

J&K MARCHING AHEAD

The proactive approach of LG Manoj Sinha in steering the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to new heights of progress is showing results and the days seems to be not far when J&K will become part of the pool of states which are front running as far as development is concerned. The LG Sinha takes pain in ensuring that what is drawn on papers should become reality on the ground. In this context, he often discusses ways for effective implementation of initiatives announced for J&K UT. The LG's ultimate aim is to sustain growth momentum and bring about synergy and convergence among various departments to ensure pace in the development process. This has been proved as the game changer for the UT of J&K as many languishing projects have become a reality after this approach adopted by the LG Sinha. The Lt Governor bats for action oriented plan to ensure fast economic development, strengthening institutions for rapid social change and provide succor to common man in whichever way it is possible. The LG strongly bats for the transformative changes in the lives of people without any discrimination and this quality of the head of the UT has instilled confidence among the masses that the UT is in safe hands and till the Centre will not decide for the polls, there will be no difficulty in conduct of affairs of the UT as LG's approach is excellent. He always suggested that UT and District plans must be a road-map of J&K's development, progress and prosperity; reflective of the needs and aspirations of the people of J&K. There is no doubt that the corruption under the incumbent government is at its lowest ebb with transparency, accountability and dedication becoming the new trend and norm in the functioning of government in the country. Under such ideal credentials, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is marching ahead and soon things will turn for a better change which will make people understand that what Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said about the future of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is becoming true with each passing day.

FAIR PROBE REQUIRED

It is really worrisome that despite tightened security by security forces across Union Territory and a stern vigil on the territories, the anti-national elements are still finding a way for their activities, of course with support of some insiders and other influential personalities. In a significant development, the J&K Police unearthed a major nexus regarding transaction of Hawala money in Jammu and arrested four persons for detailed investigations besides seizing an amount of Rs 6.9 Lakh cash from possession of an accused. The further surprising thing, which came to fore during the entire operation, was involvement of former minister Jatinder Singh alias Babu Singh of Kathua. It is worth mentioning here that Babu Singh was a former minister in PDP-Congress coalition Government during 2002-2008 and had been declared winner from Kathua Assembly constituency as an independent candidate in 2002. As per the Police officials, after getting reliable input from sources, Police intercepted a suspect in Gandhi Nagar area and recovered huge cash from his possession regarding which he had no justified explanation. On further questioning, he revealed name of his associates and former minister on whose directions he was carrying the money. Soon all the suspects were immediately arrested but the former minister went underground and search is on to trace him but till now, the Police have got no information regarding him. The involvement of a person, that too of a former minister, in transfer of Hawala money is really a serious thing for security agencies as well as the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. As the administration has always adopted a uniform approach while dealing with criminals without any type of favouritism, it is expected that in this case also, a fair probe will be ensured and all those found guilty in the crime will be booked as per the law of the land without considering their social or political background, as it will not only give a message to all those found involved in anti-social activities to shun their ways, but also infuse a sense of security and confidence among common people who have a great faith in the Government.



Fill your life
with colours of
goodness

combination of a good heart and strong intellect. It made him invincible.

Goodness is eulogized in all cultures because it yields success and happiness and enables spiritual growth. Not only did Prahlad become the king of demons after Hiranyakashyapu was killed, but the entire clan of demons stopped being evil.

When we entertain noble thoughts, we are joyous and when we have selfish thoughts, we experience stress. As we cultivate higher desires, lower, selfish desires drop and we evolve into purer individuals.

Holi is a mix of divine and demonic traits. It is important to invest in the good, court the divine, encourage and nurture finer qualities.

Holi reminds us that selflessness is not an option. We can use the gift of choice to sculpt a brilliant future for ourselves.

Thought is the building block of life. In the armoury of thoughts, we can fashion weapons of destruction or design our own excellence. We can create a powerful, positive environment in the mind, in which good tendencies flourish and evil propensities perish. This can be done through satsang, drawing inspiration from past luminaries who have forged ahead with goodness, and reading scriptures and imbibing their knowledge.

Jaya Row

Always do good to others. Be selfless. Mentally remove everything and be free. This is divine life. This is the direct way to Moksha or salvation.

