

WHAT'S WRONG?

The movie 'The Kashmir Files' has been discussed out of proportion by various political parties, individuals and even some organizations, mostly criticizing the effort made to depict the plight of Kashmiri Pandits under the light of their agonizing exodus in 1990s. If there is anything wrong or legally incorrect in the flicker then those criticizing the movie can approach police, courts or the relevant bodies meant for providing justice but saying vaguely that the movie is biased, an attempt to polarize the society and many other allegations without any proof is totally uncalled for and should not be allowed to happen in a civilized world. When the censor clearance has been given them there is no question of questioning the content. Yes, if the movie is showcasing only one side of the coin but the facts are true to the hilt then no one has the right to interfere because there is always a scope to add or subtract an angle from the work of art and same is the case with this film. May be the venture was meant only for showing the dark era in Kashmir in connection with one community. Those opposing the film could only justify their stand if anything which is historically incorrect is depicted in the film otherwise screening what has happened out there in Valley three decades before is in no way wrong and any opposition to it is unwarranted. There is not an iota of doubt in the fact that Kashmiri Hindus were forced to leave their homes after getting intimidated by violence mongers and those who raped Hindu women, killed KPs and bullied the whole lot of community showing no respect towards the law of the land, their fellow inhabitants and that too when the law implementing agencies were sitting like lame ducks. If this was not wrong then under what parameter depicting this fact on the big screen is wrong. The movie has brought before the people what exactly happened in the 1990s, therefore everyone should watch this movie despite the fact that like all other movie makers there might have been some mistakes in the making of this film also but that is immaterial when the movie is touching the hearts of millions in the country.

BUSTING EXAM STRESS

As the children are the future of any nation as such it is the prime responsibility of every Government to ensure better upbringing and development of children in every aspect so that they can transform into a disciplined and responsible citizen for leading the nation towards the path of progress and prosperity. The ruling dispensation is very much concerned regarding this precious section of the society and right from the very beginning has been initiating every possible measure for the welfare of children. The endeavours of the Government were specifically aimed for the upliftment of the children belonging to remote and far-off areas as it was observed that these particular children were lacking several basic facilities, like education, healthcare, hygiene etc which were enjoyed by their urban counterparts without any problem. Keeping a uniform approach, the ruling Government initiated a number of significant steps for providing all those facilities to the children of Union Territory of which they were earlier deprived of. Even the Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself is very much considerate towards the development and empowerment of children for making them competent to register their presence at global level in this competitive world. As it is the time when the majority of students have given their Annual exams for promotion to next standards while several others are presently undergoing the same, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while interacting with the youngsters of the nation during interactive programme Pariksha Pe Charcha asked the children not to get stressed due to examination. While inspiring the young lot to celebrate the exam like some festival, the Prime Minister asked them not to get distracted by platforms like YouTube, WhatsApp, Facebook etc. The Prime Minister further urged the parents not to pressurize their wards during exams by imposing their unfulfilled dreams and aspirations over them as the time has changed a lot and, the situation of present is completely different from the one of their times. Such an interactive programme, wherein children from across the country got an opportunity to raise several queries and received precious tips by the experienced Prime Minister of the country will help them a lot in shaping their careers properly besides busting the exam stress completely.

OFF 'D' CUFF

Einstein's Spirituality

of personal god with that of Universal consciousness. He always said that he believed in God who reveals himself in the harmony of all that exists. I think he was a very spiritual person in a true sense.

All his life Einstein worked towards developing a theory of everything – basically the relationship between quantum physics and gravity. However he did not succeed. The forces in quantum mechanics which bind the matter in atoms are extremely powerful and gravity does not play any part at such nanoscales. Only at a greater distance and with bigger masses, the gravity becomes the most dominant force. Thus the holy grail of all science is to find a relationship between gravity and other forces working in nanoscale regions like electromagnetism, nuclear, etc.

In the same way the effect of personal god becomes powerful when we are cocooned in our own petty affairs and without the knowledge of greater forces affecting the universe. The transition from personal God to Universal consciousness happens when we become aware of those universal forces. That awareness will be an important step in mankind's evolution both spiritually and technologically and will bring peace and happiness to this world.

