

Making administration accountable

Political scientists have underscored the importance of good governance as one effective measure for welfare of people. Good governance also means discarding the master-servant culture of colonial days and replacing it with responsibly empowered status for the administrator as well as the administrated. It meant that people had to be given the right to call for the accountability of the administrative authority. This line of thinking made the present Government pass the Public Service Guarantee Act in 2011. The quintessence of the Act aims at empowering general public to enforce upon the administration their right of receiving prompt delivery of public services on various fronts of day-to-day life importance. In his public rallies, the Chief Minister has been repeatedly educating the people about their right to demand delivery from the administration as stipulated by the PSGA.

But the axiom goes that the taste of pudding is in eating. What is the real ground situation in the context of implementation of the Act in letter and in spirit? This is what the Government is deeply concerned about. In order to have a clear picture, the Chief Minister has ordered constituting of special teams to monitor the status of implementation of the provisions of the Act. Obviously, he has found some loopholes here and there in the administrative structure which need to be plugged. But plugging can take place only when the discrepancies are identified. That is what the proposed special teams have been asked to do. Plugging the loopholes carries with it the element of fixing the responsibility and calling for accountability. This exercise has been evolved along twin strategy of sensitizing the officials on various provisions of the Act and disciplinary action against the defaulting chapter. We would have very much wished that the Government was not forced to consider punitive measures against the defaulters. But, as is evident, there is still lack of full appreciation of the spirit of the Act governing administrative accountability. Ordering the constituting of special groups to assess the implementation of the Act shows that the Government is seriously interested in its decision of empowering the people. There are other constitutional and legal provisions reinforcing empowerment of people, but PSGA goes a long way in mitigating their recurrent complaints invariably brought to the notice of the Government. It has to be noted that the Government persisted with providing wherewithal that would facilitate implementation of the provisions of the Act. It had issued notifications identifying the public services, designated officers, stipulated timeframe for providing the services, first appellate authority and second appellate authority besides notifying rules to make the Act operational with immediate effect. The Act, as has been stated above, was aimed at empowering general public to enforce upon the administration their right of receiving prompt delivery of public services on various fronts of day-to-day life importance. Therefore, the Government is within its legal, administrative and moral limits to pursue the phenomenon of accountability.

In final analysis, we have no reservation in cautioning the Government that any laxity in bringing the defaulters to book will have adverse effect on the spirit of the PSGA. Government must ensure that it does not succumb to pressure tactics from vested interests. Since charity begins at home is the axiom, let PSGA be the guiding force behind the Government's handling of defaulting agencies.

Missing Jammu pilgrims?

Four members of a Jammu family and 44 of a group of pilgrims from Udhampur to Chardham in Uttarakhand, who safely returned home to the relief of their anxiety stricken relatives, have related the horrible experience they met with on account of flash floods that swept Kedar Ghati of Uttarakhand on June 16. According to their statement, the Uttarakhand Government had made no arrangements worth the name for providing facility and safety to the large number of pilgrims. There is no record anywhere to ascertain the number of Jammu pilgrims and there whereabouts. There appears complete breakdown of connectivity among various relief organizations because in absence of any police entry anywhere, it is difficult rather impossible to ascertain the status of missing pilgrims. Divisional Commissioner Jammu has been in touch with his counterpart in Garhwal but so far despite passing of a full week the details of the whereabouts of all pilgrims from Jammu remain obscure. There is urgent need of coordination between various organs of civil administration, police, relief agencies, Uttarakhand Government and the Army, Air Force and ITBP to find out missing people. As several Jammu pilgrims are still untraceable their kith and kin should contact the Control Room at the office of the Divisional Commissioner Jammu and record details of the missing members. It may also be possible for the Divisional Commissioner Jammu to depute a small police team to Uttarakhand for ascertaining whereabouts of Jammu pilgrims who are missing and have not returned home so far. After all, some clue is to be obtained through official sources. Keeping in mind the heavy toll of life taken by the flash floods, relatives and near ones of missing pilgrims from Jammu have reason to give way to deep anxiety and disquiet. The State Government needs to take up cases of these missing pilgrims with Uttarakhand Government on urgent basis.