-Swami Sivananda

EDITORIAL

War not only kills but also pulverizes dreams & hopes

■ M R LALU

Evil never stops. It has always gained a seat in human minds. Things are more perilous and irrecoverable for those who suffer the hostility of evil. War brings death and disaster, stealing smiles from faces and emotions wrinkled with paranoia. Yet war is greatly fought with pride and satisfaction. It gratifies the element of merciless arrogance that aggression is designed for. It attempts to invade on the weak, a rhetorically sadistic infringement. There is a numbness, emptiness and indignant silence around the shattered and pounded buildings in Ukraine where life once existed with full glow and solid recognition. No question will fit the mood of the moment. What does a war achieve? Violence became a creed and war exposes the filth of hatred that we store in the space that we created, flushing the flourishing dreams of the weak and the submissive. Diplomacy of superpowers remains a mere scarecrow as killing machines begin to spit fire on the ill-fated. Consistent flow of the displaced in search of new lands becomes normal. Afghanistan, Ukraine, Syria all become veritable examples of the results that human brutality can push the world into. The world is habituated to adjust with the suffering of some and the flourishing of someone else. Looking around, we can find indifference and cruelty and justification of what the predator does and intends. Endless pursuit of power always leads to devastating conflicts. Power should be captured by force and the retaliation makes it more aggressively punitive. The casualties and destruction successfully crush the prospects of generations. A fantasy of a ruler turned one side of the world into a ramshackle of hopes singing the chorus of catastrophe. But the emperor in Putin gets a shock every moment as he drives his devils into the broken land of Ukraine; the vehemence and power of Ukrainian resistance is beyond his expectation. One month from his first blow, the emperor gained little except the dead, the wounded, the displaced and the orphaned.

The world must breathe for the endless sea of women and children who flee their homeland to the alienation of countries where they seek asylum. Orphaned children, destined to stare at the anonymity of faces would need a helping hand genuinely stretching out. Imagine the reliability of support

they might be going through. Some are genuinely intended to help the refugees and some others try to exploit the terrible hardships those children are thrown into. Little girls being thrashed into the silence and darkness of the cruelty of cities in an unknown land and torn apart and left in the wilderness by mucky, manipulated and purely deceitful minds would speak of the frivolity of kindness that we usually lecture about. Even one such case of torture of a child, who as situations forced her to become a destitute, a refugee, in the space of an unknown land, trying to find recognition will stand out representing the horror that a war is capable of. They, the refugees, the homeless, the orphaned would find the world not so kind and compassionate with enough space to accommodate them in their free rental houses and temporary shelters without compromising to what the privileged world and its hypocritic surroundings demand. Agencies supporting refugees may not notice the chances of trafficking and child labor into which the homeless minds fall and disappear. War not only brings death to the armed soldiers but the disaster that it brings to the hapless remains unparalleled.

Nothing seems to work better than killing people. From the vigorously fought world wars to the Iran-Iraq war to so many in the line, wars shattered hopes and snatched progress of generations. Pushing millions of innocent lives into agony and horror, the thirst for more power and dominance of a handful of mad minds terrorize the rest. What else. This is not a natural existential crisis. This is violence, authorized to bring about geopolitical implications. Indifference of the highest order towards human sufferings. Being terribly humiliated by Putin, the west is desperate to have an upper hand on the show. Nobody is bothered about the annihilation that a nation suffers only for its quest to remain free. One month of consistent horror in Ukraine has ultimately forced the aggressor to take a desperate turn changing the goal post. Unable to force Kyiv to surrender, the Russians are now shifting focus to liberate the eastern Ukraine. This teaches us a lesson. War is not all about arms and ambush, it is also about the willingness to die. The Ukrainians are the real heroes fighting the war with inexorable valor. Putin's probable aspiration to rise in history for his being the emperor

or of a unified modern USSR, stitching the scattered broken regions together, seems to be fading. The reason is the Ukrainians have undoubtedly made up their mind to live with the Russian aggression and fight it until the last drop of their blood is shed. Who knows, maybe, the clutter of rubble and fallen hopes must be translating their despair into a visible reason to fight and win the battle for their tomorrows.

With his plan to invade Ukraine on one side and to weaken the unprincipled interventions of America which is conveniently forgetting its invasions and engineering of wars that got scribbled in world history with blood on the other, Putin is all set to stretch his nerves to the last tip. The idea, for him, behind the invasion is sound and predictably capable of bringing geopolitical catastrophe. The world would probably witness a change as the war comes to an end with respect to who gains an upper hand in a new world order that would emerge from the ruins and penury that the pandemic and the war have terribly crushed open. A high risk of the children crossing the Ukraine border to the neighboring countries, falling into the hands of evil minds and being trafficked for sexual exploitation, should make the kind minds across the globe to come together. Reports coming in from agencies reveal the shocking fact that one out of every five women and girls are experiencing sexual violence in the countries they took refuge. When protectors become predators, the meaning of humanitarian aid takes a deceptive form. Refugees across the globe are known to have had exploitations in multiple ways forcing them to swallow with no door to knock for safety. The consequence of a war subsequently prowl with its irretrievably penetrating callousness on multiple generations. It is necessary for the agencies that support the refugees to educate them with regard to the vulnerability into which they are inching steps. War, by all means have the potentiality to destroy the essence of one's nationality and it throws many generations of people from the invaded nation to the estrangement of the world where they take years to strengthen their limbs to stand and defend their rights because evil never stops and human minds encapsulate evil in its condensed form. It is a matter of time for it to grow into a monster.

