


DREAMS COMING TRUE

After the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories with abrogation of controversial articles 370 and 35A, the people of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed numerous reformative measures which brought a sea-change across J&K, earlier never witnessed in the history of erstwhile state. Earlier the people of J&K were suffering a lot due to lack of facilities as well as basic amenities of life with no one there to listen to the grievances but the present Government not only ensured a people-friendly administration, where even a common man can approach the highest chair without any hindrance to highlight his or her grievances. Besides giving a major boost to the development projects lying pending in J&K, the Government also launched a number of programmes and schemes for developing necessary infrastructure in order to provide all necessary facilities to the people of which they were deprived during earlier seven decades. Further it was only due to the people-friendly attitude of the administration that a number of welfare schemes, aimed to improve the socio-economic status of the people were launched and effectively implemented at ground level. One can easily judge about the level of changes witnessed by J&K by the fact that the people of the erstwhile state, which at a point of time were not getting even basic health care facilities, have now been provided several prestigious institutes equipped with ultramodern machines and manpower. Even two prestigious All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) are under construction, one each in both the regions, are under construction and expected to start functioning very soon. Moreover, in the recent initiatives of the Government to invite outside investors into the Union territory for setting up their units, several eminent hospitals have also expressed their interest and some of them are all set to start their branch in J&K very soon including Apollo. This journey of J&K, from a deprived state to ensuing hub of medical treatment in north India, is the result of the dedicated and efficient working of the ruling dispensation which has always accorded a prioritized treatment to Union Territory in every sector and left no stone unturned in steering J&K ahead on the path of progress and prosperity like other states and UTs.



OFF 'D' CUFF

Formula For Peace- in a Troubled World

Man­kind seeks peace in a world at war. In the last 4000 years of recorded history, there have been approx­imately 8,000 peace treaties, 14,000 wars, and over a billion cas­ualties. People every­where search for peace. Peace is man's highest hope and his fondest dream. And most days it seems so hard to achieve. If we ask, “What’s wrong with the world today?” many will point to poverty, illiteracy, poor gov­ernance, oppres­sion, dis­crimination, terrorism, Corona, religious and polit­ical violence, corrup­tion, dis­ap­pearing rainforests, poor diets, lack of health­care, broken fam­ilies, over­crowded institu­tion, and more. The world tries to fix these prob­lems by doing good: feed­ing and educating chil­dren, building wells, regulat­ing mar­kets, con­serving wild­life, fund­ing charter schools, and there­by achieving a type of peace.

Everyone wants peace. Whether you’re a national leader sitting across a table from other world leaders, a busi­ness­man facing the pres­sure and dead­lines at the office, a homemaker try­ing to discipline the kids, or a student just trying to make it through the semester, everyone wants peace. The world’s peace tries to fix the symptoms of sin but fails to see how the root of the prob­lem, is something that can only be healed by God alone—not by education, law, money, regulation, or reform. Dealing with the symptoms of sin but fail­ing to diagnose the sin itself is not new. In the Old Testa­ment, the false prophets treated sin “light­ly” and proclaimed the prob­lem “solved” when it wasn’t: “They offer super­ficial treat­ments for my people’s mortal wounds. They give assur­ances of peace when there is no peace.” (Jeremiah 6:14).

Precisely because they have misled my people, say­ing, “Peace,” when there is no peace, and because, when the people build a wall, these prophets smear it with whitewash. (Ezekiel 13:10) Our day is like Jeremia­h’s, in that people cry “Peace, peace when there is no peace” (Jer. 6:14). Our cities are the most modern in the world, yet the streets are unsafe. Our communication technology is unsurpassed, but there has never been more confusion and mis­understanding.