Sunil Gatade
Notwithstanding L K Advani's revolt, Narendra Modi has predictably succeeded in the BJP to emerge the leader of the party with Lok Sabha elections less than a year away.
85-year-old Advani has made a self goal by marginalizing himself by his revolt and the subsequent tame surrender with the veteran becoming a butt of a joke in the party he founded along with Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
'Namo', as the Gujarat Chief Minister is called by his supporters, has the 'killer instinct' and it was but natural for the BJP to see him as the 'best bet' after remaining in political wilderness at the Centre for ten long years. It has failed to get its act together since then.
'Killer instinct' was the catchphrase of Advani when he brought BJP to the centrestage of Indian politics via the Ram Janmabhoomi movement driving out Congress from power for six long years.
Advani, who was projected as NDA's Prime Ministerial candidate in the 2009 elections, had always been ridiculed by his detractors of being the permanent "Prime Minister-in-waiting". Ironically, Advani has now been virtually sent to the retirement path by his 'chela' (disciple) with the entire BJP as also the RSS seeing the 'killer instinct' in Modi alone.
It was no rocket science to understand that after his electoral hat-trick in Gujarat, Modi was bound to arrive at the national stage, sooner rather than later, notwithstanding criticism that there was nothing democratic in his body language and behaviour and that he was a dictator personified.
The man who started as a RSS pracharak has always been cool and calculative about his political

Modi's march

cal way ahead and has never disguised his national ambitions ever since he made his mark as the Gujarat Chief Minister.
Though the BJP has not formally named him as its Prime Ministerial candidate, Modi has undoubtedly emerged as its top man for the job. The man who led the BJP to power from 1998 to 2004- Atal Bihari Vajpayee is now sick and is in the sunset years.
Politician to the core, Modi has been leaving no chance to further his influence over the people. At a time when the Congress is carrying a nine-year incumbency at the Centre, Modi is offering himself as a panacea for all ills confronting the nation when the climate is thick with corruption, scams and scandals and the common man is faced with a backbreaking price rise.
In such a situation, Modi is the natural leader to lead the BJP-led NDA in the elections.
It is but a matter of time that the JD-U will be leaving the NDA angered over Modi's elevation.
The talk is that Nitish Kumar is parting company with BJP by next week. The saffron forces are not unduly worried and had fac-



chips are down economically, Modi could turn a saviour for India given what they describe as his vision, administrative capabilities and strong leadership.
This was but natural as the corporates have benefited from Modi's leadership as the Gujarat Chief Minister has been acting virtually as a single window clearance and helping their cause.
The refrain in the BJP is that the nation is yearning for a change and Modi is offering a decisive leadership when expectations of all sections of society are rising and they feel cheated by the lip service paid by the Congress to the Aam Aadmi.
A highlight of the Parliament elections this time is that several crore youth will be the first time voters and youth is always seen as one against the establishment, a matter of worry for the Congress While it is hard to believe, BJP strategists claim that Modi has the pull and the capacity to add one lakh votes to the party kitty in each Lok Sabha constituency. Besides, they say that the party lost as many as 106 seats in the last elections by less than one lakh votes and therefore Modi magic will certainly work there.
They also say that BJP will play the backward card to the hilt in the Hindi heartland to garner votes for the party under the leadership of Modi. The Gujarat Chief Minister belongs to OBC sections which is dominant in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and the backwards rue that none of their leaders has ever been able to become the Prime Minister in independent India despite they having sizable numbers and the next elections is their best chance. Modi has started work in right earnest to project himself in the mould of Sardar Patel and has come out with an innovative scheme to reach out to all the villages in the country through his plans to build a massive statue for the Iron Man of India.
If Modi succeeds in bringing BJP in 200 plus mark, 225 to be ideal, then no power on earth could prevent him from becoming the Prime Minister. If Modi fails to secure more than 150-160 seats for the BJP, the ambitious leader will lose the game to lead the nation. All in all, Modi is no pushover and a hard battle is ahead for the Congress and its leadership and amid the plans by regional leaders to prop up a third front.

