

BLUE ECONOMIC POLICY

The Ministry of Earth Sciences is finalizing the National Policy on Blue Economy for the country. A draft policy framework on India's Blue Economy has been prepared. The draft Blue Economy policy framework envisages the optimal utilization of all sectors of the maritime domain, (living, non-living resources, tourism, ocean energy, etc.) for sustainable development of coastal areas. This policy document contains key recommendations on National Accounting Framework for Blue Economy and Ocean Governance, Coastal Marine Spatial Planning and Tourism Priority, Marine Fisheries, Aquaculture and Fish Processing, Manufacturing, Emerging Industries, Trade, Technology, Services and Skill Development, Logistics, Infrastructure and Shipping, Coastal and Deep-Sea Mining and Offshore Energy and Security, Strategic Dimensions and International Engagement. The proposed National Blue Economy Advisory Council (BEAC) will have the Secretaries of relevant Ministries/ Departments as members. It would also include Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries of Coastal States and representatives from industry. The draft policy document was put out for comments and feedback from general public and all relevant stakeholders. Many valuable comments/ suggestions received from ministries/ departments, parliament members, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), industry representatives and general public have been considered and the policy document has been revised accordingly.

There is no activity with the theme 'Swachh Prithvi, Swachh Sagar', however, an activity with the theme 'Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar' is being implemented. This is a 75 days long coastal clean-up campaign for cleaning of at least 75 beaches along the coastal districts which started on July 5, 2022 and will culminate on September 17, 2022 the 'International Coastal Clean Up Day'. The activity is being organized by MoES jointly with Indian Coast Guard, MoEF&CC, MoYAS, NDMA, Paryavaran Samrakshan Gativedhi and Government Departments, volunteer organizations, public and students. The steps/initiatives would include support for awareness campaigns, competitions and workshops/seminars on the issues through Earth Day, Ocean Day etc in schools, colleges and Universities.

OFF 'D' CUFF

BEAUTY REVEALED

Despite social stigma, the artists of Bharatpuram paint to bring joy to themselves and others. RANJENI A SINGH speaks to WERNER DORNIK, an artist from Austria, who helps rehabilitate leprosy patients by kindling their creative spirit

Austrian artist Werner Dornik came to India in 1977 as a young hippie "to promote love and peace and seek enlightenment." However, the course of his life changed when he met some leprosy afflicted people in Varanasi. "They were ostracised by society and were too poor to afford treatment. I spent two sleepless nights, wondering how I could help them. An inner voice nudged me to do something concrete. And then it dawned on me what my life's calling was: To help these people find their self-worth," he says. Dornik recently curated From Pain To Paint, an exhibition of paintings by the artists of Bindu Art School that helps leprosy patients.

"Soon after I came to India as a hippie, I found that most hippies were drug addicts and they spent their time in various ashrams waiting for enlightenment. They behaved rudely with beggars and the poor. Where was the love that they were supposed to promote, I wondered. I got disillusioned," says Dornik, recalling his Varanasi days.

"The leprosy affected people needed 10 euros for their treatment, but they didn't have any money," he says. Dornik returned to India in 1978 with a firm resolve to help poor leprosy patients live a dignified life. "Initially, I sold my paintings and photographs to collect money exclusively for their treatment. By the year 2000, I was able to sponsor treatment for people in many colonies including Khandwa and Indore. Soon, the treatment was made free by the World Health Organization and the Indian government.

"I still had 5,000 euros left in my account. For four years, I did not touch the money. I spent the time reflecting on who I was as an artist and what I can do. I realised that I wanted to change the way society looked at leprosy." Dornik met Padma Venkataraman, the daughter of former President R Venkataraman, who has been active in the rehabilitation of people with leprosy. Soon the idea of setting up an art school

-RANJENI A SINGH

Those who cannot work with their hearts achieve a hollow, half-hearted success that breeds bitterness all around.

-A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

EDITORIAL

Why double standards on freedom of speech?

