

MATURE APPROACH

It is good luck of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory that an insightful person is heading the government making it amply clear that the region is in safe hands. The astuteness of the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha can be well gauged by the fact that he is not showing any inclination towards buying peace in the Valley rather he is going for the lasting solution of the problem by way of establishing peace under normal course with none given preference as the case during the successive governments in the past. This is really a mature approach and will bail out J&K from the miseries of over three decades long turmoil created by the forces dancing on the tunes of their Pakistani mentors sitting across the borders. It is a fact that the security forces have gained the upper hand in countering terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and are working to destroy the terror ecosystem in the Union Territory. It is good that the government is trying hard to destroy ecosystem of terrorism from its roots and break the backbone of terrorists. No doubt that the terrorists are attacking soft targets out of frustration, but good care is being taken to either catch or kill those involved in such selective killings as recently security forces eliminated many terrorists after getting information about their role in the targeted killings which shocked the entire valley in the recent times. It is the first time that the head of state has steadfastly admitted that entities used to buy peace for Kashmir. This has exposed the deviousness of the previous regimes and their questionable character. Already the strict and sturdy governance model in J&K has brought in many changes and if the government under LG Sinha will accomplish its objective of instilling hope for peace, there will be no looking back and sooner than later things will become normal again with no fear of guns and goons. Most of the work has been completed in Kashmir as it is just the frustrated lot which is creating some problems but the people should feel assured that the terrorism is on the last leg in the Valley and soon the good old days will return here and it will again be called as paradise on earth.

FOIL PAK DESIGNS

Despite the rejuvenated truce pact between India and Pakistan which was reportedly the result of back channel diplomacy by NSA Ajit Doval, the Pakistan is indulging in exporting terror although guns are silent along LoC and the International Border since February last year. The people living near LOC on both sides of the LoC are quite contented these days as the uncertainty which usually looms large in these areas is presently not perturbing anybody as borders are peaceful but the rogue nation is not mending its ways because it is continuously indulging in acts which are detrimental to India. There is dire need for the country to remain on tenterhooks all the time because there are umpteen ways by which the Pakistan wants to defend the interests on this side of the border. Smuggling of arms and ammunition is a big challenge for India because conventionally all the arms and ammunition used by the terrorists in Valley comes from Pakistan through various means as it is difficult to plug in all gaps to stop Pakistan from smuggling arms and ammunition, narcotics and even counterfeit currency which can harm India in many ways including killings which is the major issue which the country is confronting right now. Reportedly, at least 10 pistols and five grenades, tipped to be ferried into the Kashmir valley, were seized in the frontier pocket of Karna, close to the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir's Kupwara. A number of such attempts were foiled by the security forces in both divisions of Jammu and Kashmir. Every type of weapon, like AK, pistols and grenades are being sent from across the border which is a matter of grave concern and should be handled with great care as it is posing a big risk to the common man in J&K. Every now and then, J&K is facing terror attacks just because of continuous inflow of arms and ammunition from Pakistan and therefore the government should tighten noose around those involved in such cases and teach them a lesson of life so that they don't dare to repeat the illegal actions again.

Fasting and Character-Building

Fasting (sawm) is one of the five pillars of Islam. Right from dawn till dusk, a man who is strictly on a fast will neither eat as much as one morsel of food nor drink a single drop of water. By submitting to this discipline, that is, by depriving himself of the prime necessities of life, man learns the valuable lesson of fortitude. With no food and drink, he naturally feels hungry and thirsty, and his strength begins to ebb. The entire routine of his life is severely disturbed and his whole system is upset. But, out of a high sense of discipline, he braves all the difficulties and discomfort, and remaining alert and never losing heart, he steadfastly discharges his duties.

Food and drink may be temptingly placed before him, but, despite an overwhelming urge to have both, he will not even touch them. In this way, he prepares himself for a well-regulated and responsible life, doing only what is his duty and refraining from pernicious acts and habits. Having strengthened his character he continues with his mission in life, no matter how much he may be beset by adversity.

