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SUPPLEMENT
16 PAGES



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Editor: Prafulla Ketkar | **Asso Editor:** G Sreedathan | **Chief Copy Editor:** Madhur Tankha | **Correspondent:** Nishant Kumar Azad | **Chief News Coordinator:** Ganesh Krishnan R | **Art Director:** Shashi Mohan Rawat | **Sr Graphic Designer:** Mukta Surma Kataria | **DTP Operator:** Manoj Kumar Singh | **Cover Page Design:** Shashi Mohan Rawat | **E-mail:** editor.organiser@bpd.in | **Website:** www.organiser.org | **Phones:** 8860874360

Bharat Prakashan (Delhi) Ltd.

Managing Director

Bharat Bhushan Arora

Chief General Manager

Ashish Kumar Khare (cgm@bpd.in)

General Manager

Shonal Gupta (shonal.gupta@bpd.in)

Director & Publisher

Bihari Lal Singhal

Advertisement Department

Phone : 708-9696-708

Email : advt@bpd.in

For Delivery Complaints, Circulation Drives, Agency, Book Stall, Bulk Subscriptions, Retail Subscription and Subscriber Support

Phone : 814-3232-814

Email : support@bpd.in

Agency Phone : 972-7979-972

Working days : Monday to Saturday

Time : 9 Am to 6PM

Registered Office:

The Address, Plot No. 4B, District Center,

Mayur Vihar, Phase-1 Extn., Delhi-110091

Gujrat Office :

B-1, Parav Apartment, Behind LG Hospital, Mukti Maidan, Maninagar, Ahmedabad-380008

Lucknow Bureau:

Office Chief : Sunil Rai

Office: Vishva Samvaad Kendra, First Floor, Dr G B Pant Marg,

Lohia Panth, Jiamau, Hazratganj, Lucknow

Uttarakhand Bureau:

Bureau Chief : Dinesh Mansera

Office: 163, Palam City, Rampur Road

Haldwani, Uttarakhand-263139

Bengaluru Bureau:

Office: Vikrama Prakashan,

No. 106, 5th Main Road,

Post Box No. 1804, Chamrajpet,

Bengaluru-560018

Guwahati office:

Bureau Chief : Dibya Kamal Bordoloi

Office: Greenland Apartment, Block2,1E

Rukminigaon, Guwahati, Assam-781022

READERS' FORUM



Revisiting Partition Is Necessary

APROPOS 'Remembering Horrors of Partition', *Organiser*, August 21, Prof Raghuvendra Tanwar makes it amply clear that infighting in the Congress party was primarily responsible for the Partition that led to death and destruction of millions of Hindus. It was due to the inflated ego of Pt Jawaharlal Nehru that so much pain and suffering our people had to endure. The irrefutable fact that so many of our women were dishonoured makes every Bharatiya hang his head in shame. The decision was taken by only a few leaders in the Congress and did not represent the people's will.

Dr Lohia had documented the heated argument that took place between Mahatma Gandhi and Nehru at the AICC meeting that did not include representatives of the people's will.

The tragedy of India's Partition was not 'extra baggage', as one historian claimed, that came along with the story of India's struggle for freedom and needs now to be forgotten.

It is a national shame that today's adults grew up reading history textbooks written for schools and colleges that had only a paragraph or two on the

Partition. It was the handiwork of Left wing writers who were allowed by the Congress to sweep horror stories of the Partition under the carpet. With the Modi Government celebrating *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* with pride and honouring our unsung heroes, it is high time that the Ministry of Education must include a couple of books on the Partition in curriculum of schools. This move will instil patriotism in our children, who are moulded as self seeking individuals in Western-oriented schools and made to inculcate alien values like achieving personal glories rather than working for betterment of the nation.

ANURAG ANEJA, *Jangpura*

Glorification of Mughals Unacceptable

IN connection with the story 'Islamisation of Hindi Cinema', *Organiser*, August 21, it is sad that Mughals, who tried to conquer Bharat through hook or crook and not due to love for Bharatiya *sanskriti*, were portrayed as heroes on celluloid. *Alam Ara* set the precedent for presenting Mughals as brave, strong and valorous. This set incorrect precedent and even now Muslim characters in Bollywood are shown as holier-than-thou even though we are now witnessing Islamists, believing in the *Sar Tan Se Juda* doctrine, taking away lives of patriotic Hindus who have extended support to the Tricolour or expelled BJP leader Nupur Sharma whose only fault was to quote from the Hadith. What came as a revelation in this story is the pernicious role played by Congress in spread-

ing falsehood. It financed Richard Attenborough's film *Gandhi* and ensured that he was presented as a God-like figure. To evoke pro-Gandhi Hindu sentiments, Gandhi was shown to mouth *Hey Ram* while he was dying. Seeing the boycott culture, if Hindi cinema has to survive then it has to show things as they exist in the country. Otherwise only realistic films like Vivek Agnihotri's *The Kashmir Files* will work at the box office.

RAVI MEHRA, *Chandni Chowk*

Reclaiming Mandirs

APROPOS Temple column in the latest issue of *Organiser*, what comes as a breath of fresh air is that the Hindu philosophy of reconstruction has prevailed over the destruction policy of Islam. This was the primary reason why so many of our present



day *mandirs* are existing in today's times. The Mughals were marauders who attacked our temples as they were only interested in looting our gold and changing the architecture of our places of worship so that they look like masjids where newly converts could offer namaz. It is high time that Hindus need to be assertive and reclaim masjids that were *mandirs*.

PRADEEP SRIVASTAVA, *Kanpur*

Being Frank and Fair on Freebies

The Supreme Court rightly remarked - There are no free lunches – on the issue of 'freebies'. On August 22, 2022, the Apex Court started listening to the arguments on the PIL filed by lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay, opposing the practice of political parties promising freebies during elections. The litigation also seeks the Election Commission to invoke its powers to freeze their election symbols and cancel their registration. The issue is complicated and therefore, needs greater deliberation at the national level, beyond the courtroom.

The discussion on poll manifestos and election promises is not new. While adopting the lofty 'socialist' ideals itself, the state's role in welfare has been discussed and deliberated upon. In 2013 also, the top court in the judgement of *S. Subramaniam Balaji v. State of Tamil Nadu (2013)* addressed the same issue. The verdict clarifies that though the election promises cannot be construed as "corrupt practice", the distribution of freebies influences voting behaviour. The Election Commission has also clarified that the promise of freebies at the government cost disturbs the level playing field and vitiates the electoral process.

The real issue is the method of differentiating between freebies and cross-subsidisation. As the Court is mulling over appointing an expert panel to delve over one of the core issues of the democratic process – what can be promised to the electorates while seeking their votes – we need to draw fine lines between these concepts.

Of course, in a democracy, there will be political programmes, and to fulfil them, political parties will make promises to the voters. There are Constitutional objectives, and as mentioned in Article 38 (1), the elected governments are expected 'to promote the welfare of the people'. Few much-discussed schemes help us in drawing the lines between cross-subsidisation-based welfare schemes and freebies, as explained in a report by Reserved Bank of Bharat.

In the 'State Finances: Risk Analysis' report, the Apex bank has warned about the financial risks arising for the states from their "declining own tax revenue, increase in expenditure following growing preference for distribution of 'freebies', and rising overdue of loss-making DISCOMs." The total outstanding liabilities of the States amount to a staggering number - Rs. 59,89,360 crores. The PDS, employment generation, and support in health and education – the fundamental things necessary to support and empower the marginalised through cross-subsidisation – should be considered welfare policies intended for the public good. On the other hand, pre-election declarations of free electricity, free water, free public transportation, waiver of pending utility bills and farm loan waivers etc. must be considered freebies.

Political parties can and should be allowed to make lofty promises, but they should be held accountable for the assurances given. A cost-benefit analysis of the same should be presented to the public. Does the mad race of making unrealistic promises strengthen our democracy? Do we want to continue with the bribery culture, where mindless promises, kinds and goods are allowed to flow during the election season? Should we allow our society to be State dependent on everything or empowerment, both social institutions and individuals through schemes, should be our goal. Many countries are grappling with a debt crisis leading to collapse of the political system. We should be reinvigorating social structures to create an efficient and industrious population. The Revadi Culture (freebies against votes) is not just a quick passport for fiscal disaster but a guaranteed visa for an unproductive nation.

 @PrafullaKetkar



The voter should not complain; he should command. He should not desire; he must demand. He should not grumble and grudge but should assess and assert. The voter should see that he votes for a principle and not for a party, that he votes for a party and not for a personality, that he votes for a person and not for the purse.

Let him consider the cause and not the caste; go with the worthy rather than with the winner. Choose the right man and see that the man you choose wins; that will be your victory. If you simply go as a camp follower of the man who has created an impassion that he win, you have already lost, whatever the result of the election be.

Vote is a matter of conscience. Do not sell it. Do not destroy it. When you vote take a momentous decision, please do not take it just on the spur of the moment"

— Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya, *Your Vote-1*, Organiser, December 4, 1961

WORK FOR BHARAT'S PROSPERITY FOR HUMANITY

—SARSANGHCHALAK



RSS Sarsanghchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwatji hoists the National Flag at the RSS Headquarters, Nagpur

ON THE OCCASION OF 76TH INDEPENDENCE DAY, RASHTRIYA SWAYAMSEVAK SANGH (RSS) CHIEF MOHAN BHAGWAT HOISTED THE TIRANGA AT THE SANGH HEADQUARTERS IN NAGPUR. SPEAKING AFTER HOISTING THE FLAG, HE EXHORTED THE PEOPLE TO THINK WHAT THEY CAN GIVE BACK TO THE COUNTRY RATHER THAN ASK WHAT THE COUNTRY OR SOCIETY IS GIVING THEM.

HE SAID THE INDEPENDENCE DAY IS THE DAY OF PRIDE AND RESOLUTION. "THE COUNTRY GOT ITS FREEDOM AFTER A LOT OF STRUGGLE AND SACRIFICES BY GREAT MEN AND WOMEN. OUR WORK IS TO MAKE IT SELF-RELIANT. THOSE WHO WANT TO BE INDEPENDENT NEED TO BECOME SELF-RELIANT IN EVERYTHING," HE ADDED. DR BHAGWAT SAID THE RSS HAS WORKED FOR CREATING AN AWARENESS ABOUT *DESH BHAKTI* AND INCULCATING PATRIOTISM AMONG THE PEOPLE.

TALKING ABOUT THE MEANING OF NATIONAL FLAG, THE SARSANGHCHALAK SAID WHAT KIND OF NATION WE WANT TO BUILD. WHEN THE COUNTRY BECOMES STRONG, IT WILL NOT ESTABLISH HEGEMONY OVER OTHERS. THROUGH ITS SACRIFICE IT WILL RULE OTHERS. IT WILL DO SACRIFICE FOR THE HUMANITY. THEREFORE, THE TOPMOST COLOUR OF THE TRICOLOUR IS SAFFRON – THE COLOUR OF SACRIFICE, RENUNCIATION, KNOWLEDGE. WHEN WE WILL ARRIVE AT THAT STAGE? IT WILL HAPPEN WHEN WE BECOME PURE INSIDE OUT: WHEN OUR MINDS ARE NOT TROUBLED BY EMOTIONS, WHEN WE ARE AT PEACE. THAT IS WHY THE SECOND COLOUR IS WHITE. THIS WOULD BE ACHIEVED WHEN WE MAKE OURSELVES PROSPEROUS. SO THE COLOUR OF BOUNTY, THE COLOUR OF LAKSHMI DEVI IS GREEN. THAT IS WHY THE THIRD COLOUR IS GREEN. THIS WE WILL ACHIEVE NOT BY HOOK OR BY CROOK. THIS WE WILL REALISE THROUGH DHARMA BY TAKING CARE OF SOCIETY, HUMANITY, ENVIRONMENT, CREATIONS. THIS IS WHY WE HAVE DHARMA CHAKRA AT THE CENTRE OF THE FLAG. OUR COUNTRY IS A *DHARMA PRAN DESH*. BY UNDERSTANDING THIS, WE HAVE TO UNDERTAKE OUR EFFORTS."

INTROSPECT, DELIBERATE, MOVE AHEAD

SWARAJYA@75 SHOULD LEAD TO WORK ON TACKLING NEW INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL THREATS, RECAST POLICY INSTITUTIONS AND ACHIEVE ECONOMIC SELF-RELIANCE

Having completed 75-years after attaining Independence from the foreign rule, Bharat has embarked on a new journey to play a rightful lead role globally.

While the next phase of its civilisational journey has begun, every citizen is in a boisterous and jubilant mood as the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* got underway with new purpose.



DATTATREYA HOSABALE

Sarkaryavah, Rashtriya
Swayamsevak Sangh

Our nation completed this journey of 75 years after having crossed numerous obstacles and problems. This has been an arduous, exciting and momentous journey to cherish.

Both achievements and the challenges faced by the Bharatiya society during the renewed self-

rule are before us. We also have a vivid picture of the nation that became Independent but faced the tragedy of the Partition. She suffered the trauma of violence that got unleashed after the divisive Partition. Immediately after this tragic experience, its borders were attacked. But these challenges were not unsurmountable. The issues faced post-Independence could not dent our resilience; defeat our capabilities and potential of our nation. Taking the challenges head-on has led to strengthening Bharat's democratic foundations.

Today, we can hardly imagine how the nation celebrated its greatest festival of democracy in 1952 and set up an elected government after having suffered the trauma of Partition and the attack on its borders.

It was indeed the will power and effort of the people that ensured integration of those areas that were left out after 1947 like Goa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Hyderabad and Puducherry. Many a

time, a question arises as to how a nation that secured political independence only a few years before could pick up pieces and move ahead fast? One cannot comprehend this without understanding the Bharatiya society in fulsome. Even while suffering the acute pain and suffering of attacks and crises, Bharatiya society did not forget the sutra of its unity. If genuine attempts are made, only then would one understand the freedom struggle of Bharat that had its footprint all over in towns, villages, forests, mountains and coastal regions.

Whether it is the *Santhal* uprising or armed struggle of heroes in Southern States, there's a single underlying principle. Each and every one amongst greatest heroes desired Independence. This desire and craving for Swarajya was not for themselves alone but for larger society and the nation. Restlessness in the Bharatiya society was so intense that people cared very little in making supreme sacrifices willingly and tread the toughest paths. This was precisely the reason for Bharat's Independence movement to spread as far as London, the United States, Japan and so on. In fact, the India House located in London emerged as one of the major centres of Bharat's freedom movement.

Bharat's Independence movement was so comprehensive that it united the masses transcending geographical, economic, and societal boundaries. It would be unfair to take the name of one particular individual or a few as innumerable people sacrificed their lives in the Bharatiya Independence movement.

Some of them are household names while we hardly know about several others who submitted at the altar of independence. This was a movement which had countless participants and all of them had one goal.