Transformational Budget 2022-23: Key for providing better prospects of economic development to rural people

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is poised to become the latest success story among other States/ Union Territories and model of socio-economic development for the Country. To achieve this objective, the government has granted a significant allocation in the Budget 2022-23 for the Rural sector for the development of these areas and uplifting their status.

Rural Economy: Out of total population of Jammu and Kashmir, more than 70% live in rural areas. Development of rural areas is key to overall development of J&K. The Rural sector needs infrastructure to support and ensure significant investments and developmental aids. For Rural Sector, an allocation of about Rs 4,627.85 crore has been made under Capital Expenditure for the year 2022-23 which is Rs 327.40 crore more than the previous year's budget allocation. In the recently announced budget for J&K, under MGNREGA, 426 lakh person days are targeted to be generated during 2022-23. Also, 60,000 job cards are proposed to be issued based on demand and 1 lakh developmental works of different nature will be initiated and expected to be completed. Under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), 1,500 elected representatives will be provided exposure visit outside Union Territory of J&K. Capacity building and refresher training will be imparted to 1,12,000 participants (PRIs/Line Department Officers/Officials) in phased manner. More so, internet connectivity will be provided to all the gram Panchayats across Union Territory of J&K. 400 new and 300 existing Panchayat Ghars will be taken up for construction and renovation respectively. Under the new budget, 54,000 houses will be constructed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G) during 2022-23. Under Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G), 87,250 Individual Household Latrines (IHL) and 2,500 Community Sanitary Complexes (CSC) are targeted to be constructed during 2022-23. Under National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), 21,194 Self Help Groups (SHGs) are proposed

to be formed during 2022-23, 20,000 revolving fund and 18,000 Bank linkage are targeted to be covered. Under Himayat (Deen Dyal Upadhyaya-Gramin Kaushalya Yojana), the skill training to 14,067 youth and 9,847 job placements are proposed to be taken during 2022-23. Construction of residential/office accommodation for members of District Development Council/Block Development Council/Panchayati Raj Institutions (DDC/BDC/PRIs) has been initiated. A provision of Rs 176.32 crore has been kept for the same in the budget 2022-23. **Road Connectivity:** For Road and Bridge Sector, an allocation of about Rs 5,217.87 crore has been made under Capital Expenditure for the year 2022-23. Upgradation of 1750 Km road length is likely to be taken up after receiving sanction of PMGSY-III during 2022-23. 50 bridges will be completed under Central/Union Territory Sector schemes during 2022-23. Government of Jammu & Kashmir has rolled out 3rd party inspection mechanism in Public works (Roads & Bridges) Department. All ongoing works will be brought under the purview of 3rd party inspection mechanism from financial year 2022-23. Maintenance of existing Road Infrastructure will get focused attention during 2022-23 in terms of Road Maintenance Policy 2021 approved by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir. Overall 6,000 Kilometers of black-topping of roads is expected to be achieved during 2022-23 under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)/ Cities & Towns/Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF)/National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD)/ Pothohi free Roads. A good infrastructure and wide connectivity are the key factors for growth and development of the UT. Increased participation of people in the rural development process, decentralization of planning and greater access to credit and inputs holds the key in providing the rural people with better prospects for economic development.