Anil Rajvanshi

We all want to be famous people, and the moment we want to be something we are no longer free.

-Jiddu Krishnamurti

EDITORIAL

Challenges & opportunities in natural farming

■ DR BANARSI LAL

The chemical intensive farming has severely affected the ecosystem, climate and health. Moreover, it has increased the cost of cultivation and thus making agriculture unviable for the small and marginal farmers. Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) is a method of chemical-free agriculture drawn from the traditional Indian practices. It is a unique method of farming which relies on agro-ecology and reduces the cost of cultivation nearly zero. The word zero-budget means no credit and natural farming means growing crops without chemicals. There is no need of expensive agro-inputs such as pesticides, fertilizers and intensive irrigation for Zero Budget Natural Farming. It has attained a wide success in many states of India especially in the Southern states. Government is stressing on this farming calling for a back to the basics of the Indian agriculture. Presently many farmers have started the Zero Budget Natural Farming because of its benefits. This has been achieved without any formal movement organization, paid staff or even a bank account. Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) inspires a spirit of volunteerism among its peasant farmer members. This model of farming can be replicated in various other states of India. This type of farming can really help to enhance the income of the farmers as there are almost no expenses in this farming as the farmer can manage his crop without any assistance from the outside. Many states are striving to shift towards this innovative farming. It was originally promoted by Mahashtrian agriculturist and Padma Shri award recipient Subash Palekar who developed this model of farming in mid 90s as an alternative to green revolution which is driven by the agro-chemicals and intensive irrigation. Although the increase in the food production is essential but increasing cost of cultivation is leading cause of indebtedness which is the major cause of suicide among the farmers. Also chemical pesticides and fertilizers cause the ill effects to the environment, soil and human beings. In order to break the debt cycle, reduce the cost of cultivation and produce the healthy food, Palekar introduced Zero Budget Natural Farming for many small and marginal farmers. According to him one cow is needed for 30 acres of land provided it should be the local Indian breed. His method promotes soil aeration, minimum watering, top soil mulching and discourages intensive irrigation and deep ploughing. He is against vermicomposting as it introduces common com-

posting worm called as Eisenia fetida. He claims that these worms absorb toxic metals and poison groundwater and soil. This farming is very effective in addressing the uncertainties of climate change. Farming without chemicals is possible under this method. The method of this farming is very simple and easy to adopt. Under this method of farming plants consume only 10 per cent of water that crops consume in conventional methods.

Four Pillars of Zero Budget Natural Farming: -

1. Jivamrita/jeevamruthais a mixture of fresh cow dung and aged cow urine of an indigenous breed of cow. It provides nutrients and also acts as a catalytic agent that promotes the activity of microorganisms in the soil, as well as increases earthworm activity. Both the aerobic and anaerobic bacteria are present in the cow dung and urine multiply as they eat up organic ingredients such as pulse flour. A handful of undisturbed soil is also added to the preparation, as inoculate of native species of microbes and organisms. Jeevamrutha also helps to prevent fungal and bacterial plant diseases. Jeevamrutha is only needed for the first 3 years of the transition after which the system becomes self-sustaining. 200 liters of Jeevamrutha is sufficient for one acre of land.

2. Bijamrita/ Beejamruthais a treatment used for seeds, seedlings or any planting material. It is effective in protecting young roots from soil and seed-borne diseases. Add Bijamrita to the seeds of any crop: coat them, dry them well and use them for sowing. For leguminous seeds, just dip them quickly and let them dry.

3. Achadana - Mulching. It protects top soil during cultivation and does not destroy it by tilling. It promotes aeration and water retention in the soil. Palekar suggests avoiding deep ploughing. There is need to provide dry organic material which will decompose and form humus through the activity of the soil biota which is activated by microbial cultures.