This legacy of heroism, unparalleled patriotic fervour, supreme sacrifices and bloodshed seems to have served as the perfect launch pad for Bharat's citizens' urge to work towards attaining supreme glory. This is Bharat's societal aspiration rather being fueled by political leaders alone. The

GLOBAL CHALLENGES IN THE SHORT TERM CAN ALSO BE FACED ONLY WHEN OUR INTERNAL SYSTEMS ARE STRONG. APART FROM ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT, FINDING HOME GROWN SOLUTIONS TO TACKLE SOCIAL CHALLENGES AND FORTIFYING BHARAT'S INTERNAL SYSTEMS SHOULD GET A BIG PUSH

ANALYSIS/WAY FORWARD



RSS Sarkaryavah Shri Dattatreya Hosabale hoists the National Flag at East Tambaram, near Chennai

very aspiration came to fore when the internal Emergency was imposed and democratic institutions were systematically denigrated during 1975-77. Citizens from across the spectrum were at the forefront of the struggle against anti-democratic and authoritarian forces. Seventy five years of Independence may also be the right time to introspect and plan for our centenary year in 2047. Also, at a time when the entire world was coming to terms with post-COVID-19 social order and global uncertainty looming large, we should set our own distinct goals as a nation and society. Undoubtedly, the last decade has been a period of achievements for Bharat. We may have to build on our recent successes.

Providing access to affordable and quality healthcare, housing, education and achieving financial inclusivity apart

UNLESS WE PLACE BHARAT'S HOME GROWN BUSINESSES AND ENTERPRISES AT THE FOREFRONT OF OUR POLICY FORMULATION, INTERVENTION AND ACHIEVE SELF-RELIANCE, PROVIDING WORK OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL MAY REMAIN A PIPE DREAM. BHARAT WILL EMERGE STRONGER IN THE TRUE SENSE ONLY WHEN IT'S SELF-RELIANT

from citizens' empowerment were areas in which we made large strides. For instance, Bharat's ingenuity and intelligence were at their best in the development of the most affordable and safe vaccine against COVID-19 in the shortest period possible. This was done at a time when Bharat was at the receiving end. The vaccine served as the perfect anti-dose and saved billions of lives globally.

Going forward, we may have to recognise and confront several internal and external threats from known as well as unknown sources. Achieving societal harmony should get flagged as a priority area for Bharat. Given the inalienable link between society's strength and harmony amongst her communities, we may have to channelise our energies in this direction. On the economic front, Bharat has made rapid strides notwithstanding the crises that were either domestic or imported. There's a lot more that can happen on the development front given the 1.4 billion populations' aspirations. There's untapped potential for faster growth in several economic areas. Unless we place Bharat's home grown businesses and enterprises at the forefront of our policy formulation, intervention and achieve self-reliance, providing work opportunities to all may remain a pipe dream. Bharat will emerge stronger in the true sense only when it's self-reliant.

A reorganisation of our policy and democratic institutions may have to be done in sync with expectations of our people and requirements at a time when Bharat seeks to play a lead role among the global communities drawing strength from its millennia-old civilisational evolution. Making judiciary and politically driven executive and all public institutions accessible to common people that feel distraught and helpless may be very significant in our onward march. Global challenges in the short term can also be faced only when our internal systems are strong. Apart from economic and political empowerment, finding home grown solutions to tackle social challenges and fortifying Bharat's internal systems should get a big push. ■



75
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव



प्यारे हिमाचलवासियों को स्वाधीनता दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव
प्रगतिशील हिमाचल की स्थापना का 75वाँ वर्ष
आत्मविश्वास से भरा देश
निरन्तर गतिमान हिमाचलवासी
सपनों को दृढ़ संकल्प एवं
परिश्रम की पराकाष्ठा के साथ
नई चेतना, नई उमंग, नई ऊर्जा, नए उत्साह संग
कदम दर कदम बढ़ते हम, मना रहे हैं अमृत काल
फहरा रहे हैं हर घर तिरंगा, गौरव का प्रतीक तिरंगा
राष्ट्रीय अखण्डता का सूचक तिरंगा
जन-आकांक्षाओं को दर्शाता तिरंगा
आन-दान और शान तिरंगा
गर्व से भरे हम सब, फहरा रहे हैं हर घर तिरंगा।



सूचना एवं जन सम्पर्क विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार

INDIA@75 IN



Border Roads Organisation (BRO) hoisted the National Flag at Chang La Pass, at an altitude of 17,000 feet on 75th Independence Day, in Leh

INDEPENDENCE DAY WAS CELEBRATED WITH ENTHUSIASM IN THE COUNTRY AND ABROAD. INDIA HAS COMPLETED GLORIOUS 75 YEARS OF ITS INDEPENDENCE. UNDER THE 'HAR GHAR TIRANGA' CAMPAIGN ACROSS THE COUNTRY, MORE THAN 30 CRORE HOUSES WERE DECORATED WITH THE TRICOLOUR. THE TRICOLOUR OF BHARAT WAS FLOWN EVERYWHERE ON THE GROUND, IN THE SKY, UNDER WATER. SOME SPECIAL PICTURES OF INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

MORE THAN 6 CRORE TIRANGA SELFIES WERE UPLOADED ON THE HAR GHAR TIRANGA WEBSITE UNDER HAR GHAR TIRANGA ABHIYAN. GUINNESS WORLD RECORD OF WORLD'S "LARGEST HUMAN IMAGE OF A WAVING NATIONAL FLAG" WAS CREATED IN CHANDIGARH WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF 5,885 PEOPLE



Tricolour lights embellish Dr MGR Chennai Central as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations



The sails of the Sydney Opera House are lit up to commemorate the 75th anniversary of India's Independence Day

FLYING COLOURS



THE 'HAR GHAR TIRANGA' CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT WAS CELEBRATED MASSIVELY ACROSS INDIA. THE CAMPAIGN TURNED OUT TO BE A BOOSTER FOR INDIA AS AROUND BUSINESS WORTH RS 500 CRORE WAS GENERATED

Students participated in 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations for 75 years of Independence, in Bengaluru



Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) jawans celebrate the 75th Independence Day on the Indo-China border



In order to celebrate 75 years of Independence the Indian Flag was seen reaching great heights, unfurled some 30 kilometers above our planet Earth



On 75th Independence Day 2022 of India, the historic American city of Boston marked its first-ever India Day Parade to mark the occasion. A massive 220-foot US-India flag was seen flying high in the sky



Siachen Warriors hoist Tricolour at highest battlefield in the world on Independence Day 2022

GIRD LOINS FOR MISSION-2047

IN HIS INSPIRATIONAL SPEECH ON INDEPENDENCE DAY, PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI EXHORTED PEOPLE TO DEDICATE THEIR LIVES FOR MAKING BHARAT A DEVELOPED NATION AND WORK FOR THE HUMANITY. HE CALLED UPON PEOPLE TO REMOVE SIGNS OF SERVILITY, TAKE PRIDE IN HERITAGE, UNITY AND FULFILLING OUR DUTIES. FOLLOWING IS THE EXCERPT FROM THE PM'S SPEECH ON AUGUST 15, 2022

■ NARENDRA MODI

The world was not cognisant that India has an inherent potential of strong culture and values, a bond of thoughts deeply embedded in mind and soul; and that is - India is Mother of democracy.

I believe we must focus our attention on the *Panch Pran* for the coming 25 years. You have to concentrate on your resolve and strength. And we must take up the responsibility of fulfilling all the dreams of the freedom fighters by embracing those 'Panch Pran' by 2047 when the country celebrates 100 years of independence.

Speaking of *Panch Pran*, the first vow is for the country to move ahead with a big resolve. And that big resolution is of a developed India; and now we should not settle for anything less than that. Big resolution! The second Pran is that in no part of our existence, not even in the deepest corners of our mind or habits should there be any ounce of slavery. It should be nipped there itself. Now, 100 per cent this slavery of hundreds of years has kept us bound, has forced us to keep our emotions tied up, have developed distorted thinking in us. We have to liberate ourselves from the slavery mind set which is visible in innumerable things within and around us. This is our second *Pran Shakti*.

The third *Pran* is that we should feel proud of our heritage and legacy. Since it is this same legacy which had given India its golden period in the past. And it is this legacy that has an innate capability of transforming itself with time. It is this rich heritage that transcends tests of tide and times. It embraces the new. And hence we should be proud of this heritage.



Fourth Pran which is equally important is unity and solidarity. Amongst 130 million countrymen when there is harmony and bonhomie, unity becomes its strongest virtue. *Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat* – is one of the unifying initiatives to actuate the dream of the fourth Pran.

Fifth Pran is the duty of the citizens, in which even the Prime Minister, Chief Minister cannot be an exclusion as they are also responsible citizens and have a duty towards the nation. This virtue is going to be the vital life force if we want to achieve the dreams we have for the next 25 years.

The second thing that I have mentioned is the mentality of slavery and the attitude of the country. Brothers, how long will the world continue to give certificates to us? How long will we live on the certificates of the world? Shall we not set our own standards? Can a country of 130 crores not make an effort to exceed its standards? Under no circumstances should we try to look like others. It should be our temperament to grow with our own potential. We want freedom from slavery. The element of slavery should not remain in our mind even under the distant seven seas, friends. And I look with hope the way the new National Education Policy has been formulated with a lot of brainstorming, with the exchange of ideas from various people and is at the root of the country's education policy. The skill that we have emphasised is such a power, which will give us the strength to be free from slavery.

We have seen that sometimes our talent gets tied in the shackles of language. This is the result of slave mentality. We should be proud of every language of our country... Today we are witnessing the structure of Digital India. We are looking at start-ups. Who are these people? This is that pool of talent who lives in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, or in villages and belongs to poor families. These are our youngsters who are coming before the world today with new discoveries. We have to give up the colonial-era mentality. Instead, we must rely on our capabilities.

Secondly, we must feel proud of our heritage. Only when we connect with our land, we will be able to fly high, and when we fly high, we will be able to provide solutions to the world too. We have seen the impact when we take pride in our heritage and culture. Today the world is talking about holistic health care. But when it talks about holistic health care, it looks towards India's yoga, India's Ayurveda and India's holistic lifestyle. This is our legacy that we are providing the world with. The world is being influenced by it today. Now look at our strength. We are the people who know how to live with nature. We know how to love nature. Today the world is facing environment related problems. We have that legacy and the solutions to the problems of

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD WE TRY TO LOOK LIKE OTHERS. IT SHOULD BE OUR TEMPERAMENT TO GROW WITH OUR OWN POTENTIAL. WE WANT FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY. THE ELEMENT OF SLAVERY SHOULD NOT REMAIN IN OUR MIND EVEN UNDER THE DISTANT SEVEN SEAS, FRIENDS

global warming. Our ancestors have given us the same. When we talk about an environment-friendly lifestyle and LIFE mission, we attract the attention of the world. Coarse paddy and millets are household items. This is our heritage. Due to the hard work of our small farmers paddy flourished on small pieces of land. Today the world is moving ahead to celebrate the millet year at the international level. That means our heritage is being appreciated around the world today. Let us learn to be proud of it. We have a lot to offer to the world.

I will now talk about the fifth life force – pran which is the duties of citizens. While trying to understand all the countries in the world that have made progress; every country that has achieved something, even in personal life, few things emerged. One is disciplined life, and the other is devotion to duty. There should be success in the life of the individual, of the society, of the family, of the nation. This is the fundamental path and the fundamental vital force.

We have to become self-reliant in the energy sector. How long will we be dependent on others in the field of energy? We should be self-reliant in the fields of solar energy, wind energy, and various other renewable energy sources like Mission Hydrogen, bio-fuel and electric vehicles.

Till today we always remember our revered Lal Bahadur Shastriji for his inspirational clarion call of *Jai Jawan Jai Kisan* meaning "Hail the Soldier, Hail the Farmer". Later Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji added a new link of *Jai Vigyan* which meant "hail science" and we gave it utmost importance. But in this new phase *Amrit Kaal* now it is imperative to add *jai anusandhaan* that is "hail innovation".

I urge the countrymen to start the *Amrit Kaal* today by nurturing new possibilities, realising new resolutions and moving ahead with confidence. The *Amrit Mahotsav* of freedom has turned in the direction of '*Amrit Kaal*' and, therefore, *Sabka Prayas* is necessary in this *Amrit Kaal*. *Sabka Prayas* is going to yield this result. The spirit of Team India is going to take the country forward. This Team India of 130 crore countrymen will realise all the dreams by moving forward as a team. With this belief, speak with me, *Jai Hind!* ■

BEACON OF HOPE

IN SYNC WITH HINDU DHARMA'S PHILOSOPHY OF VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM, THE MODI GOVERNMENT HAS COME TO THE RESCUE OF THE WORLD DURING COVID-19 CRISIS, WAR SITUATIONS, NATURAL DISASTERS, AND ECONOMIC CRISES. BY 2047, MANY COUNTRIES WILL FOLLOW SANATAN DHARMA

Every nation has a message to deliver, a mission to fulfill, a destiny to reach. The mission of Bharat has been to guide Humanity:

— Swami Vivekanand

The next 25 years will be crucial for both India and the rest of the world as India celebrates 100 years of Independence. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked everyone to work together over the next 25 years to make our country great again in every way and in every sector.

The current Western economic model and philosophies have done little to benefit the world in terms of happiness, peace in individual lives and within societies and countries. In fact, they have increased environmental damage and exploitation of developing and poor nations. Even though developed countries have advanced materially in many ways, violence, mental, physical, and social issues are on the rise, while happiness is on the decline.

Bharat will play an important role in the economic, social, and spiritual aspects of humanity and the environment. The Modi Government is focusing on building strong economies while also focusing on social, spiritual, and environmental aspects to improve not only Bharat but also the entire world's prospects for living with dignity, peace, joy, and belonging for all.

The fact that the economy is gaining



traction, while the rest of the world is in crisis is entirely due to the current Government's policies and actions. To achieve a 30 trillion dollar economy by 2047, a different perspective and policies are required to put the country on a higher growth trajectory than China and the United States. The focus on each sector with *Aatmanirbhar* Bharat (Self-Reliant India) and training youths through New Education Policy to develop as entrepreneurs rather than job seekers with an innovative and research-oriented mindset. Another aspect of Foreign policy is to respect and value each nation, rich or poor, for their culture and traditions. Corruption is a major source of concern. However, only stricter laws and technology-driven work will not significantly reduce corruption. Greater the emphasis on developing personal and national character, less corruption and exploitation will exist. The qualitative implementation of New Education Policy and spiritual education from an early age will undoubtedly make a difference, and it will undoubtedly be worked out with the continuation of the current regime for the next 25 years.

In the coming years, the rising traction of the Bharatiya way of economic and spiritual model will make Bharat the centre of attraction for meeting the world's aspirations and material needs. Though we are currently struggling to reach a 5 trillion dollar economy by 2025 due to the COVID-19 and war crises, once this initial jerk is removed, then the

ANALYSIS



**PANKAJ JAGANNATH
JAYSWAL**

Senior Journalist



The Reserve Bank of India January 2022 announced a \$400 million swap to help Sri Lanka shore up reserves, as part of an aid package Sri Lanka signed an agreement for a \$500 million credit line to purchase fuel from India in February

economy will accelerate in the direction of reaching around 30 trillion dollars by 2047.

Bharat will monitor, guide, and control global health through its holistic approach to treatment, healthy living, and environmental balancing. Bharatiyas will have a strong potential in this area to help their own economy as well as the global economy, with a focus on a healthy and peaceful world.