Young or old, male or female, we’ve all experienced the pain of a broken promise. No matter how much

■ MAHADEEP SINGH JAMWAL

I understand that each government works at a different speed, and has a slightly different process. Their efforts may be painstaking, wanting each sentence-each word of their policies to carry weight. But I also understand from my experience that haste makes waste thus we must learn diligence before speedy execution. Before scripting a few lines on the 'Agnipath' scheme of the present government, I feel my duty to refresh our memory by visiting the similar nature of policies thrust upon by the Modi government without debates, discussions and due diligence. When we traverse the page of those policies of the Modi government that attracted maximum criticism, broadly agitated and that claimed thousands of lives, all were brought in haste and burdened over people overnight. These policies were never debated and discussed at the appropriate forum. This speaks of the autocratic attitude of the government. We remember Narendra Modi's surprise announcement about invalidation of the country's most circulated cash becoming more than just inconvenience for many and then Prime Minister Narendra Modi appearing on the scene with an emotional appeal to the people to support the demonetization asking them to bear the pain for 50 days and then punish him if problems persist, when more than hundred lives have lost for unethical decision. Similarly after maintaining adamancy and stubbornness for over a year, Prime Minister, having in vision the forthcoming elections in some states and fear of

losing them, with an apology to the people, withdrew the farmers' bills after the protests against these bills claimed more than six hundred lives. Both of these decisions were never debated, discussed and analyzed in Parliament and appropriate forums because of the reasons present decision makers consider themselves to be the 'Demi-Gods'. But after agitations & protests across the nation, heavy loss to the national property, normal life coming to stand still, and heavy loss of innocent lives withdraw their autocratic decisions with crocodile tears to gain sympathy.

In consonance with the above references, now the protests are against the 'Agnipath', a policy for recruitment of youths into the defence services. There is a huge row going on against the government's newly launched Agnipath scheme to recruit youth for a time period of four years. Mainly the agitators' point of view that the scheme be scrapped as it tinkers with sanity of the armed forces and doesn't have provisions like pension etc. There is uncertainty of the future of the beneficiary of this scheme. It doesn't provide job security. The government harps on benefits like that 25 per cent of such recruits will be retained in the forces that will ultimately get permanent jobs. The scheme aims to recruit around 46,000 youth aged between 17.5 to 21 years every year (23 years for this year) and those not getting continuity (75 per cent) after four year will have to pack up. This will add 34,500 youths every year in the age group of 21.5 to 25 years in unemployment data. Thus, the government providing permanent

jobs to 25 per cent under this scheme every year is just a joke as 75 per cent of these recruits will be joining the race course to seek jobs as unemployed. Those not found eligible for retention will get a financial backing of about Rs 12 Lakh (50 per cent self contributions) by which they can start their own business or utilize the funds for further education. Here we forget that 12 lakh at present appears to be sensational but devaluation after four years will be weakening the currency that will increase cost of living and inflation will bring the value of 12 lakh to that of just a few chips in the wallet. If after four years they take to upgrade their education, in that case, after upgrading their qualification to a graduate level that will take at least 3-4 years. It means at the age of 30 years they will start wandering again in search of a job. Those not eligible for continuation, will be given priority, when it comes to hiring at CAPS and Assam Rifle. Better would have been if this scheme was brought for CAPF rather than in the Indian Army that is not an experimental platform for such schemes. Majority of the Army Veterans are of the view that this scheme can put thousands of lives of Agniveers at risk as it takes 7-8 years for an individual to become a fully-trained combatant. Whereas serving one has to be faithful to the government hence obviously they will be speaking positively about this scheme. But I am sure they all are shaken from the inside because of this scheme for recruitment in three wings of the Indian Army. The announce-

ment of the government that all those recruited under this scheme will be entitled for hardship allowance, 30 days leave, TA, uniform, canteen facility are merely to attract the youth, who are well aware that this scheme is putting their future in the dark. Realizing this fact, how psychologically they will be prepared to secure their country and how the spirit of serving the nation will be inculcated in them raises a million dollar question? There will be two parallel flows of mind one from full time serving 'Sainiks' and other one with unsettled minds 'Agniveer' and this imbalance will bring inefficiency in delivery of services towards nations security. The Army is playing a great role in defending country from enemy countries, it is playing great role in maintaining internal security of the country, and it is fighting with militancy and facing terrorism. All those wicked minds behind these activities are highly trained in dealing with sophisticated weaponry, world class communication system & technology, war tactics, and above all with brain-wash for suicidal acts. Against this we are placing just six month trained Agniveer and there will always be hesitancy in them because of tenure of their job in the Army. This way we are not going to prepare a strong force to counter highly trained militants but we are creating a soft & green fodder for them. Concluding it appears to me that by virtue of the 'Agnipath' scheme, the government is playing 'Prank with youth'.

