

KEJRIWAL SHOULD APOLOGISE

The apology sought by the J&K BJP Chief Ravinder Raina from Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal really holds ground because the way the AAP chief mocked the film, 'The Kashmir Files' is unacceptable as the chief minister acted in a boorish manner. It is pertinent to mention that the Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina has demanded an apology from Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for "rubbing salt into the wounds" of terror victims including Kashmiri Pandits. The demand is the most genuine one and the Kejriwal should come up with an unconditional apology over the issue because for the sake of politics no one should rub salt on the wounds of victims of the terrorism sponsored by the Pakistan. Kejriwal had last week accused the saffron party of doing politics by publicizing the flicker 'The Kashmir Files', based on the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley in the 1990s. Mocking at the sensitive issue, Kejriwal also demanded that the film be uploaded on YouTube so that the country can understand the plight of Kashmiri Pandits and the money earned from it be spent on the welfare of the displaced community. Ravinder Raina is quite right in seeking an apology from Delhi CM as his inappropriate behaviour inside Delhi Assembly has hurt the sentiments of hundreds of Kashmiri Pandits, who have faced not only exodus but also the ruthless behaviour of the successive governments which gave two hoots to the plight of the displaced community that was made refugee inside its own country. Of course, what the BJP J&K chief has pointed out is a serious matter as Kejriwal and other AAP MLAs were laughing during the aforesaid day inside the Delhi Assembly as if the exodus of KP's was a joke for them and the sufferings which the displaced community was confronting since the 1990s. Beyond any doubt the Delhi Chief Minister should introspect and without wasting even a jiffy should do the needful as advised by Ravinder Raina.

JAMMU READY FOR NAVRATRAS

The sacred nine days and nights starting April 2, are known as Chaitra Navratras and the Jammu city along with towns and other major pilgrimage centres including the holy town of Katra are getting ready for welcoming the huge number of devotees in during the festivities. In this context, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has visited the Vaishno Devi shrine atop the Trikuta hills in Reasi district and reviewed the arrangements for the upcoming Navratras when people from across the country as well as from abroad will come to Jammu and Katra to pay obeisance to the famous cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi besides at other temples and shrines in the Jammu region including famous Kali Mata Mandir inside Bahu Fort. It is pertinent to mention that Navratras are celebrated with religious fervour in the Jammu region as people here have undaunted faith in Mata Vaishno Devi. The hill shrine witnesses a huge rush of devotees during the Chaitra Navratri, a nine-day festival to mark the first month of the Hindu calendar which is likely to commence on April 2. The Navratras last for nine days devoted to nine Sarvoops of Goddess. During these nine days feasting and fasting take precedence over normal activity amongst the Hindus and even people belonging to other religions who have undaunted faith in Mata Vaishno Devi. This festival is observed twice a year, once in the beginning of summer and again at the onset of winter. People sow wheat in a bowl on the first day of Navratras. This is indicative of fertility worship and is commonly known as Khetri. After nine days of fasting the devotees reap the grown Khetri with Kanjak Poojan by worshipping girls and then offering red scarves to wear with a token amount of money as Shagun. The reaped Khetri is then submerged into a nearby water source, mainly Tawi. This is the most revered festival of Jammu region as people from all walks of life participate in the festivities with great enthusiasm and religious fervour.



A Practical Formula for Peace

Lord Mountbatten was India's last British Viceroy. When, at midnight on August 15, 1947, he declared on All India Radio: 'Today India is free', that India was a historic moment. But at that time the champion of the freedom struggle, Mahatma Gandhi, was not present in Delhi, as were other national leaders, to listen to this announcement.

At that crucial moment, he was in Noakhli in East Bengal trying to restore peace after bloody riots had erupted there during the pre-partition days. From Noakhli he sent a letter to one of his Gujarati friends: 'Mere charon aor aag lagj hui hai, par mere man mein shanti hai. (There is fire all around me, yet I find peace in my heart)

At that juncture, peace seemed to be a distant dream, yet Mahatma Gandhi was able to feel peace in his heart. This is the most practical formula for peace. International peace may be a long-term goal but individual peace can be achieved instantly. If you want to establish peace in the world around you, you must at the same time be sufficiently mature as to be able to achieve peace of mind, even in a highly disturbed situation.