VILLAGE ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Bharat is made up of villages, and approximately 6 lakh villages will change the fortunes of Bharat in the next 25 years. Policies should prioritise "Village Entrepreneurship Development" while preserving the great culture, traditions, environment, and Bharatiyatva in villages. This will result in a significant reduction in unemployment, drug abuse, unnecessary conflicts, and, most importantly, the "slavery mentality" that has developed over time.

The preservation of freedom is not the task of soldiers alone. The whole nation has to be strong:

—Lal Bahadur Shastriji

Another critical aspect is to prioritise research and development. "The key to success is incremental innovation." The New Education Policy emphasises research and development as well as the development of personal and national character. Governments and other stakeholders should focus on implementing them judiciously, passionately, and completion should be over the next 10 to 15 years. Industry should also focus on and promote innovative ideas, as well as provide youth with new skill sets and opportunities in R & D. It will completely change the mindset of youths to focus on their creative and innovative

WAY FORWARD

Dharma is the universal code of right conduct that awakens the common inner bond, restrains selfishness, keeps the people together in harmonious state without external authority

— MS Golwalkar



abilities, indigenous development of new technologies, and providing solutions to the world's problems.

INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Bharat is known as the "farmer's nation." The current policies encourage the use of best practices and technology to increase output. The agriculture sector in Bharat is expected to generate better momentum in the next few years due to increased investment in agricultural infrastructure such as irrigation facilities, warehousing and cold storage. We need to create more supportive and encouraging policies that encourage organic farming so that we can become self-sufficient in the majority of food while also supporting the majority of the world without exploitation. Organic or non-chemically treated food will help to prevent soil, water, and air pollution, as well as contribute to the development of a healthy society and economically stronger farmers.

BOOST TO ENERGY SECTOR

The nation's electrical energy requirements are enormous. The current Government's emphasis on building additional capacity using renewable energy sources is commendable. India is the third largest producer of electricity in the world. The national electric grid in India has an installed capacity of 403.759 GW as of June 30, 2022. Despite the fact that coal-fired power plants pollute the environment, we continue to rely on them for our needs. Focused and effective renewable energy policies must be strengthened so that we can become self-sufficient in terms of total renewable energy by 2047 while also assisting other nations with their electricity needs.

We import a large amount of fossil fuels, which has an impact on our economy because it weakens our currency

WAY FORWARD



India is emerging as one of the biggest providers of aid to cash-strapped countries during COVID-19

TO ACHIEVE A 30 TRILLION DOLLAR ECONOMY BY 2047, A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE AND POLICIES ARE REQUIRED TO PUT THE COUNTRY ON A HIGHER GROWTH TRAJECTORY THAN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES. THE FOCUS MUST BE ON EACH SECTOR WITH AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT (SELF-RELIANT INDIA) AND TRAINING YOUTHS THROUGH NEW EDUCATION POLICY TO DEVELOP AS ENTREPRENEURS RATHER THAN JOB SEEKERS WITH AN INNOVATIVE AND RESEARCH-ORIENTED MINDSET

and is a major source of pollution. As a result, the policy of giving weightage to electric vehicles and renewable sources of energy will help to build the economy, strengthen the rupee, and reduce pollution.

FOCUS ON HEALTH SECTOR

The health of a nation is determined by the state of its resources. Each work's efficiency, effectiveness, and quality are determined by one's health. We've been dealing with more serious issues on this front. Quality health services are lacking in large parts of the country, and even when they are available, they are prohibitively expensive for the average citizen. Quality health care at a lower cost is urgently needed to make a difference for the socioeconomically disadvantaged as well as the middle class. The Modi Government's Ayushman Bharat policy is critical, but more policies for holistic practices and

treatment, preventive care, and quality services must be implemented over the next 25 years.

ERADICATING POVERTY

According to a recent World Bank report, extreme poverty in India has more than halved between 2011 and 2019, falling from 22.5 per cent to 10.2 per cent. The reduction was greater in rural areas, ranging from 26.3 per cent to 11.6 per cent. When compared to 2011-2015, the rate of poverty decline between 2015 and 2019 was faster. The current Government's emphasis is on making life easier for ordinary Indians through schemes such as the Ujjwala Yojana, PM Awas Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission, Jan Dhan, and Mission Indradhanush, as well as the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission and expanded coverage under the National Food Security Act. Poverty is a curse for any society or country. Inequality breeds hatred, enmity, unhealthy competition, exploitation, and religious conversion. As a result, the next 25 years will be critical in eradicating poverty. Policies implemented and efforts to provide quality education and various skills will empower them.

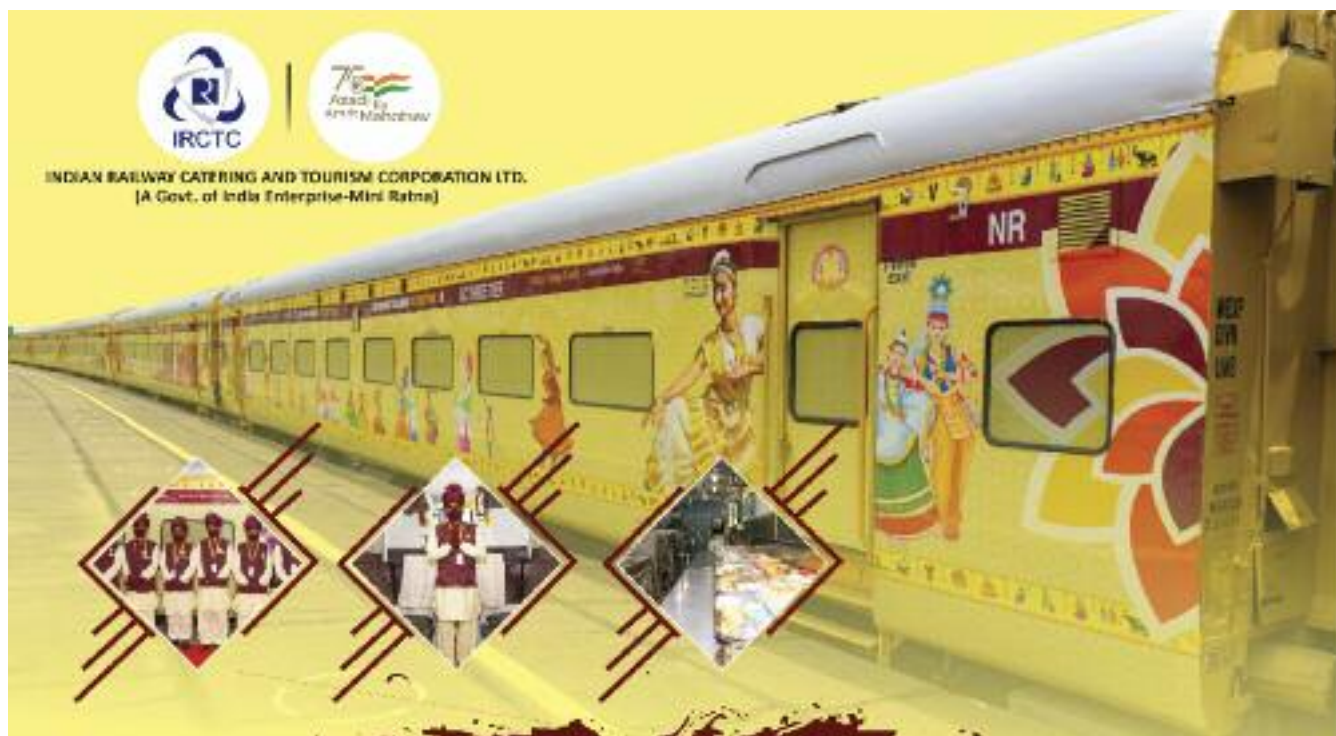
RISE OF HINDUTVA FOR GLOBAL GOOD

In the last eight years, the rise of Hindutva has been attributed to many people around the world realising that Hindu Dharma respects everyone, believes in the philosophy of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, which means the entire world is my family, and this has been demonstrated on the ground by the Modi Government by assisting during the Corona crisis, war situations, natural disasters, and economic crises. By 2047, many countries around the world will begin to follow *Sanatan* or Hindu Dharma principles, and many will practise Hindu Dharma on their own to spread happiness, sharing, and caring, and to put a smile on everyone's face. The current Government's foreign policies and actions have created a strong bond and respect for Bharat and each Bharatiya, and it will continue to do so. MS Golwalkar stated, "Dharma is the universal code of right conduct that awakens the common inner bond, restrains selfishness, keeps the people together in harmonious state without external authority". He further added, it is devotion to one's motherland, society and tradition experienced under the concept of nation that inspires the spirit of real service and sacrifice in the individual.

As new Vishwa Guru, Bharat will emerge, not to exploit other nations or seize land or natural resources, but to strengthen each nation in order to make the world a better place to live. ■



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BHARAT@100: A CITIZEN CHARTER

TO BECOME A DEVELOPED COUNTRY IN TRUE SENSE, THERE SHOULD BE A CHANGE IN THE MINDSET OF ITS CITIZENS. IT IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE THAT WE SHOULD FOCUS MORE ON DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES RATHER THAN RIGHTS

This Independence Day, unlike the others hitherto, has discerned and etched itself a date worth a place in the history of Bharat. Not merely for the fact that we have completed 75 years of freedom from the clutches of the British colonial power and entered the third quarter; not merely for the fact that PM Narendra Modi has kindled nationalism and rightfully so, united the populace of the country under the guise of the mega colossal and propitious campaign called *Har Ghar Tiranga* which culminated into an unprecedented mass movement. But because we, the people of Bharat have reawakened and reinvigorated our innate propensity for democratic, socialistic, patriotic, plural, tolerant and assimilative, in toto, we have realised our truly Dharmic nature as a society. India, that is Bharat, is celebrating the 75th Independence Day with nationalistic fervor and zeal, dubbed as *Har Ghar Tiranga* which is only one — perhaps, palpably conspicuous — element of *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*. And he has declared—anthropomorphising the confidence that typifies New India—that we have entered the *Amrit Kaal*, the elixir age.

The Prime Minister's speech hit all the right notes. He advocated a participatory approach — *panch-pran*, or a five-point pledge — to bring his vision of *Viksit Bharat* (developed India) to fruition; the five points being: committing to unfettered and towering resolves and a developed Bharat; decolonisation of Bharatiya minds, purging all traces of servitude; taking pride and conceit in our glorious legacy and heritage; and advocating unity and solidarity. Interestingly and quite so, the fifth 'pledge' is to fulfil one's



Swachh Bharat Campaign at Chilkur Balaji Temple, Hyderabad

responsibilities as a citizen. In the past too, the Prime Minister has used the concept of collective consciousness as a tool for citizen engagement and public policy, such as during the 2016 'Give it Up' campaign.

What ought to be the duties and responsibilities of a citizen? What makes one an ideal citizen? One ponders upon this when the Prime Minister Modi—of the second largest populated and youngest nation on the planet—calls "India the mother of democracy" in his Independence Day speech and simultaneously propounds the citizens to be responsible and dutiful, and that includes the ilk of the honorary legislatives, especially the Chief Ministers and the Prime Minister. The ulterior message is to invoke citizen engagement and participation that could buttress the administration, culminating in the completion of a desired task.

Let's draft a citizen charter for the next 25



YUVRAJ POKHARNA

Columnist

years, i.e., India@100, laying bare some basic civic duties that, if obliged and conformed to by every Indian at individual levels, will certainly make Bharat a Vishwa Guru.

1. Sagacious Use of Energy: This includes a judicious use of energy that not only can reduce energy waste but also add to the energy conservation drives going across the nation. Switching lights, fans, and etc when not in use is one basic thing that can be done at all levels.

2. Recycle and Reuse: Recycling is one among many things that saw a steep rise and profuse public involvement in the last few years. Now that a product is



recycled, ensure it is reused. Littering in public spaces not only aggravates the aesthetics but also the environmental damages are tangential in the long run. In fact, the waste segregation at the source level is one good stratagem that is being followed by the administration at different rungs.

3. Follow Traffic Rules: According to government data, states and Union Territories (UTs) reported a total of 3,66,138 road accidents during the calendar year 2020, claiming 1,31,714 lives and injuring 3,48,279 people. In 2020, 1,16,496 (31.8 per cent) of the total 3,66,138 road accidents reported in the country occurred on National Highways (NH), including expressways; 90,755 (24.8 per cent) on State Highways (SH); and 1,58,887 (43.4 per cent) on other roads. Can we not preclude these mishaps and save thousands of casualties and fatalities?

4. Avoid Single Use Plastic: Avoiding the use of single-use plastic, especially plastic bags, has been a matter of national altercation and deliberation for a decade now. Alternately, we can endorse self-help groups (SHGs) or similar organisations to augment the production of eco-friendly products. In a way, it also contributes to the clarion

call of Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) by the PM.

5. Educate a Child: Educating one's own progeny is one step towards nation building. But if and when possible, one should also look into providing handouts to those promising talents who seem to live in a state of paucity with access to scarce or no resources. In a way, this is another step towards creating a stronger society and, thereby, a stronger nation.

6. Personal Hygiene: As they say, "charity begins at home". One should follow a neat and disciplined personal hygiene for a healthy and hygienic body culminates into a healthy society. Successful people understand the value of self-care, whether it is through diet, exercise, or personal hygiene.

7. Plant a Tree: Not only Bharat, but the world is grappling with the horrors of the environmental damage that has been done. Be it air pollution, noise pollution, water pollution, land pollution, or global warming. An ideal citizen can pledge to plant a tree, if not trees, in his home or locality. That's the bare minimum one can do.

8. Public Service Hours: A quintessential citizen can earmark a certain number of hours, let's say 100 hours, for instance, of his time to serve society and thereby his nation. He can indulge in public awareness drives and activities like cleanliness, etc. He can voluntarily offer his services to the local administration via any NGO or SHG.

9. Give Priority to Senior Citizens and Women with Children: Not being pollyannaish with aspirations of attaining utopia, a right society ought to be just with the weakest and the last man in the social hierarchy. As a righteous citizen, one should give priority to senior citizens and women with children in public spaces.

