

## INDIAN ECONOMY

In the last few years, India has proved its mettle in all fields. We have proved ourselves to be the largest and stable democracy in the world. Our economy is making steady progress. We have defeated the last global recession with our foresight.

Many of our companies have given proof of India's industrial efficiency by acquiring foreign companies. Our teachers, scientists and industrialists are showcasing their talent in foreign countries as well. We have established new records in every field of science, medicine, business, art, military power, education and culture. All these things strengthen our faith in the bright future of India.

When the world's major economies were collapsing due to the worldwide recession, the Indian economy proved its credibility by remaining unaffected by it. Increase in foreign investment and acquisition of foreign companies also proves the success of our economy. Apart from this, we have also made remarkable progress in the field of education and culture.

## ‘Human Trafficking’ most ‘Abhorrent Crime’

■ MAHADEEP SINGH JAMWAL

Human trafficking means 'Trade of Humans' (Men, Women including Children). Trafficking in human beings is not only one of the most abhorrent crimes challenging today but it is also one of the most complex ones. The United Nations defines 'Human Trafficking' as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of the threat, use of force, other forms of coercion, abduction, deception, abuse of power and abuse of position of vulnerability. Giving or receiving payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another for the purpose of exploitation. Human Trafficking is a crime involving the exploitation of a person for labor, services, or commercial sex.

Human trafficking involves men, women as well as children as victims of the crime worldwide. The various heinous forms of human trafficking are for the purposes of sexual exploitation. Every year thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers. (Some estimates suggest that 80% of human trafficking involves Prostitution and Sexual Exploitation). It is a serious crime and grave violation of human rights. Apart from the purpose of sexual exploitation, labor exploitation, forced criminality and organ removal are also the acts in human trafficking. The act of criminals goes widely unpunished, with States implementing very few prosecutions, and even less convictions. To arrive at what accounts for human trafficking, we find generally that human trafficking is for the purpose of: prostitution, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, pornography, organ transplant, forced labor, begging, adoption and domestic servitude.

Almost every country in the universe is affected by human trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims. Trafficking of human beings involves perpetrators deriving economic profit from the exploitation of victims and their vulnerabilities. Only 10% of human trafficking in India is international, while 90% is interstate. According to a report by the National Human Rights Commission of India, 40,000 children are abducted each year, leaving 11,000 untraced. There is a strong likelihood that traffickers know their victims on a personal basis, and may even be family members. Perhaps most tragically, we know that many perpetrators were once victims of the crime themselves. There are reported cases where 'Take Care Centers' themselves indulge into human trafficking. There are indeed traffickers who are part of sophisticated organized crime syndicates. Here it is imperative for those working on criminology of human trafficking that they should carry out more research and analysis into traffickers, identify more indicators about their backgrounds, motivations and the exploitation mechanisms they use. This could be done by applying traditional theories of organized crime and criminality, supported by the development of case studies.

When we traverse into the causes that influence human trafficking, obvious causes of human trafficking, we can arrive at are: Demand for sex, poverty, lack of education, lack of legitimate economic opportunities, large profit making act. Fundamental theory of demand and supply is applicable to this situation as well. Men from rural areas generally migrate to major commercial cities and from here the demand for commercial sex is generated. To fulfill the supply all sort of efforts are made by the suppliers and here comes the Human Trafficking in play. This all does not mean that law enforcing agencies are toothless but have strong weaponry of laws in their quiver to short at violators. Article 23 of the Indian Constitution, prohibits Human Trafficking. Article 23 of the Constitution amended in 2014 includes the following provisions: Traffic in human beings and beggars and other similar forms of forced labor are prohibited and any contravention of this provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law. Other legislations are: 1. Bonded Labor Abolition Act 1976 (The property of bonded laborers to be freed from mortgage, etc. Freed bonded laborer not to be evicted from homestead. The liability to repay the bonded debt stands extinguished). 2. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 (Prohibits employment of children in certain occupations and employment). 3. The Juvenile Justice Act 2000. (Whoever employs or uses any juvenile or the child for the purpose or causes any juvenile to beg shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine) 4. The Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (ITPA or POIA) 1986. 5. Police also use IPC for the offences under Human Trafficking such as kidnapping, and selling women. 6. Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Act, 2021 (To prevent and counter trafficking in persons. The Act provides for care, protection, and rehabilitation to the victims, while respecting their rights, and creating a supportive legal, economic and social environment for them. A police officer who acts under sub-section (1) of this section, shall inform the District Anti-Human Trafficking Committee, or the Child Welfare committee in case of child victims, about such rescue or emergence and the Committee shall take appropriate actions for providing interim relief and further rehabilitation services and support to the rescued or emerged person).

