> To my mind, there is no doubt that this Gandhi age is the dark age of India. It is an age in which people, instead of looking for their ideals in the future, are returning to antiquity.
>
> -B. R. Ambedkar

Digital J&K: A Beacon of Transparent Governance

Over the last four years, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has witnessed a remarkable transformation in governance through the implementation of various digital initiatives. These initiatives aim to bring transparency, accountability, and efficiency to government services, ultimately benefiting the common masses. From streamlining land record management to providing a wide range of online services, J&K is emerging as a model of digital government in the country.

Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani: Revolutionizing Land Record Management

One of the flagship programs launched by the J&K government is "Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani," a digital initiative that revolutionizes land record management. This program allows citizens to access their land records online, reducing the possibility of manipulation and improving the efficiency of revenue offices. This digital intervention empowers common people to check their land records on their mobile devices, eliminating the need for physically visiting revenue offices and expediting the process of obtaining revenue extracts.

E-Governance for All: A Digital Services Transformation

The government's prime objective is to make all services available online, minimizing the need for physical visits to government offices. J&K has made impressive progress in providing nearly 600 services online, covering major services commonly availed by the people. Through the e-Unnat portal, citizens can easily register and apply for various services, receiving the service deliverable in the form of an output certificate/report. The integration of the Public Service Guarantee Act (PSGA) portal with e-Unnat further ensures transparent, citizen-friendly, and efficient governance.

Auto-Appeal System: An Innovative Game-Changer

J&K has taken a pioneering step by integrating the Auto-Appeal System feature into the e-Unnat portal. This system empowers citizens by providing them with a mechanism to escalate and appeal against any service-related delays or issues. By strictly adhering to the provisions of PSGA, the government aims to weed out inefficiency, red tape, and apathy in the service delivery mechanism. With the implementation of this robust system, J&K becomes the first Union Territory in the country to adopt such a transparent and accountable approach.

Digi Dost's Program: Mobilizing Digital Volunteers

The "Digi Dost" program launched by the government aims to create a network of digitally empowered young volunteers at the district, block, and panchayat levels. These volunteers serve as brand ambassadors for Digital J&K and Digital India, working towards increasing awareness and mobilization of digital services. This grassroots approach further enhances the reach and impact of digital initiatives, ensuring that even the remotest corners of J&K benefit from the technological advancements.

Jammu and Kashmir's digital journey has been nothing short of transformative. With initiatives like Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani and e-Unnat, the government has brought unprecedented transparency, efficiency, and convenience to the lives of its citizens. By empowering the common masses through digital services, J&K sets an inspiring example for other states and territories to follow. As the nation moves towards a more digital future, J&K stands tall as a shining beacon of transparent and accountable governance.

SEHAT-PMJAY: Transforming Health Sector in Jammu and Kashmir over last 4 years

Over the past four years, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has witnessed a massive transformation in its health sector through the implementation of the SEHAT-PMJAY (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana - SEHAT) scheme. This landmark initiative, launched by the government, has revolutionized healthcare accessibility and affordability for all residents in the region. By providing free and universal health insurance coverage, the scheme has brought a wave of positive change and hope for millions of beneficiaries.

Universal Health Insurance Scheme:

J&K has proudly become the first state in India to introduce a Universal Health Insurance Scheme . This ambitious scheme ensures that all residents of the state have access to quality healthcare, irrespective of their economic background or social status. The provision of free health insurance coverage to every individual in J&K has been a game-changer, eliminating financial barriers that previously hindered healthcare access for many.

Upto Rs 5 Lakh Health Cover Per Family:

One of the key highlights of SEHAT-PMJAY is the provision of up to Rs 5 lakh health cover per family. This significant amount ensures that families can avail of medical treatment without worrying about the burden of exorbitant healthcare expenses. The financial security provided by the scheme has empowered families to seek timely medical attention, contributing to better health outcomes and improved quality of life.