10. Embrace the Divyang-jan: Albeit, previously called the handicapped, i.e., the physically or mentally disabled, they are now treated with the utmost respect and are rightly called specially abled individuals. As an individual who strives to elevate his motherland in terms of societal values and various social indices, one should ruminate as to how to involve, engage, and embrace this class of specially abled citizens and exalt them from the state of commiseration to a state of self-reliance. Shri Banchhanidhi Pani, the Municipal Commissioner, Surat, says, "The state machinery has certain duties and roles, but in the dearth of citizen engagement and participation, no transformation or development is certain. If the citizens are to abide by a moral code of responsibility, I have an unfettered conviction that no power can impede the destiny of Bharat to be a Vishvaguru." ■



GANGA The National River of India

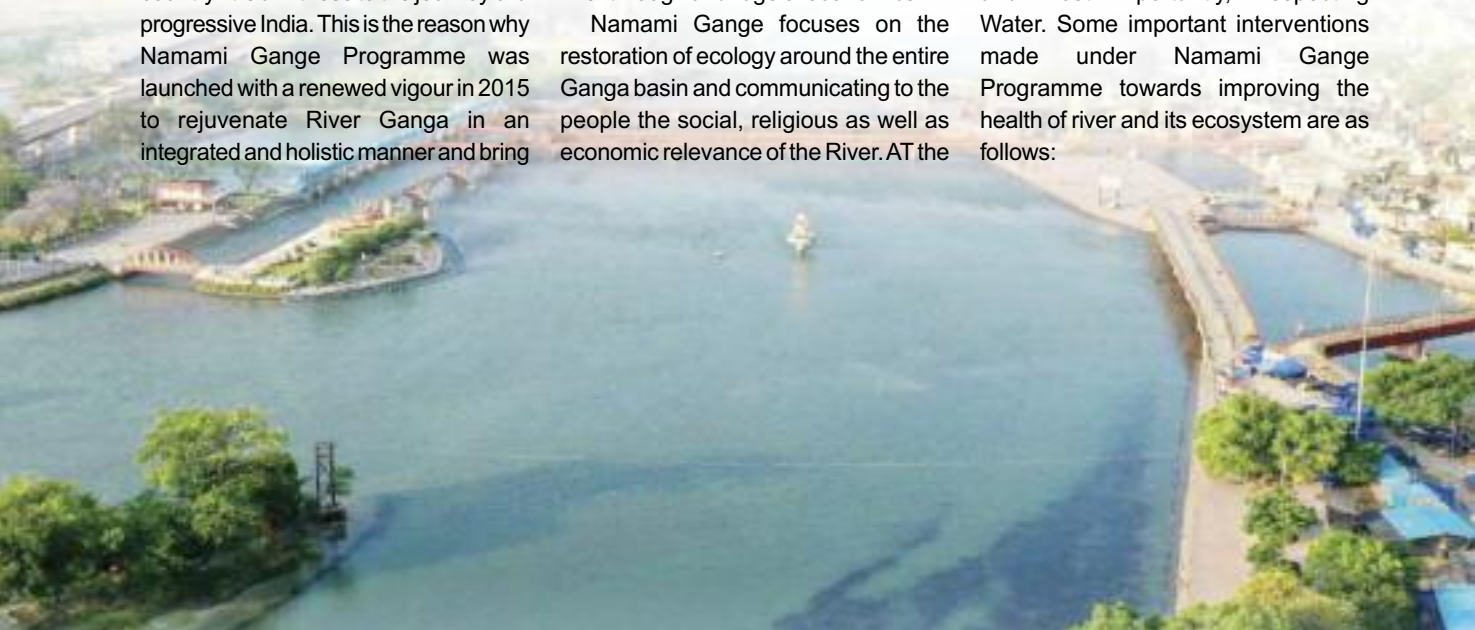
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a Government of India initiative to celebrate and commemorate the monumental occasion of 75 anniversary of India's Independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements. Ganga, the National River of India, is one of the most important symbols of not just Indian civilization but India's culture. The steps taken in the past few years under Namami Gange Programme are in sync with the essence of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav that envisions building up a new Atmanirbhar Bharat. For the past 75 years and before River Ganga has been the lifeline of the country and revered as a deity. River Ganga reflects the glorious past of India like nothing else in the country. It is a witness to the journey of a progressive India. This is the reason why Namami Gange Programme was launched with a renewed vigour in 2015 to rejuvenate River Ganga in an integrated and holistic manner and bring

it back to its pristine glory. Through Namami Gange Programme, the Government of India has been dedicatedly trying to rejuvenate River Ganga by ensuring its Nirmalta and Aviralta. The positive results have also begun to show in the form of improved water quality and citing of aquatic animals that thrive in cleaner Ganga.

Transforming Clean Ganga Movement into a Jan Andolan has been the clarion call of the Hon. Prime Minister. Thus, the restoration of people-river connect, which once defined the unique relationship between Ganga and the people of India is one of the most important components of Namami Gange Programme. Hon. Prime Minister also gave the concept of 'Arth Ganga' that aims to connect people with river through a "bridge of economics".

Namami Gange focuses on the restoration of ecology around the entire Ganga basin and communicating to the people the social, religious as well as economic relevance of the River. At the

time of the launch, the budgetary outlay of NGP was Rs 20,000 crore for a period of 5 years. The budgetary allocation for the second phase of the Namami Gange Programme till 2026 is Rs 22,500 crore. Namami Gange has adopted a holistic and multi sectoral approach for the conservation, protection and rejuvenation of River Ganga and its tributaries. Executed by the National Mission for Clean Ganga, Namami Gange Programme is increasingly emerging as a River Rejuvenation Model for the entire country. Sustainability is at the core of the Clean Ganga Mission. The 5R Concept of Circular Economy is at the helm of policy decisions being taken which includes Reducing Wastage, Recycling Water, Reusing Water, Rejuvenating Rivers and most importantly, Respecting Water. Some important interventions made under Namami Gange Programme towards improving the health of river and its ecosystem are as follows:



Nirmal Ganga: Impact of Namami Gange Interventions



Karmalichak STP in Bihar



Beur STP in Bihar

Under the Namami Gange Programme, 378 projects have been sanctioned till July 2022 at a total cost of Rs. 31173.08 crore for different activities, out of which 215 projects have been completed. For the first time, sewerage projects were sanctioned under Hybrid Annuity Mode to optimize the performance of the assets. New concepts like 'One City One Operator' were introduced for long-term sewerage management. The positive impacts of the Namami Gange Programme have now begun to come. As on date, 96 out of 163 sewerage infrastructure projects have been completed, resulting in creation of 1770.85 MLD of STP capacity and laying of 4174.78 km sewerage network. As on April 2022, all 2706 Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) in river Ganga basin have been inspected, showcause notices have been issued to 144 GPIs while closure directions have been issued to 18 GPIs by the SPCBs/PCC. Projects for construction of new/upgradation of CETP infrastructure for polluting tannery cluster is also underway. A pilot project of Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) in Chunar has also been sanctioned by NMCG for decentralized treatment of sewage. Eye sores to local people, several drains have also been tapped, most notably the infamous Sisamau Nala in Kanpur and Chandreshwar Nala in Muni-Ki-Reti.

The water quality of River Ganga has improved as shown by improved levels of Dissolved Oxygen (DO) at 32 locations and Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) & Faecal

Coliform at 44 and 25 locations respectively. As per the CPCB data as on 2021, none of the Ganga Stretches are in priority category I to IV and only two stretches are in Category V. Water Quality Median data for 2021 (January to May), of river Ganga shows that the major indicator-Dissolved Oxygen (DO), has been found to be within acceptable limits for primary bathing quality across all 84 monitoring locations in the main stem of river Ganga. Similarly, other important river health indicators i.e. Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Faecal Coliform (FC) have also been found to be within acceptable limits across 68 monitoring locations (out of 84 locations) and 33 monitoring locations (out of 80 locations) respectively. Marked improvement has been seen in 2021 as compared to 2015 in the identified polluted stretches of Haridwar to Sultanpur (<3mg/lBoD in 2021 against 4.2-5.8 in 2015), Kannauj to Varanasi (1.8-4.2 mg/lBoD against 3.8-16.9 in 2015), Buxar to Bhagalpur (<3 mg/lBoD against 7.8-27 in 2015) and Triveni to Diamond Harbour (1.3-4.3 mg/lBoD in 2021 against 3.1-5.8 in 2015).

Also, the completion of 92 sewerage projects out of 162 in June 2022 as compared to 1 and 28 respectively in 2014, creation of 1642 MLD capacity in June 2022 against 110.5 MLD in 2014 and laying of 4156 km of sewerage network in June 2022 against 458 in 2014 is a testament of the work being done under Namami Gange on war-footing.



Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) and One-City-One-Operator



Ramana STP in Varanasi under HAM

In a step that marked a paradigm shift in the water sector, Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) has been introduced, for the first time, for sustainable and dependable solution to ensure sustainable performance and accountability of sewage treatment infrastructure. Under HAM, 40% of the capital cost is paid in 4 or more installments during the completion period whereas the remaining 60% of the cost is paid to the private developer over the term of the Concession, subject to sustained performance. The result-oriented approach is the most important feature of Hybrid Annuity Mode as both the Annuity and Operation and Maintenance payments are linked to the performance of the STP, a major departure from the past. In order to complement HAM, One-City-One-Operator method has also been adopted to further



68 MLD Jagjeetpur STP made under HAM

improve accountability. It broadly means operation, maintenance, rehabilitation and new construction (as per requirement) of assets for an entire city by one operator. So far, 28 HAM projects are at various stages of execution under the Namami Gange Programme. Within HAM, 12 projects of One-City-One-Operator have also been sanctioned.

Arth Ganga



The Hon'ble Prime Minister chaired the 1st NGC meeting in Kanpur

Arth Ganga concept, coined by the Hon. Prime Minister during the 1st National Ganga Council meeting in Kanpur, has developed into an economic model for sustainable river rejuvenation. At the helm of the Arth Ganga concept is people-river connect that aims to firmly establish a collaborative relationship between the river and the people. The central idea of "Arth Ganga" is linking people and Ganga through the bridge of economics in line with the slogan of "Banking on River Ganga". Under Arth Ganga, six verticals are being worked upon: a) Zero Budget Natural Farming that includes chemical-free farming for 10 kms on either side of the river, generating "more income, per drop", 'Gobar Dhan' for farmers, b) Monetization and Reuse of Sludge & Wastewater that envisages reuse of treated water for irrigation & industrial purposes and revenue generation for ULBs, c) Livelihood Generation Opportunities such as 'Ghat Mein Haat', promotion of local products, Ayurveda, medicinal plants, capacity building of volunteers like Ganga Praharis, d) Public Participation to ensure increased synergies between stakeholders. The launch of Digital Dashboard for DGCs Performance Monitoring System by the Hon. Union

Minister for Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in the august presence of Shri Swatantra Dev Singh, Cabinet Minister for Jal Shakti, U.P. is a case in point. To enhance public participation, District Ganga Committee Forum (DGC - 4M (Monthly, Mandated, Monitored and Minuted) meetings on 2nd Friday of every month are being ensured, e) Cultural Heritage & Tourism that looks to introduce boat tourism through community jettis, promotion of yoga, adventure tourism etc. and Ganga Artis.

To celebrate 75 years of India Independence, 'Yamuna Par Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' was organised by NMCG on 16th August 2022 presided over by the Hon. Union Minister for Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. The event marked the launch of many new initiatives under Arth Ganga concept, enunciated by PM Modi to get the river-people connect through the economic bridge to ensure sustainability to the activities under "Namami Gange", the flagship program of the Government to clean Ganga and its tributaries. These include the virtual launch of Jalaj initiative at 26 locations on Ganga basin main stem states to generate livelihood for local people through floating mobile centres etc. on the banks of River Ganga, a MoU with Sahakar Bharati to achieve the vision of a sustainable and viable economic development by public participation and a tourism-related portal ImAvatar to promote livelihood opportunities along the Ganga basin by promoting Arth Ganga initiative through tourism.



The Hon'ble Union Minister for Jal Shakti chairing the DGC Dashboard launch meeting. DG, NMCG Shri G. Asok Kumar explained the DGC Forum to participants.

The last vertical of Arth Ganga is Institutional Building by enhancing the local capacities for better decentralized water governance.

Aviral Ganga

The maintenance of minimum environmental-flows in the river not only ensures sustenance of aquatic life; but also goes a long way in maintaining river in the desired environmental state or predetermined state. In an unprecedented step, the government in October 2018, notified minimum environmental flows to be maintained in river Ganga from its origin to Unnao (Uttar Pradesh), specifically at locations downstream of structures or projects meant for diversion of river flows for purposes like irrigation, hydropower, domestic, industrial, and other requirements.



Scientific Afforestation and Biodiversity Conservation

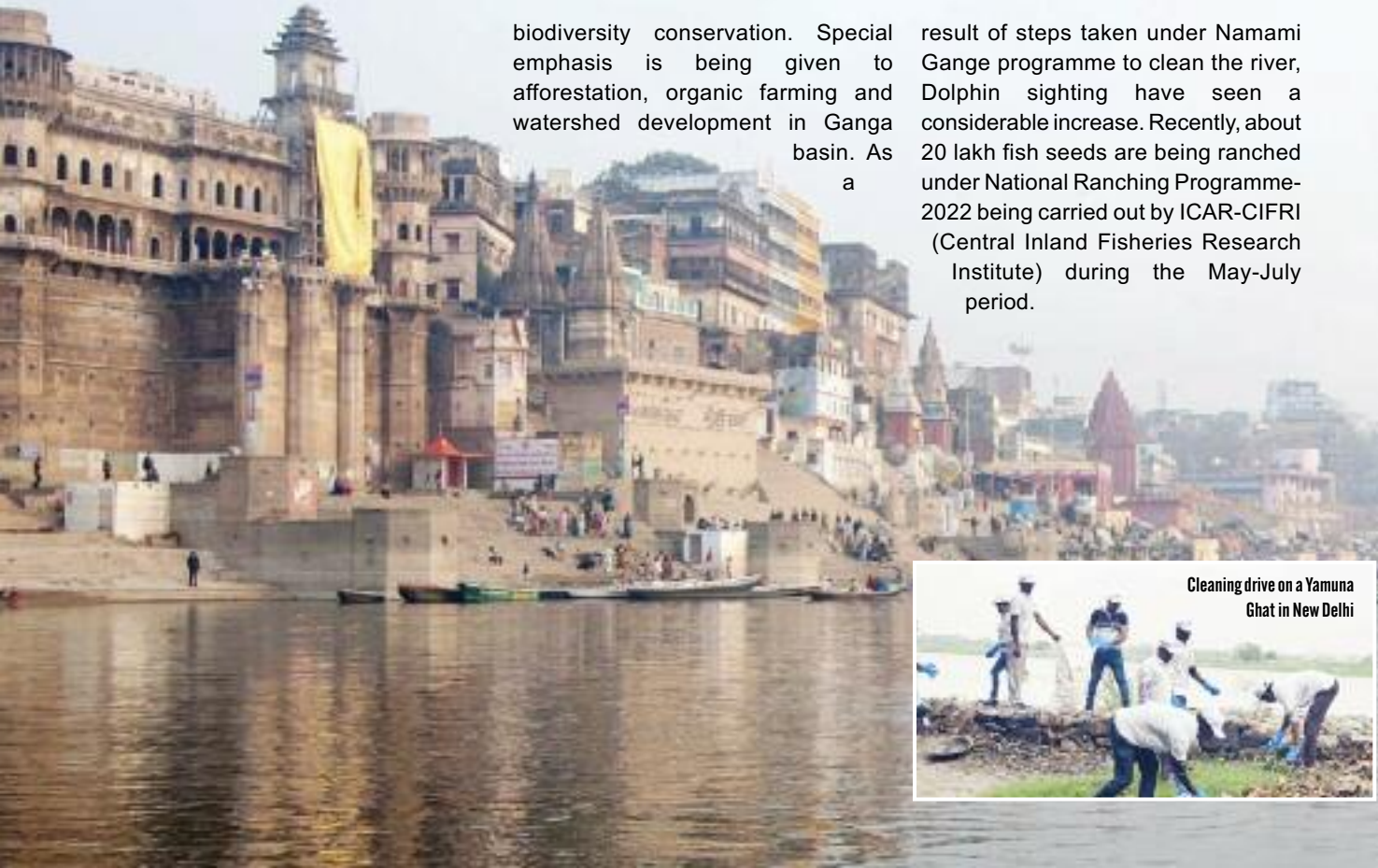
NMCG has undertaken first of its kind - scientific forestry intervention as per the DPRs prepared by FRI, Dehradun, which provides for site specific plantation along the banks of river Ganga over an area of 1.34 lakh hectares. So far, the plantation has been carried out on an area of approximately 33,000 hectares under the Namami Gange Programme. Such scientifically planned forest cover would help in overall environmental upgradation, including mitigation of impacts of climate change. A self-motivated cadre of about 1300 Ganga Praharis has also been trained for



Ranching Programme being carried out by ICAR-CIFRI

biodiversity conservation. Special emphasis is being given to afforestation, organic farming and watershed development in Ganga basin. As a

result of steps taken under Namami Gange programme to clean the river, Dolphin sighting have seen a considerable increase. Recently, about 20 lakh fish seeds are being ranched under National Ranching Programme-2022 being carried out by ICAR-CIFRI (Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute) during the May-July period.



