


SWACHHTA HI SEWA

There numerous landmark initiatives taken by the present Government which have really transformed entire life of a person besides helping in steady growth of the country on the path of progress and prosperity. It is not that the earlier Governments did nothing for the country by the matter of fact is that quantum of development, which people witnessed during last eight years, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was earlier never witnessed before. It is only due to the people-centric approach and dedicated working of the Government that at present, the nation is 5th largest economy of the world behind just 4 countries. Among numerous such initiatives, a major one was Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, aimed to ensure a neat, clean and green Bharat as per the vision of Mahatma Gandhi. It is really matter of immense pleasure and joy that this campaign has now taken form of a mass movement, with every citizen participating in it actively and contributing his or her but for achieving the goal. Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, has started a fortnightly campaign, 'Swachhta Hi Sewa' (SHS) to accelerate the efforts towards complete sanitation in rural India. It is a massive community mobilization drive for cleaning up of legacy waste and activities for solid waste management. As part of this annual campaign, States are requested to organise activities with the objectives of (i) ensuring community mobilization and participation, a 'Jan Andolan' towards Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus villages (ii) disseminating importance of a 'Sampoorn Swachh' village (iii) reinforcing the concept of 'Sanitation as everyone's business' and (v) commemorating Swachh Bharat Diwas (2nd October) at the village level. The Campaign has started from today i.e.15th September and will culminate on 2nd October. It is hoped that where on one hand SHS will accelerate efforts towards complete sanitation in rural India, on the other hand it will emerge as a massive community mobilization drive for cleaning up of legacy waste and activities for solid waste management at village level. The calendar of activities planned for the campaign include Shramdaan with massive peoples' participation (September 15-17), United India for Swachhta in 9 States (September 26- 28) while Gram Sabha meetings for ODF Plus village declarations and other activities; and Awarding Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) 2022 winners at National level will be done on October 2, the Swachh Bharat Diwas. A virtual conference (VC) was also conducted with the States under the co-chairmanship of Union Minster of Jal Shakti and Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, in this regard wherein Union Ministers urged the participants for 3 dedicated days of concerted efforts on September 15, 16 and 17 as 'Shramdaan' on cleanliness activities particularly cleaning of legacy waste sites and public places. The key activities that will be organised in the villages under this campaign include, cleaning of legacy waste sites in the villages, construction of waste collection & segregation sheds/centres, keeping the areas near water bodies clean and doing tree plantation around them, community awareness for segregation of waste (dry and wet) at source, purchasing waste collection vehicle like triecycle/B-cart (battery operated vehicle) through GeM, Door to door collection of non-biodegradable waste like plastics, generate awareness about the ill effects of Single Use Plastics (SUP) by organizing Gram Sabha meetings and passing resolutions for ban on SUPs, promoting 4-R principle for Plastic Waste Management - Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, Sarpanch Samvads on ODF Plus elements, holding massive IEC and mass media campaign with wide range of activities as wall paintings, Nukkad Nataks, Swachhta Rathes, social media material, gram sabhas to educate people through IPC, slogan-writing/pledge taking for 'No Littering' and updating daily progress of activities at SHS portal.



OFF 'D' CUFF

The role of prayer in realizing God

Many of us pray to God with faith, love, and devotion. We believe that our prayers will help us find God, will lead us to God. Unfortunately, this is not true. Prayer is very important indeed. It helps us to connect to God. It builds faith. It is the very foundation of our life. As said, 'You can do very little with prayer; but you can do nothing without it'. Of course, we must pray, connect and communicate with the power we call God. But if we pray, and if we don't know to whom we pray, and what we say, then, we don't pray, we just bray! In fact, do we even know who God is? God is not who we think God is. God is not a person or a saint. God is a power; a power beyond human definition and comprehension. God is the Supreme Immortal Power.

