

Changed Central funding pattern

The State of Jammu and Kashmir has hitherto been treated at parity with eight North Eastern States in matters of central funding pattern, purely on considerations of being "backward area or State" and with less than adequate financial resources. The funding pattern of 70:30 was subsequently revised to 90:10 per cent. It is noteworthy that the Government of India has changed this Central Funding Pattern (CFP) of eight States from 90:10 to 100%.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes are those schemes where there is financial participation by both the Centre and the States. It is in a way just a cushion of help provided to States to run its plans financially. Centrally Sponsored Schemes are created on areas which are covered under the State list. Usually the percentage of funding is higher on the part of the Centre than the States, the latter with the stipulated percentage.

As a closed mouth catches no flies, the Jammu and Kashmir Government did not push its case for enhancing the funding from 90:10 to 100% although the representatives of the State had been supportive of a favourable revision in the funding pattern of the State direct to 100 percent during their meetings with the Union Ministers, in particular finance, but not very seriously or meticulously followed up the matter. In the mean time, a development took place as Union Minister in charge of North Eastern States, Dr. Jitendra Singh propounded the revised proposal (100%) before the Union Cabinet for North East and the same was approved. Like this, Jammu and Kashmir was kept in the lurch and consequently, for the first time, has remained out of the purview vis-a vis the North Eastern States in terms of funding under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Having realized about the tenuous nature of putting up its case so far, the State Government now proposes to take up the matter afresh with the Union Finance Ministry very vigorously to be kept at par for considering 100 percent funding pattern. As is the wont of the State Government, most of the projects of development of tiny nature, jumping the time frame in a disproportionate manner usually or even shelving them altogether is because of the funds constraints. Under these considerations, therefore, the case assumes strength since even providing for the mandatory funds of 30 or 10 percentage by the State Government becomes, at times, very difficult.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes, it may be reiterated, are divided into three parts. These are Core of the Core, Core and Optional. The share differs for different schemes but the stake or the participation of the States is envisaged in each scheme. The rule or the convention, however, is that geographically "difficult" States shall get higher Central share. It is on this basis, that the case of the State of Jammu and Kashmir gains strength. There can be no dearth of the schemes allotted to States like the J and K but due to sheer inability of sparing funding from the State sector, those schemes remain in a state of uncertainty and never get started.

Depending upon how ably the case is presented before the NITI Ayog or the Finance Ministry, if approved in favour of this State, it would undoubtedly go a long way in executing Centrally Sponsored Schemes well in time resulting in overall development of the State.

Inessential litigations & State

Reportedly, there are number of court cases pending against the State which by nature, consequence or time factor, have attained the status of in-fructuousness. Government departments must, as a matter of routine, keep the Law Department abreast of the details of which of such cases needed to be weeded out to save time, money and aimless follow up. Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, over 10 months back had constituted a committee which could consider such cases on merits. The Law Minister has personally issued directives in this regard to all Administrative Secretaries, not once but many times but still there appears to be no headway achieved in the matter. If available data is any indication of which way the directions have gone, not a single case has been received by the committee so far for review which speaks volumes about the casual approaches not being given a go by.

Litigation is an issue which by itself assumes much importance and cannot be taken lightly but followed in the respective courts to reach decisive stages in the absence of which even those of inconsequential nature, keep on adding to the pendency list putting avoidable burden on the State. The trend needs to be reversed at the earliest.

The cases must be scrutinized at the initial stage of filing with full transparency as also at the stage of contesting or defending. There are cases where vacation of interim directions of the courts must be vigorously followed which otherwise has effect of stalling developmental works. There are cases which could be settled easily at the administrative levels well within the respective discretionary and administrative powers of the departmental heads and hence such cases could be persuaded to be withdrawn from the courts.