Cleaning drive on a Yamuna Ghat in New Delhi

SPRING REJUVENATION AND WETLAND CONSERVATION

Given the importance of springs and small water bodies in hilly areas, Survey of India, Dehradun has undertaken mapping of all the springs in Tehri-Garhwal District of Uttarakhand for taking up rejuvenation programme with the help of Central Groundwater Board and other State authorities. A specific project has also been initiated with the help of INTACH for rejuvenation of 10 kunds in Varanasi. NMCG has also been focusing on bringing wetland conservation to basin level, with priority to floodplain wetlands and urban wetlands. Wetland Conservation Project 'Conserving and Sustainably Managing Gangetic Floodplains of Uttar Pradesh' was sanctioned in June 2020 towards comprehensive conservation and management of 282 Gangetic floodplain wetlands of U.P. within buffer of 10 kms of the river Ganga in 27 Ganga riverbank districts of Uttar Pradesh.

RIVER FRONT DEVELOPMENT



Atal Ghat in Kanpur

River Front Development, especially through development of ghats, crematoria and kunds is crucial for strengthening of people–river connect, which is pivotal to sustain the efforts being made under Namami Gange Programme. So far, 214 ghats, 60 crematoria and 9 kunds have been sanctioned under Namami Gange Programme out of which 189 ghats, 49 crematoria and 8 kunds have been completed. The development of ghats across the main stem of Ganga basin has received positive response from the local people and tourists. Patna RFD and Chandi Ghat are two particular cases in point, which are among the good works done under Namami Gange Programme to improve people-river connect.

Public Participation: Another important component of Namami Gange Programme is public participation to transform this Mission into a mass movement. To achieve this, various innovative awareness activities are undertaken. One of the most important factors that plays a crucial role in bolstering people's participation is the involvement of younger generation. There is an urgent need to effectively spell out the economic, environmental and social significance of River Ganga to transform Namami Gange into a mass movement. Therefore, a



Ghat Par Yoga session at Signature Bridge, New Delhi

slew of collaborations and activities are being conducted for proper engagement of youth in Clean Ganga Project. Some of the ongoing activities include collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (Ganga Doots), Ganga Mitras, Ganga Praharis, Ganga Quest etc. Regular campaigns like Ganga Swachhta Pakhwada, Ganga Utsav, Nadi Utsav, Ganga Amantran Abhiyan, Ganga Quest, Ganga ki Baat Chacha Chaudhary ke Sath etc. are organised to spread awareness on the importance of River Ganga. On the occasion of the International Yoga Day, 'Ghat Par Yoga initiative was launched at Signature Bridge in New Delhi on River Yamuna which saw inspiring participation from the local people and other stakeholders. It is now extended as 'Har Hafte Hoga, Ghat Pe Yoga' in Ganga basin states.

Tributaries : Namami Gange Programme envisages rejuvenation of not just River Ganga but also its tributaries, particularly River Yamuna. For cleaning of tributaries, 44 projects have been sanctioned by NMCG as on June 2022 to create treatment capacity of 2788.55 MLD and sewer network of 749.9 km. In 17 projects which have been completed, the treatment capacity of 693.47 MLD has been created and sewer network of 637.16 km has been laid. The tributaries on which projects have been sanctioned include Yamuna, Gomti, Kail, Kosi, Ramganga etc. A public outreach campaign has also been initiated in New Delhi to aware people about cleaning of River Yamuna and apprise them about the work being done

under Namami Gange Programme for tributaries of Ganga, particularly Yamuna. The cleaning of tributaries of River Ganga, especially, Yamuna, is one of the focus areas of Namami Gange Programme. While 318 MLD STP at Coronation Pillar has been commissioned recently, 3 other main STPs on Yamuna funded by NMCG are targeted to be completed by December 2022. These include Rithala, Kondli and Okhla, which is one of the biggest STPs in Asia. This will help in preventing sewage from drains falling into Yamuna. A total of 12 projects for the treatment of 1385 MLD sewage have been taken up at a cost of about Rs. 2354 crore under Namami Gange Program in Delhi, to abate the pollution in River Yamuna.

NOT A CAKEWALK

AS BHARAT CELEBRATED 75TH INDEPENDENCE DAY WITH LOT OF POMP AND GAIETY, IT NEEDS TO INTROSPECT AND BALANCE THE CONTRADICTIONS

SUDHANSHU DAS

Columnist



The increasing attacks by Jihadis against Bharat is a threat to peace and creates a wedge between people of diverse faiths

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, meaning nectar of grand celebration to signify 75 years of India's Independence from the British Colonial slavery, began on March 12, 2021, and will continue up to August 15, 2023. The Government of India also started a campaign *Har Ghar Tiranga* that is to fly the national flag on every house. Its end objective is to promote, advance and consolidate the spirit of "Nationalism" amongst the current generation of "We the People".

Azadi means "freedom"; *Amrit* means "nectar"; and *Mahotsav* means "festival". "Why and what for the much hyped celebrations by "We the People" sponsored and encouraged by all political parties? Common academically in the past to highlight that what we got 75-years ago is "Political Freedom for 34 crores" from British colonial Rule, more aptly, slavery. But, what about the strangulation of polity by the resurgent neo-dynasty's and feudal lords?

Woeful lack of understanding of the true import of "British Colonial Rule" is real. Irrefutable fact is subjugation of South Asia by the "British Crown" between 1857-1947 virtually in all dimensions to include: political, social, cultural and economic. The British exploited—looted—natural resources and, in turn, exploited its markets—over £45 trillion. But, no corruption at all levels. In contrast, Indian rulers and leaders are exploiting the country, more aptly, looting the country. However, what was most destructive is the shift engineered by the British by imposition of their language and cultural values—total shift to Western modes and ways of life.

Most significant is the Islamist surge sweeping the mankind. Saudi Arabia and Iran are in the forefront of funding spread of Islam. The growth of mosques in the USA include: 1921—the first purpose-built Highland Park Mosque in Detroit and Michigan; 1934—Mother Mosque of America, in Cedar Rapids.

Scholars claim that India gained political freedom only on the stroke of midnight hour of August 14/15, 1947. That too betrays intellectual bankruptcy. For what we gained was freedom from alien or colonial rule only to be replaced by autocratic dynastic and feudal rule.

MIND-BOGGLING DIVERSITY

Everyone knows that India is a pluralist society: multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-communal and multi-cultural in composition. To consolidate and advance unity and diversity, mutual respect and tolerance, the two basic imperatives of pluralism, are vital. Yet, with utter disregard to them, vested interest groups are pursuing highly confrontational and adversarial politics, which are gnawing away at the very vitals of “idea” of India—unity in diversity.

Within India the clash of civilisations is real. The clash of cultures is real: cow dung of the Northern heartland vs. coconut of the Southern tracts vs. bamboo of the North East. Furthermore, the clash between ideologies, pluralism vs. nationalism is real. Add to it, the clash of religions: Hinduism vs. Islam vs. Christianity. If one is managed adroitly, another raises its ugly head to devour India. What is unfolding in a vicious way is the continuation of unfinished agenda of communal, ethnic, caste and class contest. When the conflict resolution spins out of control, they blame the people for the plight of the nation.

Pursuit of caste politics—caste polarisation—continues to play havoc with consolidating unity in diversity. Democracy has opened the doors to the OBC, SC, ST and minorities to forge political alliances to throw the traditional upper ruling castes out of power. A casteless society remains a mirage.

Society has become increasingly corrupt—both morally and materially. No place for ethics, morals and values. None is concerned with national values. Democracy stands distorted; socialism stands discarded; and secularism is the worst fraud. Ruthless and strong willed leadership alone can survive in the hawkish world of today.

One, demographic transition—natural growth rates, migrations both legal and illegal and conversion row—is the mother of all strategic internal security challenges. It is the rate and pace of change induced by demographic transition that is emerging as a key national security threat concern. Can India manage nearly 2 billion people by around 2050 in the face of dwindling natural resources? More importantly, when the inherited

population proportion rates in 1951 between Hindu, Muslim and Christian communities are undergoing changes considered a major threat concern what with scarcity of resources and finite political power to share. The day is not too far off for yet another communal holocaust in modern India.

TODAY THE ECONOMY OF INDIA IS A MIDDLE INCOME DEVELOPING MARKET ECONOMY. IT IS THE WORLD'S FIFTH-LARGEST ECONOMY BY NOMINAL GDP AND THE THIRD-LARGEST BY PURCHASING POWER PARITY

Two, having inherited social structure, leadership has failed to promote and consolidate true nationalism. People continue to trace and owe their loyalties on narrow parochial lines like being a Tamil or Telugu or Maratha, Sikh, Punjabi, Bengali and so on. Political parties and leaders for self aggrandisement have polarised society deliberately on narrow tribal, clan, caste, communal and supra tribal lines.

The social challenges inherited by Shri Narendra Modi and the BJP appear insurmountable. It requires tremendous dexterity to satisfy competing claims of vested interest groups for a fair share in status, wealth and power. “India First; India Best” may be a good slogan.

POLITICAL DIMENSION

Leaders must avoid playing the politics of pseudo secularism vs communalism forever, if they are earnest to nurture unity in diversity. The desecration of the temple of democracy happens on a daily basis during sessions with utter disregard to loss of crores of rupees of taxpayer's money.

The course of recently concluded monsoon session of the Parliament, with vitriolic and venom spewed against each other, reconfirms such a skewed view. Debate, conciliation and consensus, key components of a vibrant democracy, are an anathema for the elected representatives. They claim to be leaders, but they do not believe in decorum, probity and propriety and respect for the ‘Chair’. A day is not too far off that their behaviour may rebound and hurt them on the rebound by the crowds on the streets.

Waiting for an opportunity, the pseudo secular opposition political groups are bound to exploit such opportunities to regain political power. “India's

Democracy” of today is “triumph of criminals and scoundrels”, whose extravagant lifestyles living in fortress type bungalows surrounded by gunmen and escorted in convoys of vehicles and privileges make even the “Maharajahs” of the past to pale into insignificance. Neo-Maharajahs and neo feudal are lurking around everywhere today in Indian democracy to exploit the situation for self aggrandisement. Following closely behind in extravagance is the bludgeoning bureaucracy, the judiciary and the security forces. They too have least concern for the lesson of mankind’s history that economy cannot forever sustain an over stretched government machinery.

CLAIMING TO BE THE GUARDIANS OF LAW AND ORDER BESIDES CUSTODIANS OF PEACE AND TRANQUILLITY, POLICE FORCES ARE IN TOTAL DISARRAY DUE TO LACK OF PROFESSIONALISM. THEY ARE TURNING INTO LAW VIOLATORS

Modi and the BJP, therefore, face a most bizarre political situation to overcome. Democracy has been hijacked by criminals and scoundrels as elected representatives. Its root cause is very well recognised. No Eureka. Money and muscle power decide electoral outcomes at all levels. No sight of electoral reforms on the horizon. More talk for public consumption; and no action. The talk of public funding is foolhardy; economy cannot sustain it.

ECONOMIC DIMENSION

Next, few realities of the economic dimension. 75 Years ago, modern India inherited “destroyed economy”. Ipso facto, the British destroyed the supremacy of the Indian goods. Indian handicrafts lost both domestic and foreign market.

In particular, Indian handloom weaving industry was hit by the industrialization in England and eventually collapsed. The British goods succeeded ultimately in penetrating into the Indian market through its machine made goods.

Few facts are recounted to provide a balanced perspective. Regression of economic growth during the Mughal era (1600-1700) was real. The GDP had grown by only 22 per cent, that is, at an annual growth rate of 0.20 per cent. Next, during the British East Indian company rule from 1700 to 1850, the GDP grew 39 per

cent, that is, 0.22 per cent annually. And, from 1850 to 1947, British India’s annual growth rate of GDP was 0.55 per cent. In 1990 international dollars, it grew from \$125.7 billion to \$213.7 billion, a 70 per cent increase.

India’s economic growth rate was termed as “The Hindu rate of growth” that refers to the lower annual growth rate that stagnated around 3.5 per cent from 1950s to 1980s, while per capita income growth averaged around 1.3 per cent before the economic reforms of 1991.

The combination of protectionist, import-substitution, Nehruvian Fabian socialism (gradualist and reformist instead of revolutionary), and social democratic-inspired policies governed India until 1991. The economy was then characterised as Dirigisme. It had extensive regulation, protectionism, and public ownership of large monopolies, pervasive corruption and slow growth.

As of 2022, the GDP per-capita is \$2515.4. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), on a per capita income basis, India ranked 142nd by GDP (nominal) and 128th by GDP (PPP). However, today the economy of India is a middle income developing market economy. It is the world’s fifth-largest economy by nominal GDP and the third-largest by purchasing power parity (PPP).

INTERNAL SECURITY THREAT

On the internal security front, an awesome total of 179 insurgents, militants and terrorists, abetted and aided by state and non state actors, have laid seize to the nation. As per *South Asia Portal of Terrorism*, they include a total of 116 groups in the North East with 36 in Assam, 39 in Manipur, 3 in Nagaland, 2 in Mizoram, 5 in Meghalaya, 30 in Tripura and one in Arunachal Pradesh. Add to it, 36 militant groups in J & K, 12 in Punjab besides 6 Left Wing Groups spread from Nepal to Kerala in the Red Corridor and nine other groups. Around 71 of them belong to Islamist groups with 36 in J & K, 18 in Assam, 6 in Assam and others. The figures do not include the Indian Mujahedeen, the SIMI and the recent JuMB in Bengal.

Such is the harsh reality of modern India after 75-years of independence. Despite “Great Blunders” by successive PMs, none can deny that modern India has overcome many challenges in the past. It is good to gloat over achievements of being the largest democracy in the world. Except for the economy, all other power dimensions are suffering from atrophy or entropy. Serious introspection is vital to promote social unity and resurgence of sacrificing political leadership in service of the society. Otherwise, the collapse of modern India will, if it does not change its course!! ■



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POWER SHIFT

DURING THE LAST EIGHT YEARS, PM NARENDRA MODI HAS PUSHED INDIA'S GLOBAL INFLUENCE BOTH ON STRATEGIC MATTERS AS WELL AS ON THE SOFT POWER FRONT

■ **NIRENDRA DEV**

“As India's economy continued to grow and the country engaged with the rest of the world on a more equal footing, India underwent a third evolution in the country's strategic outlook.