This is the only workable formula for peaceful living and it is a duality which is quite within the capacity of every human being. Mahatma Gandhi clearly demonstrated this fact. All it requires is the art of thought

Maulana Wahiduddin Khan

Police Reforms: Need of hour

■ KR SWARN KISHORE SINGH

On intervening night of August 26 & 27, 2021, when three female student activists of ABVP were tortured and kept overnight in Police Station, Ramban by some ruthless police officials, the torture of those girls reminds me of the murder of George Floyd by Minnesota police. On May 25, 2020, a relatively small city on the banks of River Mississippi in Minneapolis received international attention when a 46-year old man, George Floyd after getting handcuffed and pinned to ground was murdered by an on-duty police officer. When the police officer pinned George Floyd to ground and knelt on his neck, George Floyd kept on saying, "I can't breathe". But for around 10 minutes, the police officer without any mercy kept his knee on the neck of George Floyd, which consequently resulted in his death. Subsequently major riots took over entire United States and resulted in loss of more human lives and property. But how did the American society and system react to it; in less than one year the murderous policeman was jailed and sentenced to 22.5 years of prison and the people ensured the person under whose leadership such brutality of police took place didn't return to oval office.

Police brutalities are indeed an international phenomenon and slogans of public friendly police are just some vague PR stunts. In colonial times police was used as instrument of oppression to suppress the voice of people and the recent behaviour of police is just an extension of those oppressions; these were times when the whole constabulary of police in India was divided into two classes; the sepoys were Indians and officers were British. Also while the police officers were British and white and the public was ostensibly brown and Indian. Such a proposition was perfect recipe for the police officers to act up with public and subject them to aggression. Times have changed and imperialism has vanished but policing in India stays medieval.

The police officers should be taught in their academies as to how to behave with decency. Social interaction skills should be imbibed in them as an interaction with them can easily make one believe that our police is socially very backward and conversationally very poor. They don't know how to talk or converse appropriately. They either flatter obsequiously

or calumniate, both irregular and beyond the pale. Flattering the politicians and their senior police officials and misbehaving with the public; this is the established axiom for police officials. The police academies should teach the police officials that the propositions have changed drastically, neither the police officials serve the imperialist Britain nor the Indian public remains subjugated or enslaved.

Is uniform just an instrument of legitimisation of everything illegal? Few days ago, during a very informal conversation with a highly placed police official, I got to hear something which stunned me to the core. He said a lady Indian Police Services officer while commanding her constabulary and guiding them came up with a sentence which can not be acceptable in modern civilisation, "In Civilians Ko Zyada Sar Nihin Chadhana, Jo Bhi Zyada Bakwaas Kita Hai, Teach Them A Lesson, Rest I Will Take Care". We have an India Police Act which dates back to 19th century and we are boasting of living in 21st. Also we need to understand that the system and hierarchical sycophancy in it is so very deep rooted that even the Chief Justice of India becomes helpless to implement a judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court wherein the policing system of India was ordered to be overhauled.

In 1996, after a retired IPS officer and former DGP of UP Police and Assam Police, Prakash Singh filed a PIL in the Supreme Court seeking directions for implementation of the recommendations of National Police Commission. It took the Apex Court a decade to decide the matter, i.e. in 2006, the Hon'ble Supreme Court came up with seven directives to form the bases of fundamental police reforms. Among the seven directives, one directive was for establishment of a State Police Complaints Authority to give platform where common people aggrieved by police action can approach. Imagine if a common person has been at a receiving end of police brutalities only remedy available to him is that he has to approach the police only, "Mera Qatil Hi Mera Munsif Hai, Kya Mere Haq Mein Faisla Dega". After the unambiguous directives of Hon'ble Supreme Court, how far have we fared? After elapsing of a decade and a half since passing of directives of Supreme Court, not even one state has been fully compliant with the directives of the Apex Court although 18 states have passed or

amended their Police Act but none seems to comply with the mandate of Prakash Singh Vs Union of India judgment.