Concluding I can say on one hand, we should identify the victims, ensuring their access to justice, health, social assistance and protection, and preventing further abuse and exploitation and on the other to prevent individuals from being exploited from human trafficking, we must understand the risk factors; know what to do and who to contact to report it, expand awareness in communities. Nearly every country across borders has pledged to put the protocol against human trafficking into action by ending impunity for traffickers and ensuring that 'Criminal Justice' responses safeguard the interests of the victims of this human trade.

(The writer is Senior Superintendent of Police (Retd)).

# Guru Purnima and its importance

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

Today is the auspicious occasion and the festival of Guru Purnima and greetings to all the countrymen on this important festival and may the Guru-Shisha relationship thrive in India and let the Guru's remove all darkness and ignorance from the people'. This Doha of Saint Kabir underlines the importance of guru and it reads as under-"Guru, Gobind Donu Khade Kakay Lago Paye ,Balhari Guru Apno Gobind Deyo Batay" which means that both Guru and God are standing before me and whom shall I bow ,I will sacrifice my life for my Guru who taught me the way to reach God. Guru or teacher has always been considered akin to God in the Hindu culture and scriptures. Guru Purnima also known as Vyasa Purnima is the day to celebrate and pay our gratitude to our Gurus or teachers. This Sanskrit word literally translates to the one who frees us from ignorance. This full moon day in the month of Ashada is one of the most suspicious days of the year in Hinduism. In very ancient time Guru Purnima was basically and originally celebrated in Buddhism and the day commemorates the day when Lord Buddha gave the message and sermon to seven of his disciples and thus the Buddhists in india ,Nepal and Sri Lanka celebrate Guru Purnima. Besides Buddhists ,Hindus and Janis also celebrate Guru Purnima with great devotion and fanfare. Guru Purnima is also called Vyasa Purnima because the day is the birth anniversary of Shree Vadya Visa who is credited with authoring many religious scriptures and texts and the day is celebrates in his honor and to remember him .This year India will celebrate Guru Purnima on 3rd July .It also commemorates the birthday of Ved Vyasa who has written some of the most important Hindu texts of all times such as Puranas, Mahabharatha and Vedas. Guru Purnima honors Ved Vyasa ,known as one of the most honored Gurus of ancient India. Senior Ayurvedic consultant Dr Vishakh Mahindroo says, "Veda Vyasa ,structured the four Vadas ,composed the epic of Mahabharata ,created the foundation of many Puranas and vast encyclopedias of Hindu sacred lore .Guru Purnima represents the date on which Lord Shiva as the Adi Guru or original Guru taught seven Rishis who were the seers of the Vedas. In yoga Sutras, Ishvara as Pranava or Om is said to be the Adi Guru of Voga.

Lord Buddha was said to have delivered his first sermon on this day at Samath, reflecting the power of this sacred time. Guru Purnima is celebrated to honor our teachers who remove the darkness and ignorance from our mind and lives. They have a special place in the lives of their followers since ancient times .All the holy books of Hinduism dictate the importance of Gurus and the extraordinary bond between a Guru and his Shishya -disciple. An

age old Sanskrit phrase 'Mata Pitah Guru Daivam says that first place is reserved for mother; second for father and third for Guru and forth for God. Thus teachers have been accorded a higher place than Gods in Hindu tradition. Guru Purnima is usually celebrated by worshipping and expressing gratitude to the Gods who like out Gurus.