Empowering farmers through Krishi Vigyan Kendras in J&K

■ DR BANARSI LAL & DR A S CHARAK

Union Territory of J&K is endowed with a wide range of agro-climatic conditions which are conducive for growing different kinds of crops. Agriculture is the mainstay of J&K and livelihood of majority of population of J&K revolves around agriculture. This beautiful UT has inherent agricultural potential and is blessed with ample natural resources including soil, water, climatic condition, diversity, topography, rich natural flora etc. which are conducive for the cultivation of a wide range of crops. Agricultural development harbingers the overall growth and development of this Union Territory. J&K is a mountainous Union Territory in which about 30 per cent of the area is under cultivation. About 70 per cent area of J&K is under food crops. Judicious use of land is necessary to mitigate the growing needs of the increasing population of this UT by keeping the sustainability of soils, ecosystems and environment in view. The average size of land holding of the J&K is only 0.54 hectare as against 1.33 hectares' land holding size on national basis. About 58 per cent area under agriculture is rain-fed and remaining 42 per cent is irrigated in J&K. The agro-diversity of J&K varies from sub-tropical in Jammu region and temperate in Kashmir region. The average annual rainfall of these two regions is 1069mm and 660mm. The average temperatures of these two regions are 24.5 and 13.3 Centigrade respectively. Maize, wheat, paddy, pulses, oilseeds, potato and okra are the main crops of J&K.

The farmers of J&K are now shifting towards high value crops such as flowers, vegetables, aromatic and medicinal plants, mushrooms etc. In some pockets of J&K Basmati rice, Rajmash, saffron, honey beekeeping, etc are also cultivated. Major part of J&K suffers from lack of irrigation facilities, remoteness, lack of transportation facilities, regular soil erosion, inaccessibility of quality agro-inputs etc. Lack of storage facilities, small size of land holdings, lack of agri-entrepreneurships, inaccessible terrains, lack of market networks, lack of farm mechanisation etc. are the other constraints for the farmers. These constraints hamper to increase the agricultural production in J&K and it further effects the income and employment generation in the rural areas. Although the production, productivity and area under different crops have increased over the years but still there is lot to achieve. Cropping intensity of Jammu region is 176 per cent whereas

in Kashmir region it is 123 per cent. The agriculture being less remunerative profession is not attracting the large number of rural youths of J&K towards agriculture. They are migrating towards urban areas to earn their livelihood and gain employment. There is dire need to make some serious and well planned efforts to make agriculture a more remunerative profession.

There is dire need to bridge the gap between production and consumption of food grains. There is also need to increase the income and employment in agriculture and allied sectors for the farmers of J&K. It has been observed that there is an immense potential to increase the production and productivity of different crops grown in J&K. There is need to enable the farmers to diversify their crop production by adopting the modern technologies in agriculture and establishing the infrastructure for the farm production. Diversification in agriculture needs to be promoted as there is an immense scope of crop diversification in J&K.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) are considered as the resource centres for the agricultural technologies. They are also known as Farm Science Centers, a gross root level scheme which was designed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in the country. In India the first Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) was established in 1974 at Pudducherry under Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore by the ICAR, New Delhi. Presently, the ICAR has established 731 KVKs across the nation. In Jammu and Kashmir, the ICAR has established 19 KVKs under two agricultural universities SKUAST-Jammu, SKUAST-Kashmir and one KVK under Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH).SKUAST-J has 9 KVKs in Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch, Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar districts respectively while SKUAST-K has 10 KVKs in Anantnag, Bandipora, Budgam, Gandarbal, Pulwama, Kulgam, Kupwara, Shopian, Srinagar and Baramulla respectively. Kargil-I, Kargil-II (Zanskar), Leh-I and Leh-II are the four KVKs established in Ladkhakh Union Territory.All these KVKs are working under the ATARI (Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Zone-I established at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. These KVKs are catering the needs of farmers of their respective districts and are providing expertise to the farmers. These KVKs are endeavouring to increase

