

PATRIOTIC FERVOUR

Patriotic fervor is a powerful, emotional response that reflects a deep-seated love and loyalty for one's country. It is an intense passion that transcends personal interests and aligns individuals with the broader goals and values of the nation. This fervor manifests in various ways, from civic engagement and national pride to acts of service and sacrifice. It plays a crucial role in shaping national identity and uniting citizens in times of both celebration and crisis.

At its core, patriotic fervor stems from a sense of belonging and commitment to one's country. This connection often begins in early childhood through education and family traditions, which instill a sense of pride in a nation's history, culture, and achievements. National symbols such as flags, anthems, and historical landmarks become powerful icons of this connection, evoking a collective memory and shared values that bind individuals together.

One of the most visible expressions of patriotic fervor is during national holidays and celebrations. Events such as Independence Day, national anniversaries, and commemorative ceremonies often bring people together in large numbers to celebrate their country's heritage and achievements. These occasions are marked by displays of national symbols, public speeches, and cultural performances that reinforce the values and history of the nation. The enthusiastic participation of citizens in these events highlights their deep-rooted sense of national pride and unity. Patriotic fervor also plays a critical role in national crises or conflicts. During challenging times, such as wars, natural disasters, or economic hardships, this fervor often galvanizes people to support their country through acts of service, sacrifice, and solidarity. The sense of duty and commitment to the nation can inspire individuals to contribute in various ways, from volunteering and donating to serving in the armed forces or working towards community recovery efforts. This collective effort reflects a profound dedication to the well-being and advancement of the nation.

However, while patriotic fervor can unify and motivate, it is important to approach it with a balanced perspective. Extreme forms of nationalism or exclusive patriotism can lead to divisiveness or intolerance towards those with differing views or backgrounds. True patriotism should embrace diversity and work towards the common good, ensuring that it strengthens rather than fractures the fabric of society.

Reflections of an Amateur on India @ 78

NILESH KUNWAR
I missed being a member of the exclusive club that author Salman Rushdie popularised as 'Midnight Children' in his novel with the same name by a decade but this had its own advantages. For example, with India having adopted the metric monetary system in 1955, one didn't have to undergo the agony of memorising the complicated values of three pies making one pice, four pice making one Anna, and 16 Annas being equal to a Rupee.

While many in our age group fondly reminisce about what they jubilantly refer to as the 'good old days', I recall that life wasn't as good as what some of our age make it out to be. Though I can't speak about what adults felt those days but at home and even outside, one often heard snatches of conversation between elders that certainly did not give an impression that those days were exceptionally good ones. I distinctly recall the shortage of essential commodities being a common topic of discussion and marveling at advertisements of electronic gadgets like transistors in foreign magazines like Life and Woman & Home- old copies of which sometimes came our way!

In those days every household had what was commonly referred to as a ration card that allowed you to buy rations from government run shops at subsidised rates, but since the amount of ration one could buy depended upon the number of family members, inflating the number of children and adding grandparents was commonplace.

Then there were permits- letters issued by the local authorities allowing those constructing houses to buy cement and such other commodities at what was referred to as government rates. Needless to say, getting a permit or padding the number of family members in ration cards was only possible through use of influence or the ubiquitous bakshesh [bribe].

The local administration did release an additional quota of sugar during festivals and marriages in the family which could be drawn by showing your ration card but the quantity [despite fudging the numbers of family members] was largely insufficient. However, one could buy any amount of sugar from the black-market. In fact, black marketing was a lucrative and thriving business where you could for a price pick up anything ranging from car tyres to cars itself!

In the summer months, power outages were frequent but didn't cause us much discomfort because the common Indian household then had neither a fridge nor any coolers. But what upset us kids most was the ban on sale of milk-sourced sweetmeats by the district magistrate due to acute shortage of milk.

When the 1962 Sino-Indian conflict broke out, I was only six years old. Yet I vividly remember the frantic government appeals on radio and advertisements in news reels that preceded movie screening requesting people to donate gold jewellery, money and even woollens to help arm and clothe our soldiers fighting the Chinese. So much for the good old days!

Things started improving significantly during the seventies and life became much easier and more comfortable. This inference is duly reflected in the World Bank's data which shows India's per capita income has risen from a modest \$ 82 in 1960, jumped to a whopping \$ 2,388 in 2022. This is indeed a remarkable achievement when viewed in isolation, but for accurately determining the precise degree of progress made over the years, a comparative analysis is essential.