In monasteries and ashrams m disciples offer prayers in the honor of their teachers .On this day one should dedicate oneself to following the guru's principle and teachings and put them into practice .Guru Purnima has the importance of Vishnu Puja attached to it. Vishu Sabastranam also known as the thousand names of Lord Vishnu should be recited on this day. Be in sync with self and channelize your energies on this auspicious day. Many people fast during the day, refraining to eat salt, rice, heavy foods, such as non-vegetarian dishes and other meals made of cereals. Only eating yoghurt or fruits is allowed .They break their fast after performing puja in the evening. The temples distribute Prasada and Charnamrita, containing fresh fruits and sweetened curd. Most households also allow a strict vegetarian diet on Guru purnima ,eating delicacies like Khichidi, poori, Halva and sweets like Soan Papdi, Barfi, Ladoo, Gulab Jammn etc. Guru Purnima also spelled as Poornima is a religious Hindu festival dedicated to offering respect to all the spiritual and academic gurus.

It is celebrated as a festival in India ,Nepal and Bhutan by Hindus ,Janis and Buddhists .The festival is traditionally observed to honor ones chosen spiritual teachers or leaders. The festival was revived by Mahatma Gandhi to pay tribute to his spiritual Guru, Shrimad Rajchandra. Buddhists observe uposatha, that is, to observe eight precepts on this day .Vipassana mediators practice meditation on this day under the guidance of their teachers. Rainy season Vassa also starts on this day, lasting for three lunar months, from July to October. During this time, Buddhist monks remain in a single place, generally in their temples .In some monasteries monks dedicate the Vassa to intensive meditation. During Vassa many Buddhist lay people reinvigorate their spiritual training and adopt more ascetic practices ,such as giving up meat ,alcohol or smoking. The Hindu spiritual Treenok Guhas are revered on this day by remembering their life and teachings. Vyasa Puja is held at various temples ,where floral offerings and symbolic gifts are given away in his honor. The festivities are usually followed by feast for the disciples, Shishya, where the Prasad and nectar of the feet ,which represents his Kripa is distributed .As a day of remembrance towards all Treenok Guhas, through whom God grants the grace of knowledge to the disciples ,special recitations of the Hindu scriptures especially the Treenok Guha Gita are held all the day.

Apart from signing of bhajans ,hymns and special kirtan session and Havan at many places ,where devotees from all over gather at the ashrams ,Matha or places where the seat of Treenok Guha,Treenok Guha Gaddi exists. Irrespective of their religions ,Indian academics celebrate this day by thanking their teachers .Many schools ,colleges and universities have events in which students thank their teachers and remember past scholars .Alumni visit their teachers and present gifts as a gratitude .Students arrange different art-competitions accordingly .The main tradition among guru-Shishya is blessings by reciting a poetry or quote and the guru gives blessings for success and happiness of an individual .In fact ,guru purnima is a traditional way of India's celebrating teachers day .Guru Purnima is one of the sacred festivals which people celebrate to pay gratitude to spiritual and academic gurus and pay tribute to them .Guru is seen such a person which helps you and guides you in the life's yatra .As the name suggests ,it is celebrated in reverence of one's guru or teacher .On guru purnima ,people worship and pay respect to their teachers .Guru Purnima also known as Vasaya Purnima is also celebrated as the birth anniversary of the Hindu epic ,Mahabharata's author ,Rishi ,Ved Vyasa .Lord Buddha is also honored on this day by his followers as it is believed that Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon on this day .In India ,the occasion of guru purnima ,is celebrated by millions of Hindus ,Buddhists and Jains .Traditionally the festival is celebrated by Buddhists in honor of the Lord Buddha who gave his first sermon on this day at Samath UP .However ,the followers of the Hindu religion celebrate Guru Purnima as the birth anniversary of Veda Vyasa .Guru Purnima is believed to the day when Krishna ,Dwaipayana Vyasa -the author of Mahabharata was born to sage Parasara and Satyavati .Hence the day is also called Vyasa Purnima .On the day of Guru Purnima ,devotees take a bath and offer prayers to their gurus .Guru Purnima is celebrated all over India and people recite shlokas in remembrance of their Gurus .Guru is the creator Brahma ,Guru is the preserver Vishnu ,Guru is the destroyer ,Shiva .Guru is directly the supreme spirit .I offer may salutations to this Guru. Said Adi Shankara .This is the time of the year when the Adiyogi's attention fell upon his first seven disciples -the now celebrated Saptrishi .In the yogic tradition ,Shiva is worshipped as a God but considered as the Adiyogi -the first Yogi and as the Adi Guru ,the first guru from whom the yogic science originated .So this month is seen as the best time to receive the grace of the Guru and make yourself receptive to the process .In brief it can be said that the importance of Guru Purnima is great and it can neither be exaggerated nor overlooked.