Impressive Enrollment and Coverage:

The success of SEHAT-PMJAY is evident in the staggering number of beneficiaries registered under the scheme. With 82.22 lakh beneficiaries already enrolled, the initiative has reached far and wide, covering a substantial portion of the state's population. Notably, all families registered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) have also been included in the ambit of AB PMJAY-SEHAT, further enhancing the reach of this comprehensive healthcare program.

Issuance of Golden Cards:

82 lakh individuals have been issued Golden Cards under SEHAT-PMJAY, symbolizing their entitlement to medical treatment under the scheme. These cards serve as a gateway to quality healthcare services at empanelled hospitals, granting beneficiaries the dignity and care they deserve in times of medical need.

Growing Network of Empanelled Hospitals:

To ensure seamless healthcare services, 229 hospitals have been empanelled under the PM-JAY network. This extensive network of hospitals caters to a diverse range of medical needs, making healthcare more accessible and convenient for beneficiaries across the state.

The SEHAT-PMJAY initiative has indeed been a beacon of hope and transformation in the health sector of Jammu and Kashmir. By providing free and universal health insurance coverage, extending PMJAY to additional families, and establishing a robust network of empanelled hospitals, the scheme has brought about a positive change in the lives of millions of people. As the state continues to witness progress in its healthcare accessibility and outcomes, SEHAT-PMJAY stands as a testament to the power of inclusive and comprehensive healthcare policies.

How Google has made our life easy

■ MOHAMMAD HANIEF

Today, Google has become an integral part of our daily life. Without it, we cannot even imagine a single step in our everyday life. From a small thing to a big thing, we search in Google to get our desired information. It has become an integral part of our daily life than we could ever imagine.

Google now a days is not less than an encyclopedia that offers you information or knowledge on everything under the sky, and everyone is familiar to the popular phrase 'Google it'. Be it Google Glass, or Street view or navigation, Google has always been there as your guide.

Google with its all kinds of features has now become an integral part of the daily life of everyone as it proves highly important and informative source for all knowledge, maps, entertainment, business etc thus everyone from children to old persons are fully dependent to Google and all its features.

Google LLC is an American multinational technology company that focuses on search engine technology, online advertising, cloud computing, computer software, quantum computing, e-commerce, artificial intelligence, and consumer electronics.It has been referred as the "most powerful company in the world" and one of the world's most valuable brands due to its market dominance, data collection, and technological advantages in the area of artificial intelligence. It is considered one of the Big Five American information technology companies, alongside Amazon, Apple, Meta, and Microsoft.

Google began in January 1996 as a research project by Larry Page and Sergey Brin when they were both PhD students at Stanford University in California. The project initially involved an unofficial "third founder", Scott Hassan, the original lead programmer who wrote much of the code for the original Google Search engine, but he left before Google was officially founded as a company; Hassan went on to pursue a career in robotics and founded the company Willow Garage in 2006.

The company went public via an initial public offering (IPO) in 2004. In 2015, Google was reorganized as a wholly owned subsidiary of Alphabet Inc. Google is Alphabet's largest subsidiary and is a holding company for Alphabet's Internet properties and interests. Sundar Pichai was appointed CEO of Google on October 24, 2015, replacing Larry Page, who became the CEO of Alphabet. On December 3, 2019, Pichai also became the CEO of Alphabet.

The company has since rapidly grown to offer a multitude of products and services beyond Google Search, many of which hold dominant market positions. These products address a wide range of use cases, including email (Gmail), navigation (Maps), cloud computing (Cloud), web browsing (Chrome), video sharing (YouTube), productivity (Workspace), operating systems (Android), cloud storage (Drive), language translation (Translate), photo storage (Photo), video calling (Meet), smart home (Nest), smartphones (Pixel), wearable technology (Fitbit), gaming (Stadia), music streaming (YouTube Music), video on demand (TV), artificial intelligence (Assistant), machine learning APIs (TensorFlow), AI chips (TPU), and more.

Some Google services are not web-based. Google Earth, launched in 2005, allowed users to see high-definition satellite pictures from all over the world for free through a client software downloaded to their computers.