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

The constitution of the largest democracy of the world that is India has given and guaranteed the right to freedom of speech and expression to its citizens. Therefore, every citizen is free to express his or her views in democratic India. This right to freedom of speech and expression is guaranteed in article 19 of the constitution. But the rights given in the constitution to its citizens are not absolute but relative and this fact should not be overlooked while exercising these rights. Thus, right to freedom of speech is relative and not absolute and so every citizen while practicing and exercising the right to freedom of speech and expression should do it within limits. This right to freedom of speech is subject to public order and it should not impinge the rights of the other people. Therefore no one can be allowed to exercise the right to freedom of expression and speech to the detriment of other citizens and at the same time under the guise of this act no citizen should misuse it for his selfish and narrow ends. What is happening in different parts of the country under the guise of the right to freedom of speech and expression is worrisome and unfortunate. It is very unbecoming and disturbing that the right to freedom of expression is misused and the political parties use double standards in condemning the misuse of the right to freedom of speech. Unluckily it has become a habit and fashion of some film makers and producers to insult and disrespect the Hindu deities and they take pleasure in showing disrespect to the Hindu gods and goddesses under the so called artistic freedom. Recently there was much hue and cry and anger as well as resentment on the unfortunate remarks against Prophet Mohammed by BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma who has been suspended from the party. All the political parties as well as the common men condemn these uncalled for remarks. But unfortunately the radical elements among the Muslim community had taken law into their hands and have beheaded people ostensibly because they have posted their views in favour of Nupur Sharma. Since India is governed by the

constitution and law and both these are supreme and there cannot be the Sharia law and no one can be given the punishments as prescribed by the Islamic law. Now Leena Macknalai, the producer of the documentary Kali has insulted and disrespected the goddesses Kali and showed her smoking which is has no coherence with the reality. She is making tweet after tweet against Hindu deities and she is doing so because she is finding support among the so called secularists and the left wing politicians and because there is an ecosystem in the country which supports her. The so called secular lobby is maintaining stony silence on the anti Hindu and anti deity remarks and tweets of Leena but have been very vocal against the remarks of Nupur Sharma. This double standard about the remarks of Nupur Sharma against the prophet which cannot be justified and remaining silent about the tweets of Leena about the Kali and Shiva and Parvati is very unfortunate and has no place in our democracy. Similarly Mohuva Mathri the TMC parliamentarian has also denounced Hindu deities and has shown disrespect to Kali which cannot be allowed and accepted. Some film producers are habitual of insulting and demeaning Hindu deities under the guise of their so called artistic creation and liberty. The tweets of Leena and Mohuva Mathri are condemnable and should rightly be attracting criticism and opposition throughout the country. Anti Leena and anti Mohuva Mathri protests are rightly taking place in different parts of the country but these film producers are in no mood to apologize for their tweets and for showing disrespect to Hindu deities. Leena has tweeted that she will uphold her so called artistic liberty and artistic creation come what may. There are protests against the documentary Kali and the people and the political parties are demanding ban of the film Kali because it is against Hindu deities which are shown in bad taste and therefore there is no place for such films and the producers and directors of such film should dealt with under the law of the land for showing disrespect to Hindu deities. Unfortunately the so called secular lobby and lib-

erals and so-called progressive politicians are maintaining silence on the tweets of Leena and the disrespect shown by Mohuva Mathri and the same politicians were very vocal against the Nupur Sharma and were demanding her arrest. But when it is the insulting and disrespecting tweets of Leena these very politicians are keeping their mouths shut because of their appeasement policies and the vote bank politics. It is very sad that the so called secularists, liberals and progressive politicians are using double standards and do not condemn those persons and artists who denounce Hindu gods and goddesses but only condemn those who make indiscreet remarks on prophet Mohammed. It seems that some film producers and film makers are disrespecting and showing the Hindu deities in poor light and are thus provoking tolerant Hindus but the Hindus by and large will not be swayed by the insulting tactics of these film producers and will not resort to violence in the country. The anti-Hindu and anti-deity tweets and remarks are made by some film producers to incite Hindus but Hindus are not that stuff who will be provoked to indulge in violence. Some film producers make anti Hindu and anti deity tweets because they know well that there are no radical elements in the Hindu community who will warn beheading of the film producers who show deities in poor light. It is so sad that there is full ecosystem in the country which rallies behind these film makers who denounce Hindus and show their deities in poor light. TMC of West Bengal has distanced itself from its MP Mohuva Mathri, so-called artistic creation and artistic freedom. But TMC should expel her from the party for showing disrespect to Hindu deity and merely disassociating from her statements is not sufficient. The anti Hindu, anti deity and anti-Prophet remarks should be seen with the same spectacles and there should be no biased spectacles to denounce and condemn the those who make unbecoming remarks. It is ironical that anti Hindu and anti deity remarks and showing the Kali, Shiva and Parvati in poor light has become a past time and fashion of some artists and they are justifying such anti Hindu