God has endowed man with innumerable gifts, but all too often, he takes them for granted without any feelings of gratitude. Countless benefits like the air, the sun, the water, have been showered upon man, the absence of any one of which would cast his delicately balanced system into a living hell. But because he has received these things without any effort on his part, he sets no great value upon them, and

Maulana Wahiduddin Khan

A great man is different from an eminent one in that he is ready to be the servant of the society.

-B. R. Ambedkar

EDITORIAL

Transforming J&K

New Land Laws foster industrialization, revamp agriculture sector in J&K

The new land laws introduced in Jammu and Kashmir replaced 11 Land Laws that existed in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, which reflected old regressive, intrinsically contradictory and outdated laws, with a set of modern, progressive and people friendly provisions.

The new land laws will not only afford protection to over 90% of the land in J&K from being alienated to outsiders but will also help revamp the agriculture sector, foster rapid industrialization, aid economic growth and create jobs in J&K.

The J&K Government, which is constantly working towards creating a modern, efficient, transparent and citizen friendly UT, has ensured protections and safeguards for the land after introduction of new land laws.

The new land laws are being hailed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir as a major step towards development and progress of J&K. The historic initiative of the government will revamp agriculture and allied sectors besides ensuring holistic development of all sectors.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, through an order on October 26, introduced amendments to 14 laws of the erstwhile state of Jammu

and Kashmir and repealed 12 others. Key amendments were made to four major state laws that governed the ownership, sale, and purchase of land in the erstwhile state. These are The J&K Development Act, 1970, The J&K Land Revenue Act, 1996, The Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976 and The J&K Land Grants Act, 1960.

The designation of land for industrial purposes will open up greater employment avenues for the youth who have always yearned for industrial revolution in J&K so that they can get better employment opportunities.

According to the new land law, agricultural land can only be sold to an agriculturist and he has been defined as a person who cultivates land personally in the UT. The term 'agriculture land' unambiguously is defined to include not just agriculture but horticulture and allied agro-activities as well. The most extensive definition includes not just horticulture but poultry, Animal Husbandry, fallow land etc also.

While progressive provisions of the repealed laws have been retained by including them in the modified Land Revenue Act, new provisions have been added to modernize existing

laws. There are provisions for setting up of a Board of Revenue, Regional planning for regulating the use of land, alienation and conversion, land lease, consolidation and Contract Farming. The Board of Revenue comprising senior officers will not only be the Developing Authority for preparing regional plans but can notify a scheme of consolidation of landholdings and also a scheme for restricting and regulating the fragmentation of agricultural landholdings to make agriculture viable.

Last year in October, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said that "not an inch of agricultural land" in Jammu and Kashmir has been given to anyone from outside the UT while addressing gathering after launching the Apple festival 2021 at SKICC.

He assured the farmers that "no agricultural land has been given to any one from outside and to protect the land of Jammu and Kashmir is responsibility of the government of Jammu and Kashmir".

One must speak with responsibility and it is a fact that not even an inch of land belonging to any farmer has been given to anyone from outside Jammu and Kashmir and even law states that agricultural land has to be protected. With due respect to this law, it is the

responsibility of the Jammu and Kashmir government to safeguard the agricultural lands", LG maintained.

As a major initiative towards good governance and ease of convenience to the citizens, the Revenue Department started issuance of trilingual Land Passbooks in Hindi, Urdu and English to the landholders with effect from 19th of February 2022 from the districts of Jammu and Srinagar.