Google develops the Android mobile operating system, as well as its smartwatch, television, car, and Internet of things-enabled smart devices variations.

It also develops the Google Chrome web browser, and Chrome OS, an operating system based on Chrome.

Google strives for ambitious technological innovations aimed at solving humanity's biggest problems. Some of these include quantum computing (Sycamore), self-driving cars (Waymo, formerly the Google Self-Driving Car Project), smart cities (Sidewalk Labs), and transformer models (Google Brain).

Google and YouTube are the two most visited websites worldwide followed by Facebook and Twitter. Google is also the largest search engine, mapping and navigation application, email provider, office suite, video sharing platform, photo and cloud storage provider, mobile operating system, web browser, ML framework, and AI virtual assistant provider in the world as measured by market share. On the list of most valuable brands, Google is ranked second by Forbes and fourth by Interbrand. It has received significant criticism involving issues such as privacy concerns, tax avoidance, censorship, search neutrality, antitrust and abuse of its monopoly position.

While conventional search engines ranked results by counting how many times the search terms appeared on the page, they theorized about a better system that analyzed the relationships among websites. They called this algorithm PageRank; it determined a website's relevance by the number of pages, and the importance of those pages that linked back to the original site. Larry Page told his ideas to Hassan, who began writing the code to implement Page's ideas.

Page and Brin originally nicknamed the new search engine "BackRub", because the system checked backlinks to estimate the importance of a site. Hassan as well as Alan Steremberg were cited by Page and Brin as being critical to the development of Google.

Eventually, they changed the name to Google; the name of the search engine was a play on the word googol, a very large number written 10100 (1 followed by 100 zeros), picked to signify that the search engine was intended to provide large quantities of information

On August 19, 2004, Google became a public company via an initial public offering. At that time Larry Page, Sergey Brin, and Eric Schmidt agreed to work together at Google for 20 years, until the year 2024. The company offered 19,605,052 shares at a price of $85 per share. Shares were sold in an online auction format using a system built by Morgan Stanley and Credit Suisse, underwriters for the deal. The sale of $1.67 billion gave Google a market capitalization of more than $23 billion.

On November 13, 2006, Google acquired YouTube for $1.65 billion in Google stock, On March 11, 2008, Google acquired DoubleClick for $3.1 billion, transferring to Google valuable relationships that DoubleClick had with Web publishers and advertising agencies.

In April 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Google announced several cost-cutting measures. Such measures included slowing down hiring for the remainder of 2020, except for a small number of strategic areas, recalibrating the focus and pace of investments in areas like data centers and machines, and non-business essential marketing and travel. Most employees were also working from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the success of it even led to Google announcing that they would be permanently converting some of their jobs to work from home.

(The author is a regular columnist and can be mailed at m.hanief@gmail.com).

Haryana violence is unfortunate

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

India is a secular ,plural and a diverse country where there are diversities of religion ,caste ,creed and language .There are much diversities so far as the culinary habits of the people are concerned. But there is unity in diversity in the country and all the communities live in peace and security. This unity in diversity is the greatest treasure of India. All have the opportunity to grow up to the fullest possibility and every religion is free to propagate its religion and celebrate its festivals .

The fact is that we celebrate the religious festivals jointly and greet each other on these festivals .But this diversity is exploited by the cunning politicians and they use these diversities to arouse the feelings of communal hatred and this leads to communal violence and strife sometimes and pollutes the peaceful atmosphere .The communal violence ,strife and clashes which took place in Haryana's Nuh ,Faridabad ,Gurugram and some other places is savage ,shameful and hair -raising .This violence is unprecedented and has no place in our secular and plural country and it deserves to be condemned by one and all.

Thus all the political parties should unequivocally condemn current communal violence with one voice and strongly .Steps should be taken so that communal violence does not take place in future .Political parties and politician's should desist from politicking on communal violence .The political parties should cooperate with the government to curb communal violence .Both the majority community and the minority communities should honor and revere the religious festivals of each other and celebrate these festivals jointly .The pelting of stones on the Shoba Yatra in Nuh is very unfortunate and against the secular ethos and culture of the country.