This shift, which is ongoing today, seeks to position India among the great powers by showcasing a willingness to take on more international responsibilities,” ran an article in *The Diplomat*. Undoubtedly, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and his team have displayed skills as a smart and crafty diplomatic operative. India is taking on key global responsibilities to achieve the holy grail in the international order: a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council. Modiji has been well advised by suave Foreign Minister Dr S Jaishankar and NSA Ajit Doval, a former spy.

Former Foreign Secretary Harsh V Shringla too was a dutiful lieutenant. Shringla is now guiding India's management of the G20 Summit meet of 2023. History is rightly described as the most accommodating affair. Its pages are full of mortal men and women anointed with immortality. These spaces are not always given as accolades. The leaders have to earn it. During the last eight years, Modiji has pushed India's global influence both on strategic matters and also on the soft power front.

In 2015, Modi staged a huge publicity coup at the global stage. The International Day of Yoga started from that year and the move was recognised by the UN unanimously. In 2021, the essence of Diwali seems to have changed. It assumed almost a global respectability if not acceptability. The peculiarity of a foreign policy is that it is generally guided by permanent features—the geography and also the history. The legacy is a matter of



India is the world's largest arms importer, accounting for 11 percent of global arms imports in 2017-2021

pride but some situations require tremendous amounts of course corrections. Over the years, Indian diplomats and foreign ministers played experts trying to work out a 'compromise position' rather than playing hardball to push India's national interests. In the words of retired diplomat Rajiv Sikri, "India indulged in moralistic posturing, and had an air of self-importance and self-righteousness as it strutted on the world stage with lofty statements that did not match its real strength".

He further says, "In this shifting kaleidoscope, a more self-confident and ambitious India under Narendra Modi is seeking to develop a new paradigm for India's foreign policy where India would not be a mere 'balancer' or 'swing state' but a 'leading state' that seeks a place at the global high table".

Some years of formative period and decades of engagements with the USSR and NAM were also crucial. In the 1980s during the Rajiv Gandhi era when India prevented a coup in the Maldives, President Ronald Reagan had described the action as a "valuable contribution to regional stability". Curiously but not quite surprisingly, a Pakistani official had reacted to the development and according to *Time* magazine said that such endorsements made many Indians believe that the country (India) could emerge as a 'regional policeman' sanctified by the US.

Prior to that, Dr Henry Kissinger, a former US Secretary of State, had predicted that "India will play an increasing international role". It is debated that vision, ambition and necessity shaped India's foreign policy between 1950 and till the 1980s. This was also a period of mixed bag as 1962 was a big debacle while 1965 was



means”. “We would stand with them in their quest for stability, economic recovery through democratic means and values, established democratic institutions and the constitutional framework. And I think the fact that this transition happened through the constitutional framework is a clear and positive indicator,” MEA spokesman Arindam Bagchi told reporters. In March this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi allowed an audience with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. The Western observers like The Guardian newspaper did not miss the point—“Modi had not met the string of other Foreign

Ministers to arrive in Delhi in recent days, including the UK Foreign Secretary who is also in the race to become Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Liz Truss, and the Chinese Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, so Lavrov has been singled out for attention by the Indian leader.

India abstained from UNSC and UNGA voting more than once and made it clear that Kremlin’s concerns ought to be understood and addressed. It has made a big difference globally and many global players hitherto underestimating New Delhi’s position have started showing a ‘new variety of respect’.

From foreign policy point of view, things are working in India’s favour. India has come out of the ‘shy’ period and shun the hesitancy that was apparent in the Congress era. Today, it is assertive and is being heard. Coming 25 years would be very critical for India to attain its place globally. But healthy domestic polity and inclusive growth are must. The high rates of economic growth have already ushered through domestic reforms. Maybe little more ought to be done in sectors like labour reforms. The agrarian reforms have hit roadblocks. We should remember that improved reforms trajectory helped attract international investors. Economic attractiveness gives India a space to engage the rest of the world on its own terms. A country needs to be ‘flexible’ and engage with the rest of the world to achieve win-win outcomes. So far, insiders say, the going has been good while powers such as the US and Russia cannot ignore India. The Modi Government has also ensured improved ties with the European world and the African nations. It is true, in the year 2022, there was confirmation that New Delhi was taking a completely independent line.

India is the only country among the Quad (three others being the US, Japan and Australia) which has not condemned Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. But the geo-political standing is such that none can easily condemn India. The US today describes India as an ‘essential partner’. ■

a major win against Pakistan. The 1971 war and liberation of Bangladesh were significant events. Years back, Pran Chopra had written in his book *The Crisis of Foreign Policy* that—“*The Sino-Soviet offshoot of the Soviet-American Cold War* shattered Nehru’s hope that Sino-Indian relations would one day become an Asian proclamation”. At a later stage when India started to build up the public sector steel industry, the Soviet Union was much eager to help India and the Americans were reluctant. This became a bigger factor when India launched initiatives to build up the defence industry. Friendship with the erstwhile Soviet Union and now Russia has been beneficial for India as there is now a strong defence supply-acquisition axis. Even till date, Indian defence preparedness and maintenance of old weaponry is based on Moscow’s help. In fact this is one reason that New Delhi cannot disown Moscow completely post Ukraine-Russia conflict.

India is the world’s largest arms importer, accounting for 11 percent of global arms imports in 2017-2021, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). Nearly 80 per cent of India’s weapons systems come from Russia.

On the other hand, the Indo-Russia friendship has strengthened and to an extent even for economic cooperation etc—there are now chances of growing bonds between Russia, India and China. It’s called RIC. India has maintained good ties with the key European players including France and Germany as well.

In 2022 as the Sri Lankan crisis came to fore, India asserted that it stands firmly with the people of crisis-hit Sri Lanka and will continue to help the island nation attain stability and economic recovery through “democratic



BEATING THE EXAM BLUES

THE UGC'S PROPOSED 'ONE NATION, ONE ENTRANCE EXAM' WILL GO A LONG WAY IN EASING THE HASSLES OF STUDENTS WHO ARE FORCED TO APPEAR MULTIPLE EXAMS FOR GAINING ENTRANCE TO VARIOUS COURSES. BESIDES, OTHER STEPS TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION TO ENHANCE THE STANDARD OF EDUCATION TO GLOBAL STANDARDS WILL PREVENT DRAIN OF RESOURCES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

■ ORGANISER BUREAU

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has recently announced plans to combine NEET and JEE Main with CUET in an effort to bring all entrance exams under a single umbrella. The aim is to create a single entrance exam for all purposes. NEET, JEE and CUET are all conducted by NTA. According to UGC Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar, the move towards 'one nation, one entrance exam' was in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. While JEE is the gateway exam for

engineering studies, NEET is the same for UG medical studies. CUET, the Common University Entrance Test launched in 2022, is likely to be held twice a year from 2023 onwards and is set to eliminate the need to appear in multiple entrance exams, a move that should reduce the burden on students to a great extent.

On the 'one nation, one exam' which is designed to eliminate the need to appear in multiple entrances, Shri Kumar, while talking to a news outlet, said, "After the

COVER STORY/EDUCATION



UGC Chairman Prof M Jagadesh Kumar

the August 4 episode and has since rectified its errors at any and every exam centre. In addition to this, the NTA will also now set up specific exam centres across the country which will be well equipped with the computers and other requirements, and will be managed by the NTA too. These NTA exam centres will be used specifically for such exams, along with other established centres, he told indianexpress.com.

Talking to *Panchjanya* on the internationalisation of education, Shri Kumar said, "At present, 50,000 students from 165 countries are studying in India. Out of this two-third of the students come from five nations. On the other hand, about nine lakh Indian students are studying in universities abroad. We need to reverse this trend. Several important steps are being taken by the UGC and the Government of India towards internationalisation of the Indian higher education sector. These steps are being taken keeping in mind the National Education Policy 2020. Discussions are going on regarding UGC regulations, joint and dual degree programmes for academic collaboration between Indian and foreign higher educational institutions. There have also been talks with Australian High Commission officials. There will also be talks with many other foreign universities. UGC is making guidelines. In the coming time, campuses of foreign universities can also open in the country. By this we will be able to save foreign exchange and talent drain."

According to Shri Kumar, the UGC is in the process of drawing up guidelines to allow foreign universities to set up their campuses in Bharat. A committee has been set up in this connection and the discussions are in the final stages. Some foreign institutions are in touch with us. This will help raising the standard of education in the country.

introduction of CUET, we now have three major entrance examinations in the country — NEET, JEE and CUET — and most students take at least two of these examinations, and many may even write all three. In NEET, you have Biology, Physics and Chemistry, and in JEE you have Maths, Physics and Chemistry. So, two subjects are anyway common there and the same subjects are also used in CUET for admission in various universities. So, why should we subject the students to multiple entrance examinations. According to Shri Kumar, the CUET exam may be conducted more than once from next year. "Let's have one common entrance examination maybe in the coming year or next year, but conduct it multiple times in a year, maybe twice in a year so that students will have an opportunity to write it a second time and get admission in disciplines of their choice."

The UGC chairman said that the NTA has learnt from

“NEP WILL PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN ACHIEVING THE GOAL OF VIKSIT BHARAT”

Union Education and Skill Development Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan has appealed citizens to participate in the Citizen Survey for National Curriculum Framework for developing a new curriculum. A dynamic National Curriculum Framework in line with the NEP 2020 will play a major role in achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat he added. He further said that the development of a vibrant, dynamic, inclusive and futuristic National Curriculum Framework is essential for integrating cultural-rootedness along with global outlook, freeing education from colonial hangover and instilling a deeper sense of pride in our next generations. Ministry of Education has invited suggestions of the public through an online public consultation survey for the formulation of National Curriculum Framework and subsequently design of syllabus and textbooks.

A tech platform - website and mobile app has been developed for the execution of the work at scale and in a paperless manner. Using the bottom-up approach, district level consultations, mobile app -based surveys, state level consultations through State Focus Groups and State Steering Committee have been conducted by



Shri Dharmendra Pradhan

the States and UTs to reach out the stakeholders like parents, Anganwadi workers, teachers and students, etc. at the grassroots level and collect their views and opinion about the future of school education, early childhood care and education, teacher education and adult education. At the national level also the National Focus Groups and National Steering Committee have been engaged to deliberate on various issues and concerns, including the interaction with

various ministries, autonomous bodies, NGOs and Corporates, Philanthropic agencies etc. for collecting and collating valuable inputs for formulation of NCF. A mandate document for the formulation of NCF has been developed for guiding the stakeholders in the process. All stakeholders including teachers, headmasters/principals, school leaders, educationists, parents, students, community members, NGOs, experts, public representatives, artists, artisans, farmers and anybody who has an interest in school education and teacher education are invited to participate in this online survey being conducted in 23 languages, including the languages in the VIII Schedule of our Constitution.

Moreover, Indian students need not have to go abroad which is a very costly affair. On steps taken by the UGC to improve higher education in Bharat, the UGC Chairman said, “The primary goal towards implementing the National Education Policy is that every household in the country should have access to education. It is also our priority to provide skill and employable education to the students. UGC is emphasising on the use of digital technology along with the use of existing infrastructure (university-college) in the country so that both go together and students get good education opportunities.”

On Digital University, Shri Kumar said, The UGC is preparing the blueprint for a digital university. “Digital University will start the first semester studies from January or July 2023. Along with regular courses in the digital

university, there will also be courses based on skill, employment. Along with this, employed people will also be able to easily take admission in this university to increase their skills,” he added.

On UGC making portal for recruiting teachers, he told a news outlet: “Right now the applicant has to apply for the teaching post in different universities and it is a long process for the universities as well. The portal which is being prepared, the universities will be registered on it and information about all the posts will be there. Applicants will also register themselves and they will get information about the vacant posts of every university. This will make it easier for the applicant. His application will reach different universities. UGC will also get the information about the vacant and filled posts in every university easily.” ■

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A ROADMAP TO **AMRIT KAAL**

IN A KNOWLEDGE-DRIVEN SOCIETY, THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IS KEY FOR ENSURING ECONOMIC VITALITY, HEALTH SECURITY AND THE OVERALL WELL-BEING OF HUMANITY. IN ORDER TO FULFIL THIS MANDATE, THE EDUCATION SYSTEM SHOULD BE ABLE TO INCULCATE CRITICAL THINKING, CREATIVITY, COMPETENCY, COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

RAGHAVENDRA P TIWARI

Vice-Chancellor, Central
University of Punjab, Bathinda

Education ought to promote intelligence, and must focus on creative, emotional, social, environmental, ethical and spiritual quotients necessary for developing a well-rounded holistic citizenry and to make our graduates globally competent and acceptable.

Additionally, we need to prepare our youth ready to face a highly uncertain and volatile future. The rate of changes happening in various domains of human lives is outpacing the abilities of the present education system to respond adequately and appropriately. Thus, the

education system is at an ever-increasing risk of becoming outdated. Students currently pursuing education shall have to perform such jobs which cannot be anticipated now. Moreover, future work profiles will require the use of those technologies which cannot be thought of at present. Thus, institutions are required to mentor youth to successfully perform those jobs which do not exist today using those technologies which are yet to be invented. Nearly half of the domain knowledge acquired during the first year of a four-year degree programme may

become outdated by the time the students graduate. All this calls for reforming and re-strategising our mentoring goals and process for empowering youth to capitalise on the challenges and opportunities that the future has in store for them. This will also help reap the benefits of the demographic dividends of youthful Bharat.

Besides, the idea of *Atmanirbhar Bharat* or *Azadi ka Amrit Kaal* cannot be actualised without making youth capable of contributing substantially to Industrial Revolution 4.0. This revolution, unlike earlier ones, capitalizes on the fusion of disruptive technologies viz., Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, Intelligent Robotics, 3D Printing, Big Data Analytics, Cloud Computing and other emerging technologies that are blurring the boundaries between the physical, digital, and biological domains. In IR 4.0, Cyber-Physical Production System (CPPS) is utilised for industrial production by the unification of the physical world. For availing of this unique opportunity, we need to embrace the attributes of Education 4.0. This version of outcome-based education ensures co-learning, co-creation, co-innovation; anytime, anywhere, any amount and any type of learning; use of flip-pedagogy, virtual and augmented reality tools for transforming passive learning to active learning; learning at home or outside institutions, while skill-development within the institutions; self-directed, collaborative, immersive and experiential learning where lesson plans become creativity plans; and freedom to learners to study preferred programmes from the chosen institutions. Complete integration of technology is a must for imparting education in this model.

Oppositely, the current learning system is beset with several shortcomings viz., learning outcomes are not pre-ordained in the curriculum, and a multidisciplinary approach, a pre-requisite for holistic learning, is altogether missing from the curricular framework. Besides, it promotes rote learning as classrooms are largely used for content delivery and thus are passive learning spaces, and evaluation, by and large, is focusing on memory recall rather than actually testing the analytical capabilities of the learners. As such, it has failed to develop skills, both hard as well as soft, so essential for contributing towards the social and economic growth trajectory of the nation. In other words, the learning system in vogue is not serving the very purpose of education.