Demand Reduction-Key to Drug Abuse Control

Dr. H. R. Keshavamurthy
Drug addiction is increasingly becoming an area of concern as traditional moorings, social taboos, self-restraint and control-discipline of the joint family and community are gradually disappearing with urbanization. Alcohol and drug abuse has emerged as a serious socio-economic problem in India. Located between two of the world's largest illicit drug producing regions, India has been a transit country for long, making it highly vulnerable to the problem of smuggling of drugs into and out of the country and drug abuse.
Narcotic Drugs include coca leaf, cannabis (hemp), opium, poppy straw and other manufactured goods, whereas Psychotropic substance means any substance, natural or synthetic, or any natural material or any salt or preparation of such substance or material included in the list of psychotropic substances specified in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.
Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances have several medical and scientific uses. However, they can be and are also abused and trafficked. Natural narcotic drugs of great medical use such as morphine, codeine are produced from opium. Thus, the manufacture of natural narcotic drugs indirectly affects the demand for opium and the area in which farmers should be allowed to cultivate opium. India is one of the few countries that are internationally permitted to grow opium and successive resolutions of the UN Economic and Social Council require India (and other producing countries) to maintain a balance between demand and supply. Thus, on the one hand, India shares with other opium poppy growing countries the responsibility of ensuring that there is adequate supply of opium and opiates in the world and on the other has the responsibility to avoid excessive accumulation of stocks.
The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 was framed taking into account India's obligations under the three UN drug Conventions as well as Article 47 of the Constitution. This Act prohibits, except for medical or scientific purposes, the manufacture, production, trade, use, etc. of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Thus the Governments' policy has been to promote their use for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion from licit sources, and prohibiting illicit traffic and abuse. The NDPS Act is administered by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue. However, matters pertaining to Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse are handled by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MSJE). The Ministry supports various NGOs working in this field. The Ministry of Health, which is responsible for all health issues, runs several drug de-addiction centres in the Government hospitals across the country. The Narcotics Control Bureau, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, coordinates actions by various functionaries (Central and State) under the NDPS Act. The State Governments also have their own Health Departments and Social Welfare Departments each of which has its own set of activities relating to Drug Demand Reduction.
Illegal cultivation of opium poppy (Papaver somniferum) and cannabis (Cannabis sativa) are offences under the NDPS Act. Synthetic and semi-synthetic drugs are illicitly manufactured in clandestine laboratories (commonly known as clan labs) the world over. Diversion of illicit pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for abuse has been a significant problem in India. Preparations containing drugs such as codeine, buprenorphine, diazepam and alprazolam are commonly abused.
Drug abuse is a result of two factors- the availability of drugs

and the psycho-social conditions which result in their abuse. Both traditional and semi-synthetic and synthetic drugs are abused. Intravenous drug use and HIV/AIDS driven by such use have added a new dimension to the problem.

Today is the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

The United Nations General Assembly, in its 20th Special Session in 1998, has accepted demand reduction as an indispensable pillar of drug control strategies. Hence, equal emphasis is placed on supply and demand reduction. Demand reduction also has two components- treating the drug addicts and educating and enabling the society to prevent addiction and to rehabilitate addicts after they have been treated. Thus, drug abuse is a psycho-socio medical problem, which needs both medical intervention and community based interventions.
Treatment is the component, which directly targets drug addiction. India has a two-pronged strategy towards it- (a) running deaddiction centres in Government hospitals; and (b) supporting NGOs involved in this endeavour. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of India runs a number of drug-deaddiction centres in various Government hospitals across the country. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has been implementing a Scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention since the year 1985-86. The approach of this Scheme is to provide the whole range of services including awareness generation, identification, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation of addicts through voluntary and other organizations. In order to reduce the demand for and consumption of alcohol and dependence producing substances, the thrust would be on preventive education programmes and Whole Person Recovery of the addicts. At present, under this Scheme, the Government supports Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) running Deaddic-

tion-cum-Rehabilitation Centres, De-addiction Camps, and Counselling and Awareness Centres. The Government bears the major portion of the cost of services provided at these Centres.
While the apparent "benefits" of consumption for drug abusers is transient and health and financial burden on society considerable, there are huge profits for suppliers and traffickers of illicit drugs. Producer and trafficking countries, however, tend to pay a high social and political price for short-term economic gains. Although families have a powerful influence on shaping the attitudes, values and behavioral patterns of children and thus preventing substance abuse, peer groups often prove to have an even stronger influence. The negative influence of peers appears to increase when parents abdicate their traditional supervisory roles. Family factors which can lead to or intensify drug abuse include, prolonged or traumatic parental absence, harsh discipline, failure to communicate on an emotional level and parental use of drugs. Lack of household stability triggered by low and irregular income and unemployment may increase the stress on the family and its vulnerability to drug abuse. While the family itself can be the source of drug problems, it can also be a potent force for prevention and treatment. As most families are supported and cared for by women, women play a key role in teaching the young, ensuring health care and maintaining links with and mobilizing community support where necessary. The recognition and effective utilization of women as resources for drug prevention and treatment can therefore improve efforts to reduce both the supply of and demand for drugs. Indeed, the family unit as a whole has a clear interest in preventing individual family members from falling prey to drug abuse, and thus could become a powerfully of government and community prevention programmes.

gress to the Aam Aadmi.
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Will Sharif's Baloch experiment succeed?