remarks and showing of the Hindu deity in poor light as their artistic creation and freedom, but there are no takers of their biased view. FIRs should be filed against Leena and Mohuva Mathri and they should be booked under law and punished for their acts so that in future no artist will dare to show the Hindu deities in poor light. For this it is necessary that these film producers should be challenged in the court of law and after speedy trial should be awarded severe punishment to assuage the hurt feelings of Hindus. But it seems most unlikely that these film producers will be prosecuted and given severe punishment as the powers are playing the game of appeasement and vote bank politics. It is unwarranted and unfortunate that Leena Manimakalai and Mohuva Mathri are making fun and ridicule of Hindu deities and insult Hindu sentiments. Leena is living in Canada and posting indiscreet tweets against Hindu gods and goddesses but is saying that she feels insecure in India. She has also accused India of being hate machine. Leena is not going to apologize for her comments. Both Leena and Mohuva are making fun of Hindu deities and of the Hindu sentiments and Hindu religion and this cannot be allowed at any cost.. It is good that Delhi BJP has filed a complaint against Mohuva Mathri and it has come to light that FIRs have been filed in MP against Leena. MEA has asked Canada Government to proceed against Leena for insulting Hindu sentiments and to delete her controversial and objectionable tweets. Mamata Banerjee of TMC who swears by his slogan of Manush, Maa and Matti should denounce attacks and remarks against Hindu deities and come clean on this issue. To conclude it can be argued that the double standards and double stands of the politicians and so called secularists should stop for the flourishing of the true secularism. The freedom of speech and expression should be exercised with care, caution and restraint as these freedoms are not absolute but are relative and should be taken and used as such for the good of the volatile society.

(The author is a Columnist and Social Activist.)

Alternate Dispute Resolution-fast track justice delivery system

■ M K SHARMA

Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) is an alternative to litigation; & involves arbitration, mediation, conciliation, negotiation and judicial settlement including Lok Adalat. It is a non-adversarial method of dispute resolution i.e. working together cooperatively to reach the best solution for everyone. For the last four decades there is much thrust on resolution of disputes through ADR methods. This is so because ADR is seen not merely as the most practical solution to a particular problem but also to prevent further disputes between the contesting parties. As we all know Indian Courts are clogged with long unsettled cases. The prevailing scenario is that even after setting up more than a thousand fast track courts that have settled thousands of matters, the problem is far from being solved as pending cases are still piling up with pending reaching 5 crore (approx). To deal with such a situation ADR can be a helpful mechanism. Moreover, it resolves conflict in a peaceful manner where the outcome is accepted by both the parties. The Supreme Court and the Law Commission of India have also recognized the need for less formal alternative forums to help in securing speedy Justice. The object and reason for inserting Section 89 and Rules 1-A, 1-B and 1-C in Order X of the Code of Civil Procedure are given as, "With a view to implement 129 Report of the Law Commission of India and to make conciliation scheme effective, it is proposed to make it obligatory for the Court to refer the dispute after the issues are framed for settlement either by way of alternate or by way of arbitration, conciliation, mediation, judicial settlement, or through Lok Adalat. It is only after the parties failed to get their disputes settled through any one of the alternate disputes resolution method that the suit shall proceed further in the court in which it was filed." Historically speaking, Section 89 CPC as it stood earlier was repealed in the year 1940 but as there was no corresponding provision enabling the Civil Courts to refer the matter for arbitration, conciliation, judicial settlement including Lok Adalat and mediation, the Parliament decided to insert the provision as it stands. Now the civil courts have been empowered to make reference of all civil cases to any one of the alternate dispute resolution mechanism. The advantages of Alternative Dispute Resolution are:

- Less time consuming: People resolve their dispute in short period as compared to courts

- Cost effective method: Saves lot of money if one undergoes in litigation process.

- It is free from technicalities of courts, here informal ways are applied in resolving dispute.

- People are free to express themselves without any fear of court of law. They can reveal the true facts without disclosing it to any court.

- Efficient way: There are always chances of restoring relationship back as parties discuss their issues together on the same platform.

- It prevents further conflict and maintains good relationship between the parties.

- It preserves the best interest of the parties.