National Education Policy (NEP-2020) should be viewed in this context. NEP encompasses a plethora of new imperatives for ensuring translational reforms. These imperatives centre around curriculum, pedagogy,

IN A HEALTHY EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, LEARNING DOES NOT MEAN MEMORISATION AND RECALL, INSTEAD, IT IS THE PROCESS THROUGH WHICH LEARNERS CONCEPTUALISE THE CONTENTS AND UNDERSTAND HOW TO APPLY SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO SOLVE REAL-LIFE PROBLEMS

evaluation, hybrid mode of learning, experiential and activity-based learning, skill-based (hard and soft) and vocational learning, capacity building of teachers and ensuring equity, access and affordability to quality education. Uplifting the ceiling of RTE and mid-day meal to 18 years and 100 per cent GER in school education, primary education in mother tongue or local language, reducing contents, story-based teaching, easier board exams and systemic restructuring of school education is the envisioned reforms of far-reaching consequences in school education. Strengthening of open and distance learning, targeting GER in higher education to 50 per cent by 2035, learning outcome-based curriculum, multiple exits and entry options, academic bank of credits, entry of foreign universities, universalisation of education and provision for a single higher education regulator and national research foundation are reforms envisioned for transforming higher education. Thus, this is an all-encompassing, ever-evolving and student-centric education policy. NEP-2020 is supportive, caring, and trusting and aims to develop linkages between the well-being of humanity and academic and moral excellence.

In a healthy educational system, learning does not mean memorisation and recall. Instead, it is the process through which learners conceptualise the contents and understand how to apply skills and knowledge to solve real-life problems. This was the approach to education in ancient Bharat. *Gurukul's* system of known and knowing ensured the abundant availability of thinkers and creative humans with well-rounded personalities for serving society and the nation. In the current scenario, the best way is to import good traits of education from the Gurukul system and customised it to meet the current needs. In order to achieve this, we ought to make the teaching-learning process experiential and thus joyful. It is a well-settled fact that when students have the option and pleasure to choose what to learn and are subjected to a personalized learning eco-system (every learner has specific learning needs and pace and one-size-fits-all kind of pedagogical approach cannot address the needs of all), experiential learning

COVER STORY/ EDUCATION



NEP IS ALSO BATTLING FOR PURSUING RESEARCH FOR ADDRESSING LOCAL AND REGIONAL ISSUES IN LINE WITH THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THUS BECOME 'VOCAL FOR LOCAL'. 'LAND TO LAB' APPROACH IS TO BE PURSUED FOR SELECTING RESEARCH PROBLEMS

(discussion/debate, demonstration, activity-based, project/dissertation/internship and field immersion based peer and collaborative learning) and flip- and other modes of blended pedagogical approaches as envisioned in NEP-2020, they will surely become active rather than passive learners. This will pave the way for conceptualising learning, asking questions, participating in discussions/debates/declamations, solving problems faster, and above all will create an effective learning ecosystem where learners have the opportunity to perform to their fullest potential. NEP is also battling for pursuing research for addressing local and regional issues in line with the sustainable development goals and thus become 'Vocal for Local'. 'Land to Lab' approach is to be pursued for selecting research problems.

NEP-2020, apart from ensuring cognitive domain development, also provides ample scope for developing non-cognitive skills (socio-emotional skills) like self-discipline, patience, motivation, conscientiousness, teamwork, passion, decision making, communication, articulation, and punctuality, responsibility and perseverance. Such skills are as important as the cognitive skills for youth to succeed in life. NEP also provides for the inculcation of moral/ethical values, preservation of biodiversity, natural resources and environment, holistic health education and society connection. These reforms

augur well with the age-old practice of *Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam* and *Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah*- two of the greatest civilisational traits of humanity. Thus, NEP2020 is certainly a discourse for the realisation of *Param Vaibhavmay Rashtra* in near future.

Learning outcome-based multidisciplinary curriculum, academic bank of credits and admissions through a single window have already been implemented by the majority of the central universities. Regulations/guidelines on four-year undergraduate programmes with multiple exit-entry options; credit framework for online learning courses through SWAYAM; twinning- joint- and dual degree programmes; pursuing two academic programmes simultaneously; implementing uniform CBCS; establishment of research & development cell in HEIs; guidelines for transforming higher education institutions into multidisciplinary institutions; open, distance and online learning programmes; fostering social responsibility & community engagement; life skills 2.0 and facilitators' guidelines for life skills curriculum etc. are being finalized. All these will pave the way for speedy implementation of NEP.

NEP focuses on a paradigm shift in pedagogy especially from 'What to Learn' to 'How to Learn', and also on skilling, up-skilling and reskilling; learning, unlearning and relearning (life-long learning to become life-long adaptability); and reform, perform and transform else perish. Moreover, we need to make learners think like employees/employers and employees/employers to think like learners for empowering youth to become future-ready and for creating a robust education system.

Tight but light, dynamic and flexible regulatory regime and facilitative umbrella implementation plan with baskets of options for learners (in terms of curriculum, pedagogy, and evaluation tools) to choose from as ensured in NEP-2020 is the need of the hour for ensuring that every youngster contributes in nation building and lives contented life. Successful implementation of NEP depends on the cooperation received from the teaching and student community, parents, civil society and media. Proper implementation of NEP-2020 will be a manifestation of *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwash and Sabka Prayas*. If implemented in the right contexts and spirit, enshrined transformational reforms in NEP will prepare Bharat-centric youth capable of recapturing the lost glory of the Bhartiya Education System and repositioning Bharat as the *Vishwa Guru*. Thus NEP, in a real sense, will lead to a golden era of *Amrit Kaal* in the Bharatiya civilisational discourse. ■



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TRANSFORMING HIGHER EDUCATION

WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW EDUCATION POLICY, QUALITY ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVES HAVE GAINED MOMENTUM. THE QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION IS BEING ENHANCED BY ACCREDITATION AGENCIES LIKE NAAC AND NBA

India with an illustrious history of holistic education has always been focussing on the pursuit of knowledge (Gyan), wisdom (Pragyaa) and truth (Sathyaa) as the highest human goal. As rightly said by Swami Vivekananda, "Education is not the amount of information that we put into our brain and run riots there, undigested, all through life. We must have life-building, man-making and character-making assimilation of ideas". The Indian education system is the third largest system in the world. There have been changes worldwide in the higher education system. India for decades is largely focused on issues of access and equity but did not do much with regard to quality of education.

Apart from the National Education Policy of 1986, modified in 1992, there has not been any major change in the education policy at all. The changes need to stand against the challenges ahead of us especially in the changed context of globalisation without compromising on the legacy and heritage of ancient and eternal Indian knowledge systems.

There has been an exponential increase in the number of institutions and enrolment of students. There are nearly 1,043 universities and 45,000 colleges across India. This increase in the students strength and number of institutions have led to the decline of quality



over the years with students' mark-sheets not reflecting the calibre of the students. The Government of India (GOI), through UGC, has been taking earnest steps to chalk out quality enhancement measures.

With the introduction of New Education Policy (NEP-2020), the quality enhancement initiatives have gained a momentum. Accreditation agencies like NAAC, NBA too have been making changes in their assessment and methodologies with a view to enhance the quality of higher education.

All universities have almost done away with the annual examination pattern. The semester system has come to stay. Many of the institutions have started implementing choice based credit systems (CBCS) of course not in full spirit. Curriculum revisions have been undertaken every 3-5 years.



DR MG SETHURAMAN

Professor in Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu



The Government of India, through UGC, has been chalking out quality enhancement measures in higher education

Introduction of modern teaching methodologies have brought in ICT-enabled classrooms. With pandemic playing havoc, many of the institutions were holding classes through online platforms. MOOC and NPTEL courses have been patronised by UGC and Ministry of Education (MOE) in a big way.

BRIDGING THE GAP

Unfortunately all these changes have not yielded fruits in a big way. The teaching takes place but does learning take place is the question. There is a greater need for bridging the gap between teaching and learning. It is sad that job-ready graduates do not emerge out of the portals of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

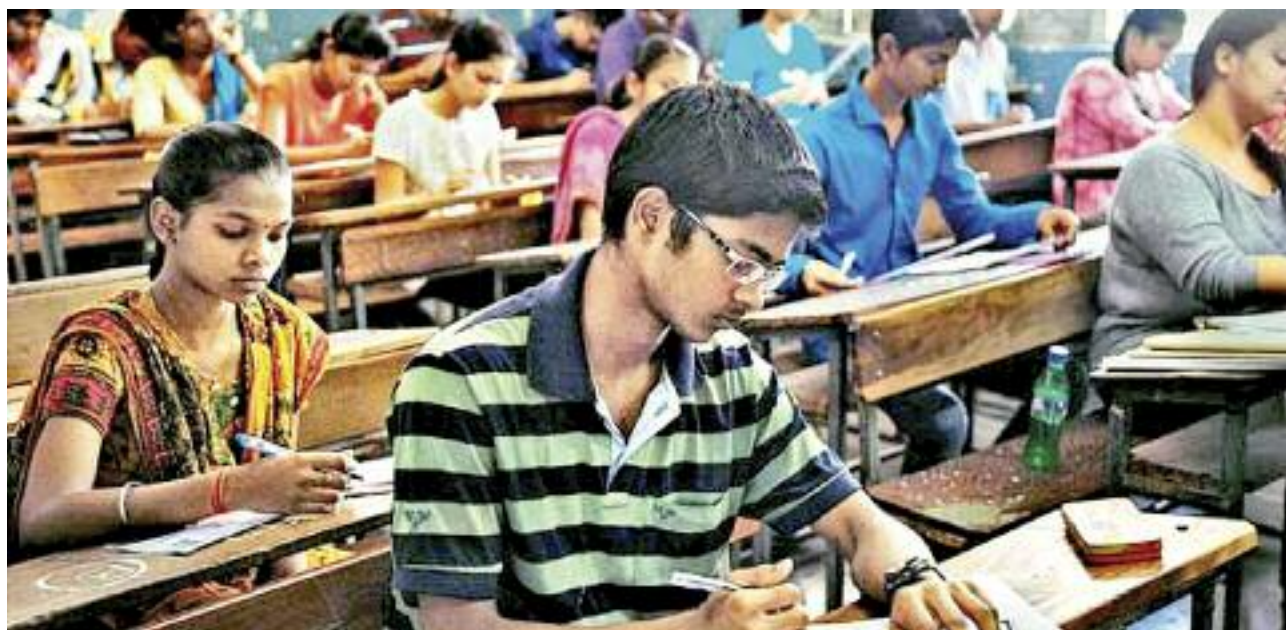
Although several lakhs of engineering graduates come into the job market hardly 20 per cent are employable. With India being a signatory in Washington and Seoul accords,

THERE IS A GREATER NEED FOR BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN TEACHING AND LEARNING. IT IS SAD THAT JOB-READY GRADUATES DO NOT EMERGE OUT OF THE PORTALS OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

greater acceptance of Indian graduates abroad was expected. To enable Indian graduates to get accepted on par with their counterparts in other countries, Outcome Based Education (OBE) has been proposed. The NEP-2020 expects HEIs to move on to a criterion based grading system which assess students achievements based on the learning goals for each programme.

With the implementation of OBE, embedded in the NEP-2020, it is expected that students develop Higher Order

COVER STORY/ EDUCATION



Introduction of modern teaching methodologies have brought in ICT-enabled classrooms

IT IS CERTAIN THAT IF THIS SYSTEM IS IMPLEMENTED IT COULD EMPOWER THE STUDENTS TO ENHANCE THEIR CAPABILITIES AND EMPLOYMENT POTENTIAL

Thinking Skills (HOTS) with enhanced competencies in analysis, critical thinking and conceptual clarity. The OBE lays emphasis on the products and insist on skill sets acquired by the students upon completion of the programme. The OBE approach is quite opposite of the input based education where the emphasis is on the process rather than on the product.

UGC, in the recent past, has come up with National Education Qualification Framework in which the learning outcome descriptors are clearly spelt out for Certificate, Diploma, Degree, Post Graduate Diploma and Post Graduate programmes. National Qualification Framework has been arrived at, based on the essence of international efforts such as the Bologna process and European qualification framework.

Learning outcome descriptors are designed to develop well rounded individuals who are able to tackle emerging globalism through building capacities in fields across arts, humanities, languages, social sciences, sciences and

professional/technical and vocational fields. A holistic multidisciplinary education is being contemplated so that students can respond vibrantly to the requirements of the fourth industrial revolution.

Based on the graduate attributes of the institutions and the programme educational objectives, generic and specific outcomes are arrived at for various programmes/courses. These outcomes include knowledge, skills and attitude. The institutions are required to frame the curriculum, plan appropriately the delivery strategies and adopt proper assessment methodologies so that the students are able to attain the course outcomes as well as the programme outcomes. Since it is required that the attainment of these outcomes are checked at the end of the course/programme, the institutions have to design their own rubrics for testing the attainments. Teachers need to be trained through HRDC centres on mapping of outcomes and testing the attainment of outcomes in a proper way. It requires greater deliberations and willing participation of all teachers in these exercises. It is certain that if this system is implemented it could empower the students to enhance their capabilities and employment potential. It is also certain that curriculum will be more focused and assessment methodologies will not just test the recalling skills alone but also test the knowledge levels expected of employable graduates.

AMRUT 2.0 – Making Cities Water Secure

Hon'ble Prime Minister launched AMRUT 2.0 on 1st October 2021

Aim: To provide **universal coverage of water supply** and to ensure **100% coverage of sewerage/ septic management** in **500 AMRUT cities**.

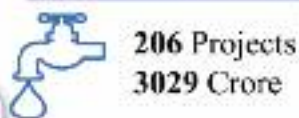
Key Highlights

- Mission has a **reform agenda** with a focus on **strengthening of urban local bodies** and water security of the cities.
- All projects proposed by State will aggregate to the State Water Action Plan (SWAP) which will be submitted in **three tranches**.

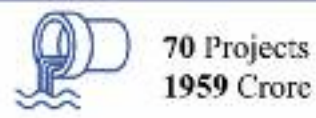
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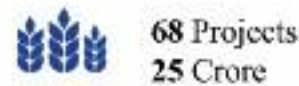
1. Water Supply



2. Sewerage/ Septage Management



3. Parks



4. Water Body and Rejuvenation



Targeted Outcomes

- 1 100 % Household sewer connection in 31 AMRUT Cities
- 2 100 % Household water tap connection in all Cities
- 3 Rejuvenation of water bodies to augment water and enhance amenity value and development of green spaces





Making It To The Top

QS World University Rankings: List of Top Universities in India

QS World University Rankings: Quacquarelli Symonds on May 8 announced the 2023 edition of World Universities which show Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore is the top university in India, followed by IITs in Mumbai and Delhi in second and third places. Below is the top 20 Universities list:

NAME OF UNIVERSITIES	NATIONAL RANK	GLOBAL RANK/ BRACKET
IISc Bangalore	01	155
IIT Bombay	02	172
IIT Delhi	03	174
IIT Madras	04	250
IIT Kanpur	05	264
IIT Kharagpur	06	270
IIT Roorkee	07	369
IIT Guwahati	08	384
IIT Indore	09	396
University of Delhi	10	521-30
Savitribai Phule Pune University	11	541-50
University of Madras	12	541-50
Anna University	13	551-60
IIT Hyderabad	14	581-90
Jawaharlal Nehru University	15	601-50
IIT-Banaras Hindu University	16	651-700
OP Jindal Global University	17	651-700
Jadavpur University	18	701-750
Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal	19	751-800
University of Hyderabad	20	751-800

Input by - HT Education Desk

IISc Keeps Topping Global Rankings

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) is a university for higher education and research in science, engineering, design, and management. The institute was established in 1909 with active support from Jamsetji Tata and thus is also locally known as the "Tata Institute". In QS's overall rankings, IISc climbed to No. 155 from the 185th spot it got last year. The institute has consistently ranked between 150 and 200 since 2017. It's also ranked as the top institute in India.