The recent episode involving Parambir Singh, Sachin Vaze, both Mumbai Police cops and Anil Deshmukh, former Home Minister of Maharashtra leaves nothing to doubt the fact that Police behaves like a collection agent and hafta vassoli isn't fictitious. In late 2020, the Apex Court had directed the Union government to install CCTV cameras and recording equipments at the office of investigating agencies but till now nothing seems to have been done in that direction. Two inferences can be safely drawn from this proposition; first, that even Supreme Court is having an idea about what happens at police stations and other, that it is not going to change any time soon.

Former Judge of Supreme Court of India and sitting judge of Supreme Court of Fiji, Justice Madan B Lokur had said Police, prosecution are crossing the Laxman Rekha. And when the Chief Justice of India is saying, "I am disturbed by what police officers are doing", "the threat to human rights and bodily integrity are the highest in police stations", this should leave no doubt about what police is doing in our country lately.

Recently in Jammu & Kashmir as well, we had certain examples wherein in some people were out in open claiming demand of bribes from some police officials and some videos were circulated wherein police officials were seen demanding bribes with flamboyance (from Ramban & Reasi). When traffic police instead of managing the traffic is flamboyantly demanding money on roads, when rates of plying of tippers and trolley is fixed with utter shamelessness, it is neo-normalisation of corruption. And when the allegations of corruption were made, instead of ordering investigations or inquiry in such matter, some of the higher placed officials of Jammu & Kashmir Police started distributing clean chits while others preferred silence; which proves that the clichéd dialogue of almost every corrupt police official "Ye Sh Upar Tab Jaata Hai" to be true? It should be the alarm for the police as an organisation to wake up from slumber and disturb the system from inertia or worse is waiting.

(The author is an advocate and political & legal analyst).

Animal & Sheep Husbandry, allied sectors get big push in J&K's Transformational Budget

Livestock is one of the widely expanding sectors which has established its significance in growth and development of rural economy over the years. The sector not only supplements income of farmers but also provides gainful employment besides meeting the vital and varied nutritional requirements of the individual.

With most of the rural population involved in rearing cattle and buffaloes, the government is committed towards growth of livestock and dairy farmers.

The announcements in the 2022-23 Budget are quite transformational in approach and the increased allocations will benefit the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir manifold. The recently announced Budget 2022-23 for J&K contains a bundle of opportunities for enhanced growth and development of every sector and Animal, Sheep and Fisheries have also been focused upon by the administration for a big boost. The government has allocated a whopping amount of Rs 391.90 crore for Animal, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries sector which will be instrumental towards transforming the rural economy of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a bid to tap the allied farm and food processing sectors under Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS), the budget has laid a special focus on this important secondary source of income for millions of rural families, besides providing employment and income generating opportunities. Similarly, in a major push towards the Animal Husbandry sector, 2000 dairy units will be established creating direct employment for around 5000 people during 2022-23. Private entrepreneurs will also be extended support in the form of Bulk Milk coolers, milk processing/Pancreer making machines, marketing facilities which include milk ATMs & milk transportation vans, milking machines and dairy farm waste management with focus to cover women entrepreneurs and other reserved category beneficiaries as well.

Increasing quality milk production in cattle and buffaloes is another focused area prioritized in the budget. Artificial Insemination service will be delivered free of cost at farmer's doorsteps to 4.60 lakh breedable dairy cows/buffaloes by conducting around 13 lakh Artificial Inseminations.

In a major push towards making Jammu and Kashmir self-sufficient in milk production, the annual milk produc-

tion in J&K is expected to increase from 2505 Thousand Metric Ton to 2800 Thousand Metric Ton during 2022-23 and sufficient interventions have been incorporated in the budget.