- It provides the opportunity to 'expand the pie' through creative, collaborative bargaining and fulfill the interests driving the demands of the parties. One of the objectives of Legal Services Authorities is to promote settlements of disputes through ADR mechanisms. J&K Legal Services Authority under the patronage of Justice Pankaj Mittal, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh & Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority and under dynamic guidance of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority is striving hard to popularize the concept of ADR amongst the citizens in general & litigants in particular by organizing awareness programmes and holding Lok Adalats. ADR has proven very successful in UT of J&K in clearing the backlog of cases at various levels of judiciary. In 2021, 39 Lok Adalats including 4 National Lok Adalats were organized in which 1,75,009 cases were settled, whereas, in 2022, till date 2,12,540 cases have been disposed of through Lok Adalats. Therefore, impress upon the people of J&K more particularly the litigant public to explore the possibility of getting their disputes resolved through ADR mechanism. I would conclude with the words of Domitius Ulpian, a Roman jurist, "Justice is the constant and perpetual will to allot to every man his due".

(The author is Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority.)

Hoisting Tricolour: Patriotic not compulsive

■ MANMOHAN DHAR

Of course hoisting the Tricolour is a matter of great pride for every true nationalist. How can hoisting tricolour and organizing celebrations at all levels starting from every Indian home, be misunderstood as forceful and coercive tactics of the Government to impose patriotism on the citizens. Patriotism is not something that is imposed. In fact every Indian needs to be patriotic at heart and anything asked to be done towards patriotism should not sound forceful at all. If Prime Minister of the country asks his countrymen to celebrate the 75th year of Independence with passion, intensity, warmth and fervour he can't be pinpointed as a dictator who wants things to be done according to his wishes. He is only trying to express his passion for patriotism as a Prime Minister. He is not questioning your patriotism or love for your country. Your actions and words are sufficient to understand that. An Indian can never take it as an offence if someone asks him or her to hoist tricolour; pride of the nation. It should come like an echo of something already known to them and also very dear and close to their heart. How can it be termed as force or coercion? However, if you disrespect the tricolour in any manner you are undoubtedly being unpatriotic. You can't just ridicule something that is done or supposed to be done in line with the Constitution of India and just dare to say that there won't be a single person to even offer his shoulder to carry bier of the Tricolour. This is not only being unpatriotic but it a mirror of your disaffection for the country to which you owe your allegiance. This exposes your treasonous mindset and the degree of unfaithfulness towards the country which you ought to be faithful to. A country which gives you the chance of holding the prestigious Government positions in your State. This exposes your hypocrisy of pretending nationalism in the shadow of your Anti-nationalism. This exposes your unconditional love for countries which have been continuously trying to weaken and destabilise India, with their ugly proxy wars, ruthless terrorism, religious fundamentalism and cyber intrusions. Your love for those who hoist national flags of enemy countries and pose direct threat to country's internal security is not hidden and your disrespect for the Indian Tricolour is not coming as a surprise for any true Indian. Some political leaders have mastered their art of being two-faced. They are more dangerous to the national unity and integrity, they can manipulate every political situation according to their convenience. They can spit venom and be insanely vocal about the geographic misinformation thereby inciting unrest among the youth who in turn resort to violence, arson, stone-pelting and terrorism. How can you expect respect for Tricolour from these self-centred and corrupt leaders? To keep their political aspirations alive they go to all extremes when it comes to destabilizing India on all fronts. But,

while indulging in such anti-national stances, they forget that it is not the India of seventies or eighties. It is the India of twenty first century and the leadership at helm of affairs is strong enough to sabotage all their nefarious designs and anti-national plots. 'Hari Ghar Tiranga' is not only a slogan, it is an emotion. It is an inspiration, a sentiment, a passion, a spirit and above all a symbol of greatness and esteem of India. How can one be so indifferent to the Prime Minister's call to celebrate the seventy fifth Independence Day with full fervour and enthusiasm. Only those who have ulterior motives against the country will try to grab the opportunity to derail the festivities which are of prime importance to the Prime Minister simply because he wants every Indian to feel the intensity of being a free man in a free country. Congress and other opposition parties are refusing to understand the importance of this precious national festival which has been possible only after a long fight for freedom. Every Indian owes his or her freedom to all those who laid their lives at the altar of their beloved country. Tricolour is not something that can be used as a tool to defend your hatred for someone who happens to be Prime minister of the country. And by asking to hoist tricolour on every roof top he is not offending your patriotic aspiration. In fact he is in turn expressing his own. What is wrong in that? You happen to be the PM, every countryman expects you to be expressive, dutiful and concerned. You are simply being dutiful and that is what does not suit your political rivals. This is what is quite dreadful and alarming. Hatred for Prime Minister is slowly turning out to be the hatred for India and this is what disturbs you as a true patriot. All those who resort to malign the grace of Tricolour by defacing and disrespecting it in the name of protests, are doing a dangerous dis-service to the nation. And if such elements are not dealt with sternly and shown their actual place according to the law of land, shall tantamount to disservice too. A clear cut policy of being tough to those who do not hold the Tricolour in the highest of their esteem is the only befitting response to their unfaithfulness. "Nation first" is the rule that should determine one's patriotism. And when we say nation first it should include every duty of a citizen to uphold the unity and integrity of the country. Political maturity is the dire need of the hour. And if politicians continue to be indifferent to the very progress of the nation and indulge in unabated political terrorism just to unroot their political opponents out of sheer hatred then the day is not far when India will no more be in the race to be Vishwa Guru.

