

## SENSITIVE ISSUE

There is dire need for ensuring corrective course for those living in respective jails of the country as these can be misused by enemies of the nation to breed anti-national as was seen in many cases in the past. The situation of jails in J&K is quite critical as number of times sim cards of different companies and cell phones have been recovered from the cells in the Jails in J&K and it was also reported that criminals and even terrorists are carrying out their illegal activities from inside the jail complexes. In this context, the Ministry of Home Affairs has come up with a right move to ask states and UTs to ensure that no illegal activity is allowed inside jails and new offenders should be kept aloof from the hardcore ones to avoid breeding of anti-nationals and criminals inside the prisons. In this regard, the Union Home Ministry has written to the states and Union Territories and the prison authorities to take steps and ensure that jails do not become a breeding ground for anti-national activities. To ensure this difficult job, the MHA has suggested frequent inspections of prisons apart from ensuring implementation of effective administration in the prisons. It seems that time has come when the jail authorities should work with scientific aptitude to contain the menace of criminal activities from inside the jail complexes and also to treat jail inmates psychologically and psychiatrically to ensure that people coming out of jails become meaningful citizens rather than becoming hardcore criminals or anti-nationals. This aspect is quite significant as it is seen that petty criminals become hardcore anti-nationals after remaining in jails for even a short tenure thus making it necessary to tackle the issue very carefully. The MHA's decision is quite important and should be given priority as far as jail reforms are concerned. It is the need of the time that jails in India should act as reforming sites rather than breeding pounds for crime and criminals as was the case in the past. The issue is very sensitive and must be dealt with great care.

## CORRECTING THE MISTAKES

At a time when the UT administration under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is trying hard to improve the overall performance and efficiency of the departments besides ensuring provision of all basic amenities to the people of J&K, by introducing several new reforms at various steps, there are still few snags which are creating hurdles in the path of administration to meet the desired objective. Right from the very beginning, the UT administration along with introduction of new innovative measures has also laid equal stress on correcting the misdeeds or wrong decisions taken by the earlier Governments of the erstwhile state in order to realize the vision of Naya Jammu and Kashmir. But every other day, a new challenge emerges in front of the administration, as an outcome of some previous wrong decisions, thereby enhancing its workload. Recently, in a report published, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has detected a blockage of Rs 21.48 crore Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan funds for the last nearly four years. It was further highlighted that such a huge blockage of funds, which if utilized in time would have given a major boost to the education sector across J&K besides ensuring provision of right to basic education to every child, is the outcome of the lack of coordination and liaison between various offices of the school Education Department. It was further reported that despite having provision to utilize the funds for the development of education sector by creating necessary infrastructure and other facilities for the students in different parts of J&K, under a significant scheme of the Centre Government, the authorities of the School Education Department miserably failed to spend the same thereby keeping the children away from the improved facilities, as per the directives of Government. It was informed that the State Project Director (SPD), SSA J&K released an amount of Rs 9.76 crore in favour of Director School Education (DSE) Jammu and Rs 11.72 crore in favour of Director School Education Kashmir, in March 2017, with instructions not to utilize the same till further directions, but it is really surprising that no further directions were issued thereby resulting in non-utilization of such a huge amount of funds. Now when this issue has been highlighted by the CAG, it is expected that the UT administration would definitely initiate some corrective measures to rectify the error.

## OFF 'D' CUFF

## Start inviting abundance into your life

soul in the form of doubts & desires, the man is just a beggar. These desires say, you can't be happy and contented until you get what you lack in your life; right now there is lot of scarcity in your life. You have to gain a lot and your situation is just like a beggar right now.

Such desires change the whole perspective of life.

Be on the path of knowledge

But when a person is on the path of knowledge, he does his duties and seldom thinks about the scarcities. He thinks about what all are available to him right now as the kind blessing of God. In such wise people, inner understanding awakes.

They understand that God has given everything to them, but their mind is sitting with a begging bowl in the hands.

So, a wise person realizes, "God has bestowed upon me beautiful body and equally beautiful life like a gift. What more should I want? I seldom think about how am I eligible to get all such blessings and I seek even more. First, I must show gratitude for all that I have."

Invite abundance with gratitude

Thus, the knowledgeable and the wise person is the one who develops a sense of gratitude for what he owns right now. Such people have a sense of thankfulness in them.