4. Whapasa - moisture: It is condition where water molecules and air molecules are present in the soil. In Zero Budget Natural Farming irrigation level is reduced and irrigation is done only in noon and that too in alternate rows. Higher amount of water application leads to hold air space in the soil and plants suffer oxygen deficiency. It may cause death of plants except for some water-loving plants such as rice.

Intercropping, contours and bunds, local species of earthworms and cow dung are other principles of Zero Budget Natural Farming. Under this farming, revival of

local deep soil earthworms through increased organic matter is most recommended. Dung from the Bos indicus (humped cow) is beneficial and has the highest concentrations of micro-organisms as compared to European cow breeds such as Holstein. Due to rising cost of cultivation farming is becoming difficult for the small and marginal farmers. High quality seeds, other costly inputs and markets are inaccessible and expensive for small scale farmers. Many farmers find themselves in a vicious cycle of debt, because of the high cost of cultivation, high interest rates for credit, the changing market prices of crops etc. In the last two decades more than a quarter of a million farmers have committed suicide in India. Many studies have co-related farmer's suicides to debt. Debt is a problem for farmers of all sizes in India. Zero Budget Natural Farming promises to end a reliance on loans and drastically cuts production costs.

In some states such as Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, indebtedness levels are around 90 per cent. Zero Budget Natural Farming reduces the farmers' dependence on loans. Moreover, intercropping also increases the income of the farmers. This farming also has many ecological advantages. It sharply reduces the input costs of cultivation and the small and marginal farmers can reap the maximum benefits through this farming. However, some experts oppose this farming. Some governments have supported the capacity building on Zero Budget Natural Farming. Sikkim is the only state in India which has been categorized as the organic state in the country. This state exemplified the success of organic farming. Experts say that multi-location studies are needed to scientifically validate the long-term impact of Zero Budget Natural Farming before its promotion across the nation. Many studies are going on ZBNF and evaluations on crop yields including the soil health. Zero Budget Natural Farming can play a significant role in enhancing the income of farmers. Proper marketing mechanism needs to be strategized to sell the chemical free farm produce. Institutional mechanism is also needed to promote the Zero Budget Natural Farming. Appropriate policy framework and package of practices are needed to increase the adoption of zero budget natural farming. This type of farming is environmentally friendly and helpful to conserve the nature by improving the microbial content and water retention capacity in soils.

(The author is Head, KVK Reasi SKUAST-J).

Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal implementing different solutions for same problem

■ ADITYA VASHISHT

As part from ongoing war in Ukraine, the past few days have seen a flurry of activities in South Asian politics which are being characterized by diplomatic visits and financial assistance. Pakistan is facing a fresh political crisis, Sri Lanka is seeing its economy tanking down to the worst and Nepal is attempting to adhere to a policy of neutrality and is striving to maintain relations with both China and India, the two key powers of the region who are locked in a competition for maintaining their influence over the entire region.

It is undoubtedly clear that China is trying hard to maintain its clout in the three countries. The recent development in Pakistani politics and the dissolving of the Pakistan Assembly by PM Imran Khan has again led the country into factional strife which has tensed Beijing's nerve. The Chinese have urged for restraint and have said that

Pakistan's development and stability should not be hampered. It is unlikely that Pakistan, irrespective of the change in government, would abandon Beijing since firstly, China enjoys the support of the Pakistani military and second, Pakistan's overall foreign policy, even if guided by a civilian leader, isn't likely to be anti-Beijing, considering the overall scenario regarding the entire region.

There are no signs emerging that Islamabad is attempting to pursue an independent foreign policy, trying to balance the West and China. Taking cue from New Delhi's hostility with Beijing and its reinvigoration relations with the West, Pakistan

has chosen to counter its adversary by going southwards. It is even attempting to cultivate a partnership with Russia, and one look at Moscow's future after its decision to invade Ukraine is enough to consider that it would have to depend more on Asian countries for support. Russia would surely have a hard time balancing the concerns of India and China, with the latter using Pakistan to make the situation even harder.