(The author is a columnist, social and KP activist).

## JK Mission Youth - A socio-economic empowerment initiative

■ MOHAMMAD HANIEF

Jammu & Kashmir is bestowed with a predominantly young population with about 69 per cent of the population being below the age of 35 years. In order to provide a platform for holistic implementation of all youth engagement and outreach initiatives, and to bring the interests and empowerment of youth to the centre of policy making, government of Jammu & Kashmir Union territory has rolled out a pioneering initiative - Mission Youth. Mission Youth is an ambitious initiative aimed to provide a vibrant medium for youth engagement & empowerment in Jammu and Kashmir and the mission & strategy is to facilitate youth to become ambassadors of peace, prosperity & socio-economic growth through systematic interventions across domains.

The initiative has been successful in addressing the socio-economic issues faced by the youth of the UT by providing them a platform to optimally harness their skills in different potential entrepreneurial prospects, thereby contributing towards growth and development of the region. Mission Youth, a comprehensive youth development program, launched by Jammu and Kashmir government, has proved boon towards enhancing skills and entrepreneurship among youth of the region.

In the present financial year, 4482 youth have been facilitated for self-employment under the scheme with a total financial support of 165 crore through scheme banking partner and 16 crore as government contribution towards subsidy. Self-employment avenues created under this scheme have instilled a sense of self-reliance and positivity among youth and assistance to more than 1588 women entrepreneurs has been provided under a scheme with a resultant employment generation of 3615. Total financial assistance to the tune of Rs 102 crore has been sanctioned along with an amount of Rs 12 crore as government contribution towards subsidy. Mission Youth under the program of innovation aims to enhance young people's learning and development through a range of non-formal learning activities with focus on pioneers experimentation and innovation in education, entrepreneurship, art, research and cross-sectoral partnerships. Innovation may be defined as exploiting new ideas leading to the creation of a new product, process or service. It is not just the invention of a



new idea that is important.

Mission Youth has been a game changer for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. The initiative has provided the youth with the necessary resources and support to enhance their skills and promote entrepreneurship, thereby contributing to the socio-economic development of the region. The success of Mission Youth serves as an inspiration for other states to implement similar initiatives for the development of their youth. Mission Youth has succeeded in turning J-K youth into ambassadors of innovation, peace and development through systematic interventions for youth engagement and outreach under six domains including livelihood generation, education/skill development, financial assistance, counseling/theory, sports and recreation. It was rolled out specially designed community oriented livelihood generation scheme for youth of J&K under the name of "Rise Together". The programme envisions promoting community based entrepreneurship optimally to generate jobs, income and promote spirit of social service among new-age young entrepreneurs of Jammu & Kashmir.

In order to bridge the gap between demand and supply of skilled workforce and to create a strong environment for professionals and technical skill development in Jammu and Kashmir; Mission Youth team of Jammu and Kashmir administration has been in touch with prominent organizations of the country including ICICI Foundation, Tata Technologies Ltd, Primal Foundation, Wipro etc for working on upgrading skills of youth in the sectors having high employability

potential like Banking & Financial Services, Digital Marketing, Media Management etc.