income and employment among the rural areas of J&K. These KVKs are doing exemplary work for the farmers of J&K and have established many success stories of progressive farmers. Farmers of these different districts of J&K are considering these KVKs as the knowledge hubs of agricultural technologies and every day they are seeking agricultural information/knowledge from the KVK scientists. KVKs are also providing quality seeds and planting material to the farmers. The demonstration units established at the KVKs farms attract the farmers towards them. These KVKs are working on 'learning by doing' pattern as the farmers are trained for different enterprises. These KVKs are considered as the nerves of both the agricultural universities i.e., SKUAST-J & SKUAST-K.

The KVKs are mitigating the scientific agricultural needs of the farmers of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and assisting the farmers to enhance their income and employment through technological interventions. These KVKs are playing a pivotal role in transformation in rural areas of J&K by upgrading the rural people with the latest agricultural technologies. These KVKs are immensely playing a crucial role in farmers' prosperity. The KVKs of J&K have proved their worth to mitigate the agricultural needs of the farmers. They are doing the commendable work in J&K by transferring the latest agricultural knowledge to the farmers. These KVKs are able to empower the farmers/rural youths/women farmers through need-based farmers/vocational/skill development trainings. They are promoting the technology-led farming. They stressed on maximum use of ICTs during COVID-19 so as to disseminate the agricultural latest knowledge even in far-flung areas. They are bridging the gap between the laboratories and farmland. These KVKs are working in collaboration with the Panchayati Rural Institutions, different departments, NABARD, NGOs, NYK etc. These KVKs are able to disseminate the agricultural information from lab to land. Follow-up of different capacity building programmes is also done by the multidisciplinary team of experts. For dissemination of agricultural information in the mass scale print and electronic media always support the KVKs. It has been observed that with the endeavors of KVKs, the adoption rate of new agricultural technologies among the farmers is increasing substantially in J&K. The Krishi Vigyan Kendras are really proving to be the tools of rural transformation in J&K.

(The authors are Head, KVK Reasi and Head, KVK Doda).

Nectar-like words from RSS

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

The social and cultural organization which RSS is and not a political organization has given a timely suggestion to the RSS cadre in particular and the countrymen in general that they should desist from looking out Shiv-lingas in every mosque as it can lead to communal strife which India cannot tolerate and afford .The RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat has given a sagacious advise to the people of the country that they should not fall prey to the forces of communal frenzy and maintain communal harmony for the peaceful existence of the people belonging to all faiths. The words of the RSS chief are nectar like as these will have the effect of upholding communal harmony and secularism and pluralism. His advise implies that no Hindu-Muslim and Mandir-Masjid issue should be created which will have the adverse effect of creating communal; tension and disturbance in the plural country. At the same time the head of the RSS has said that our Muslim brethren are the progeny of their Hindu ancestors and therefore there should be no fight between different sects of the population. The RSS chief has made it crystal clear that the case of Ramjanambooni is the only exception where we have created history by rectification of the historical wrong. But in all other cases throughout the country the status-quo as it existed on 15th August 1947 should be maintained. All disputes should be resolved through the process of reconciliation and dialogue. However it should be ensured that no Minder-Masjid issue should be raised as the Hindu-Muslim issues have no place and relevance in our multi-religious society and therefore such issues should not be raised which have the potential of creating communal disharmony. The historical wrong has been corrected in the case of Ram Janambooni but we are strongly opposed to raising of communal passions under the guise of correcting of the historical wrongs. Thus in the religious places other than the Ram Janambooni the statuesque as it existed on 15th August should be maintained