Prayer is not a scheme to find God. And meaningless, ritualistic prayers, mere lip movement is pointless. Unless our prayers grow and translate into a deep love and yearning for God, compelling us to go in quest of the Divine, we will never realize God. We will simply live and die. We will pray to God, asking for favours, begging the Divine to turn our dreams into reality and this may indeed happen, but, unfortunately, we would have not achieved what prayer is meant to achieve. What is the purpose of prayer? The end goal of prayer is to liberate us from the cycle of death and rebirth, and unite us with the Divine. If we truly seek God, we must realize that we cannot find God through prayer. To begin with, we must seek God, more than we seek anything else. We must

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

The Jungle Raj again returned in the state of Bihar as a result of the coalition government of JDU of Nitesh Kumar and RJD of Lalu Prasad Yadav. The Nitish Kumar and the son of Lalu Prasad, Tejashwi Yadav have come closer and have cobbled an unnatural and unholy alliance of the north pole and south pole. Now Uncle and cousin have allied and have formed a coalition government in Bihar: The BJP which has been ousted from the old government is accusing that the jungle Raj has returned to haunt the people of Bihar and there is some truth and substance in the criticism by the BJP that the Jungle Raj has returned to Bihar: The epithet, occurrence and experience of Jungle raj is not new for the gullible people of Bihar as the state had experienced it for many years during the government of Lalu Prasad Yadav. No less than the high court of Bihar on 5th August 1997 has used the word Jungle Raj for the first time while hearing a write petition of a social worker Krishan Sahi and the high court has commented that there is no government in Bihar and corrupt officers are running the government and Jungle raj had been established in Bihar. This was the beginning of the word and from this day the politicians used the word Jungle raj to describe the government of Bihar. Thus the government of RJD of Lalu is synonymous with the jungle Raj because that there was total lawlessness and the rule of the gangsters in the state of Bihar: Now with the coming closer of the Nitish Kumar and Tejashwi Yadav and forming of the coalition government the Jungle Raj has returned to the state of Bihar once again and the common people of the state will have to bear the brunt of lawlessness. All talk of the good governance of Sushashan Babu is humbug and it is no where seen on the ground. The Sushassan Babu Raj has turned into lawlessness and rowdiness and there is Jungle Raj through and through and the man in the street is suffering in the Jungle Raj as there is no semblance of law and justice in Bihar which is reeling into lawlessness and gangster raj.

The moot question is where from the Jungle Raj has come in Nitish government? Have the crimes declined in Nitish government as com-

pared to the earlier government of Lalu and Rabri Davi? Why is the period from 1990 to 2005 called the jungle Raj in Bihar? Where from the word Jungle Raj has come into the political lexicon in Bihar? What is the difference between the crime rate in the government of Lalu and Nitish Kumar? Which are the sad happenings which dented the image of Bihar? The pertinent question is why is there talk of jungle Raj in Bihar in the new coalition government of JDU and RJD. The crimes like loot, plunder, murderers and the atmosphere of fear is ruling the roost in Bihar under the new government of Nitish Kumar. Two journalists were murdered in Bihar in two separate incidents on 10th and 11th August. Again on August 11 there was a big loot in a car show room. There was the brutal and barbaric killing of a Hindu priest in Batia where the priest was murdered by silting his neck. On 18th August an army man was murdered in broad day light. The question arises where from has the word Jungle Raj entered Bihar politics, the fact is that it has been used in elections. In 2020 state assembly election Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has used the word Jungle raj umpteenth times. The BJP is attacking the new government of Nitish Kumar continuously. The happening of the crimes in Bihar under the Nitesh government has forced BJP to call it as the return of the era of jungle Raj. In the capital city of Patna a young girl was killed after Nitish assumed the power and formed his new coalition government. What were the happenings in Bihar in the Lalu-Rabri sarkars that point to the fact that the Bihar is reeling in jungle Raj and it has dented the image of Bihar state. The ex-minister Dr Pream Kumar has said that once again jungle Raj has begun in Bihar: The BJP has time and again played the role of the king maker in Bihar.