As China's per capita income in 1960 was \$ 89 as against India's \$82, comparison between the two countries is fair. In 2022, however, while China's per capita income swelled to \$ 12,720, India's per capita income was only \$2,388. So, while India has definitely done well over the years, it would not be inappropriate to say that we could have certainly done much better.

Hence, the centre's decision to declare 'Viksit Bharat' [Developing India] as the central theme of India's 78th Independence Day celebrations is most appropriate as it gives a clarion call for the government's vision of transforming India into a developed entity by the centenary of Independence in 2017. Thanks to well conceived and dynamically executed infrastructural development projects, adopting a 'bottom-up' approach and public participation to improve quality of life of the people through imaginative schemes as well as reducing foreign dependency by facilitating indigenisation through the 'Make in India' initiative, much lost ground has been covered.

Though the results achieved thus far are remarkable, there's no room for complacency or negativity, as in this competitive world there's no place for laggards. Simultaneously, since India's continuing progress is bound to upset certain countries and entities whose captive market is under threat from India's 'Make in India' programme, spreading negativity and creating a hostile working environment would only help inimical forces to exploit public emotions and impede progress.

India has all it takes to become a world leader provided we remain united and play our respective roles as its citizens in a responsible manner.

(The writer is a retired Indian Army Officer who has served in Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Nagaland and Manipur)

While celebrating 77th Independence Anniversary pledge to do what 'We' can instead counting what "Elders" could not

DAYA SAGAR

India is celebrating 77th anniversary of Independence (78th Independence Day) this 15th August. All goods done by our elders need be remembered this day and the tasks unaccomplished so far must be pledged for accomplishment without any more undue extensions in time. Those who drafted constitution of India had in their members more members from socially & educationally backward sects/ castes / religious minorities/remotely located communities/women but constitution drafted and adopted in Constituency Assembly on 26th November 1949 had not only intimately & concernedly secured & supported the interests of the socially citizens , educationally, administratively , politically and resource wise weaker sections in Independent India but had also laid down provisions and directions { principles} in constitution to materially & intellectually support the weaker sections/ sects so that they too not only become self sufficient but also support for others. Target was set to minimize the needs for providing special props/ supports to categories like socially and educationally backward classes as well as the administratively & politically backward Indian people with a period of a decade or two. WE need to pledge this day

to truthfully evaluate and test the positions on ground as regards the status off the Indian communities / sects that we had identified as Schedule Caste (Who had socially and educationally fallen back over the years since they suffered under the curse of untouchability in view of the trades /jobs they were to do for survival & very low income from such jobs. The social discrimination was attributed to Hindu society only and only "Hindu " (and Sikh") were included in SC in 1950 where as others like Christians/Muslims did not accept any social discrimination in their society. No any backwardness worth providing support on the basis of economic weakness was identified although the economically very poor people were also there in other castes. Although Indians had been handed over a very weak economy by the British ut still the Indian elders who had been given the task of drawing the future governing system in independent India ventured into making India to constitutionally land as Independent Democratic Republic with a socialist order where head on responsibility was taken by the state to equip the common India with adequate education



A Look through the Mist

and health through state owned & run education institutions and health care institutions. Surely government has all, these years spent billions of rupees out of state exchequer on health and education infrastructure in public sector. But has the benefits really reached the target classes / masses we must assess this day. How far the social and educational backwardness has reduced over the years for which we had kept the target to nearly end the reservations in the legislature by 1960 and then to have some review for making revised policies to fill any deficiencies left worth support. Similarly how far we have succeeded in providing reservation support in services and higher education institutions to socially & educationally backward masses. Surely we shall not find the status encouraging since even after 7 decades the provisions have not been made to reach a very large mass of the targeted beneficiaries. India has progressed reasonably head economically, in the urban area and seeing the way the the automobile population has swollen one would surely feel that the Indian economy has grown many folds. Worth satisfaction . But position is not like that. If we go by the the discolo-

tures being made by the men who matter in recent years nearly 23 Cr citizens have been brought above poverty line and there are still over 80 cr people who need be supported with free 5 kg ration per month. That means out of 140 population we still have over 100 cr people who very very poor and surely 90 % of these should be educationally backward and reasonably large percentage that of socially also backward class).