But with casings near the

Dr Archika Didi

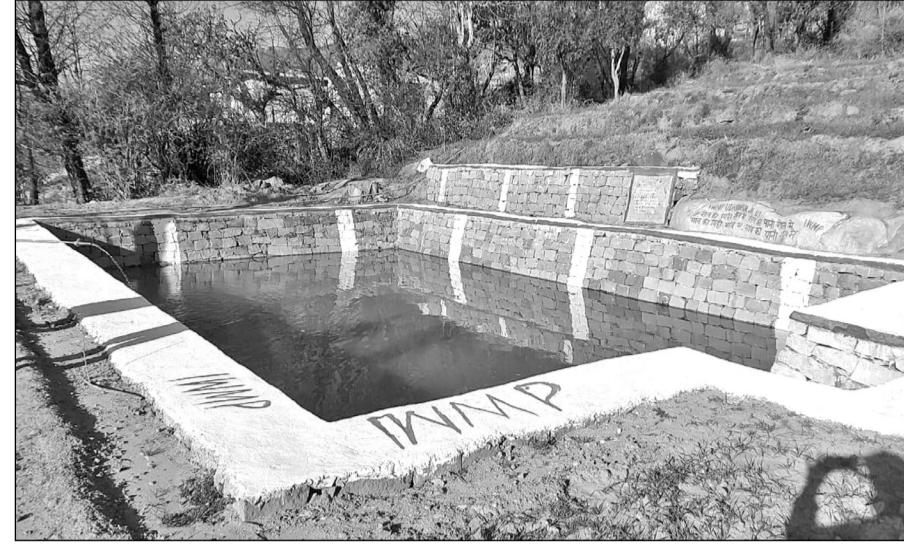
## Catch the rain; where it falls, when it falls to save lives

■ SAPNA KOTWAL

There is no second thought water is a very vital component for the survival of all kind of living beings on earth, be it human beings, animals and plants. Nobody in this universe can survive without water and we require different quantity of water with respect to time and space. People have said rightly that water is the driving force of nature and 'food grows where the water flows' so 'Save a drop of water today to reap an ocean tomorrow.' 'Save the water here and there, don't waste it anywhere' 'Save water-it doesn't grow on trees' 'Save water-it's not just a drop in the bucket' 'Save water secure the future!' 'Some conservation today much happiness tomorrow.' 'Think outside the sink' 'Wait, stop and think what if we didn't have water to drink!' 'Waste water today, live in desert tomorrow!' 'Water is life and its conservation is future' Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir considered to be falling in a high rainfall region.

However the rainfall is seasonal, erratic and its distribution in time and space is not a happy situation and drought condition are experienced in some or others part of the country year after year resulting in acute scarcity for drinking water and the failure of crops. About 70 to 80 percent of the annual rainfall occurs during about 90 days of monsoon months. During the remaining month it is generally scarce. This peculiar situation calls for the need for conservation and storage of water for lean period.

To overcome these problems the solution is Watershed Management Planning. In the development of watershed all the activities related with various disciplines goes simultaneously. The most important task in the development of watershed program is always starts treating the areas from top to bottom as concentration of runoff is minimum at the top and keep on increasing as one moves downwards so unless the water-



shed are treated from the top, the management practices adopted in the lower region can hardly bear any fruit as everything is likely to be washed away with high current of water.

To overcome the above mentioned problems, Govt. of India had sanctioned Pilot project on Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) during the year 2012-13 and subsequently whole of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was divided into micro and macro watershed and subsequently the work was allotted in phased manner based on funds availability.

The Gantwal watershed has been sanctioned as pilot project in IWMP works in district Udhampur in year 2012-13. Under Batch IWMP-IV River Tawi-B.

The proposed area for treatment under IWMP is located in Chennai block of Udhampur district UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

'Rooftop Rain Water Harvesting Model Gantwal Watershed Conservation' Udhampur District is one of 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir UT in Northern India. Interestingly, this Rooftop rain water harvesting scheme has been accorded tremendous response and rural

people are making proper utilization of rooftop rain water. District lies in between 32°34' to 39°30' north latitude and 74° 16' to 75° 38' east longitude. Since block Chenani comprises of 91 villages with 49 Panchayats. The gross area of block is 48,889 hectares and cropped area is 11,427 hectares.

The population of the block is 46,936 males and 42,518 female. The whole block is backward and predominantly leads by schedule caste and schedule tribes' family. The economic condition of the people is very poor with marginal landholdings and situated on steep slopes.

The project area of Gantwal watershed comprises of seven villages, viz, Gantwal, Champari, Kurd, Kither, Narsoo, Cheunti and Chirdi. The total geographical area of seven villages is 3,813 hectare, out of which about 800 hectares area has been approved for treatment. Because of steep slopes and degraded forest, surface water moves quickly down slopes and causes flash flood in the downstream and drought like situation in the catchment.