The reports say that the stoning of the religious procession of Hindus was well planned and it was the result of a deliberate plan of action .So it is alleged that pelting of stones of hatred on the religious procession in Nuh was preplanned and thus it was the conspiracy to create communal violence in Haryana .The BJP government of Manohar Khatter should probe all the angles and also investigate and to expose if the communal clashes and stoning was preplanned and a conspiracy. The government should act fast and identify the culprits who are involved in fomenting communal trouble and put them behind bars .

Besides speedy judicial trail should be conducted to give stringent punishment to all those found involved in the communal riots .Much loss of public and private property and burning of the cars ,scooty's and other two-wheelers has been reported from various places of Haryana including Nuh ,Faridabad ,Gurugram and some other places.

It is important to crush this communal violence before it spreads to other peaceful areas of Haryana and to the neighboring states. The situation became tense in Gurugram and other places after the Shoba Yatra was stoned in Nuh and the news of this unfortunate news spread like a wild fire .Within no time there was stone pelting ,Firing ,and burning in various parts of the state .In this violence a home guard personnel was killed and several jawans were injured in the clashes and rioting .At the first place 20 civilians got wounded.

To control the communal violence in Gurugram ,Faridabad ,Nuh and Palwal adequate security forces were deployed to control the violence .For controlling the violent mob ,police used tear gas .In Sohana and Badashapur the situation was very tense and bad and thus two companies of RAF were deployed in these two places .Four people ,including two Home Guards were killed ,and at least 30 others injured in clashes that broke between two groups in Haryana.

The clashes started during a religious procession in Haryana's Nuh ,adjoining Gurugram .The Brij Mandal Jalabhishek Yatra ,organized by VHP ,was stopped by a group of young men on Gurugram- Alwar Natiuonal Highway .As the violence escalated ,government and private vehicles were targeted by the violent mob .Towards evening ,violence spread to the Gurugram-Sohana highway ,where several cars were torched and stones were thrown at police. .About 2500 people ,who has come to Nuh to take part in the procession were forced to take shelter in a temple due to violence outside .Incidents of stone throwing and arson were reported from parts of Palwal and Gurugram as well .Section 44 was imposed in Gurugram ,Palwal and Faridabad.

At the first instant police had registered about 20 cases and detained more than 20 people in connection with communal violence .Internet services have been suspended in Nuh temporarily to contain the intense communal tension and stop the spread of misinformation and rumors. There are reports that clash was triggered by an objectionable video posted on social media by a Bajrang Dal activist .Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar and other leaders appealed to people to maintain peace and harmony.

"Today's incident is unfortunate .I appeal to all the people to maintain peace in the state .The guilty will not be spared at any cost ,and strictest action will be taken against them. "said chief minister .Security around religious places in violence-hit districts has been a strengthened.

Both the police and administration are holding meetings with prominent members of both communities to ensure peace and it is a good thing .The death toll in the communal violence rose to six on Wednesday .Rapid Action force (RAF) personnel conducted a flag march in Gurugram's Badshahpur on Wednesday following the clashes that broke out in Nuh district .Security has been strengthened in the districts adjoining Nuh - Faridabad ,Palwal ,and Gurugram in the light of violence that broke out between the two communities on July 31.Section 144 has been imposed for 48 hours from Monday midnight in Nuh and mobile internet services have been temporarily suspended in the district.

Haryana chief minister M.L,Khattar said he suspected a conspiracy behind Monday's clashes and called the incident unfortunate and said clashes broke out at several places and that a big conspiracy seems behind the violence .Congress says that it is an administrative failure on the part of the government which led to this incident .Had they acted in time and deployed police ,the situation wouldn't have occurred .In the statement passed by deputy CM ,he spoke about an administrative failure .The internet suspension extended in Faridabad and it was banned in Mewat also temporarily.CM Khattar said and confirmed that six deaths took place in Nuh district even he renewed appeal to people to maintain peace in the state .He said total 116 persons have been arrested in connection with the communal violence on Monday in Nuh .To conclude we can say that such communal violence and clashes are unacceptable and they are a black stain on our democracy and as such should not take place in future because these are against our age old culture and dharma and thus have no place in our country It is the innocent people who become target of the culprits and get killed.The political parties instead of politicizing the unfortunate issue should lend a helping hand to the government to quell the communal violence and bring back normalcy in the state.