The BJP has not done the role of king maker only once but six times the party has performed the role of king maker and made Nitish the CM of Bihar and they have done this blunder six times in the recent past and this is the sad state of affairs. There was always deceit and ill intention in the mind of Nitesh Kumar. In 2010 NDA had got big mandate in Bihar and when there were talks

of the candidature of Modi as the PM ,then there was pain in the belly of Nitish kumar. In 2013 Modi was invited to a big feast and Nitish came out of the NDA and made government with RJD and congress. In 2014 general elections Nitesh's JDU fought elections on 40 Lok Sabha seats. The pressmen questioned Bihar chief minister Nitish kumar over lawlessness and consequent Jangle raj but he was uneasy on this question and said that at that the appropriate time he will answer this question. The CM Nitish kumar had been cornered over giving the ministerial birth to Kartikeya Kumar law minister and consumer affairs minister Lokesh Singh but these ministers have criminal cases against them. The crimes which are taking place in Bihar after the assumption of power by the Nitish Kumar has forced the BJP to call the situation as the return of the jungle Raj. The opposition is saying that the Jungle Raj has once again begun in Bihar thanks to the coalition government of JDU and RJD. The criminals have murdered 16 year young girl in Patna Bihar the other day in brutal way. In 1990 Lalu Prasad was the chief minister of Bihar: This was the period in Bihar when there was the increase in the control of the mightiest people and gangsters in the Bihar society. After the 1990 era the crime events one after the other took place and it created difficulty for the government of RJP headed by Lalu. Lalu Prasad was also jailed in different cases of fodder scam. He was also held guilty by the court in the fodder case. Besides this he was held guilty in disproportionate income case. As per journalist Arun Sinha in that era there was freedom for the rowdy elements and those who created troubles for the common man and there was also freedom to the violence creators and trouble shooters. In small cities there were extortions and dacoits common.

In the rule of Lalu and Rabri the situation in Bihar was one of complete jungle raj. The kidnappings, rapes, gang rapes, extortions, loot, plunder and murderers were common scenes. The period of these two chief ministers were the worst kind of lawlessness which can be characterized as the jungle raj. Now with the coalition government of uncle - cousin that is the coming

together once again of the JDU and RJD, the conditions in Bihar state resemble the jungle raj as there is complete lawlessness and an atmosphere and free for all in Bihar and the violence creators and gangsters' and other rowdy elements Rome freely and feel encouraged to commit crimes against innocent people. There is increase in murderers, extortions, killings, kidnappings and rapes in the Bihar these days and thus the security atmosphere is one of fear and suspicion and can surely be called as the jungle raj.BJP has said that after the assumption of the reigns of the government there has been continued increase in crimes and murderers in Bihar and the situation resembles jungle raj. The BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra has said that between August 10-12, there were murderers of the journalists including several persons and one Hindu Priest was killed by silting his throat. During this time there were some incidents of the rapes in the state too. The BJP has said that the various crimes have taken place in Bihar after the installation of the coalition government of JDU and RJD and the government seems unconcerned over these increasing crime incidents. Therefore BJP spokesman Simbit Patra has said that jungle raj has returned one again in Bihar: There were several incidents of rapes in Bihar. Besides this some people have died after consuming poisonous wine in Chappra and this all is a cause of concern and is very unfortunate. Sambit Patra has further said that lawlessness has fast spread in Bihar and it will not be the exaggeration to say that Jungle raj has returned in Bihar. In Patna the criminals are in high spirits and a girl student was shot at by the goons in broad day light and in Gopalgunj a bank was looted and lakhs of the money was stolen. In Bihar the criminals are fearless and they perform crimes without any fear of the law enforcing agencies. All this makes it obvious that Bihar has returned to Jungle raj once again as there is complete lawlessness in the state which justifies calling that Jungle Raj has returned back in Bihar.

