

MANAGING WAQF PROPERTIES

The Waqf Board is an institution in India tasked with overseeing and managing Waqf properties. These properties are charitable assets donated by Muslims for religious and social purposes. The concept of Waqf is rooted in Islamic tradition, where individuals make an endowment (Waqf) of their property to serve the community, typically for purposes such as building mosques, schools, hospitals, or aiding the needy. The concept of Waqf dates back to the early Islamic period, where the Prophet Muhammad established principles for charitable endowments. In the Indian context, the legal framework for managing Waqf properties has evolved over time, reflecting the socio-political and legal changes in the country.

The Waqf Act of 1954 was a significant legislative measure aimed at streamlining the administration of Waqf properties. This Act established the Central Waqf Council and the State Waqf Boards, which were tasked with overseeing the management and utilization of Waqf assets. The intent was to ensure that these assets were used in accordance with Islamic principles and for the welfare of the community. This body operates at the national level, providing oversight and coordination for State Waqf Boards. It plays a crucial role in formulating policies, addressing grievances, and ensuring compliance with the Waqf Act. The Council also works to resolve disputes that may arise between different Waqf Boards or between Waqf Boards and other stakeholders. Each Indian state has its own Waqf Board responsible for managing and regulating Waqf properties within its jurisdiction. These Boards are tasked with maintaining records of Waqf assets, overseeing their proper use, and ensuring that they are utilized for their intended charitable purposes. The State Waqf Boards also handle the appointment of mutawallis (trustees) who manage individual Waqf properties.

Waqf Boards are responsible for the registration of Waqf properties and maintaining detailed records. They ensure that these properties are managed according to the Waqf Act and Islamic principles. Boards collect revenue from Waqf properties, including rents from commercial properties or agricultural income.

Partition- Who were the saviours of Refugees in 1947?

■ VIVEK SHUKLA

Noted actor Manoj Kumar is known through his patriotic films. He once said that when his family came to Delhi in 1947, looted and beaten, from across the border after the partition of the country, many members of his family were injured due to attacks by rioters. His younger brother was sick. They were all treated at St. Stephen's Hospital. During that time, volunteers from the Delhi Brotherhood Society were taking refugees arriving at Delhi Junction, also known as the Old Delhi Railway Station, to their St. Stephen's Hospital for treatment or giving them shelter at the Brotherhood House campus in Civil Lines.

Due to the partition of the country, lakhs of Hindu and Sikh refugees had come to Delhi from Pakistan. They mostly arrived at Delhi Junction. At that time, they had nothing except the open sky in the new city. During that terrible period, workers from the Delhi Brotherhood Society and some Hindu and some Sikh organizations were helping the refugees.

In fact, for Indian, every Independence Day brings with it two kinds of emotions. First, the country was freed from the clutches of the British government. Therefore, a feeling of immense reverence arises in the mind for all those freedom fighters, whose sacrifices led to the departure of the whites from here. Second, the country also had to bear the brunt of the partition along with independence on August 15, 1947. India was divided into two parts.

During that period, lakhs of Hindu and Sikh refugees came to the capital Delhi. At that time, Milkha Singh was also among those who arrived at Delhi Junction. He later became a great athlete. During the partition of the country, humanity was dead. Milkha Singh's parents were murdered. But there were angels then too. They hid him in the ladies' compartment of the train. He was separated from his sister. Just imagine how Milkha Singh would have been searching for his sister who was lost during the riots in an unknown and chaotic city due to the partition. But he found his sister.

Even though it was the capital of the country, Delhi was a small city compared to today. At that time, Dr. Ruth Rosewier, the head of St. Stephen's Hospital, was leading the treatment of injured and sick refugees here. Dr. Ruth was a British citizen. This hospital was opened in 1885 by the Delhi Brotherhood Society. It established St. Stephen's College too. They have also one established St. Stephen's Cambridge School at Sonapat in Haryana. Dr.N. C. Joshi was engaged in serving the people of Delhi during that crisis period in Karol Bagh in Central Delhi. When communal riots broke out in Karol Bagh during 1947, Dr. Joshi was also a victim of it. On the other hand, at Irwin Hospital (now Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan Hospital), the pain of patients was being relieved by the medical superintendent, Dr. Banwari Lal, along with his hardworking colleagues like Kabul Chand Balmiki.