The anti-American rhetoric of Imran Khan and his accusation upon the United States of masterminding a plot to oust him is only to grow further since the recurrent elections are going to see this point raised frequently by him and the

growth in anti-Western sentiments isn't an anathema for Beijing, who is bent on making Pakistan a source of valuable raw materials for its own industry and an integral part of Xi Jinping's prized Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The BRI's effects are being felt in some doses upon Sri Lanka, whose government is on the verge of bankruptcy.

The island nation which had sought to make Chinese backed infrastructural development as the foundations of its own growth is now being touted as that example of the BRI which China doesn't want the world to see.

Though internal issues in the form of corruption and mismanagement are credible factors, but it cannot be denied that ready money from China has become a trap for Colombo since all that came in loans, which it is now struggling to pay back. Its recent request that China restructure its debt hasn't been heeded till now.

All these point that Sri Lanka shall look towards India for assistance, which New Delhi has provided but is still reluctant to involve itself heavily since not only it is wary of supporting the Rajapaksa who are facing the ire of a large section of the population, but it also isn't considering desirable the prospect to invest heavily in the island as this indirectly shall benefit Beijing, who has its feet perched securely. And it might not be necessary too, because India already has

Andaman and Nicobar Islands as well as a reliable partner in Maldives, and these two considerations are enough to prevent any adverse circumstances.

But the refugee problem cannot be sidelined and in that lays a disadvantage, not to mention that further instability could bring back the LTTE to life and this India shall not be wanting. Therefore, India's response in entirety towards the crisis in Sri Lanka is likely to be measured and would be partly based upon future developments in Sri Lankan politics.

If all bodes well, Sri Lankan leaders might attempt to improve the balance between India and China.

The word 'balanced policy' makes it imperative to mention Nepal, which is attempting to do just the same.

It might not be wrong to say that Kathmandu has shown some pru-

dence in its policy towards China and has sought to offset it with healing to some extent the partially fractured ties with New Delhi.

The BRI projects in Nepal are still to be brought to life, since Kathmandu is insisting that the projects should be backed by grants and not loans.

The recent visit by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Nepal was more to ensure that the small Himalayan country remained committed to its word.

Though nine projects and agreements were signed during his visit, but those were equalized by those made by the Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba during his recent India visit, which included the inauguration of Nepal's only railway link with India and increased cooperation in the energy sector, in which New Delhi has agreed to purchase electricity from Nepal.

China however, has succeeded to some extent in fermenting anti-American feelings in Nepal.

The recent decision to approve a \$500 million grant by Washington D C received criticism from Beijing. But it was also opposed domestically on the grounds that engagement with USA would entangle Kathmandu in the rivalry between the China and the USA. This, to state in clear terms, doesn't signify that Beijing is viewed favourably either.

The heavy trade deficit of Nepal with China and Beijing's actions to prevent importation of Nepalese goods has given rise to protests by traders against China, and the Nepalese government is finding it hard to tackle this imbalance.

Moreover, the 'leak' and not the release of a government report holding into account China for the encroachment of Nepalese territory shows the pressure which Nepal is increasingly facing, where it wants to keep China at a respectable distance but sees it crossing the line. It would not be a mistake to say that South Asia is now facing the heat of global politics.

Any new event in the South Asian countries is bound to involve foreign powers.

The worrisome point is the choices which these countries have to make for their development. An independent foreign policy is needed, but the question is: will it be easy to achieve or maintain?

situation worsens when the traffic cops responsible for managing traffic during peak hours vanish into thin air. Thus, it becomes free fall for everybody with nobody to regulate even burgeoning traffic it is now impossible for women, children and old men to use the road. If ever they gather some courage it is only at their own peril. The traffic authorities are requested to kindly look into the matter on an urgent manner and chart out an effective blue print and immediate traffic management plan to regulate traffic on Talab Tillo-Bohri road so that poor residents get an immediate respite.

Manik Jain,
Talab Tillo.