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

Jammu becoming a concrete Jungle with pollution

■ TARA CHAND BHAGAT

Please allow me the hospitality of the columns of your esteemed daily to highlighting the state of expansion of Jammu city towards its all directions with the unplanned construction of concrete Jungle having no provisions of greenery in the manifestations of plantations big shaddy trees along either the open spaces where it could be more and more petty parks to be developed by the present town planners of Jammu city as being one of the smart cities so as to avoid poisonous air pollution being caused by heavy rush of transporting of heavy loaded trucks; personal vehicles such as big or small cars, motorcycles, besides mini-buses, private/Govt. Buses thousands in numbers being plied continuously throughout the day times on the narrow spaced roads causing big jams to be ended hours together in peak times also with noise pollution have made the people's life very miserable rather no less than a hell. This gives rise to lopside the ecosystem balance of the natural environment .With the result whole of the world including India is being affected with the phenomenal catastrophic climate change and global warming responsible for melting centuries old glaciers on the higher mountains like the Himalayas and other mountains of the world resolutely unforeseen weather vagaries, changes and unseasonal heavy rains in some areas are experiencing vast floods with bursting of clouds causing erosion of soils, loss of crops, loss of human lives, washing away of large number of animals and houses and a lot of poor people who live in low lying areas also get

dislocated and are forced to spend their bad times to be in Governmental shelters, make-shifts shelters. There are areas where scanty rains are not at all expected get the heaviest rains whereas areas where rains are expected get remained quite dry with a little rains and the people have to be faced with starvation due to drought hitting the affected areas badly. Secondly another big cause of pollution is taking place by the excessive usage of chemical fertilizers in agricultural fields as well as on more production of daily consumed vegetables; fruits with poisonous sprinkles of sprays over the leafy vegetables when consumed are too harmful to be eaten by all the humans and other living beings. The farmer community is requested to refrain from chemical fertilizers into their agricultural fields excessively so that agricultural land may not lose its fertility and would continue to produce its productions of crops. Instead the cow-dung manure (Desi Khaad) is advised to be used as far as possible for every kind of crop/vegetables/fruit trees. Poisonous sprinkling of sprays on leafy vegetables/fruit trees to be avoided as serious nature of diseases like problem of acidity, indigestion, cancer, weak eyesight, hard of hearing, falling of teeth, becoming bald etc are being usually experienced by the weaker health people. Scientifically rakh of wood is more useful than poisonous sprinkling of sprays on the leafy vegetables/fruits.

Thirdly air pollution in Jammu city is also getting increased, if not controlled at this present times; Jammu city could also be like that of Delhi city where it

becomes difficult for the elderly and the weaker people, small children also fall prey to cough, influenza, feel difficulty to breathe into thick polluted air. Alternative measures are to be adopted by the pollution control board keeping in view of the health of Jammuites. In Delhi, artificial arrangements to dispel thickness in polluted air are being used. Fourthly, save Suraj Putri (the Tawi River) from dangerous pollution being caused through dirty Nallahs with their diversions along others sewerages and night soils. Tawi is the only lifeline of Jammy city. Therefore it is our collective moral duty of all people as well as the UT Govt. to do its sincere efforts to make it to be pollution free, neat and clean so that its banks /front could be able to attract tourists including local people. It has already been brought into the notice of the higher authorities like the Div. Comm. that the effective and efficacious steps are to be taken for the beautification of river Tawi front and its banks got encroachment free. Fifthly greenhouse gases and other poisonous gases being emitted through the chimneys of the factories and its pollutants are being put into rivers which are harmful for the survival of the variety of fishes. Greenhouse gases are a world-wide big problem to be tackled by the countries at their respective level.

Sixthly plastic pollution with the excessive use of plastic wares, single use plastic, water bottles, cold drink bottles many more such like plastic articles/wares are being used on large scales which needs to be discouraged its continuance. Plastic pollution poses a

greater threat to the lives of the water world. Polythene bags to be used by shopkeepers; vegetables and fruit sellers abundantly are to be totally banned in the market. Instead of cloth made, jute made bags are to be used by all so that Swachh Bharat Mission initiated by the Govt. Of India could be got successful.

Sevently green parks are said to be the lungs and reservoirs of oxygen essentially meant for the sustenance of life of all living beings.

These must be maintained nicely with the seating arrangements, provision of walk ways are always be kept for loitering. Barring a few parks like Rani Talab park; Bahu fort park; Guest house park; Zanana and children park at Talab Tillo have nicely been maintained. Undoubtedly be developed as walkways or Sahar-ghas for every walk of life. Now Jammu undergoing a smart City must be developed on the pattern of the areas of Gandhi Nagar with wider scope of green belts along the roads, heavy plantations; the big trees of permanent nature of Barh, Peeple, Jamun, Tali, Behda planned to be planted along walkways along the highways to fight pollution. Refrigerators are available in almost all houses. Still there is no restriction on discharging such harmful gases. There is no limit of its uses which load over on electricity as well as contaminate pure air and harm ozone layer of the atmosphere. ACs are used not only in summers but also in all weather conditions. People are aware of its harmfulness. Ozone protection is everybody's responsibility as everyone is responsible for making the ozone layer impure.