Workers of the Delhi Brotherhood Society were also taking many patients to Lady Hardinge Medical Hospital for treatment. At that time, this was the only known hospital in the New Delhi area. During that period, the crowd of patients was being treated under the supervision of Dr. K.J. McDermett (1946-1948) and Dr. O.P. Bali (1948-1950), the Principal-Directors of this hospital. Until 1947, the students here used to go to Lahore to give their annual exams. Their exams were held at King Edward Medical College. At that time, this college was part of Punjab University. Meanwhile, Dr. Vishumber Das was also serving the people of Delhi. In 1922, he established the Vishumber Free Homeopathic Dispensary in the New Delhi area and treated the poor for the rest of his life. There is a road named after him, Dr. Vishumber Das Marg, which was called Allenby Road before 1965.

You will still find many refugee families who will tell you that they would have been nowhere without the support of Father Ian Weathrall and his colleagues associated with the Delhi Brotherhood Society. Father Ian Weathrall was working day and night for the rehabilitation of refugees. Every day at Brotherhood House, which was established in 1925, refugees were getting a roof and food. Father Father Ian Weathrall's first relationship with India was established during the Second World War. He was in the British Army. He was in the Punjab Regiment. He had also stayed in some cities of India. His life changed after the end of World War II. He became disillusioned with his military job. He started speaking and writing against the war. He had seen the devastation caused by the war with his own eyes. He was disturbed by it. He understood the futility of war. Then he took a degree in Theology from Cambridge University. He wanted peace in his life. He had a desire to serve society. He stayed in London for some time and then came to India. "Father Ian Weathrall then devoted the rest of his life to working for the rights of the poor, the downtrodden and the marginalized. He liked everything here. The people, the children, the trees, the plants, the rivers, etc. The influence of Mahatma Gandhi was clearly visible on Father Ian Weathrwell 's personality. He passed away in 2013. He was 91 years old then," says Father Solomon George, an old colleague of Father Ian Weathrall.

When India is celebrating its Independence Day, we should remember all those unnamed individuals who gave shoulder to the refugees. Understand that there was no government in the country at that time. There was chaos and disorder everywhere. Those who selflessly helped the refugees during that period should always be remembered.

■ TARUN CHUGH

India is celebrating its Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (75 years of independence), and every year on August 15, we citizens celebrate Independence Day. For any country, the anniversary of independence is an occasion of joy and pride. We, too, gained our independence on August 15, 1947. However, the independence that India achieved also came with the agony of partition. The birth of a new, independent Indian nation occurred alongside the violent suffering of partition, leaving permanent scars on millions of Indians. The partition of 1947 witnessed one of the most devastating displacements in human history. On the morning of August 15, 1947, people, displaced from their homeland, were fleeing by trains, on horseback, and even on foot. During this time, riots and violence erupted, leading to the loss of countless lives. It was a distressing event, a horrendous tragedy in which approximately two million people were killed, and fifteen million displaced. This partition was one of the largest migrations in human history, forcing millions of families to leave their ancestral villages and cities and begin new lives as refugees.