Young people who volunteer regularly develop a civic identity, as leaders and change-makers, and therefore become more socially and politically active adults. They also learn new social skills like collaboration and problem solving that are vital to succeed in academics, the workplace, and their personal lives. Thus, youth volunteerism can play a pivotal role in creating lifelong change among youth and result in their overall personality development, which happens to be the core agenda of Mission Youth. The youth clubs have been constituted to realize this vision. Mission Youth has also initiated the process of setting up super specialized youth centres across all the districts of Jammu & Kashmir. These centres are primarily aimed to present a safe youth-appealing environment with manifestation of hope, security and aspirations of the youth and are planned to offer a first of kind initiative in a supervised environment covering four fundamental contours of youth engagement & empowerment viz. Inform, Inspire, Interact & Innovate. The UT administration is laying special thrust with Mission Youth programmes on skilling & self-employment of youth with targeted schemes to drive a socio-economic transformation as government has already instructed for impact assessment of initiatives and called upon stakeholders for exploring all avenues for enhanced corporate engagement in Youth empowerment and skilling programmes/schemes. According to officials more than 30,000 youth, including more than

12,000 girls, have been provided with direct livelihood means during the year 2021-22.

One of the primary objectives of Mission Youth was to address the issue of unemployment among youth which has been successful in creating employment opportunities by providing requisite training and support for entrepreneurship. Under the initiative, the government has established incubation centres and provided financial assistance to young entrepreneurs to start their own business ventures. This has not only created jobs but also boosted economy of the region.

Likewise, the Mission Youth started 'Youth Volunteer Program' for youth engagement at grassroots level and rolled out a special volunteer program in the name of YOUTH CLUBS. The initiative was approved by the governing body of Mission Youth, headed by Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. The volunteer program was made fully operational on the eve of International Youth Day 2021 and 4500 youth clubs have been constituted under the program across the UT. More than one lakh youth have been involved in volunteer activities through the program and got opportunity to work through real challenges and make meaningful change in the society. Youth have been enabled to learn new social skills like collaboration and problem solving that are vital to succeed in academics, workplace, and their personal lives. Remarkably, tremendous work performed by the Mission Youth during past few years bore fruit when the Mission Youth was awarded with Prime Minister's award for the Excellence in Public Administration 2022, under the Innovation (State) category on 16th Civil Services Day this year. In order to promote meaningful livelihood activities and employment to instill a sense of purpose and self-esteem in individuals to steer them away from drugs, programmes for skill development, vocational training and livelihood support of ex-drug addicts would be carried out through National Backward Classes Finance and other Development Corporations of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. In addition to this, vocational training and livelihood programmes would also be carried out in collaboration with Department of Women and Child Development, Department of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and its affiliated institutes.

(The author is a regular columnist).

## India should adopt Guru Parampara

■ ER. PRABHAT KISHORE

**Guru Govind Dou Khade, KakeLagooPaay; Balihari GuruAap Ne, GovindDiyobatay. Yah TanVish Ki BelRi, Guru Amrit Ki Khan; Shish Deyo Jo Guru Mile, To BhiSastaJaay. Sab Dharati Kagaj Karu, Lekhani Sab Vamray; Saat Samudra Masi Karu, Guru GunLikha Na Jaay.**

This Doha (verse) of Sadguru Kabir describes the greatness of a Guru, who is necessary for the life of a human being and an important pillar of society. They are friends, philosophers and guides who teach, philosophise and enrich students. From academic knowledge to moral-ethical or social, the Gurus are a treasure trove. A Guru's contribution to the world is priceless and irreplaceable. Gurus are known to form the minds of the youth, they bestow good qualities on their students and make them responsible citizens. It is a profession and mission taught by the saint.