Therefore, it is very important to understand that those who think they can play with the sentiments of their own fellow countrymen by creating misunderstanding about the Prime Minister are in fact defaming their own country and demeaning their own national flag. Hoisting Tricolour is Patriotic not compulsive.

J&K on mission to become largest clean energy-producing UT

200 MW grid-tied rooftop solar power plants to be installed on residential buildings by JAKEDA under 'Solar City Mission'

J&K is on a mission to become one of the largest clean energy-producing UT in the country with an objective to reduce dependency on conventional sources of energy and enable J&K in attaining self-sufficiency in its energy needs. J&K Government recognizes that renewable energy can also significantly increase J&K's and the Nation's energy security. To achieve this milestone, the work is going on to implement the Government of India's Grid-connected Rooftop Solar Scheme, Phase-II for the residential sector in Jammu to ensure that the electricity needs of the city are fully met from solar energy.

Under the project, 200 MW grid-tied rooftop solar power plants will be installed on 50,000 residential buildings in Jammu city by the Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA) under its "Solar City Mission" at an estimated cost of Rs 1040 crore. The project will be completed by March, 2024 and will have a lifetime of 25 years. The Rooftop Solar Programme will provide subsidized installation of solar power panels on residential houses at the cost of Rs. 58,739, Rs. 53,995, Rs. 52,594, and Rs. 51,309 for Category-A (Up to 1 kW), Category-B (> 1 kW to 2 kW), Category-C (> 2 kW up to 3 kW), and Category-D (> 3 kW up to 10 kW), respectively.

The Central Sector Scheme provides a central subsidy component of 40 per cent of the project cost and a state subsidy component of 25 per cent of the project cost for the installation of solar power panels, below 3 kW capacity, beyond which the central subsidy component remains at 20 per cent. The subsidy is provided to the beneficiaries through the DBT mode. An official said that these rooftop solar power plants will be connected to the grid on a net metering basis. The investments made by the beneficiaries will be recovered at a rate of 25 per cent annually on account of the saving of energy, with a payback period of approximately 4 years. With the implementation of the project, J&K will benefit from the generation of approximately 280 million units of energy annually, with a corresponding reduction in carbon emissions of approximately 5.44 million tons, besides reaping gains from savings on account of inter-state transmission losses to the tune of 224 million units, he added.

The generation of solar energy through the Rooftop Solar Programme will also help the energy-deficit UT of J&K in supplementing its energy needs, while assisting the DISCOMs in achieving the Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) targets of 10.5 per cent as fixed by the Government of India.

The project will also provide employment opportunities to local youth. Based on employment estimates, it is calculated that the 1 MW rooftop solar PV project generates a total of 40 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs over the 25 years expected lifetime of the project, which includes highly skilled personnel for business development, design, sales, procurement, and project management; one-time jobs for construction and installation of the rooftop PV system; and unskilled resources required annually for cleaning activity of the plant.

The scheme mandates implementing agency, viz. JAKEDA to provide regular quality supervision and certification of the quality of material to be installed; periodic monitoring of physical progress and third-party quality checks from MNRE approved test centres; provide free maintenance for a period of 5 years post installation; install bi-directional net-meters; and ensure project completion within the given timelines. J&K has a good potential for solar energy and the renewable energy capacity would help to bridge a part of its power requirement.

Under the new budget in PM KUSUM Scheme, 375 Solar Water Pumps will be installed in 2022-23 providing electricity benefit to 47159 souls, direct agriculture benefit to 18750 souls, and indirect agriculture benefit to 160000 souls. Notably, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a 500-kilowatt solar power plant at Village Pali of Samba which will make it India's first 'carbon-neutral' Panchayat.