The soil of the areas are very productive and farmers having source of water

are raising vegetable crops and earning good profit through cultivation of tomato and other seasonal vegetables crops. Few farmers have already raised fruit plants on the bunds of the field and earning good income from fruits also. The success story of two farmers of watershed already stands published. Since no rainfall data of the area concerned was available, rainfall data of Katra Reasi district with similar altitude have been taken for analysis purposes.

Keeping the above mentioned problems in view, it was decided that roof water harvesting system should be installed in the Gantwal watershed and the harvested water should be used to recharge ground water through recharge pits which will increase water level in adjoining natural springs/ Bowli and simultaneously reduce flood peaks, decreased level of soil erosion, conservation of water resources, increased level of crop production and ultimately increased level of livelihood security which are the major objectives of any watershed project.

The first most important task in the development of watershed project is to formulate watershed committee. It has been formed and the same is depicted in Table 1 to start with the project, 20 farmers as listed below in Table 2 were selected by the watershed committee and roof water harvesting system along with recharging pit were given to them for demonstration purposes.

By constructing these twenty percolation tanks, it will recharge ground water to the tune of 2635.51 m<sup>3</sup> or 2635510 Liters of water which will protect both soil erosion as well as water erosion, Protection to flood, Increased level of water in natural springs and neat and clean water for human, animals and for crop production and ultimately leads to increased level of livelihood security of the watershed community.

(The author is Project Manager (IWMP), District Udhampur).

## JUBILANT J&amp;K

## J&amp;K emerging as top-most tourist destination across India

## Record breaking tourist arrivals seen in last few months

The record-breaking arrival of tourists in Jammu and Kashmir is reflection of successful packaging of uniqueness of tourism destinations in perfect manner. The significant increase in tourist arrival upsurge in the picturesque famous destination of the country is possible due to highlighting of diverse range of attractions- a concept launched by the Tourism Department under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The administration is also focusing on exploring full potential of pilgrimage tourism by developing various religious tourist circuits across the union territory besides the J&K Tourist Village Network initiative to transform 75 villages in Jammu and Kashmir known for historical, scenic beauty, and cultural signifi-

cance. The initiatives not only are aimed to empower youth and women through direct and indirect employment opportunities but the youth-led sustainable tourism initiative aims to strengthen the sparsely populated economy and public entrepreneurship.

According to an official, these 75 off-beat locations will provide adventure seekers, trekkers, and international visitors with an experience of nature's wilderness while also creating a livelihood in the villages in the forest environment through home-stays, nature guides, trek operators, food stalls, and forest souvenirs. Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha recently said that Kashmir is witnessing a 'golden period' on the tourism front as 80 lakh tourists have visited the UT in the past few

months alone, breaking all the records of past 20 years. "Record number people are visiting Kashmir. This is a golden period on tourism front in the history of Kashmir and we should cash in on this period," the Lieutenant Governor said. "In the past few months, 80 lakh tourists have visited Kashmir, which is record number ever if compared to past 10 to 20 years. Flight operations too have broken all previous records. Today all hotels are booked in advance and people of other States of India are finding it difficult to get an air-ticket for Srinagar", he added. The Union government is enhancing the efforts of the J&K department of tourism with necessary resources and assistance. Liberal funding of a record budget allocation of Rs 786 crore, which is Rs 509 crore more than the previous budgetary

allocation, speaks volumes about the Union government's eagerness to improve tourist industry infrastructure and related services in Jammu & Kashmir. The UT administration has also taken several steps to ensure that air traffic to the Jammu and Srinagar airports grows unhindered in the future so that trade and tourism flourishes in J&K.

Pertinently, Ministry of Civil Aviation approved five Srinagar-Sharjah flights per week on a regular basis, officials said. Similarly, more than 5,85,653 tourists have visited Kashmir Valley between January and April 27, which is five times more than last year's figures of 1.26 lakh during the same period. Jammu airport recently achieved a milestone by recording the highest-ever footfall of 1.54 lakh passengers in March on 1,346 flights.