Sankar Ray
The third time prime minister of Pakistan Mian Mohammed Nawaz Sharif takes on the yearning with a grit for a new Pakistan, which is very different from the dazzling-but-vacuous concept of 'Naya Pakistan' of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan. The very choice of National Party leader, Abdul Malik Baloch as the chief minister of Baluchistan -- a much-respected leader, for whom over 120 NGOs appealed to the new PM for leading the troubled Pakhtun province -- deserves praise. Columnist Nasser Menon, too, emphasised the imperative for building anew the poverty-stricken (but rich in mineral resources) province, which has for many years "remained a tinderbox, with hundreds of people brutally killed in an orgy of extrajudicial murders and targeted shootings. The state had virtually abdicated the province and left it at the mercy of an assortment of militant outfits and corrupt politicians."

But the province possesses rich natural resources - minerals, natural gas and coal, aside from fisheries and tourist spots - although it contributes less than 5 per cent of national income, while its provincial income growth averages at 2.7 per cent. All this notwithstanding, most of the people of the province constitute the 'wretched of the earth, subsisting below the poverty line.'

Against this gloomy ethno-economic scenario, the new Pakistan is set to emerge in Baluchistan braving tendentious terrorism of a section of extremists belonging to the Baluchistan Liberation Army, whose state of nervous breakdown was reflected in the blasts at the Bolan Medical Complex in the Baloch capital Quetta on 14 June, killing at least 19 women including 14 medical students and the deputy commissioner plus four security personnel through a remote controlled bomb, detonated aboard a bus parked in the parking lot of Sardar Bahadur Khan University.

The Taliban imprint in the violence was unmistakable for two reasons - targeting women medical students as Taliban are against modern education for women and demolition of a portion of Quaid-e-Azam's Residency in Ziarat. It was razed to the ground by grenades and bombs and the guard protecting it laid down his life at the hands of BLA terrorists. Mohammed Ali Jinnah stayed there in the fog end of life when he was fighting the terminal cancer. The Baloch government sagaciously laid assurance for rebuilding the demolished portion within three months in sync with the growing recalcitrance towards internal violence. The Pak people are sick and tired of 'Political Islam', which thrives on externally inspired terrorism. It's not the first time Pakistan confronted forces that are for 'development of underdevelopment', which ceased to be an endemic Latin American or African phenomenon.

The reaction against the BLA's act was somewhat unprecedented, particularly, the siege before the Bolan Medical complex until the arrival of security. Pat came the statement from Mian Sharif, appealing the Baloch to remain brave in the face of such devastating tragedy. The national interior minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan Monday came out with a firm statement on the determination to take up burst out over Baluchistan issue, while expressing shock over how the entire security apparatus, along with security agencies, could not put a curb on terrorism in the restive province. The Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai, too, blasted the security agencies with sarcasm that they could "find a needle in a haystack but still the law and order situation continues to remain in a poor state." Achakzai's brother, Muhammad Khan Achakzai, an economist and a former bureaucrat, is the new Governor of Baluchistan, where PMAP, with 11 legislators, is the single largest party in the Baloch provincial assembly. The party carries the heritage of Badshah Khan.

The BLA has been blasted by the chief of the banned group Jamaat-ud-Dawa, Hafiz Saeed, who in an interview to the Press Trust of India, said that extremist activities within Pakistan are not "jihad." Militants, he asserted, should not carry out attacks in the country as "militant activities in Pakistan do not fall in the category of jihad. I appeal to all jihadi organisations not to carry out attacks inside Pakistan, as it is not jihad (holy war). America and India are taking benefit from their activities."

Baluchistan is the largest province of Pakistan, also comprising 44 per cent of the country's total land mass. For Mian Nawaz, it is a construct-or-perish situation and this challenge is beyond partyocracy. It seems he too has embarked on this unknown and uncharted trajectory. Freehand to Malik is its symptomatic impress. He too seems prepared to face the complex conundrum with a straight bat, unlike even the PTI chief, who is more theatrical than hitting balls like a true cricketer. Which is why Malik, in his first statement after taking oath as the 14th Chief Minister of Baluchistan, called for abolition of secret funds.