Transforming J&K
Govt making continuous efforts for upliftment of tribal population

Jammu and Kashmir Government is continuously making efforts to protect the interests of tribal people, including their land, education and upliftment of their socio-economic status. Last year, J&K government scripted history with Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, handing over individual and community rights certificates to the beneficiaries of Gujjars, Bakarwals and Gaddi Sipis communities under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006. The initiative was hailed as a significant step with a potential to transform the lives of members of tribal communities across Jammu and Kashmir. Describing the occasion as 'historic', Sinha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for making it possible to implement the Act in the Union Territory (UT), and said the move will usher a new era of empowerment and prosperity for the deprived tribal population here. The tribal communities were not only provided rights on forest land, but they also got rights over minor forest produce. The government, in coordination with the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited, will establish infrastructure for collection, value addition, packaging, and distribution of this forest produce. In areas where community rights have been granted, Rs 10 crore is provided for infrastructure development including works on roads, power supply, Anganwadi centres etc. The community had struggled for more than 14 years to get their rights; it was only in Manoj Sinha led administration, rights were conferred upon the tribal community through implementation of Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, keeping in mind the basic spirit of social equality and harmony as guided by the constitution of country and the Parliament. For providing education on modern lines to Tribal children, the UT government's started an ambitious project of transforming 200 Schools into Smart Schools in Tribal areas at a cost of Rs 40 crores. The modernisation of Smart Schools initiative will be completed by March 2022. Lieutenant Governor congratulated the Tribal communities for the historic beginning of the new era of educational empowerment of Tribals in J&K. "Our priority is to secure the future of tribal children. Smart schools in tribal & remote areas equipped with modern facilities will develop scientific temper in children and make them future-ready, besides arresting the drop-out rate", the Lieutenant Governor said after launch of the initiative. J&K administration is collectively spending around Rs 104 crore to strengthen school infrastructure in tribal areas and establish a strong educational ecosystem for the tribal community. Besides Smart schools, Rs 8.50 crore were spent on the modernization of hostels of the Tribal Department and new hostels are being built at a cost of Rs 4 crore. In July, the UT administration has set up two Eklavya Model Schools in Rajouri, one each in Anantnag, Poonch, Kulgam and Bandipora. For the welfare of tribal population, J&K UT Govt implements and devises various programmes and schemes to fill critical gaps taking into account the situation of STs through financial assistance and initiatives. These include economic, educational and social development through institution building in critical sectors through specially tailored schemes. To ensure that Tribal youth excel in professional fields, 500 youth were selected for different professional courses with aid of Government. "An annual outlay of Rs 30 cr has been earmarked for scholarships of tribal students. Fifteen hostels for tribal students were upgraded and modernized," an official said. The government of India has also approved a project for Tribal Transit Accommodation at eight locations to be constructed in Jammu and Kashmir at an estimated cost of Rs 28 crore. For economic empowerment of the Tribal population, Tribal Affairs Department has rolled out a plan for the establishment of Milk Villages, Milk Chilling Plants (MCP), Milk Product Processing and other facilities in tribal villages aimed to support milk production and supply chain in these areas. The project is aimed at providing employment to more than 1500 tribal youth and infrastructure creation in Phase-I which will be followed by expanded coverage of all districts.

Sixteen villages have been taken up in Phase-I for the establishment of Milk Villages while 2 ongoing projects are for completion, with an overall outlay of Rs 1,500 lakh. All the Milk Villages approved by the Tribal Affairs Department are being established with 100 per cent Government funding meanwhile the department is actively coordinating with banks and financial institutions for the establishment of 100 Milk Villages and Chilling Plants with Public-Private Partnership wherein scheme up front subsidy and interest subvention is being explored. In short, with the implementation of FRA-2006, the tribal communities are getting their due rights which they were yearning for decades and the government has also initiated several other steps to uplift the economic as well as social conditions of tribal communities.

YOUR COLUMN

Traffic snarls on Talab Tillo road

Dear Editor,

The saying goes 'Seeing is believing', but sometimes it is beyond that too. When things cross limits the poor and unheeded find some language to air their grievances. Same thing has happened to people living in and around Talab Tillo road. Heavy traffic rather bumper to bumper traffic during evenings and mornings has created a hell like situation. The

In later years he was able to easily replace the notion