The Tiger Verdict and the Brouhaha

Sapna K Sangra

At one point in time, I have been a crazy fan of 'Maine Payar Kiya' and I admit humming 'Dil Diyan Galan' quite often these days but that doesn't, in any way, affect how I look at the verdict pronounced after twenty odd years by the trial court and then the upper court suspending the same and releasing the guilty on bail after 48 hours in the actor Salman Khan Blackbuck Poaching Case. The sudden turn of events led to the furore leaving many an eyebrow raised. So, for one set of people, it has been an equal application of law irrespective of the status of being high and mighty who could exert pressure and influence every part of the social system, others feel the sentence and subsequent release of the actor on bail is just the mockery of the legal system. The arguments from the huge fan following in the form of emotional outburst are understood to be the love for the actor irrespec-

tive of any rational basis. From the 'Tiger Zinda Hai' (Tiger is Alive) to 'Tiger ko Pinjrey Mein Kab Tak Rakhohe,' (For how long will you keep the tiger in the cage?) it was all there on the social media!

Actor Salman Khan is accused of killing two Blackbucks, hunting of which is prohibited under section 9/51 of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 in Bhagoda Ki Dhani in Kankani village near Jodhpur in the intervening night of October 1-2, 1998 during the shooting of film Hum Saath Saath Hain. A Jodhpur court convicted actor Salman Khan on April 5 sentencing him to five years jail term and fined Rs 10,000. Co-accused actors Saif Ali Khan, Tabu, Neelem Kothari and Sonali Bendre and local resident Dushyant Singh were given the benefit of doubt and were acquitted.

I would not say that killing of a Blackbuck wasn't that grave a crime since it was all about killing an animal. And also, that the case became high profile just

because it involved a celebrity. Rather, a crime is a crime and the punishment must be in proportion to the gravity of the crime committed. It was a case of alleged poaching which took place near an area inhabited by the Bishnois, a traditional community committed to protecting the endangered animal and which remains vigilant against poachers in the area. The case, thus, rested on the primary witness, the Bishnoi villagers. H.M Saraswat, Salman Khan's lawyer argued that there has been a "false and malicious campaign" to target the actor and showed a video to the court purportedly showing witnesses signing the blank papers. Whatever be the arguments of the defence counsel, communities such as Bishnois deserve all our respect for coming together for the safety of their flora and fauna and their ability in standing up like a rock on the basis of the values and principles that guide their everyday lives. It's on the basis of these principles that

they could take on one of the powerful men in the Bollywood. Also, there is an element of great learning for all of us from the lives of Bishnois. We have to be constantly vigilant about the lurking dangers and threats to our habitat. Our failure to protect our natural environment would ultimately lead us to our disastrous ends.

Another string of the matter relates to the longevity of the case which was dragged on for twenty years. If this was the state of affairs of the matter which the nation had its eyes on, the plight of the thousands of cases pending in various courts in our country can be well be gauged. The agony of those involved in such cases is difficult to fathom. For each and every day of those twenty long years, the Salman Khan faced sentence in the form of stigma which pretty much came to the fore on social media after the pronouncement of the sentence. Every time, Salman presented himself at the Court during the trial, he alternately

fed the media trial which could be de-motivating and humiliating for anyone.

Though it took twenty years, ultimately it was proved that in the eyes of the Law, all are equal but the news about Khan's sentence had not even sink-in that we heard about his bail. It's not that the higher judiciary is not conscious of the priority given to the cases of high and mighty or influential's. In August 2013, a bench of Justice B.S Chauhan and Justice S.A Bobde while dismissing the anticipatory bail plea of IPS officer P.P Pandey said, "We can say on oath that only 5 percent of the time is being used for common citizens, whose appeals are waiting for 20 or 30 years. This court has become a safe haven for big criminals. You come here for the sixth or eighth time for anticipatory bail and we should hear as if we were a trial court."

In September 2013, a bench of Justice H.L. Dattu and S.J. Mukhopadhyaya while dismiss-

ing the bail plea of former Haryana chief minister Om Prakash Chautala admitted that India's justice system is a 'tragedy' as common citizens are ignored in favour high-profile cases and told senior counsel, appearing for Mr Chautala, that "Cases of known VIP convicts are given preference by the High Court over poor convicts. You (Mr Chautala) were convicted in January but your appeal in the Delhi High Court is almost complete. Here in the Supreme Court, appeals filed in 2005 against death sentence are still in the queue and we are not able to take up these matters. Look at the tragedy of the system."

