

## CENTRE AGAINST CORRUPTION

There is no doubt in the fact that the Central Government is after the corrupt people and it will root out corruption from the country as soon as possible. The sensational disclosure by the former Governor of J&K and incumbent Governor of Meghalaya Satya Pal Malik about deep rooted corruption in J&K was the talk of the town as the veteran politician has pinpointed the persons while accusing them of trying to bribe him. As mentioned earlier, the government is keen to act against the corrupt irrespective of their position, stature or backings. Making up its mind to unravel the truth and to check the veracity of Satya Pal Malik's accusations, the government has handed over the case to the CBI and the probe agency has registered two FIRs in this regard. The first one is related to corruption in Jammu and Kashmir Employees Health Care Scheme and the second one in context with the award of contract for civil work of Kiru Hydropower project. The CBI is already on toes to unveil the truth and put the guilty behind bars as following the registration of the FIRs, it has began conducting searches at the premises of the accused at various locations in Jammu, Srinagar, Delhi, Mumbai, Noida, Thiruvananthapuram and Darbhanga. It is pertinent to mention that the CBI has filed the cases on alleged corruption in award of contract of Jammu and Kashmir Employees Health Care Insurance Scheme to Reliance General Insurance Company and release of approximately Rs 60 crore in 2017-18, and graft in the award of the contract worth Rs 2,200 crore of civil works of Kiru Hydro Electric Power Project (HEP) to a private firm in 2019. In a sensational claim, Malik had claimed that he was offered Rs 300 crore bribe for clearing two files related to aforesaid projects. Now, the Centre is doing its best to find out the corrupt in the aforesaid cases and teach them the lesson of life. It is now a matter of time that the truth will be out and those involved in the corruption will have to face the law of the land.

## DWINDLING ROADS' INFRA

Contrary to what was expected from the UT Administration, the condition of roads in the City of Temples has turned abysmal. Though people sitting at helm decry the successive governments for mismanaging things during their tenures but as far as roads of Jammu City are concerned the situation is more disappointing than earlier times as previous dispensations used to relay the entire stretches of roads in Jammu City on yearly basis but now the incumbents only give nod for patch work and that too is of poor quality. Take the case of the road starting from Bikram Chowk towards Jammu University, a few days ago the Divisional Commissioner Jammu in a meeting had raised the issue and even took action against one senior official for the dismal condition of this road stretch. What is startling that despite all this, the road is still in shambles though a halfhearted work has been accomplished which merely is for namesake as people are bound to face jumps and experience bumpy ride due to execution of poor quality repair work. Same is the case of road below flyover near KC theater, and several other roads which during earlier days were given due preference and bitumen was re-laid every season on the arrival of Darbar in winters but with the end of this practice there is no one to look after the City roads as Main Road Gandhi Nagar is also not in good shape though patch work has been accomplished. The condition of roads in Transport Nagar and some other areas in city outskirts is also pathetic and it seems that the concerned officials are in deep slumber and in no mood to do something concrete in this regard. As far as Akhnoor road side is concerned the government has an excuse of four-laning work despite the fact that the roads in Shakti Nagar area and other parallel colonies are in poor shape with commuters facing troubles whenever they have to pass through these roads. The way the administration is repairing the main Tawi bridge one can guess well about the expertise the UT administration has to accomplish things. It is more than two months now but the concerned agency is doing work at snail's pace and if the pace of work will not be increased it will take another two months to complete the work which is acting as a bottleneck and is the main reason behind frequent traffic jams on Tawi bridge.

## OFF 'D' CUFF

### Who is Shree Narayan ?

or else the student will not be able to complete the studies, the player will not be able to play in the playground, the businessman will not be able to do successful business, the housewife will not be able to run the house in an efficient manner. Lord Krishna says that the mind is stronger than the senses in the body. The intellect is stronger than the mind, if a person is determined to do something with the intellect and keeps practicing it, then it becomes easy to operate the mind.

According to Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, by practice and detachment, the mind comes under control. In order to achieve your goal, if you have disinterest in worldly things and attachment to the goal, then success will surely come. By the way, there is another thing that the soul is stronger than the intellect. As long as the body has the power of experience, knowledge and mind, till then happiness and sorrow are experienced. This mind-power or sense-power is called soul. As long as it is in the body, this person will be called a person in the eyes of everyone and when it is not there then everyone will call it dead body. Fire is experienced by looking at smoke, similarly the cause is experienced by action. Although we cannot see the soul, but its existence has to be accepted and because of the soul is the Supreme Soul.