Sweden's recent choice has insights into future

■ ADITYA VASHISHT

The recent parliamentary elections held in Sweden have been an object of surprise for many and a concern for few. Almost 17 years after, a right wing government is coming to power, but with a significant participation of the Sweden Democrats, the nationalist party aligning to the far-right which had been shunned by many.

It is quite an intriguing spectacle to see how a country known for its magnanimous levels of liberalism and tolerance in the cultural sphere can bring to power those who desire to ensure that Sweden remains 'white and in its glory'. It has turned out that the wide arms with which the Swedes welcomed refugees has been a colossal failure. Instead of seeing peaceful co-existence, realizing the 'cherished dream of multi-culturalism', Sweden is witnessing a rise in crime which threatens to destroy the very fabric of the Swedish society. The prospects of more riots and the abominable incidents which are being committed by migrants on the once peaceful streets have undoubtedly led to a change in the mood of the Swedish public. No wonder then, that amidst a war raging in Europe, the continent gripped with an energy crisis and

the Swedish decision to join NATO has had no effect on a significant proportion of Swedish voters whose priority was the 'safeguarding of their culture' as some might like to say. The concerns of many Swedes haven't been built on lies. There is genuine prevalence of data to demonstrate that instead of becoming an asset for the society, the refugees have turned into a liability, with their welfare costing billions of dollars whose origins can be found in the pockets of Swedish citizens. In return, instead of prosperity, what Sweden gets is a decline in the standards of its society. News of a rape or a riot breaks out rarely, and the perpetrators in most of the cases have turned out to be from the migrant population. The number of sexual assaults can be backed statistically in which it has been reported that incidence of rape has strong chances of being committed by a migrant rather than a native Swede.

There was a recent case which literally touched the conscience of the people in which a 9 year old Swedish girl was brutally assaulted by a migrant which hadn't hesitated in committing a crime just a day after he had received approval for asylum. Swedish parents are becoming increasingly concerned for their children,

as there are high chances that they will face an assault on the street by migrants. Parallel societies have sprung up and there is a growing feeling of a 'replacement' of the native population in process. Many Swedes are feeling betrayed by the government which continues to dangle the key of immigration. Matters didn't help when the Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson admitted the failure of the immigration policy of her country, but chose to blame the failure on white Swedes who didn't ensure that they be integrated properly. The result of this statement has been that she has had to resign her post of the Prime Minister after her party, the left-wing Social Democrats has been booted out of power. An important aspect of the recent elections has been the vote share of parties based on different age groups. It has been noted that the new voters i.e. those between 18 to 21 years of age have in significant percentage voted for the Swedish Democrats. This is an indication that the Swedish youth which would take the reins in the future has a solid number of people whose tilt is towards nationalist ideology. Many grand children are turning out to be more extreme than their grandparents. This is a sign

which has many interpretations. The question is bound to arise that what would be the impact of the novel trajectory of Swedish public opinion on other European countries? It must be mentioned that the aforementioned condition of the law and order situation in Sweden is being replicated in the cities of Italy, France, Spain, Germany, and the United Kingdom which have taken a lot of migrants. These countries have their own percentages of crime which are quite big. The once peaceful streets of many European countries are replacing their adjectives from being safe to dangerous. The unabated influx of migrants has had a profound impact upon various European societies, which in turn has raised fears that Europe as it is traditionally known will meet its end in the future. This is becoming a source of increased tensions. The result is that ideologies which were stridently discarded after Second World War are undergoing a resurrection. This only makes one ponder whether Europe is going to be at peace in the future. The chances of it seem to be bleak. It cannot be denied that for Europe, the future might be filled with revivalism and 21st century crusades.