Whether verdict of the Jodhpur court survives the appeals process is yet to be seen, but the stiff sentence so far clearly reiterates that stardom does not confer impunity!

(The writer teaches Sociology at the University of Jammu and is a State Chairperson of Spic Mucay. She blogs at criticalneshlog.wordpress.com)

feedbackexcelsior@gmail.com

Dr. Arun Mitra

Weakening of sacred patient and doctor relationship based on mutual trust is a cause of serious concern. This is understandable to an extent because medical practice has undergone a transformation in the last few decades. Increasing corporatization and extraneous considerations have made it too much techno-centric. Healthcare, which at one time was considered as a social responsibility, has seen a shift. Even the WHO has started putting more focus on individual responsibility. Agreements like Alma Ata declaration seem to have taken a back seat. For the vast majority, healthcare remains a serious issue around the globe, more so in the developing countries where public health spending is far from the desirable level. Primary healthcare is the biggest victim. Advanced tertiary healthcare has largely been left to the corporate sector making it inaccessible to vast majority of our population. In the pursuit of defensive medicine or under the pressure of other considerations, patients in many cases are being subjected

to either under care or over care.

A large number of the medical professionals around the world have got swayed away with this new wind. There are others who feel upset but do not care to speak. But many a professional in different countries have taken up the issue of ethics in medical practice vis a vis responsibilities and rights of doctors and patients with the ultimate aim of how best to impart health care to the society. Going by the definition of Right Care from the Right Care Alliance, which is a grassroots coalition of clinicians, patients, and community members organizing to make health care institutions accountable to communities and put patients, not profits, at the heart of health care. (<https://rightcarealliance.org/about>), "Right Care is a human right. It places the health and well-being of patients first. Right Care is affordable and effective. It is compassionate, honest, and safe. Right Care

Ethics in Medical practice

brings healing and comfort to patients, and satisfaction to clinicians. Achieving Right Care will require radically transforming how care is delivered and financed".

In 2002, the reputed Italian cardiologist Alberto Dolara published an article in the Italian Heart Journal, a scientific publication, where the term Slow Medicine was introduced. Dolara stated "In clinical

practice, hyperactivity is often unnecessary. Adopting a strategy of 'slow medicine' may be more rewarding in many situations. Such an approach would allow health professionals and in particular doctors and nurses, to have sufficient time to evaluate the personal, familial and social problems of the patient extensively, to reduce anxiety whilst waiting for non-urgent diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, to evaluate new methods and technologies carefully,

to prevent premature dismissals from hospital and finally to offer an adequate emotional support to the terminal patient and their families."

The crux of health care thus is to ensure that it is affordable, universal, without financial considerations as priority, utilizing technology but not techno-centric. It should be based on sufficient dialogue between patient and medical practitioner

to develop confidence. It is based on social concerns and linked to the issues of food security, housing, water supply, sanitation and job security etc. According to the Indian Medical Council (professional conduct, etiquette & ethics) Regulations, 2002, "A physician shall uphold the dignity and honour of his profession. The prime object of the medical profession is to render service to humanity; reward or financial gain is a subordinate consideration".

HEALTH WATCH

to prevent premature dismissals from hospital and finally to offer an adequate emotional support to the terminal patient and their families."