The state that suffered the most from this partition was Punjab. Punjab was a province with a vibrant and diverse population, including Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs. But the partition conspiracy divided it into two parts, inflicting a deep wound on its heritage and uniqueness. Punjab, which became part of India, was known as East Punjab or Indian Punjab, while Punjab that became part

■ PROF. JYOTI KACHROO, DR. ANIL BHAT, TARUNJEET SINGH

Innovative start-ups developed by Agri-Business Incubation Centre, SKUAST-Jammu under the visionary leadership and guidance of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-J have brought laurels to the University by making a tremendous impact on the national agri-business ecosystem. These budding agri-entrepreneurs are making their presence felt at national and global platforms through their innovative and creative product offerings. Prominent among these include Mr. Nikky Kumar Jha, founder of Saptkrishni Scientific Pvt. Ltd. who has developed a wheel-mountable, microclimate-controlled storage named Saljikhothi that can be utilized for the storage of horticultural produce extending their shelf life from 5-30 days depending upon the particular crop. It is a low cost technology that doesn't use any chemicals, operates on very little power and requires only 2-3 litres of water in a week. It has proved to be a boon for small vegetable & fruit vendors/hawkers who didn't have any viable option to store their left-overs. The start-up achieved national level recognition by getting featured in the popular investment reality show, 'Shark Tank India'. The best moment

■ I.D SONI

Again, we may sometimes feel that our whole lives are unsatisfactory, we feel on the point of being overwhelmed by the difficulties that confront us. This happens to us all in varying degrees from time to time. When this occurs, it is vital that we make every effort to find a way to be positive in lifting our spirits. We can do this by recollecting our good fortune. We may, for example, be loved by someone; we may have certain talents; we may have received a good education, we may have our basic needs provided for food to eat, clothes to wear; somewhere to live- we may have performed certain altruistic deeds in the past. We must take into consideration even the slightest positive aspect of our lives.

What principally upsets our inner peace is what we call disturbing emotions. All those thoughts, emotions, and mental events which reflect a negative or uncompassionate state of mind inevitably undermine our experience of inner peace. All our negative thoughts and emotions-such as hatred, anger, pride, lust, greed, envy, and so on- are considered to be sources of difficulty, to be disturbing. When we act under their influence, we become oblivious to the compact our actions have on others: they are thus the cause of our destructive behaviour; both, towards others and to ourselves. Murder, scandal, and deceit all have their origin in disturbing emotions.

This inevitably given rise to the question- Can we train the mind? There are many methods by which to do this. Among these, in the Buddhist tradition, is a special instruction called mind training, which focuses on cultivating concern for others and training adversity to advantage. It is this pattern of thought, transforming problems into happiness that enable us to maintain our dignity and spirit in the face of great difficulties. The mind's most marvellous quality is that it can be transformed. I hope no doubt that those who attempt to transform their minds, overcome their disturbing emotions and achieve a sense of inner peace, will, over a period of time, notice a change in their mental attitudes and responses to people and events. Their minds will become more disciplined and positive. If we do so, I am sure we will find our own sense of happiness grow as and when we contribute to the greater happiness of others. Let everyone of us offer our prayers that everyone who makes this his goal is blessed with success.

(c) Mind Conditioning:

Being discerning, we deserve to know that the powers of the mind may be positively turned in the opposite direction to the constructive purpose of building a better life. As one interested in same living, the merits of right thinking is well-grounded in; "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love and of a sound

of Pakistan was known as West Punjab or Pakistani Punjab. The land of five rivers, "Punjab," also witnessed the division of its water sources, with three rivers, Sutlej, Ravi, and Beas, remaining in Indian Punjab, and the other two rivers, Chenab and Jhelum, going to Pakistani Punjab. The pain of this partition has been expressed in various ways, one of which is the famous Punjabi singer Gurdas Maan's song "Ki Bann Duniya Da," which later says, "Ravi asks Chenab about the state of Sutlej" (Chenab often inquires Ravi about the condition of Sutlej). The partition of India was a combination of displacement and destruction.

Since independence, the country has endured the sting of partition, but no government has truly acknowledged it. Efforts were made either to erase it from Indian memory or to deliberately neglect it. The wounds of this tragedy are so deep that even today, a large part of the country, especially in Punjab and Bengal, elderly people remember August 15 only as the day of partition. This is indicative of the political weakness that led to one of the greatest migrations in human history.

