruitments rules at par with neighboring states and inconsonance with Medical Counsel of India, otherwise poor patients, and general public has to pay the price for the defective recruitment rules of medical colleges.

The poor people often raise the voice that their patient died due to the negligence of doctors but generally we believe that doctors are professional, they must have taken due attention towards the patient as per medical ethics.

Even doctors also suffered due to defective recruitments rules they cannot give due time to their parents, family, and Children they became a Money minting machine only, Doctors cannot give due time to his family what to talk of patient admitted in hospital. The Doctors only get some time for relax during working hours in hospital otherwise they remain busy in private practice. I have no complain with the working of doctors but with the system which we have given to them, and they work like a machine for private practice, and due to defective recruitment rules of medical colleges , the life of doctor also became hell. The Jammu and Kashmir Government must revisit the recruitments rules to make at par with neighboring states like Himachal Pardesh, Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat, Delhi.

We have great hope from our dynamic Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and from young administrative secretary of Health and medical education department, as both are son of the soil, and definitely bring reform in functioning of medical colleges of Jammu and Kashmir so that general public can get the better medical facilities . (Who to improve the working in medical college in next issue)

(The author is a retired KAS officer)