Sri B V Vishnu Maharej

Life is like a game of cards. The hand you are dealt is determinism; the way you play it is free will.

-Jawaharlal Nehru

## EDITORIAL

# Contribute to save Mother Earth

■ DR VIKAS SHARMA & PROLOY SANKAR

Every responsible citizen can contribute in a small and humble way to save the burning planet. Let us take a pledge this year on the auspicious eve of the World Earth Day, to volunteer to pick up trash at a nearby park, start a collection drive for recyclable items or organize a screening of an environmentally themed movie. By getting involved and working with others, we are not just helping the earth. We are making new friends too. Let us commemorate this year's theme of the Earth Day by becoming a waste warrior, by planting a tree, by turning off street lights in day time and by limiting the water usage.

The Earth is a Fine Place and worth fighting for. Our planet is an amazing place, but it needs our help to thrive, that's why each year more than a billion people celebrate Earth Day to protect the planet from things like pollution and deforestation. By taking part in activities like picking up litter and planting trees, we are making our world a happier, healthier place to live. The Earth Day is an annual event celebrated on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by earth day.org (formerly Earth Day Network) including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries. The history of the day dates back to 1969, when, at a UNESCO Conference in San

Francisco, peace activist John McConnell proposed a day to honor the Earth and the concept of peace, to be observed on March 21, 1970, the first day of spring in the northern hemisphere. A month later, United States Senator Gaylord Nelson proposed the idea to hold a nationwide environmental teach-in on April 22, 1970. He hired a young activist, Denis Hayes, to be the National Coordinator. Nelson and Hayes renamed the event 'Earth Day'. McConnell originally had chosen the spring equinox (March 20, 1970), but Nelson chose April 22, which ended up becoming the official celebration date. Nelson was later awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom award in recognition of his work. Today, not only Earth Day is meant to increase awareness of environmental problems, but it is also becoming a popular time for many communities to gather together to clean up litter, plant trees, or simply reflect on the beauty of nature. In 1990, Earth Day became a global event, mobilizing 200 million people to encourage environmental protection and get more serious about recycling.

According to the Earth Day Network, 1 billion people participate in Earth Day festivities each year in 192 countries. The impact of the very first Earth Day was huge. It led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, which still exists today and under its umbrella various environmental laws have been

passed like the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act etc. Now, Earth Day is all about educating people about conservation, protesting against climate change and global warming and encouraging volunteering for the good of the planet. Every year people across the globe join together in order to raise awareness to acknowledge the global climate crisis which is alarming right now. This day is also known as International Mother Earth Day, this special day focuses on growing concerns of over population, loss of biodiversity and depleting quality of the environment. This day is an opportunity to bring millions to connect and discuss problems like pollution, deforestation and more. People on this day participate in various discussions on topics such as climate and environmental literacy and schools and colleges conduct tree planting drives. As per the Earth Day Organization, the theme for Earth Day 2022 is "Invest in Our Planet". The key point here is to act in a bold way, innovate in a broad way and implement in an equitable manner. Every responsible citizen can offer a lot to invest in the planet, The Mother Earth to save the planet. Here are some ideas in a nutshell that can be materialized to commemorate this year's theme of the Earth Day.

Become a waste warrior: The number of garbage trucks, the growing world population, and fill each year would stretch halfway to the moon. Toilet paper tubes,

made from cardboard take two months to decompose in a landfill. Moreover plastic bottles can take 450 years to break down. Before we throw something in bins we should conceptualize, whether it can be recycled or repurposed. We can also limit waste by reducing the amount of things we buy.

Plant a tree: Researchers estimate roughly 15 billion trees in the world are cut down each year, so offset that loss planting a tree of our own. Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen for people to breath. Moreover they provide shade and can minimize the use of air conditioning.

Turn off the lights in day time: Electricity doesn't just happen. It has to be produced from things around us. A lot of times it comes from fossil fuel which is the sole culprit for climate change. But, using various renewable sources of energy can foster our energy needs and at the same time sustain the climate and environment. No matter whatever is the source we should try to conserve electrical energy by judicious use of what we need.

Limit water usage: It might seem like it's everywhere, but clean, drinkable water is a limited resource. In fact less than one percent of the water on the earth can be used by humans. By turning off water during brushing we can conserve up to eight gallons of water a day.