To give a boost to animal husbandry business under Integrating Sheep Development Scheme, around 1200 sheep/goat units are to be established in J&K which will in turn create employment opportunities for around 2400 people.

With an aim to promote the establishment

of sheep and goat units in the union territory, 200 elite crossbred imported merino sheep will be introduced for genetic upgrading of local sheep for production of more than 8000 elite lambs. This will lead to an increase in carcass yield from prevalent 18 kg to 21 kg besides incrementing fine wool production from existing 2 Kg to 2.5 Kg per sheep. Considering the significance of Veterinary Healthcare for the growth of livestock, 44 mobile veterinary clinics proposed are to be operationalized to provide doorstep delivery of veterinary health care and breeding services. Around 78 lakh livestock and 5 crore poultry birds will be vaccinated against different scheduled animal diseases.

With conducive agro climatic conditions and easy availability of technical inputs, Jammu-Kashmir offers immense potential for development of the poultry sector. Last two and a half decades have witnessed phenomenal vertical as well as horizontal growth of poultry and a large number of unemployed educated youth have taken up poultry farming as primary means of occupation.

Keeping in view these things, the budget will also encourage local entrepreneurs by providing 50 per cent subsidy for starting a new poultry farm along with insurance of poultry birds, purchase of poultry farm equipment/machinery, poultry processing equipment, rendering units and poultry transportation vehicles. In addition, 35000 backyard poultry units are projected to be established in 2022-23.

The budget will also play a major role in enhancing the quality of livestock feed and fodder; this will in turn increase the productivity of the cattle and livestock. Under Integrated Fodder Development Scheme, fodder cultivation will be incentivized with establishment of fodder demonstration plots, distribution of improved fodder mini-seed kits, fodder mechanization and establishment of Cattle Feed Plants/Silage Plants/Fodder

Block making machines and Hydroponic Fodder Production. Regarding the announcement related to fisheries, fish production will be enhanced from 24,000 Metric Ton to 33,000 Metric Ton along with doubling of the trout production

from 1400 Metric Ton to 2800 Metric Ton during 2022-23 with a focus to preserve and conserve bio-diversity of water bodies.

The department also envisages introduction of latest technological interventions like Biofloc and Re-circulatory Aquaculture systems for the establishment of intensive fish rearing units. The department will also step up its effort to make trout accessible to consumers throughout the country and outside to ensure higher value and focus will also be laid on establishment of fish processing and packaging units across J&K.

The budget has also kept provision for providing subsidized air freight to push trout exports to various cities and Middle East countries under PARVAZ scheme, which is a market linkage support scheme essentially launched for shipment of perishable products through air cargo. The administration also aims to launch of mass awareness campaigns with emphasis on branding of trout and promotion of its export. In addition to all of this, special attention has been given to sericulture in the budget. In line with the budget announcement 2 Cocoon Auction Markets will be constructed for creation of marketing facilities with a provision of Rs 86.13 lakh. To promote sericulture in the UT, 400 Farmers will be provided rearing appliances to assist in rearing for increasing cocoon yield with a provision of Rs 1 crore. 5 Silkworm seed units & Chawki rearing centres for production of quality silkworm seed will be up-graded for which 1.89 crore has been kept in this budget. The ambition of the Government and the expectations of common people have to be met coherently through productivity enhancement coupled with cost reduction, price realization and policy support. Income from a single crop or commodity will not fulfill the target of doubling farmers' income but it has to be emulated from farm and non-farm sources. Diversification of activities which yields better remuneration (region specific) should be the ideal strategy and the recently announced budget of 2022-23 has these ingredients to diversify & revolutionize the rural economy of J&K.

Conservation of Dal-Nageen Lake Sensing the necessity to protect Dal lake, Government in the new budget has devised string of plans like Western Foreshore Road along Dal lake is to be constructed, more indigenous lake cleaning machines will be procured, 1.5 sq.km. area to be cleared from lily pads during 2022-23, de-weeding & dredging to be conducted along with shore line in 1.5 sq. km. area during 2022-23 and Dredging of acquired land near western side of the lake for 60,000 sq mt in 2022-23 which is to be converted into water bodies has been announced.