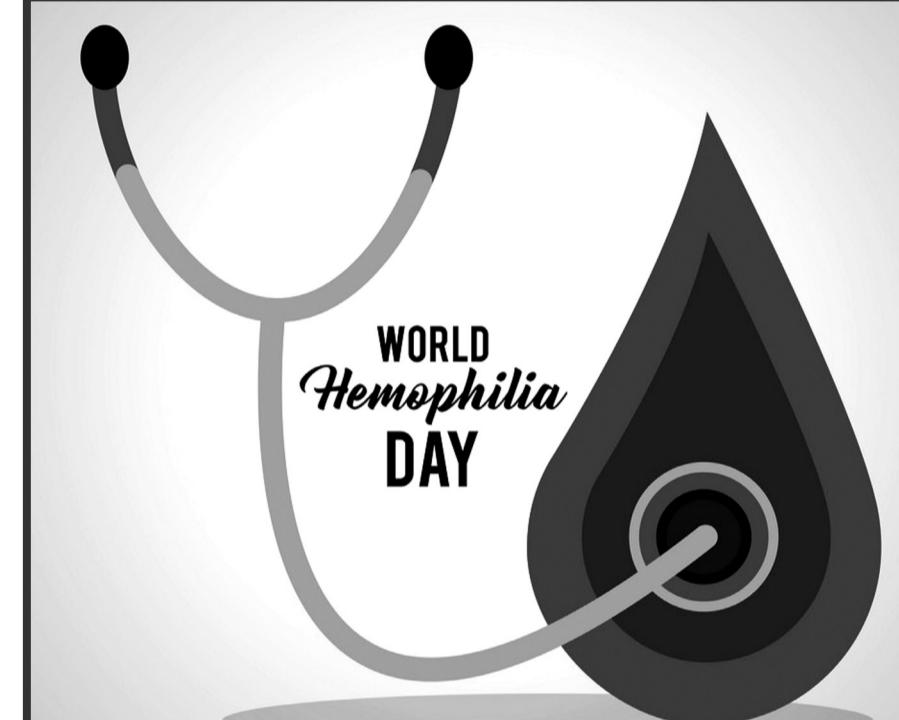
The land passbooks being issued to every landholder contain sentry from the Jamabandi in revenue estate so as to enable him to make its use for credit facilities and for other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The land passbook prescribed by the Revenue Department is true to the record and can be generated online by landholders without visiting a Patwari or Tehsildar or any Revenue office.

With scanning and digitization of land records, already under implementation for convenience of citizens as part of good governance initiative of the Government, the department in tune with the statute laid has also framed the Jammu and Kashmir Land Passbook Rules-2022 for online issuance of Land Passbook.

World Haemophilia Day

■ DR VIKAS SHARMA & PROLOY SANKAR

Blood, the elixir of life, is very much needed to support the human system, but unfortunately some human system can't retain the elixir because of a deadly disease, 'Haemophilia'. The need of the hour is to aware every citizen of the meaning of the disease and to support the victims. In order to honour the victims nomenclature 'Haemophiliacs' every year April 17 is celebrated as World Haemophilia Day. The purpose is to raise awareness and pave way for a better world. It is celebrated every year to raise awareness and to create opportunities all over the world for the individuals who suffer from bleeding problems. In view of raising awareness, first we need to understand what is haemophilia? It is rare genetic disease passed down from families, 1 in 10,000. It is a clotting disorder, even a little injury results in significant bleeding. It is a fatal disease as due to no apparent cause, internal bleeding harms the body organs and tissues. The current treatment options focus mainly on controlling the symptoms rather than treating. In order to raise awareness among the population, awareness of symptoms is crucial that include inflammation of the joints, especially elbows, knees, muscular bleeding involving tissues, gum bleeding, post circumcision bleeding and faecal bleeding, to name a few. In view of helping our distinguished subjects, treatment comprises of blood clotting replacement which can be accomplished by injecting industrially processed factor concentrations. This being a small step can help the victims to halt bleeding episodes and perhaps even avoid major bleeding episodes by completing the injection regime. The best way is to get excellent treatment from well versed physicians. The perfect idea of the therapy is to be in support of a



thorough Haemophilia Treatment Facility as it educates the patients on how to be healthy in the long run. The optimum care of the haemophilia patient is multidisciplinary, comprehensive effort which should bring together the patient, his family, the haematologist, orthopedic surgeon, gastroenterologist, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, dentist, social worker, hospital administrators and support groups.

While the holy grail of haemophilia treatment is to correct the genetic effect through gene therapy, this approach remains unreal-

ized potential. There are huge numbers of challenges in the management of haemophilia. One of the major solutions to all the challenges that a haemophiliac patient faces, is the creation of active patient's organization. Moreover, the government and various management bodies also act as a sounding board for adopting advanced treatment options and for mobilizing funds to improve the physical, social and economic well being of haemophilia affected victims. The management of the disease encompasses significant challenges which can be summarized as:

- Scarcity of healthcare infrastructure
- Lack of human resources suitable for patient care
- Competing healthcare priorities of government
- Minimal awareness across the medical profession
- Non availability of factor concentrates
- Challenges due to inhibitor developing