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

## Reconciliation & rapprochement needed

■ OKMAR DATTATRAY

Much water has flown down in Jhelum and Tawi since the unfortunate exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in 1989-90. Thirty two years is a long period in the life of people and generations of Kashmiri Pandits bear the sufferings and brunt of the exodus. The Kashmiri Pandits yearn for their return to place of birth and all sincere efforts should be made at the governmental level and at the level of the people of Kashmiri Hindu and Kashmiri Muslim communities after all it is these people who have to live like brothers and sisters. The bitterness of the past should be shunned and due importance should be given to the rapprochement and reconciliation and for this people belonging to Muslim and Hindu communities should forget the bitterness of the past and woven the strained relations a fresh. Since the same blood runs in the veins of the people of both communities and as such it will not take still many years to reconcile and rapprochement with each other. Both the communities should take the initiative for bridging differences between them and find new ways to build the already strained relations so that the communities will come close and bury the past and start a fresh so that those who were forced to leave Kashmir will once again return to the place of their birth. The responsibility for building and bonding the relations between the two communities lies primarily on the shoulders of the Muslim community which should initiate the process of reconciliation and rapprochement so that cordial relations are once again developed and the secular and plural ethos of Kashmir will flourish again in which both Hindus and Muslims will feel safe and secure. Since Kashmiri Pandits is a minuscule and microscopic minority and so it is the moral and religious duty of the Muslim community as a big brother to make atmosphere peaceful so that the Pandits will be find Kashmir worth living. For the flourishing of Kashmiriyat and Sufi culture of Kashmir, it is necessary that Kashmiri Pandits should be invited to come back and settle in Kashmir. Thus for flourishing of the Kashmiriyat, Hindu-Muslim unity and brotherhood are most needed and the bonds of the communal harmony should be cemented and the responsibility for this basically lies on the shoulders of the majority Muslim community. So the time has come that the Muslim community of Kashmir should embrace the Pandits with open arms and without any preconditions. The Kashmiri Pandits have suffered unimaginable sufferings at the hands of the Islamist terrorists as hundreds of the innocent Kashmiri Pandits have been killed with sadistic pleasure by the gun wielding terrorists at the behest of Pakistan and the rest of them have been forced to fled valley and take refuge in outside Kashmir in hot and humid climate to which they were not acclimatized. The Kashmiri Pandits have suffered everything which for the sake of reconciliation and rapprochement. The

Kashmiri Pandits should also forgive and forget the past pains and sufferings of the displacement and trust the Muslim community so that the return and rehabilitation is possible in near future. But for this the first brick should be laid by the Muslim community so that the bonds of friendship and mutual relations will be cemented which will make possible the return and rehabilitation of the exiled Kashmiri Pandits. Nothing should be done which will further widen the gap between the two communities and therefore a sincere start should be made in the direction of reconciliation and home coming. Since there are no houses belonging to Kashmiri Pandits as they were either burnt or some were sold at throw away prices as distress sales and so the government should construct houses for the Kashmiri Pandits so that they can live in Kashmir. The Muslim community of Kashmir should stand up and call back Kashmiri Pandits so that the blot of damaging the Kashmiriyat will be washed away from their face otherwise the stain of damaging the Kashmiriyat will rite large on their face. Thus Muslims of Kashmir should take the initiative of calling back their Pandit brethren so that Kashmir once again will bloom as the land of sages. Therefore the Muslims should talk to Pandits and impress them so that they agree to coming back to Kashmir so that the communal harmony and mutual brotherhood for which Kashmir was once famous will again Brighten the face of Kashmir and it will become a symbol of communal harmony so that it will turn into the paradise on earth which it once was and stands damaged but not beyond repair. So there is still scope for the flourishing of the Ganga-Jamni Tehzeeb and both the Kashmiri Muslims and Kashmiri Hindus should make earnest efforts to forge the bonds of mutual trust and confidence so that the trust deficit which stands between the two communities and widens the gap will be removed in the interest of Hindu-Muslim unity and communal harmony. To conclude it can be said that the leaders of the two communities and the people as well will sink their differences and return of Kashmiri Pandits with honor and dignity and Kashmir will once again become a cradle inhabiting people from various faiths and religions. If earnest and sincere efforts are made by the leaders and general public of both the communities the day will not be far away when tolerance, secularism and above all the much valued Kashmiriyat will reign supreme. That day Lal Ded also called Lalishori and Sheikh Noor-ud Din also known as Nundrishi will be happy and will feel relieved in heavens. Therefore we have to make sincere efforts of calling back Kashmiri Pandits and embrace and welcome them with open arms and the prime responsibility for this lies on the shoulders of the Muslim brethren and they should call back Kashmiri Pandits and ensure their safety, security and welfare and in this lies the welfare of both the communities.

(The author is a Columnist and Social Activist).