Nightmare of global energy crisis

■ SHYAM SUDAN

There is a popular saying of Mahatma Gandhi that Earth is enough for everyone's need but not for everyone's greed. No doubt we have sufficient stock of various natural resources on this planet if we use it judiciously. There are a lot of indispensable natural resources on this earth which can help us for our survival for millions of years. But at present due to rapid growth of industrialization and increasing demand of energy in every nation has changed the scenario for us. Now almost every nation of the world is suffering from energy crisis due to one or the other reasons. Now we can say that energy crisis is a global problem for all. There are a lot of reasons responsible for this current turmoil. Due to population explosion our demands and dependency on such energy resources increasing day by day, many countries of the world at present is suffering from the shortage of oil and petroleum supply from the producing nations. As we know that there are few leading exporting countries of oil and petroleum in the world. Other nations of the world are totally dependent on these countries for their energy needs of oil and petroleum. At present as we know the entire world is suffering from the COVID pandemic. Due to this COVID pandemic the smooth supply of such products has already been affected extremely. Sidewise the recent conflicts between different nations have changed the environment adversely. Russia Ukraine conflict has put a very antagonistic effect on this global issue of energy supply. Because as we know Russia is one of the leading supplier of petroleum and natural gas products in the world. Many European and other Asian countries are largely dependent on Russia for their energy needs of petroleum and natural gas. Due to this war between Russia and Ukraine many NATO allies including America has put strong imposition on Russia. No doubt this is a political and diplomatic strategy to curb the aggressive nation to minimize the crisis. But if such imposition is on a strong and developed country then it creates troubles for others who are consumer nations. Now almost every nation of the world is facing the problem of price hike on different commodities. Especially the hike on petroleum prices is visible across the world. Due to this reason many countries are facing political and other internal challenges within the country. In our neighborhood, Pak is suffering from the same crisis. Even in Sri Lanka the government has declared an emergency due to mass agitation and aggression of general public. In our own country we are facing the problem of inflation and price hike on petroleum products.

Due to this global problem of energy needs every nation of the world is in gloom and fear, because as we know these products petroleum and natural gas are non renewable energy sources. There are limited stock of these resources

Transforming J&K
'Revolutionary' Apki Zameen
Apki Nigrani' initiative

-governance, having immense importance in today's world, raises the transparency, accountability, efficiency and inclusiveness in the governing process in terms of reliable access to all information by the citizens. Keeping pace with the innovation, Jammu and Kashmir government under the stewardship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, launched a historic initiative of extending hassle free online access to Land Records System to people which revolutionized the revenue world of the Union Territory.

The J&K people have appreciated this move of the administration as a citizen friendly measure which would definitely bring in added transparency and accountability in the land record system. Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, launched the Land Records Information System 'Apki Zameen Apki Nigrani', to allow public users to search and view copies of scanned data online on CIS Portal <http://landrecords.jk.gov.in/>.

The initiative has been introduced to reduce interference of revenue officials in land dealings and give people right to access their land records at a click of a button, thereby reducing manipulation and improving the efficiency of Revenue offices substantially. It was a sequel to the national programme of Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) envisaging enhanced services to the common people in land matters'. DILRMP was formally launched in the UT in April 2016 for improving online accessibility to Land Records System bringing an end to corrupt practices thereby ensuring quality services in Sub Registrar and Tehsil offices. Lieutenant Governor's administration ensured that the land record programme which was being implemented at a slower pace is speeded up and completed for the benefit of the common masses. As part of programme implementation in Union Territory, 7.70 crore pages of Revenue record and 55216 Musavi (maps) have been scanned besides establishment of 3895 Ground Control Points. Also, Web-based Enterprise Geo-Information System (GIS) has been developed under the initiative.

Under Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities on 'Apki Zameen Apki Nigrani', the Government organized special camps at Tehsil and Block level offices, Niabats, Patwar Khanas and Panchayat Ghars to educate the public about the digital platform where people can access their land records with one click. "We are grateful to the present administrations at Center and UT-level for launching such technological innovations in all spheres of development making the lives of people comfortable and convenient", maintained Sikandar Noorani, District President All Jammu Kashmir Panchayat Conference while appreciating this historic initiative.

"Apki Zameen Apki Nigrani has empowered common people to check their land records on their mobiles getting a rid of moving from pillar to post for the same and safeguard our land on our own. I thank LG administration for this revolutionary step," he added. Similarly, Jehangir Ahmed of Bachpora says that visiting Revenue office was a time consuming process and quite suffering but now I can check my land records while sitting at my home.

Government has also initiated the process of issuing trilingual land passbooks as a measure to fill the information vacuum and promote people's ease of access to the revenue records in Jammu and Srinagar districts. The first of its kind land passbook are being issued to the legal owners of land in Jammu and Kashmir in Urdu, English and Hindi languages. As a reform to further boost transparency in public dealings of Revenue Department, a mechanism of issuing revenue passbooks to the people containing information on all their legal land possessions has been evolved and a deadline of 15th August 2022 has been set by the government for completion of the process.

Showket Ahmed Rather of Tengpora Srinagar has all praise for the government's initiative and says, "It is really a good step, everyone will be benefited. Earlier getting revenue extracts used to take months. With Land passbook, now everything is with the people. We have been relieved of the cumbersome process and nightmare of visiting revenue offices." For Khurshed Ahmed Reshi of Tengpora, the initiative will expose people who grabbed government land and built infrastructure on public land.