The solutions are not easy but development of a consortium in association with the patients can be an initial step which can change the scenario. As we mark World Haemophilia Day this year, it is apt for us to reflect upon the issues that we face collectively as patients, their families and clinicians, in striving to make living with haemophilia as normal as possible. The sole purpose of this day is to get together with our loved ones. This year in view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, is all about remaining at home and connecting with our beloved haemophiliacs via internet or media. The theme of this auspicious day can be summarized as:

- Individuals with haemophilia should be provided adequate medical help
- Should get a platform to share their stories and motivate other subjects
- Online and offline media should be provided so that they can express themselves
- Aware the world about the dignified day 'World Haemophilia Day' by distributing flyers and in online media.

Last but not the least a single message for our fighters as:

Please keep in mind, on this World Haemophilia Day, that you're not fighting this battle individually. Solicit assistance and provide a shoulder to rely on.

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

YOUR COLUMN

Open letter to Prime Minister of India

W e the Sikhs of Jammu and Kashmir under the banner of Sikh Progressive Front appreciate & feel obliged especially for opening of Kartarpur Corridor, Scrapping black list of 312 Sikh youths languishing abroad for several years and lifting of GST on Langar, worldwide celebration of 550th Birth Anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji, sporting bthe farmers by taking back the three farmer laws and recent decision regarding of celebration of 400th Birth Anniversary Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib at Lal Qila by your good self. This all has become possible only after your personal intervention.

Your magnanimous self have really touched the hearts of millions of Sikhs living in India and abroad as well when you visited Gurudwara Rakab Ganj to pay obeisance on a special occasion of "Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib's Shaheedi" "Divas".

We feel that all Hindus have an obligation to remember Guru Teg Bahadur for his sacrifice to check the conversion of Hindus by Aurangzeb.

Aurangzeb signed his death warrant as Sikhs started a struggle to fight Mughals & thrown them out. The history is testimony to it.

Sensing a ray of hope we the Sikhs of JKUT would like to draw your kind attention towards a few most genuine and legitimate demands which have already been put forth by number of Sikh delegations to LG Manoj Sinha but the same are lying pending in Raj Bhawan for the last two years.

Your kind attention is invited to your remarks on Sikhs in your recently published book "Modi & His Govt's Special relations with Sikhs". Besides this, few days ago your Good self while speaking on the book "Modi & His Govt's Special relations with Sikhs" said that our Govt has also worked to protect the rights of the Sikhs of JK UT. We very submit that it contradicts with the ground realities and status of Sikhs of JK UT. Chronologically stating a few genuine and legitimate demands & some of the glaring examples of highest degree of discrimination with the Sikhs in JK UT are as: In 2009 a Special Employment Package was announced for the Kashmiri Migrant by the then Prime Minister and J&K Government Revenue Department made rules for implementing the employment Package vide SRO 412 dated 30.12.2009, <http://jkmgmigrantrelief.nic.in/orders/SRO412.PDF>, the agony of the Sikh youths of Kashmir (Non Migrant) started in the year 2017 when BJP-PDP Govt with the intention to debar the educated youths of Sikh Community from the package of Special drive for Non Migrant Kashmiri, amended the J&K Migrant (Special Drive) Recruitment Rules 2009 <https://rgp.jk.gov.in/pdf/SRO/SRO's%202017/SRO-425.pdf>, and thereby added a clause stating that Non Migrant

Kashmiri means "Kashmiri Pandit".

There is no doubt that Kashmiri Pandits deserved all the benefits given to them by the Central as well as by the UT administration from time to time due to their miseries and sufferings due to exodus from Valley, but it is unfortunate that Sikhs who didn't migrate even during the peak period of militancy & in spite of large number of killings of their community members, like 36 persons who were massacred in Chithisingpora, only to kept the Nation's flag High, were excluded from all such benefits.