Transforming J&K  
Govt promoting participatory governance, policy-making by building strong partnership with citizens

1,38,959 grievances received on JKIGRAMS, disposal rate increases to 97 pc

J&K Government is building a strong partnership between citizens and the government for the promotion of participatory governance and policy-making. J&K administration is trying its best to strengthen the democratic system at the grassroots level; encouraging public participation in the development process; implementing principles of Good Governance; providing inclusive qualitative education to all; creating more livelihood opportunities for the youth, besides making all the public services easily accessible to the people of J&K.

The Aawaaz Ki Awaaz initiative of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is a novel initiative in J&K to address the grievances and issues of citizens as well as seeking suggestions of people for public welfare. During the programme, LG also highlighted progressive steps taken by the administration. The LG's administration crafted a strategy to draft policies that are reflective of people's aspirations received on Aawaaz Ki Awaaz.

Whatever we are creating, we must lay a solid foundation for a society full of self-dignity, self-respect, and prosperity. Working in this direction, the UT Government, in the last 16 months, has tried to establish a new transparent, accountable, people-centric governance system. Efforts have been made through active programs towards the empowerment of the general public, said the Lt Governor. Jammu & Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor also launched Integrated Grievances Redressal and Monitoring System (JKIGRAMS) to create an interface with the public and focus on governance issues in the Union Territory. "It is a step towards gaining peoples' trust. JK-IGRAMS will be an effective grievance redressal mechanism, which is life and blood of any good governance system", Sinha said after the launch.

According to official figures, 1,38,959 grievances have been registered since September 2020 and have been fully integrated with the Government of India's CPIGRAMS. "The overall disposal rate is 97 per cent. The disposal rate of Grievances increased from 52 per cent to 97 per cent since the inception of the LGs Mulaqat program in October 2020. 11 Mulaqat programmes have been held so far in which 226 cases have been heard by the LG and 157 cases stand resolved while remaining are at advanced stages of resolution," an official said.

Notably, Jammu & Kashmir grievance system has been integrated with the Central Grievance Portal, thus making it the first Union Territory of India to have its district-level grievance offices integrated with the Central Government Portal of CPGRAMS (Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System). In a significant effort to strengthen the governance mechanisms in Jammu & Kashmir, the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in the Union Ministry of Personnel collaborated with the Union Territory Government of J&K to extend and establish Grievance Portal for online grievance redressal. Jammu & Kashmir- Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (JK-IGRAMS) has been integrated with the offices of the District level in the Union Territory and also with the Central Portal.

Jammu and Kashmir administration launched three phases of Back to Village (B2V) programme. The Phase-I of the B2V was an introductory and interactive programme to understand the people's grievances and demands, while Phase-II focused on the devolution of powers to panchayats and tried to understand how these panchayats are functioning and what are the grievances and demands. Phase-III has been designed on the format for grievance redressal. The three pillars of the B2V were the redressal of public grievances (Jan Sunvaiye), public service delivery (Adhikar Abhiyan) and the delivery of development at Gram Panchayat level (Unat Gram Abhiyan). More than 12000 senior officers were deployed in the Gram Panchayats. With this unique initiative of B2V, over 20,000 developmental works were identified directly by the people, 7000 identified works are already being executed, 19,645 loan cases have been disbursed with Rs 407 cr sanctioned for youth entrepreneurs. Block Diwas is being organized every Wednesday at Block and Sub-Divisional Headquarters to listen to the grievances of public on regular basis, official data reveals.

## YOUR COLUMN

### Role of Civil Society

Dear Editor,

Through the columns of your paper I like to sensitize the people about the role of civil societies towards development. When we speak of the government policies, with regard to their implementation and benefits to the common man in the society, there are always conflicting statements being made by those on the platform of the political party in government and those on the other side of the table. Thus the facts remain a mystery and factual position subsides. In this way if works are executed sub-standard and not according to norms, its benefit goes to the kitty of the executing agency and the sufferer is the beneficiary.

In this situation the role of civil societies comes into play as they are considered as watch dogs. But we find that we are 'critics' only and never take initiative and never come forward as a civil society group to act as 'Social Auditors' for those works which are meant for our benefits for an effective check on the executive action and to hold such agencies accountable to the society.

The civil society conveys the problems of people to the proper authority and by doing this the civil society ensures justice for common people. The civil society is, in this sense, the friend and guide of people. The support of a civil society as a whole increases the tolerance and understanding of people towards the rules of the government and the democratic power also supports the civil society to play the role of advisory for better implementation of laws.

Mahadeep Singh Jamwal,  
Udhampur.