So this independence day let us pledge to work for accomplishing the task of removing the educational backwardness of Indian masses for whom we have kept reservations in professional colleges , government services and legislature. Let us keep the issues and requirements of the backwards classes out of political gamesmanship and truthfully operated the government schools and hospitals to provide competitive schooling and health to our masses where we are already spending huge sums. Social organizations should should take the leads by becoming eyes and years of the political leaderships in providing unbiased feed back and support. Jai Hind

(The writer is a Sr Journalist, analyst J&K affairs and Social Activist)

Various organisations pay tributes to Mian Bashir Ahmed on 3rd death anniversary Gujjars demand to re-name Degree College Kangan to recognize his contribution

CH. RASHID AZAM INQLABI

Today is the third death anniversary of Veteran Gujjar leader and Padma Bhushan awardee, Mian Bashir Ahmed, who passed away on 14th of August evening at his native village Wangat Kangan, in Ganderbal District. On 15th, of Aug 2021 the valley swamp with vehicles as people were moving to Wangat (Kangan) popularly known as 'Iar Sharief', for the last glimpse of their religious and spiritual saint. "Mian Bashir Ahmed Larvi" who left this world for his heavenly abode on 14th of August around 8.40pm. The Nimaz e Janaza of Mian sb was held in absentia in many other parts across the valley and Border too. Mian Bashier was the only Gujjar from sub continent who has the privilege /honour to address the united nation where Mian Sahib presented the case of India in UNO and described Mulk e Hind (India) as the epitome of peace , diversity and communal Harmony. Mian Bashier stressed the need to create an environment of friendly and cordial relations with other countries. He described India and Pakistan as two brothers and advocated the phrase of harmony. He consistently strived to establish strong bond of communal harmony and co-existence across the country. The speech of Mian Bashier Ahmed Larvi impacts many hearts and Minds across both the countries India as well as in Pakistan. The grandfather of Mian Sahib Jb. Abdulla Larvi migrated from Province of "Hazara" Pakistan to "Wangat" Kashmir India in 19th century on the decree of his religious saint/Peer known as "Mian Nizam Din Kiyani". And got settled in the lap of hills and green jungles at Wangat, Kashmir in about 1880.



Sahib was a multi-dimensional personality who led the Gujjar and bakerwals community of J&K in particular, in social, spiritual, religious, economic and political realms.

His philosophy, teachings and life will continue to inspire the people across the country. **Early childhood:** Mian ji was born in 1921, at Pehalnar, Ganderbal to Mian Nizam-ud-Din Larvi (RA) . He received his early education locally from Molvi Abdullah Sahib and Molvi Ibrahim Chatergulli. After receiving the elementary lessons in Urdu, Arabic and Persian , at home. Once Mian Bashier Ahmed sahib at the age of about 3 years fell seriously ill. Then Mian Abdulla sahib (grandfather) took him in Chilla Kothri (prayer room) and prayed and chanted this verse "Iam lakh kramatan hure pechha ...phle dhan asderi var peera" after few hours Mian Bashier Sahib recovered and was as healthy as ever: That was the time of his enlightenment.

Politics: Mian Sahib was elected to Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir (MLA) in 1967, 1972, 1977 from Kangan Kashmir province and 1983 from Darhal assembly constituency in Rajouri District of Jammu province . Mian Bashier was only leader of Jammu and Kashmir who win all the election which he has contested with huge majority; further he is only leader who has fought the election from both the province Kashmir and Jammu and remained elected . Mian Bashier also served as Minister

in Sheikh Abdullah's Cabinet in 1971 , 1977 to upto 1980 . In 1980, he resigned from sheikh Mohd Abdullah's cabinet for his resentment for not providing due share to his tribe in Cabinet and supported the congress party and in 1984 Mian sahib contested election from Dehral constituency in Jammu province and declared elected with huge majority . .

A Tribal (Gujjar) Religious Leader Mian Bashir Ahmad was the most influential Gujjar leader of Jammu and Kashmir. He will be remembered in history of sub continent as, religious and social leader and leader of Gujjar and Bakarwal tribe who have great flower in both the part of divided Jammu and Kashmir . He remained associated with top leaders of the country including Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi Giani Zal Singh , Venkata Raman. Indira Gandhi visited the Shrine of Baba ji Sahib at Wanghat during her visit of Kashmir in 70's. Mian sahib canvases for Indira Gandhi in Rai Behleri during the Parliamentary election , because Mian Sahib has good number of follower among the Gujjars of Rai Barari, and Indira Gandhi got elected with huge majority. In Jammu and Kashmir he was closely associated with prominent leaders of J&K, like Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, Mir Qasam and Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad, Girdhari Lal Dogra, Pt. Tarlochan Datt, Mangat Ram Sharma, Abdul Ghani Lone, Lala Shivcharan Gupta, Sanam Wangechok, D.D. Thakar. Babu Parmanand and Master Beli Ram of Nowshera.