Ever since the setting up of PSC in J&K a member from the Sikh community was always taken as a member but unfortunately this dispensation has not included any Sikh member in the newly constituted Public Service Commission for the reason best known to the administration. It is worthwhile to bring to your kind notice that service selection board doesn't have any representation of the Sikh Community and thus Sikhs have been deprived of its legitimate right of its representations in various recruiting agencies in addition about a dozen of Universities in the UT there is no representation at the level of management viz Vice Chancellor, Director, Dean from the Sikh Community. Number of Medical Colleges, Engineering Colleges, IIM, IIT also do not have any representation of the community at the management level. The Commissions authorities constituted at the State level also lack Sikh representation. No Sikh has been made advisor to Lt Governor of JK UT so that we could go and narrate our woes to him. We don't have any Sikh Judge in the J&K High Court. It's totally unfair & smells communalism in governments attitude towards the microscopic Sikh Community of Kashmir.

Recently JK UT official Language Bill was passed in the Parliament but unfortunately Punjabi was not included in the said bill despite the fact that not only Sikhs but large number of non Sikh population of JK also speaks Punjabi. Sir this Language is taught in schools since 1947 & in Universities up to Phd. Level. This State has remained under Sikh Rule of Maharaja Ranjit Singh for about 46 years which promoted Punjabi culture/language. Even during Dogra Raj it occupied a centre stage in the cultural and literary arena of the State and remained mother tongue of the majority. In 2000 Made the second official language in Delhi, the National Capital of India, when President Abdul Kalaam Azad gave his assent to Delhi Official Language Bill 2000 on the pursual of L K Advani Deputy Prime Minister. Similarly Punjabi made 2nd official Language of Haryana by BJP-JJP Govt and Kanwar Pal Singh Education Minister Haryana declared that all milestones and signboards in Haryana will now be bearing the information in English, Hindi and Punjabi. This speaks of discrimination towards the Sikh Community of JK UT.

Recently again a notification was issued by All India Council for Technical Education (A Statutory Body of Govt Of India) Ministry of Human Resource and Development, dated 06.10.2020, <https://aicte-india.org/sites/default/files/circulars>

km.pdf, for giving special concession to the wards of Kashmiri Migrants and Kashmiri Pandit / Kashmiri Hindu Families (Non Migrant) living in Kashmir valley for admission in Higher Educational Institutions throughout the Country. Thus once again the youths belonging to microscopic Sikh community of Kashmir (non migrant) have been excluded which again shows discrimination time and again.

The latest and glaring example of the discriminatory attitude of the govt is quite evident from the Circular issued by Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K vide No. 03 of 2020 Dated 05.12.2020 as per which 1997 Divisional and District cadre posts in various departments under PM Package for Migrant Kashmiri and Non Migrant Kashmiri Pandits have been advertised but not for the Non Migrant Sikh youth, those who stayed back in the valley despite large scale killings of their community members. https://www.ssbjk.org/assets/pdfs/12_2_2020.pdf.

Another glaring example of neglect is apparent when the community was deprived of their long pending demand for naming the Kunjwani Chowk on the Name of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, son of the soil and the great warrior, and erecting his Statue there at Kunjwani Chowk despite the fact that resolution was passed by full house of Jammu Municipal Corporation for the erection of the statue.

National Minority Commission Act : Despite the formation of JKUT the National Commission for Minorities has not been implemented in JKUT and peoples of Minority Community are being deprived of its benefits.

Anand Marriage Act: though the Anand Marriage Act has already been passed by the Parliament of India on 7th June 2012 but surprisingly this too has not been implemented in JKUT.

Disparity in award of Compensation to the Anti Sikh riot Victims of 1989 in Jammu : On our representation to the then Home Minister Raj Nath Singh on 13th January 2019, The MHA conveyed the same to the State Govt vide No. 16030/4/2019-KV (Department of J&K Affairs) dated 06.05.2019, for taking appropriate action and action taken report may also be sent at the earliest to this Ministry.

The file moved at a snail's pace and after the lapse of three years finally reached (General Administration Department) GAD fifteen days ago, and the same is to be sent to the LG and Chief Secretary for taking final decision on the matter.

We the members of the micro minority feel aggrieved and neglected by the present dispensation of the govt for not giving due share to the Community which has always stood for the unity and integrity of the country.

Sikh Progressive Front therefore hope that your visit of JKUT shall definitely prove your remarks mentioned in your speech during release of a book. Namely "Modi & His Govt's Special relations with Sikhs".

Balvinder Singh
President, Sikh Progressive Front