Need of Skill Development for Rural Youths

Dr. Banarsi Lal and Dr. Vikas Tandon

Majority of India's population still lives in the villages. The numbers of youths are also increasing in the villages. The number of youth is increasing faster than the rate of job creation. Youths are considered as the future of any nation. Youths play a crucial and substantial role in the development of the nation. Almost nine out of 10 youths live in the developing countries. Youth make one fourth of world population and in India, the number of youths are the highest. India has earned the distinction of being called as the nation of youths. Growing number of youths in India require the right educational infrastructure to develop skills and adequate opportunities to get employed or become entrepreneurs. The wide gap between those who have access to education and skill development opportunities and those who do not have is a challenge that needs to be overcome. In India 72.2 per cent of the Indian population lives in the rural areas. 12 per cent of the world population lives in the Indian villages which makes it bigger than the size of Europe. 80 per cent of the rural households are having small and marginal farms. Although share of agriculture in the Indian GDP is declining but still it engages around half of the country's population. Persons engaged 15-29 years who are considered as the youth accounted for 26 per cent of rural population. Only about 21 per cent of rural males and 12 per cent of rural females are educated at secondary level and

above. Indian youths are looking for the employment and the industries are suffering from availability of skilled workers. The skill mismatch makes the youths unemployable. It is astonishing that literacy rate and educational levels though have increased but about 89 per cent of youths do not take any vocational training. Youth's labour market also faces the problem of organised labour market, lower income and unhygienic conditions of work and lack of social security. Rural youths start working from their childhood. Sometimes they are forced to work as bonded labourers. Some rural youths are decently educated but they do not get the desired jobs as per their qualifications. Rural youths work in the fields but they lack the innovative ideas that are making agriculture bitter and unattractive for them. There are various factors which make rural youths unemployable.

Rapid increase in population
It is expected that within 20 years the population of India will be doubled. No country can guarantee employment to its growing population in such a rapid rate. Family programme in India have not yielded the desired results. Thus, new ways to handle this issue needs to be meticulously planned to accommodate the increasing population in the respective works. There is need to create innovative jobs for the youths so that they can be employed.

Pressure on Land
India is having a limited area under cultivation and thus efforts are being

made to convert the barren land into agricultural land. There is great pressure on the land due to increasing population. In rural areas most of the people depend on the agriculture for their livelihood and this situation makes them unemployable as they are lacking the modern techniques of agriculture. Providing land to the landless rural youths can open the new gate of employment for them.

Lack of awareness on modern agriculture
Rural people lack the awareness on modern methods of agriculture. This makes their task cumbersome and time consuming. Vocational trainings on mushroom cultivation, beekeeping, dairy farming, value addition in fruits and vegetables etc. can create employment in the rural areas.

Seasonal agriculture
Agriculture in India is seasonal in nature. Farmers are very busy at sowing and harvesting time. People in rural areas get employment only for few months. This has adverse impact on the earnings of the farmers and their standard of living. During the vacant period, the employment should be provided to the farmers. This will help the farmers to earn more money in free time. During the free time the rural youths can be utilized for the vocational training programmes to start entrepreneurship in agriculture in the rural areas.

Lack of job oriented courses
Many rural youths join any course without proper guidelines. Such courses don't bear compatibility to the innate talent of youths that remain as degree

for them without any kind of job. They again go to their villages and do agriculture.

Job creation in a calendar year
Every year many rural youths come out with flying colours. Out of them some get the jobs but majority remains without jobs. It has been observed that many students are not opting for the professional courses. Many seats in the professional courses remain vacant. Decent jobs require quality education and skill development trainings. Skill development courses can work as a vehicle for a change in the rural areas and can enhance the income and employment for the rural youths. Besides hard skills, the weightage on communication skills, upkeep of the employees, language proficiency, hygiene, punctuality etc. should also be taught to the trainees.

Solutions of employment in the rural areas
There is dire need to control the increasing population. Although the government has taken various steps to control the population but still the desired results are awaited. There is need to improve the quality of the Indian education system. Job oriented courses should be emphasized. Government needs to focus on the skill education. The education should be on the basis of the current industrial requirements. With education practical knowledge should be provided. Youths should select the institute where proper education and trainings are imparted. In order to avoid the

rural migration government should encourage the rural based industries. More employment should be generated in the rural areas during the off season of the year. Development in rural areas will stop the rural migration and thus reduce the pressure on the urban areas.