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

J&K Govt's 'Har Gaon Hariyali' initiative helps reversing progression of climate change, increasing green cover

Globally, climate change is threatening access to clean air, safe drinking water, nutritious food supply and safe shelter. Human activities are causing the earth to become warmer and resultant changes are altering the geographic range and seasonality of certain infectious diseases besides disturbing food-producing ecosystems. Countries are realising the urgency to have well-prepared and responsive health systems to prevent and minimize health risks posed by climate change.

The Paris Agreement is the first universal and legally binding agreement on climate change that was adopted in 2015. India has drafted a policy on the National Action Plan on climate change outlining ways to reduce impact of climate change by applying principles of adaptation and mitigation in health systems.

Similarly, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir is too very serious towards this global concern and has initiated the remarkable 'Har Gaon Hariyali' program in November 2021 with the aim to bring two third geographical area of J&K under the forest and tree cover. The forest cover in J&K is about 55 percent, which is substantially higher than the national average of 24.56 percent.

The UT Government launched this initiative in consonance with the vision of 'Green Jammu and Kashmir' to ensure sustainable development and promote climate justice across J&K.

Green Jammu and Kashmir campaign aims at creating people's movement at a massive scale with involvement of all stakeholders particularly village panchayats, women, students, Urban Local bodies, NGOs and civil society.

The Social Forestry department is organizing various programs with multiple activities in all districts of Jammu and Kashmir to provide impetus to J&K Green drive initiative with participation of local communities. Under 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', the Social Forestry department in collaboration with the School Education Department is also involving schools in afforestation and awareness activities. The students being important stakeholders in sustainable development, their adequate sensitization would go a longer way in achieving the long-term objective of the programme.

With the serious efforts of Forest Department and active involvement of people, around 90 lakh saplings have been planted during the current fiscal against the set target of plantation of 1.35 crore seedlings under Jammu and Kashmir, Government's ambitious initiative 'Har Gaon Hariyali',. The 'HGH' campaign helps reversing progression of climate change and increasing the green cover in J&K UT. Under this initiative, plantation of 1.35 crore seedlings is fixed as the target for the year 2022-23, of which, 26.50 lakh saplings to be planted with active involvement (Janbhagidari)of Village Panchayat Plantation Committees (VPPCs) to create green assets in the Gram Panchayats.

The government is adopting a multi-disciplinary convergence model linking school-level eco clubs, Village Panchayat Plantation Committees to various plantation and protection drives to ensure active participation of people in government-sponsored plantation drives. As per the NITI Aayog's `State Energy and Climate Index' report, J&K has 94.5 tonnes of carbon stock per hectare of forest land. Carbon stock refers to the amount of carbon stored in forests in the form of biomass, soil, deadwood, and litter. An increase in green cover and carbon stock indicates a healthy trend to deal with global warming.

A recent Forest Survey of India report has revealed that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed an increase in the total forest cover in the last three years. The credit for this achievement must go to the Forest and sister department for seriously working towards increasing the green cover and raising awareness among masses for tree plantation by providing them the plants free of cost from its modern nurseries. The department is organizing such programs with multiple activities in all districts of J&K to provide impetus to J&K Green drive initiative with participation of local communities. The department appeals to people in general and farmers in particular to avail the supply of plants from departmental nurseries to take up agro-forestry activities on their lands. Pertinently, J&K UT has 20,194 sq km of forest area which is 47.80% of its geographical area with 55% forest and tree cover and 43% open forest. Besides, having the maximum number of forest types, J&K also has the highest biodiversity of herbs in the country.