Later , he left the active politics and solely devoted himself to his spiritual role, preaching and other branches of religious education. The people approached Mian Sahib to settle the dispute(kachari) among the Gujjar Bratheri , and Mian Sahib settled the issue in very fair manner. In the kachari/ jirga ,people accept the verdict given by Mian Sahib with open arms due to which people save their time and money and disputes among Gujjar and bakerwals resolved amicably.

Felicitated with Padama Bhushan Award.

In 2008 Mian Bashir Larvi was conferred with the third highest civilian award "Padam Bhushan" by Government of India, for his outstanding contribution and service towards tribal Gujjars, Bakarwals and other downtrodden groups of society. During 1947, 1965 and 1971 India-Pak wars, Mian Sahib had proactively worked for peace in Jammu and Kashmir and had helped in rehabilitating thousands of people in tribal and border Gujjars of Jammu and Kashmir . celebrated. While speaking on a function organized by Gujjar officer association at press club jammu in 2008 Mian Sb said that Padam Bhushan Award is not only for my Gujjars and Bakarwals of jammu and Kashmir but it goes to eroses of Gujjars living in eleven States of India and eroses of my followers who belongs to Hindu , Muslim, and Sikh religion also and assured that he will continue to work for social justice, human rights, peace and prosperity of the State. Stressing the need that people of India and Pakistan have to work as a bridge in order to create an environment of friendship and cordial relations between the two countries, a Prominent saint has urged the need to have positive so that the environment of hatred and suspicions comes to an end. Two south Asian countries will create an example of peace and mutual brotherhood. And I was privileged to be part of this function as stage secretary. Mian Altaf Ahmed Member of Parliament from the Anantnag/Rajouri seat (younger son of Mian Bashier Ahmed) addressed the gathering and thanked the participants for remembering the contribution of Mian Bashier Ahmed Larvi on 3rd death anniversary.

The various Social and Cultural organizations demanded that the name of Degree college Kangan be kept as Mian Bashier Ahmed memorial Degree College Kangan in recognition of social service of Mian Bashier Ahmed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir:

Agriculture @78: Paving the way for a 'Viksit Bharat'

DR. PARVEEN KUMAR

After a long and tumultuous struggle that lasted near two decades, the Britishers were forced to declare India as an independent country on Aug. 15, 1947. The day marked the end of foreign dominance and beginning of a new era of self governance and democracy in India. As the country celebrates its 78th Independence Day on August 15, it marks 77 years of independence since 1947. The day is also a tribute to the countless freedom fighters, revolutionaries and nationalists who sacrificed their lives from independence. The journey although these seven decades has been unique with country progressing by leaps and bounds to become the fifth largest economy in the world at present and posing to become third largest economy in the next few years. Every sector of the economy has witnessed revolutionary strides and the world has felt and observed the positive impacts of this entire phenomenon. The country has now set the goal of being a Developed Nation i. e Viksit Bharat by 2047. Viksit Bharat is a vision for India to become a developed nation focusing on economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. The goal of Viksit Bharat is impossible to attain without giving due importance to agriculture. Agriculture is critical for India's development as it still engages about 45.8% of working population. If the dream of Viksit Bharat has to be realized and fulfilled by 2047, agriculture sector has to be developed to its full potential. The Challenges after Independence: The agriculture sector after attaining independence suffered from numerous challenges that include feeding the increasing population, low productivity and stagnation, creating adequate employment opportunities for the surplus labour besides ensuring timely availability of inputs to the farming community. Agriculture sector also suffered because of outdated technology, crude practices and huge dependence on timely rainfall. It was referred to as the 'begging bowl' with major portion of our food requirements being met from imports from other countries. Farmers' of that era were a static entity even reluctant to go for any change in their crude and unscientific cultivation practices. Overhauling the agriculture sector was not possible without ensuring that the relevant technology reached out to farming community well in time as

well as motivating the farming community to adopt the new technologies. In all these years of country's journey post independence, the agriculture sector has been the country's strength in its contribution in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country, in providing employment to the population and as a source of livelihood for the vast majority of rural populace.