The Vedic Mantra "Gurur Brahma Gurur Vishnu, Gurur Devo Maheshvarah; Gururah Sakshat Param Brahma, Tasmai Gurave Namah" explains that Guru himself is the Tridev i.e. Brahma-Vishnu-Mahesh and is verily the supreme Power or Absolute truth. It signifies the unchallenged position of theGuru, who helps us in solving all troubles that we encounter in the path of learning & wisdom in our life. Guru is composed of two Sanskrit words "Gu", meaning darkness and "Ru", meaning light. Thus Guru means the one who brings from darkness to light. The word Guru itself resembles the message " Asto Maa Sadgamay, Tanso Maa Jyotirgamay, Mrityor Maa Amritgamay" (i.e. lead us from ignorance to truth, from darkness to light and from death to deathlessness). A guru is one, who has imminence knowledge, wisdom and command over a subject and makes use of it to guide his disciples. Guru is the building block of society, who helps to become a person better human being. The word "Guru" is untranslatable and

'Teacher', 'Master', 'tutor' or other equivalents give only a partial meaning. Parents as well as all those persons, who are responsible for the career building of the disciples, are their "Guru".

In Indian culture and civilization, the concept of Guru is found in the earliest Vedic texts. The Guru and Gurukul were the established tradition in ancient Bharatvarsha. Guru had the highest position in King's Rajdarbar and society. Archeological and epigraphical evidence certify the existence of numerous Gurukuls, where Shishyas were equipped not only with bookish knowledge but also had an all-round development. Philosophy; grammar; farming, animal husbandry; weapon training, music, painting and other essential life skills in human life were part of the study. The Guru-Shishya Parampara were also part & parcel of other sects like Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism, which originated from Sanatan Dharma. Sikh is the transformed form of the Sanskrit word Shishya and Shikhism is completely based on Guru tradition. Thus Guru tradition-based learning was the backbone of enriched Indian society and India was the hub of knowledge and culture. Nalanda Vishwavidyalaya, Vikramshila Vishwavidyalaya, Udanpur Vishwavidyalaya, Takshshila Vishwavidyalaya, Kashi Vidyapith etc. are some such evidences, where learners from all over the world illuminated their mind and body. Undoubtedly, Guru is the one who shapes the nation inside his/her classroom. After cessation of the Guru-ShishyaParampara (system) and the adoption of the Macaulay education system, the goal and meaning of education has completely transformed. The teacher/tutor's duty has narrowed down to just teach the students certain subjects in classroom and now they have nothing to do with their all-round development. Gradually the teachers lost their dignity in society. After the governmentisationof schools, the teacher no longer remain a Guru, but became a salaried employee. The government used them in various jobs, other than teaching. They are the soft targets for engagement

in various non-teaching works like elections, human census, animal census, pulse polio works, ration card verification & many more. The entry of politics and unionism among teachers has also badly hampered the education system. Several factions of teachers' organization have evolved only to establish leadership, which time& again organise strikes for their demands. The two-fold system of education i.e. Government and Private, has bifurcated the education scenario in two distinct identities. Policy makers, themselves do not accept the government schools and send their wards to private schools. Even teachers, working in government school, have no faith in their school and they prefer to admit their wards to private schools. Generally, government schools are now meant for poor and downtrodden classes, who have no better option. Even after 75 years of independence, the education system has not been transformed as job-oriented and the graduates find themselves empty handed after passing out. The mindset of teachers has totally been transformed. Due to downgrading from "Guru" to "teacher", the country's foundation is at stake. It is heartbreaking thatthe major section of present-day teachers is apathetic towards the high-valued job of learner's career building through teaching. Education has become a profitable business, and teachers have become its marketing managers. Although the enriched growth of science and education has made us capable to reach on the moon and mars, but unfortunately the human values have been lost. The need of the hour is to relook the prevailing education system in India. We must shift our strategy from the present education system, which is producing graduates having only bookish knowledge, to Gurukul system, where the all-round development of the disciple was the main objective. By adopting the GuruParampara, the country will once again become a Vishwa Guru.

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