and so no claim should be made for the ownership of any religious place by the Hindu community as doing so will lead to communal disturbances in the country which is not in the interests of the country .Therefore what is needed is that no change of ownership should be resorted to on the religious places throughout the country as doing so will strengthen the bonds of communal amity and goodwill in the country. Staking claims on different religious places will create Pandora box and new skeletons will come out which will lead to communal strife in the tolerant and secular country. So no unwanted efforts should be made to stake claim on religious places across the nation .Thus for the sake of communal harmony no claim should be staked which will lead to communal disturbances in the country. Our organization is against staking any claim on the ownership of any religious place of any other community as this is essential for creating Hindu-Muslim unity. The unity in diversity which is the distinguishing feature of our country should be maintained at all costs .Because it is in the strengthening of the unity in diversity principle that our country will march forward to greater excellence and greater heights .Thus the principle of unity in diversity should be strengthened so that the people belonging to different faiths will live and work together and the name of our country will shine in the international community. Nothing should be done which will damage our image in the globe. Therefore the citizens of the country should guard against the forces that are hell bent to create communal trouble which is against the interests of the country. So we should unite and defeat the forces of doom who try to create communal strife in the country. Ours is a multi religious, multi lingual and multi cultural society and this beauty of unity in diversity should be kept intact for the flourishing of the plural society and country .Our country is a unique example of unity in diversity and we should strive to protect this unique feature at all costs for the flourishing of the plural and secular ethos. India is a

tolerant land because the majority community is very tolerant from the Vedic times and this tolerant culture is manifest in the coexistence of our vulnerable society. The chief of RSS has made it clear that Sangh is not going to become a party to any dispute between the Hindus and Muslims because the disputes take birth because the majority community stake claim on the religious places which had been built by the foreign invaders by demolishing the temples, because if we will stake claim on the religious places of the Muslim community, it will lead to communal disturbances in the country which our country cannot afford. Therefore the best option is that the status-quo must be maintained on the hundreds of the religious places for the flourishing of the secularism and pluralism. It is the bounden duty of the RSS cadres and the common citizens to uphold the composite culture of India so that the people of all the faiths will grow and flourish and all will live and coexist together in the country. The RSS as a nationalist organization is working day and night to strengthen unity in the country because it is of the view that the unity is the best panacea for all troubles and ills of the society. Thus we are duty bound to strengthen this unity in the rank and file of the country because it is mainly through unity among the citizens that the country will march on the path of progress ,development and peaceful existence which is badly needed in the country .The RSS is doing yeoman's service in providing social services to the society in times of the natural calamity and also in times of any emergency and also in normal times. It engages itself in providing social services to the people irrespective of the religious affiliations. Therefore, it makes no distinction between the people on the basis of religion and it regards all the citizens residing in the country as Hindus irrespective of their religion.Tb RSS everyone residing in India is basically a Hindu notwithstanding his religious affiliation. The RSS chief has given a sagacious advise to the countrymen that they should not fight among themselves on the basis of the faith

because it will be harmful for the nation and so we should protect the secular and tolerant culture of the land. The RSS chief has made plain speaking and has loudly proclaimed that it will not be a party to any claim of ownership of any religious place of a non Hindu place of worship as this will generate ill will among the people belonging to different faiths and it will be against interests of the country .Thus what is needed is that we should protect the secular and plural ethos and fabric of the country because it is a multi religious country and we should maintain the secular tenets of the country and not tarnish its image in the comity of the nations. Therefore we should not do anything which has the potential of creating communal strife and disturbance in the country. Thus what is needed is that we should protect the secular and plural ethos of the country so that people of different faiths will live like brothers and sisters and the secularism will flourish in the country. The RSS cadres and the people of the country should pay a heed to the sane and sagacious advise of RSS chief and do all that will lead to happy coexistence of different faiths in the country.It is hoped that the suggestions of Mohan Bhagwat will have a lasting impression upon the people so that they will adhere to his advice and Hindu-Muslim unity and communal amity will have a full play in the country. Thus what is needed is that we should unite to protect the unique feature of unity in diversity so that people belonging to different faiths will live happily in India.The advice of the RSS chief will have greater implications and positive bearings upon the people of this nation and it is hoped that the countrymen will abide by the suggestions of this great man and the Hindu-Muslim unity will be upheld for the flourishing of the Ganga-Jammi Tehzeeb and this will be a big triumph of India and Indian values. In short, the advice of the RSS chief is nothing short of the words of nectar and words of wisdom which will revolutionize the Indian society in the years to come.

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