For the first time, any government officially recognized the horrors of partition as a national tragedy, and that was the BJP government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. On August 14, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that every year, August 14 would be observed as "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day." The purpose of observing this day is to pay tribute to the

souls, who perished in the horrors of partition, and also to create awareness against the political forces and ideological motivations that could once again become a threat to society. At that time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted, "The pain of partition can never be forgotten. Due to hatred and violence, millions of our brothers and sisters had to be displaced and even lost their lives. In memory of their struggles and sacrifices, it has been decided to observe 14th August as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day.' This day will not only inspire us to eliminate the poison of discrimination, hostility, and malice, but it will also strengthen unity, social harmony, and human values."

The pain of the country's partition can never be forgotten. Therefore, on August 15, 2021, a day before the 75th anniversary of India's independence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi informed the countrymen that from now on, August 14 would be observed as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' every year.

The decision to observe this day is not just an opportunity to remember the events but also an occasion to highlight the divisive and intolerant ideologies that led to these tragedies. The memories of the horrors remind us how anti-national sentiments can weaken a nation. The country has learned enough from the horrors of partition. By announcing this Remembrance Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has shown that the country is sensitive to those who perished in its worst tragedy, and is also committed to prevent-

ing such sad events from recurring. The government intends to remind the people of the present and future generations of the pain and suffering endured by the people during partition and the reasons behind it.

The partition of India in 1947 was not an unplanned event. Despite this, the official neglect of the horrors of partition was an attempt to turn a blind eye to separatism due to appeasement. Today's generation cannot be blamed for the decisions made 77 years ago, but it cannot be denied that separatism and extremism still thrive in many regions. Whether it is the exodus of Hindus from Kashmir or the violent opposition to the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), religious fanaticism remains a reality even today. The ongoing indifference to the horrors of partition has resulted in continued demands for the reservation based on religious grounds and opposition to the national anthem and national flag, even seven decades after independence-issues that originally caused the partition. The dishonor of national symbols and the glorification of religious extremism still persist today.

On this Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, we pay tribute to all the martyrs. Let us internalize the following lines from the revered Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee:

*"Let us gird ourselves from today for that golden day. Sacrifice so much that we forget what we gave up, and what we lost."**

(The writer is the National General Secretary of BJP)

Start-Ups of ABI, SKUAST-J: Pioneering Viksit Bharat through Innovative Agri-entrepreneurship

for the start-up came when he got to present his innovation to the Honble Prime Minister of India, Sh. Narendra Modi during his visit to Jammu who appreciated his innovation and also posted a picture of this interaction on his official twitter account. The start-up was successful in earning healthy revenue of around Rs. 1 crore in the FY 2023-24. Marseo Nutraceuticals Pvt. Ltd., founded by Mr. Mahidhar Bolem, has developed nanotechnology-based disinfectants, supplements, and medicines for aquaculture, significantly improving fish health and farm yields. These products, made from probiotic formulations and micro-encapsulated with additives and prebiotics, ensure no side effects to aquaculture animals. The start-up also provides consultancy services to fish farmers, helping them manage their farms and solve problems. Operating across eight states and serving nearly 10,000 farmers, Marseo Nutraceuticals earned close to Rs. 4 crore in revenue during FY 2023-24. Mr. Bolem was part of the prestigious Indian ASSOCHAM delegation at the Gulfood-2024 conclave in Dubai. Yet another start-up making his presence felt on the national scene is Urbanhills Food Processing Pvt. Ltd. founded

by Mr. Dharun Sharma who has developed healthy fruit snacks free from any colors or chemical preservatives by dehydrating fruits utilizing state of art dehydration technology to preserve the nutritional value and flavor of each fruit and thereafter packing its slices in ready to consume high quality food grade packaging. All this is done in a modern sophisticated factory set up near Katra that is equipped with latest machinery & best food-processing practices. The raw materials are carefully sourced from local, trusted farmers who employ sustainable farming methods. These dehydrated fruits are rich in vitamins, minerals and fiber and thus, offer a healthier snacking option to the consumers.