From a 'begging bowl' to a 'bread basket': India from a 'begging bowl' thus changed to a 'bread basket' and the fortune changed by what is known as 'Green revolution'. Dr. Norman E Borlaug was the person credited with the green revolution and from saving millions of lives in India, Mexico and Middle East. Back home, Dr. M. S. Swaminathan took green revolution as a project. The period corresponding to 1967-78 witnessed huge upsurge in food grains production especially in states of Punjab Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Green revolution spread to millions of the world countries also. Reports reveal that the absolute number of poors people fell from 1.15 billion in 1975 to 825 million in 1995. All this happened despite a 60 per cent growth in population. Since the Green revolution of 1960s, India has never looked back. It is also here pertinent to mention that the country's undernourished population decreased from 247.8 million in 2004-2006 to 224.3 million in 2019-21, according to a report from the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World in 2022. From scarcity to Self sufficiency: From a production of 50 million tonnes in the post independence years, the production has now reached the 330 million tonnes mark. As per final estimates for 2022-23 total food grain production in the country was estimated at record 329.68 million tonnes which was higher by 14.07 million tonnes than the production of food grains of 315.61 million tonnes achieved during 2021-22. This has been achieved through a mix of technologies, interventions in agri and allied sectors, policy support and various legislations and reforms. This also has enabled the country to increase the production of food grains by 5.6 times, horticultural crops by 10.5 times, fish by 16.8 times, milk by 10.4 times and eggs by 52.9 times since 1950-51 thus making a visible impact on the national food and nutritional security. Country ranks first in the production of number of crops like Banana, Lime and Lemon, Papaya and Okra. The horticulture production in the country has exceeded

food grains production in the country. The country has the largest area under cultivation. It is the largest producer of pulses, spices, milk, tea, cashew, jute, banana, jackfruit and many other commodities (FAO). It stands second in production of fruits and vegetables, wheat, rice, cotton and oilseeds. India is now the world's leading rice exporter; accounting for more than 40% of the global rice trade as per the data for the FY 2023 speaks. India has the largest cotton cultivation area all over the world after China and the USA and it is the prime agriculture commodity or fiber crop worldwide. India is the third highest potato producing country. India is also the second largest producer of Pulses in the world. In 2013, India contributed 25 per cent of the total pulses production of the world, the highest for any country. India is the 3rd highest potato producing country. The major Potatoes producing states in India are Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab. The country also has the largest livestock population. The challenges: Despite remarkable achievements in the agriculture sector, there has been another side of this achievement. We have not yet been self sufficient in Pulses and Oilseeds. The negative impact and threat posed to our environment by climate change and large scale indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and plant protection chemicals to increase the yields are now clearly visible. The ground water has been rendered poisonous and contaminated with harmful chemicals. Such is the infestation that vast stretches of land extending up to kilometers is now not fit for any drinking water. Soils have been degraded, turned barren and a large number of biodiversity has been lost. Biodiversity is on the decline. Yields of crops are not increasing and large scale nutritional insecurity is manifested through children, pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls.

Agriculture as the way forward to Viksit Bharat: If we are to achieve our goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047, various shortcomings in agriculture sector have to be addressed. The sector needs to embrace technologies which do not interfere with the environment, practices which are sustainable, and farming techniques like diversification and Integrated Farming System Models. At the same time it is also necessary that high value crops be promoted. Although we have attained food security for all, by nutritional security is a

concern for all of us. To address nutritional security, a host of initiatives have been started. Biofortification and climate resilient varieties are being developed. A few days back Prime minister of the country Sh. Narendra Modi released 109 climate resilient and bio fortified varieties of 61 crops including 34 food grain crops and 27 horticulture crops. From a chemical intensive green revolution, we have now to move towards an ever-green revolution based on the principles of natural farming, sustainability, local resource use efficiency, economic viability, social compatibility and profitability. Natural Farming is being promoted all across the country as environmental friendly approach. In the next two years one crore farmers would be roped in to practice natural farming. For this 10,000 bio-input resource centers would also be established all across the country. Food processing sector is a sunrise sector which can help realize vision 2047. The food processing in the country is at present very low. The food processing sector can be utilized to enhance income opportunities for the rural population, facilitate job creation, minimize food wastage, improve the availability of nutritious foods by enhancing the processing of fruits and vegetables, and augment the proportion of value-added products.

The government of India has also come up with many pro-farmer schemes and programmes which include Prime minister Kisan Samman Nidhi (PMKISAN), Prime minister Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSSY), Soil Health Card (SHIC), Prime minister Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), and Prime minister Kisan Mandhan Yojana. To attract and retain Youth in agriculture, Entrepreneurship development schemes like Agri-Startups and skill development are being promoted with handholding and financial support to the youth who are interested in setting up agriculture or allied ventures. All these programmes have started showing results. Many youths have left their high earning jobs and started their own startups in agriculture and creating job opportunities for others also. Farmers particularly farm women feel more empowered, youths are now more skilled and the once static farming community is now a dynamic and vibrant one with collective approaches like Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

(The author writes on agriculture and social issues)