## Stop politicizing Hanuman Chalisa

■ OKMAR DATATRAY

It is the irony of India that everything is politicized at the altar of secular democracy and for appeasement of the minorities. Now the reciting of the Hanuman Chalisa is politicized by none else than the once Hindutva political party Shiv Sena which is the progeny of the Hind Hardy Samarth Late Balasaheb Thackeray. It is very unfortunate that once Hindutwadi party is these days following the foot prints of so called secular parties as it is sharing political power in Maharashtra with congress and nationalist congress of Sharad Pawar and had formed coalition government called Maha Vikas Aghadi. The opium of power has so intoxicated Shiv Sena Chief Uddhav Thackeray that he has completely deserted the Hindutva philosophy for the protection of which his father Bala Sahib Thackeray has sacrificed his life. It is very sad that dirty politics is resorted to by the Shiv Sena, BJP and secular political parties of congress and NCP and there is competition between these parties for scoring votes and so for vote bank politics all these parties are indulging in petty politics over the recitation of Hanuman Chalisa which is the worshipping of Lord Rama's affectionate Bhakt Hanuman and it is in fact the recitation of the praise of Hanuman. In other words it can be construed that by singing the praises of Hanuman it is in fact the worship of the Lord Ram itself. Lord Ram is the soul and very essence and breath of India and by objecting to the recitation of Hanuman Chalisa the religious freedom of India is violated. It is very sad and unfortunate that the couple of Navneet Rana and Ravi Rana were sent to jail purportedly on the instructions of Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray for singing the praise of Lord Hanuman. One wonders that if the Hanuman Chalisa cannot be sung and recited in India, then where it can be sung. By

denying the jailed couple to recite Hanuman Chalisa amounts to the assault on the right to freedom of religion and it is thus the violation of the constitution. In fact it is the Hindus who are not allowed to recite Hanuman Chalisa and it is the infringement of the right of religious freedom as guaranteed to the citizens. Is it a sin to recite Hanuman Chalisa and for reciting of Hanuman Chalisa, the Rana couple has been jailed because they have committed the biggest sin of reciting Hanuman Chalisa. To jail the people on showing respect and recitation of praises to Hanuman is an insult to the majority community of Hindus. It is very disturbing and unbecoming that there is a political row about the Hanuman Chalisa and its recitation. Once political and ideological friends, today BJP and Shiv Sena are face to face on the religious issue of recitation of Hanuman Chalisa. These parties are leveling charges and counter charges upon each other and the politics over the Hanuman Chalisa has created political uproar from Maharashtra to Delhi and the politics over this issue has hot ten up. It is so sad that Hanuman has been dragged into the murkier politics. The Shiv Sena, BJP, Congress, NCP and others should not have resorted to politics over Hanuman Chalisa but the fact is that all these political parties and others as well have politicized the Hanuman Chalisa and there is one-upmanship between the political parties over the issue of reciting the Hanuman Chalisa. In fact it was first Raj Thackeray of MNP who has created the political uproar when he declared to recite Hanuman Chalisa during the Azan time after May 3, if the loudspeakers are not banned in the mosques. No one can object to the recitation of the Hanuman Chalisa but the timing is a matter of concern because it is not acceptable to recite the Hanuman Chalisa during Azan time. The citizens has got religious freedom but your free-

dom ceases when you encroach upon the religious freedom of others or other religious community. In our multi-religious country there is no place for communal disturbance and it should not take place at all in our plural and secular country. The recitation of Hanuman Chalisa is in no way against the faith of the other religious communities and as such there should be no polities over the recitation of Hanuman Chalisa and all people should be free to profess, propagate and follow their faith. One fails to understand as to why the different political parties including the Hindutva parties as well as the so called secular lobby has reservations with the recitation of Hanuman Chalisa and why there is so much bawal and politics over the recitation of the praise on Hanuman. It is very disturbing and unfortunate that the lord Hanuman has been dragged into politics by the cunning and selfish political parties and there is unnecessary controversy and trifle in the political parties over Hanuman Chalisa. Lord Ram and his Param-Bhakt and Sevak, Hanuman and Hanuman Chalisa should not be made a subject of debate, fun and ridicule and therefore the politicians should desist from politicizing Hanuman Chalisa. But what is happening in Maharashtra over the subject of Hanuman Chalisa and its recitation is nothing short of dirty politics. However Hanuman Chalisa should not be made a subject of debate and political controversy and issue. Therefore all political parties both the so called secular parties and the Hindutva parties should see sanity and reason and desist from politicizing in the name of Hanuman Chalisa for the good of the communal harmony and mutual brotherhood. However it is a fact that communal harmony and religious brotherhood will not be affected by chanting of Hanuman Chalisa. Putting the people behind bars for chanting of Hanuman Chalisa is an insult to the majority Hindu community. Leveling of seditious charges and allegations on those

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