The start-up has introduced his products on leading e-commerce platforms and has also started exporting them to gulf countries. Women agri-entrepreneurs of ABI, SKUAST-J are also not far behind their male counterparts. Divya Vishambra, founder of Nature's Urja Pvt. Ltd. has recently secured a patent from the Govt. of India for her innovative herbal Red Rice Solid Tea Composition.All these start-ups have attributed their successful agri-entrepreneurship journey to the meticulous incubation

provided by Agri-Business Incubation Centre, SKUAST-Jammu under the watchful mentorship of Prof. Jyoti Kachroo, P.I./CEO, ABI, SKUAST-J. The incubation consisted of uniquely designed training and funding programs for early stage/budding agri-entrepreneurs. The start-ups were trained by academicians, industry leaders, technical trainers and successful start-ups of national repute on all matters related to setting up & sustainably running an agri-business venture.

Pre-seed & Seed stage funding was also facilitated by ABI, SKUAST-J in favor of these start-ups through Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, GoI so as to give them a kick start towards their entrepreneurial journey. It is pertinent to mention here that ABI, SKUAST-J has successfully incubated 78 potential agri-entrepreneurs in 7 batches since coming into existence in 2019. Out of these, 26 incubatees of 6 batches have been successful in securing a healthy grant-in-aid to the tune of Rs. 2.88 crores in total from the MoA & FW, GoI. The online application portal for admission to 8th batch is also open currently open which can be accessed from the University website www.skuast.org/RKVY-RAF?TAAR.php.

HOW TO HAVE PEACE OF MIND

mind."

As surely as air-conditioning has brought comfortable temperatures into stores, offices and homes, the technique of "mind-conditioning" will condition our conscious thinking into a receptive state or climate. It may be used positively or negatively, for good or for ill. Mind-conditioning is fundamental in action. Medicine is a monopoly of the few, but mind-conditioning is for all. Why should we have aches and pains "dressed up" with latin names we do not understand? Even the simple, natural process of cell-division is called kari-jokinesis. Can we picture the effect on many gullible people should they be given this perfectly truthful descriptive diagnosis in a solemnly threatening tone of voice? If we were told that it was actively working throughout our bodies, many of us would report strange symptoms and sheepishly dose ourselves with whatever was recommended.

Right thinking or thought control, in the ultimate, is the only solution for our human problems. We have learn to use "selective tuning" for our radio and tv programmes, and the same selective attitude can be adopted to our personal consciousness. This conditioning is no different then that used by salesman by their efforts to convince of our need of their products accept the "fear formula" is omitted.

The mind is like a megatnate, drawing to itself according to our dominant attitude, when focused on the negative or bad side, all that comes will be troublesome. When on the positive or good side all that comes will bless, prosper and heal.

As energy followed thought, turn the arrow of our attention to the things we most desire, just as we would set our thermostate for a certain temperature. It is a simple as that in giving the direction, but in their accomplishment to may experience certain difficulties for after so many years of vacillating our the fears and phobias fostered by the "fear salesman, it takes time for us to keep equilibrium, long enough to commence to draw in our desires for good. We still have the effects of former states of wobbling in decision for reckon with.

The wise solo man tells us in his proverbs that, "as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." No one subject is of so much importance as that if our thought and of we, a thinker of a thought, nothing is more for reaching in his tendencies, nothing is more important to us than its results. Mental energy is a force as real as gravity it can build us a, or drag smdown with the belief of evil until our life is made minerable.

This subject of right thinking or mind-conditioning has been but little regarded. There are but few who understand, that the thought of a thing. Is what the prophesy of its fulfilment he who lets his thoughts devel upon disaster in

prophesying evil, upon himself those who in variably talk of sickness or trouble in all of the various forms, can we hear it everyday or prophesying for them selven the very evil of which the complain. Those things which are prophesying in variably come true either in actual fact and appearance or their essence is manifested in some form.