Elevated Light Metro Rail system in Jammu and Srinagar

To decongest both the capital cities and to provide the modern transport facilities to the people of J&K, the Jammu and Kashmir government has submitted a final Detailed Project Reports (DPR) of Rs. 10,599 crores for the metro rail projects in Jammu and Srinagar to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

The project is expected to be rolled out in 2022-23 and is likely to be completed in 2026. This will reduce the traffic congestion in Srinagar & Jammu cities.

Transformational Budget: A revolution for H&UD Sector in J&K

In order to deal with the influx of people towards the cities, the Jammu and Kashmir government and central government are working shoulder to shoulder to cater the demands of local urban populace.

The government is giving high priority to building sustainable and smart cities that are resilient to meet the challenges posed by rapid urbanization.

Keeping in view these things, the central government has allocated significant amount of funds to Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) which will revolutionise this sector in coming years.

AMRUT-1.0 & AMRUT-2.0

The purpose of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) is to provide basic services (e.g. water supply, sewerage, urban transport) to households and build amenities in cities which will improve the quality of life for all, especially the poor and the disadvantaged is a national priority.

During the current financial year, 76 projects are likely to be completed and the remaining projects are to be completed during 2022-23 viz. Construction of Multi level car parking facility at Panjtarhi Jammu, Construction of 05 Nallahs of Tawi River Phase-II, Green Space at Roop Nagar, and so on.

City Water Action Plan is to be implemented for all ULBs for providing 100 per cent secure water tap connections to each household left out in urban areas. Besides, all water bodies in urban areas to be rejuvenated in the phased manner.

The components of the AMRUT consist of capacity building, reform implementation, water supply, sewerage and septage management, storm water drainage, urban transport and development of green spaces and parks.

Swachh Bharat Mission:

The Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) (SBM-U) had three major objectives; achieving 100 per cent Open Defecation Free (ODF) ensuring 100 per cent scientific Solid Waste Management (SWM), and behavior change through 'Jan Andolan'.

16 Urban Local Bodies (ULB) have achieved ODF+ status, 25 ULBs to accomplish ODF+ status by the end of current financial year and the remaining ULBs to achieve ODF+ status in 2022-23.

With the roll out of Solid Waste Management, nearly 70 per cent source segregation is likely to be achieved by 2022-23.

All the uncovered areas of Srinagar, Jammu & Anantnag to be covered with Sewerage/Septage treatment facilities in phased manner during 2022-23 under SBM (U)-2.0.

A target of scientific disposal of about 850 Metric Ton of waste per day is to be achieved by establishment of Solid Waste Management Plant at Srinagar and Jammu cities benefitting nearly 20 Lakh people.

This will also result in elimination of vulnerable garbage points in both the cities besides generation of energy and production of Compost/Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF).

Establishment of decentralized processing facilities in 76 ULBs to be completed during financial year 2022-23 and 690 Metric Ton of waste generated in ULBs to be scientifically treated benefitting nearly 14 lakh population.

Smart City Mission

Smart Cities Mission is an urban renewal and retrofitting programme launched by the Government of India to develop smart cities and make them citizen friendly and sustainable.

With an increase on urban population and rapid expansion of areas, government is looking at smarter ways to manage complexities, increase efficiencies and improve quality of life.

This has created a need for cities that monitor and integrate infrastructure to better optimise resources and maximise services to citizens.

Under Smart City Mission, 95 projects are likely to be completed by the end of current financial year and 80 more projects to be completed in 2022-23 improving the quality of life of the people by way of providing Wifi facilities, Smart health centres, installation of river vending machines, smart class rooms, TV charging stations, development of cycle tracks & hawkers zone, development of parking and space under flyovers, etc. 9 major sewerage schemes at an estimated cost of Rs 1131.07 crore will be executed during 2022-23 benefitting the population of 620565 people.

Also, 2.15 lakh LED lights in 76