The other decision was his effort to find out missing persons, bullet-riddled bodies and kidnappings for ransom. "I am sure we will definitely sort out the issue if it happened," said Malik, deploring that Baluchistan was aflame with almost every educational institution in a mess. At the same time, he appealed to the Baloch armed groups to take part in a dialogue for the betterment of the province. The terrorism has a socio-political aspect and hence it needs a political solution, not a military one. High rate of unemployment and poverty which could not happen had its natural resources - were judiciously utilised with resources generated, distributed equitably even to some extent.

If there is an about turn from the escalating chaos with crumbling infrastructure in the south-western province, the seeds of new Pakistan will be sown. But there is a deterrent too. The PPP government handed over the strategically important Gwadar town to China, which has a blue print for upgrading the Gwadar Port. The Chinese motive is to mint high profits, not generation of jobs. (IPA)

Fast track recruitments

Sir,
This has reference to "Fast track recruitment" drive being undertaken shortly, the initiative is well thought out and precisely timed to address the burning problem of terror hit State. It is suggested that the scheme be implemented comprehensively and equitably in all districts of the State. Attention should also be paid towards absorption of casual as well as daily wagers who have already given best of their life span in dream hope of getting a permanent job.
Youth of the nation are an invaluable treasure of sizzling energy to nudge her to prosperity and zenith of glory no system of governance can afford to gloss over this vital component of cohesive society. At present the educational institutions suffer from a serious infirmity of not being able to induce life values of self confidence, positive and perseverant attitude, sense of sacrifice for others, compassion, sincerity, honesty and patriotism. The institution of family and social milieu in general encourage unhealthy competition with the peers irrespective of their natural mental faculties and family background. It adversely impacts the blossoming personality of adolescents. It also acts as powerful catalyst to foster suicidal tendencies in promising students and enhances drop out rate at high school as well as college level.
Youth have tremendous energy which needs to be channelized constructive activities else they are apt to be exploited by inimical forces for anti national and wrongful acts which is already happening in the form of trans border terrorism, internal insurgency or Maoist violence. It is, therefore, good thinking and right planning on the part of the Govt to keep the youth engaged in purposeful jobs by virtue of which they support their families and enable themselves to move forward in the heirarchy of their career and handsomely contribute in the process of inclusive national development.
It is a stark reality that entire youth populace cannot be provided white collar jobs, therefore, new options and other viable alternatives shall have to be explored to strengthen the process of optimum utilization of youthful resources. Masterminds of this initiative deserve kudos and the thundering applause efforts should be made to help youth in developing skills of entrepreneurship to script their saga of bold pursuits and meaningful achievements.

Yours etc....
P.C. Sharma
Triukuta Nagar, Jammu

Moral education

Sir,
While going through two articles namely on "Our duties in the life" and "Poor parenting", I found these quite relevant under the present situation of the society. The way of explanation was found simple. Even layman could understand well. Need of the hour is to understand the importance of moral education which establishes the faculty of critical and independent appraisal of information for the purpose of intellectual developments, which lead to reasoned and rational thought to the remification of superstition and bigotry of all kinds to the elimination of ignorance and the establishment of personality, sound in body and mind, intellect and spirit.
Moral education is already linked with spiritualism which motivates a person to evaluate day-to-day functioning on the basis of reason, logic and jurisprudence. Most of the readers expect to adopt the ways shown therein to realize the self. Similarly the parents may also realize their responsibility and duty towards their children.
I am thankful to the writers Lt. Col. Langar and Ramesh K Raina for this good work done by them for the society. I am already working for revival of morality in the society right from the birth of the child till completion of "Kishore Awasta". For all this parents need to act quite seriously. There is also need of the hour that morality is introduced as one of the subjects right from Primary to University level. SANASKAR organisation has been pursuing with the Government for the last more than a decade, to formally introduce the subject at all the stages of the education, though agreed but no practical action has been taken on the ground. There is great need to join in this campaign.

Your etc....
H.N. Tiku
41/1, Bhagwati Nagar,
Jammu

Readers Write

Spruce up ISBT

Sir,
Annual Amarnath Yatra is to commence in the State. During this period lakhs of devotees visit from different part of the State. In order to welcome them here, there is an urgent need to upgrade civic facilities. There are certain grey area where attention of the authorities is required. For example, new ISBT (Inter State Bus Terminal) is not in a position to accomodate the large number of buses.
This is because the ISBT is occupied by abandoned vehicles. The authorities should spruce up it for the yatris.

Yours etc....
Rajinder Kakkar
Transport Nagar