Thought is the universal language to which all things respond. It is through the realm of thought that we commune with God. He hears and answers our request and the answer is always in accord with the trend or "tone" of our thought. We receive anuring as we merit. This being true, it becomes of the first importance that our thoughts should be so directed that health and harmony will result.

The way we feel can surely be 'conditioned,' just the same as we set the thermostat on our furnace stoker. The way we act is first a thought in our mind. Then we feel like that thought. This glimpse of a great truth is to give us a basis on which we can turn from our weak, negative fears to positive thinking which brings strength and joy. If we want health and harmony, allow our mind to dwell along these lines, picturing comfort and peace when an evil thought-a black thought pops in-banish it!

Mind- Conditioning has an intensely practical use. It is for us to control the "set" of our thoughts and thereby control our bodies and affairs. We hold the key in the use we make of our own faculties.

(d) How to Have Peace of Mind:

Peace will not come to us by running after the things which the Earth gives and the Earth takes away. Peace will not come to us by fighting circumstances and struggling against so-called difficulties and misfortunes. Peace will come to us when we ourselves enter into the Great Peace of God. To enter into the Peace of God is to relax and stand still, to stand where we are.

Our age is an age of activity, we are busy-and often, I am afraid, fussy. We like to be up and doing; but our doing is distraction. So we are not at peace with our neighbours-nor with ourselves. We need to stand still! In the ocean of life, we struggle all the time. We battle against circumstances: we strive against misfortunes. Alas! We don't give ourselves upto the waters. We do not accept the will of God.

It is not as easy as it may appear to be still in God. But it will come to us as we grow into the realisation that we are not doing anything at all, that we can do nothing on our own, that not even a leaf stirs except if it be His Will.

1) In the beginning, as we wake up, let us think of some small text (sutra) from some "Sacred Book" and repeat it to ourselves, again and again. As the day advances, let us, from time

to time, detach ourselves from our work for a brief minute or two and repeat the sutra. As we do so, let us imagine that the sutra permeates our entire being and renews us physically, mentally and spiritually. Any sutra will do. I have found the following very helpful. "Thy will be done, O Lord!" "Thou knowest best what is good each one of us!" Thy works are the works of mercy!" "The lord is my strength, my support and stay!" "Is Thy will is the peace I seek!"

2) In the face of difficulty and disaster; do not feel confused. But try to lift up our heart to Him and think of Him as a Loving Mother and of ourself as a little child sitting Her Lap.

3) Steer ourselves clear of all thoughts of lust, hatred and greed. They stimulate the lower self and lead to excitement which will let us be still in God.

Gradually, this stillness will deepen, though the very first experience of it gives such immense joy that it cannot be expressed n words. The stillness will grow more and more intense until, one blessed day. We shall be completely absorbed in God and entirely at one with His Divine will which is perfect-not only for us but for all men and birds and beasts, for all creation.

This is the goal of our life's journey. It may not be reached in a single leap. There are stages on the way. Every stage has its lesson to teach. As we learn the lesson of one stage, we are being prepared for the next. From stage to stage we move on, knowing that where we are, is, at the moment, just the right place for us.

Each one of us is infinitely dear to the Heart of God. He is leading us along the way which is best for us. He sees what we cannot see and knows what we cannot know. Every experience He sends us-be it pleasant or painful- is meant to enrich our inner life. We must not shun it: we must not avoid it. We must accept it as a gift from Him in Whom the peace of mind we seek, the peace that passeth, surpasseth understanding.

Two friends met one day and one of them said to the other: "I feel so happy to tell you that I have made peace with God at last."

"I am happy to hear that," said the other. "But may I tell you that I have something better than that?"

"Better than peace with God?"

"Yes, I have not only peace with God but I have the peace of God. And I have something still better."

"What do you mean?"

"Why I have the God of peace!"

When we have such men and women in different parts of the world- men and women who carry the god of peace in their hearts-then, indeed, will be born a new era of peace for which the tortured soul of humanity has piteously cried, age after age.