The National Skill Development Mission (NSDM) has been developed to impart skill development trainings in different states. This mission is making efforts to consolidate and coordinate skilling efforts. This mission is also supported by the National Skill Development Agency, National Skill Development Corporation and Directorate General of Trainings. Upgrading Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTTAD) scheme aims at upgrading skills and training of minority communities by preservation of traditional ancestral arts and crafts. Significant emphasis needs to be given to the rural youths and they should be viewed as an investment opportunity and be treated as partners in growth and development. Many rural youths remain unemployed due to lack of knowledge of job oriented courses, lack of technical expertise, lack of knowledge of modern agriculture etc. In order to mitigate the problem of unemployment for the rural youths, policy interventions should promote quality education and jobs oriented trainings. Credit assistance and marketing assistance should be provided to the self-employed youths.

feedbackexcelsior@gmail.com

KU, JU among Top 100

Sir,

This has reference to the editorial 'Jammu and Kashmir Varsityies' (DE, Apr 6, 2018). It is really a matter of pride for all of us residing in Jammu and Kashmir that the twin universities of our State namely, Kashmir University and Jammu University have carved a place among the top 100 universities in the country. While Kashmir University has got the 43.96 score and 47th rank, the Jammu University has got 43.19 score and secured the 51st position. These varsities have earned this distinction among about 4500 such institutes which had submitted their details for the ranking under National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) conducted by MHRD. What is more heartening is that both the universities have improved their tally from the ranking of the last year. Similarly, the Engineering College of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University has secured the 94th rank among the Engineering institutes in the country.

While we should feel proud and elated at the singular achievement of both the universities, the universities need to work hard to strive for excellence and ensure that all the parameters which cover Teaching, Learning and Resources, Research and Professional Practices, Graduation Outcome, Outreach and Inclusivity and Perception, on the basis of which the ranking is done to rank the universities, are given sufficient attention to strengthen them. The fact that Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru has topped in the overall category and in the university category as well, shows that both these universities have a long way to go to match the national and the global standards. Having found the place among the top 100 universities in the country, both the varsities ought to work on an ambitious plan to earn a position among the top 100 universities at the global level. There should also be a mechanism to devise parameters to rank the Senior Secondary Schools across the country to know which school stands where. The universities, colleges and schools maintaining continuous track record of better performance ought to be given incentives in the form of liberal grants and funds and those which do not come up to the desirable level, must face action. This scheme of incentives and disincentives can definitely bring improvement in the system of education in our country.

Yours etc...
Ashok Sharma,
Housing Colony,
Udhampur.

Yours etc...
B A Bhat
Srinagar

Penalize Transgressors

Sir

This refers to article "Time to penalize Transgressors" by Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat (Daily Excelsior 6.4.2018). State Information Commission has failed to institutionalize RTI in Jammu & Kashmir as hardly any Public Information Officer (PIO) is being penalized for violating the J&K RTI Act 2009. I have been going through several news articles wherein I read about SIC issuing penalty show cause notice under section 17 of RTI Act, but what happens after issuance of these notices, nobody is aware? I believe State Information Commission (SIC) must first make voluntary disclosure of this. Mere issuing notices won't help, Commission has a power under this Act to penalize the PIOs but the penalties are not being imposed. Government departments will not take SIC seriously unless it acts strictly against the officers who transgress the limits and violate RTI.

Moral education in schools

Sir,

The moral education in schools and colleges has to be made mandatory subject along with the educational syllabus. It has become inevitable as our new generation seems to be heading towards self-centred rather than to be socialistic. The moral conduct or morality, especially of young generation is declining. This is worrying us a lot.

In our golden days, our parents used to tell the stories of Qur'an, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bible, etc., to boost our moral character. Today's parents have no time to sit with their child as both parents are working to augment their earnings.

Nowadays we observe it everywhere. No need to go too far. Even in our homes, children do not have courtesy to offer even a glass of water to the visitors visiting our houses. They are busy on mobiles or laptops. Therefore moral education is very much necessary to boost the character of our young generation. After all, a person cannot be measured with what educational degrees or profession he or she possess but more by what character that person has, to become a good citizen.

Yours etc...
Md Rustam Parwez
on e-mail

Readers Write