Uncommon but Rewarding Courses

Engineering, Medical and Science courses are some of the most sought after ones for students after they clear Plus Two board exams. However, there are numerous other unconventional courses which offer excellent career opportunities.

Get Your Stats Right

Data is the big thing in today's world. Statistics is an exciting course that offers several opportunities. Research, financial markets, sports, engineering, healthcare, marketing and sales, election campaigns, space, natural disasters, population studies, accidents, insurance, and deaths—statistics has got omnipresence. Statistics are the sets of mathematical equations that we used to analyse the things.

Popular Statistics Colleges in India

- Hindu College, University of Delhi
- MCC—Madras Christian College Chennai
- Loyola College Nungambakkam, Chennai
- Christ University Hosur Road, Bangalore
- Lady Shri Ram College for Women

Opportunities in Social Work

There is much more to social than an altruistic career. To start career in social work, you will first have to pursue your bachelor's degree in Social Work, followed by a master's. In India, there are various leading colleges and universities offering these courses.

Some Top Colleges for a Bachelor's in Social Work

- Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Tuljapur campus)
- Madras School of Social Work, Chennai
- Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh
- Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi
- Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, University of Delhi

Mass Communication and Journalism

There is a media explosion in the country. In 2017, the country had over 100 news channels that catered 161 million TV households, about 94,067 newspapers, as well as over 200 million Internet users. The industry is set to grow with strong consumer demand and improving advertising revenues.

Top Mass Communication and Journalism Colleges in India

- AJK Mass Communication Research Centre
- Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi

- Jawaharlal Nehru University, Centre of Media Studies
- Department of Media Studies, Christ University, Bangalore
- University of Delhi
- Indian Institute of Mass Communication

Performing Arts

India has been a rich country when it comes to arts and culture. The description of sculptures, paintings and portraits, dance, music and singing has been found in Indian mythology. Poets, dancers, singers, and musical instrument players were among the major courtiers of kings and emperors. These performers were highly regarded and affluent akin to today's film stars and celebrities.

Best Performing Arts Colleges in India

- NIMS Jaipur
- Banaras Hindu University
- Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai
- Savitribai Phule Pune University
- Lovely Professional University
- Amity University

Opportunities in Language Courses

"A good knowledge of foreign languages can open a gateway to the wide range of careers" Candidates with a good knowledge of foreign language are highly demanded in public and private sector. By opting this field you can become a teacher, translator as well as freelancer. Some of the Indian colleges have the foreign language in the academic curriculum. It is a good career gateway into such as the diplomatic services, tourism, entertainment, embassies, public relation & mass communication, publishing, international organisation and translation services.

Top Foreign Language Universities in India 2022

- JMI New Delhi—Jamia Millia Islamia
- BHU Varanasi—Banaras Hindu University
- UNIPUNE (Pune University)—Savitribai Phule Pune University
- DU Delhi—University of Delhi
- JNU Delhi—Jawaharlal Nehru University
- AMU Aligarh—Aligarh Muslim University
- Manipal University (MAHE)—Manipal Academy of Higher Education

CHINA AT SEA

HAVING BURNT ITS FINGERS, CHINA IS MOUNTING PRESSURE ON BHARAT TO SUPPORT ITS “ONE CHINA” POLICY IN THE WAKE OF AGGRESSIVE US INTERVENTION IN TAIWAN. BUT BHARAT IS IN NO MOOD TO PLAY THE BALL



US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, left, and Taiwanese President President Tsai Ing-wen wave during a meeting in Taipei, Taiwan

OPINION



JAIBANS SINGH

Strategic Analyst, Columnist
and Author

It is said that due to China's massive economic and military power, President Xi Jinping is in a position to have the last word while carving out the relationship of his country with the rest of the world and more particularly with India? A recently published book, *The Last War: How AI Will Shape India's Final Showdown with China* authored by Pravin Sawhney has alluded that China can militarily overcome India in ten days due to the strength of its artificial intelligence capability.

The recent visit to Taiwan by Nancy Pelosi, the Speaker of the United States Representatives, has negated the aforementioned arguments. It has exhibited the vulnerability of the Chinese regime that could do nothing more than describing the visit as reckless, irresponsible and extremely irrational. The Chinese had said that Pelosi would be playing with fire. Well,

she has escaped the flames with considerable ease and shown the Chinese their place.

Pelosi, on her part, was wholesome in her praise of the democratic credentials of Taiwan; she praised what she called “Taiwan’s bubbling democracy” and swore eternal friendship of the US with the island nation.

After having engineered a successful political coup, the US diplomatic machinery is now attempting to ease the tension by playing down the visit. The White House has termed the visit as a “private affair.” However, nobody, and least of all the Chinese leadership, is convinced by the US diplomatic rhetoric.

China is now attempting to browbeat Taiwan into submission; reports suggest a drastic decrease in Chinese trade with the country. Less fruits and fish are going from

Taiwan to China; cyber-attacks on Taiwan's foreign ministry, banks and commercial establishments are on the rise. By doing so, China is only exhibiting its crude hegemonic mindset which isolates the country from the rest of the world. Taiwan will, of course, live through the challenge of these sanctions and attacks and will, in fact, show the world the method by which Chinese authoritarianism can be countered.

The current Chinese leadership led by President Xi Jinping is finding itself in a rather difficult situation. Jinping has always maintained an aggressive posture with regards to Taiwan and has often gone to the extent of giving open threats of use of force against any interference in the so-called dispute. Now that Pelosi has come and gone, his macho image has taken a severe beating. Suddenly there is a perception that Chinese pretensions of being a global super-power are quite hollow. All this is happening at a time when Xi Jinping is looking for yet another extension of his tenure in November this year.

The chances of his getting the much coveted extension are quite weak since the country is fed up with his restrictive policies and especially so the mismanagement of the COVID—19 situation. The economic downturn and unrest in Xinjiang and Tibet have a lot to do with the declining popularity of the leader. The Taiwan episode has put him into a very difficult situation indeed.

A visibly flustered China has attempted to put pressure on India. In a recent interview, the Chinese ambassador to India has called for Indian support to the "One China" policy and obliquely hinted that future relations will be based on a positive response to this request. "It is extraordinary that he should say this after China has violated all previous border agreements, attempted unilaterally to alter the Line of Actual Control (LAC), massed thousands of troops on our border, continues to build military infrastructure to threaten our security and continues to claim large parts of our territory," says Kanwal Sibal, a former Indian diplomat.

India has chosen to remain silent which acts as a literal slap in the face of the crude diplomatic pressure that the Chinese ambassador was attempting to exert. The necessary message to China has gone loud and clear. So, we have a situation where neither the US nor China would be very eager to pursue the matter to a point where open conflict becomes inevitable. Nobody wants a Ukraine-like situation to emerge in yet another sensitive part of the world. There is, as such, every likelihood of the matter being pushed under the carpet sooner than expected.



It is extraordinary that he should say this after China has violated all previous border agreements, attempted unilaterally to alter the Line of Actual Control (LAC), massed thousands of troops on our border, continues to build military infrastructure to threaten our security and continues to claim large parts of our territory

— Kanwal Sibal, former Indian diplomat

Under these circumstances one can safely surmise that the doomsday scenario painted by Pravin Sawhney in his book (as mentioned above) and its endorsement by Rahul Gandhi is quite unsubstantiated. There is a reason here to explore the possibility of the idea being sponsored by some inimical forces.

Gandhi has been targeting the incumbent Government consistently on what he terms as a "timid and docile" response to so-called Chinese transgressions across the LAC. It would be best for him to read history and understand the role of his party in the creation of the current situation. If he does so, he would be more amenable to his party discussing security issues with the government behind closed doors as a responsible opposition should, instead of attempting to take political mileage of the same.

However, there is no scope of complacency and India needs to remain vigilant and ready for all possible threats from China. An unstable political situation in any neighbouring country has the potential of a spill over in many forms, military intervention being the easiest to divert attention.

India will need to pursue mature but unyielding diplomacy backed by military power to ensure that China does not renege on any agreements.

China and the world should have no doubts about a strong response from India to any effort made by the neighbouring nation to alter the Line of Actual Control. India can be sensitive to Chinese concern only if China too exhibits sensitivity with regard to the Indian position regarding Jammu and Kashmir. There has to be adherence in letter and spirit to the three dimensions of mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interests while carrying out bilateral dialogue. ■

VALUES AND CHALLENGES

CONFLICTING COUNTRIES SEEK BHARAT'S INTERVENTION IN MEDIATING DIFFERENCES. OUR NATION IS KNOWN TO UPHOLD VALUES OF FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE ACROSS THE GLOBE

Indic wisdom considers/assumes *sanaatanatva* (eternity) as the principal spiritual principle/*truth(tatva)*. Seers have been acknowledging, reiterating and asserting since the very beginning that, the truth keeps revealing itself through such disciplined seekers who uphold/manifest this principle. Since everyone's intensity to seek is uniquely specific, levels of consciousness too vary. The journey of self-realisation of every individual thus stays unique. That's how the aphorism *Satyamekam viprah bahudha vadanti* (The Truth is One but it manifests in many 'truths'/forms) vibrates harmoniously with the principal spiritual principle (*param-tatva*) stated at the outset.

And, glancing through documented human history we find that all the globally acknowledged seekers of truth have been acknowledging the 'aforesaid truth' at their respective levels of consciousness in their own *Vaani*(voices). Fortunately, none of the exclusionary

identities, including that of religious nations and ethnicities could divide the 'enlightened earthlings'/(*Bhaa-rat*) from their agreeing on this principal principle of the oneness of the ultimate truth that originated in India. It is this treasure of wisdom that made the likes of Mark Twain to see India as the mother of all cultures.

Satyamev Jayate is our national motto and, all of us who constitute India agree on that unanimously. Continuity in our upholding the spiritual principle is clearly visible from the very beginning and it continues to be in the present.

India is full of diversity and our diversity has consolidated our unity. Diversity has made all of us more resolute in our attitude. Our present constitution is one such instance of collective resolution at a certain common level of collective consciousness and, 'We the people of India' have resolved to uphold it collectively. The resilience in our attitudes makes our minds capable of mitigating not only our own internal differences but conflicting countries seek India's intervention in mediating differences between other countries also. We are known to uphold values of fairness and justice across the globe.

Indic culture is a *reiteration* of these 'truths' which are revealed to us in our living collectively in tune with Eternal spiritual principles. And, instead of confining ourselves to any belief, it is by staying open to welcoming these truths/changes we align, regulate and moderate our lives transparently so that eternal spiritual values stay as our priority. Our transparent manner of upholding these values on priority becomes reiteration/practice. And, continuous practice over a considerable period consolidates into various forms of rituals and traditions. Some of these rituals and traditions are local and regional in nature while many others are uniform across the length and breadth of our country. That's how an Indian culture is a living form of Eternal Truth (*Sanatan Satya*).

Though it may sound contradictory in visualisation yet, it is a fact that Indic culture (*Sanatan Sanskriti*) has an infinite capacity for accommodating all kinds of ideologies, religions and belief

systems many of which sound antagonistic to many others, especially to those minds that are accustomed to monoculture.

Indic culture exemplifies before us that our capacity to accommodate all contradictions individually as well collectively makes wisdom nestle in our *astittva*(personality/character/ attitude/outlook/being/ witnessing- consciousness). Calling it divine or human is each one's *Vivek* (choice/taste/wisdom).

This strength in Indian culture comes from the first principle of Indic spiritual wisdom which enunciates that, anything that exists -is within eternity. In other words, when we assume our-

SATYAMEV JAYATE IS OUR NATIONAL MOTTO AND, ALL OF US WHO CONSTITUTE INDIA AGREE ON THAT UNANIMOUSLY. CONTINUITY IN OUR UPHOLDING THE SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLE IS CLEARLY VISIBLE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING AND IT CONTINUES TO BE IN THE PRESENT

selves eternal consciousness then there is nothing that is not us/we/me. Inclusivity is an intrinsically essential nature of the expression of Aatman which is experienced when beings move towards their inbuilt aim of fulfilling their ultimate potential/highest evolution/innate thirst.

The occurrence of such phases has impacted us adversely, so much so that many among us forgot that our culture has emanated from the principal spiritual principle of upholding the eternal truth as mentioned at the outset of this column.

Indic culture upholds those eternal values in the absence of which life (*aatmaa*) can neither be fulfilled here nor, hereafter. As wisdom manifests only when we uphold eternal spiritual values.

(The writer is the Propounder of Sahaj Smriti Yog System of Self Realisation and founder of Darpan Foundation and Darpan Ashram at Urigam, Krishnagiri, Tamil Nadu)



Dr UJWALA CHAKRADEO

Vice Chancellor
SNT Women's University



JANMASHTAMI SYMBOLISES BHARAT'S UNITY IN DIVERSITY

JANMASHTAMI CELEBRATIONS IN MATHURA ARE FLOODED WITH PILGRIMS FROM ALL ACROSS THE WORLD

Shri Krishna, the eighth reincarnation of Bhagwan Vishnu, was born on the eighth day of *Krishna Paksha* in the month of Shravan. Janmashtami festival is celebrated all over in India. However, the zeal and enthusiasm in Mathura and Vrindavan are unmatched. Mathura being the birth place of Shri Krishna, while Vrindavan being the city where he spent his childhood.

Mathura is on the banks of river Yamuna, which, like Ganga, is revered deeply by Hindu devotees. The cultural views of Yamuna and its ghats are an intangible heritage that is transmitted from one generation to another through oral traditions, music, dance forms, festivals and arts. Festivals and performances of *raas-lila* on her banks are opportunities for repeated enactment of Yamuna and Krishna narratives. This is the living tradition of India. The water of Yamuna is supposed to be both pure and purifying. Hence, this site is also important for ritualistic bathing and offerings. *Mangal arati* at the place is an event to be experienced.

There are twenty four ghats on the banks of river Yamuna. Vishram is in the centre and is considered as the most pious. Vishram Ghat is the place where Krishna Bhagwan rested after killing Kansa. The Mathura *parikrama* or circumambu-



lation begins and ends at Vishram Ghat. The landscape includes temples and shrines facing the river. These have been built and rebuilt over centuries. The intangible heritage is supported by the tangible heritage at Mathura and synergetic architecture of Vishram Ghat. The ages and centuries seem to have been blended in the evolved architectural character of the ghat. At present, the architecture mostly consisted of burjes, arches, domes and jalis.

Some of the most important temples of Mathura - Mukut temple, Radha-Damodar temple, Murali Manohar temple, Neelkantheshwar temple and Yamuna Krishna temple are all elegantly aligned on the bank of Yamuna.

Janmashtami celebrations flooded with pilgrims from all over the world on the backdrop of this architecture is actually the symbol of the celebration of 'Unity in Diversity' of Bharat through ages. ■



HEALTH 360°

ORGANISER SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT



QUALITY OF AYUSH DRUGS IS BUZZWORD

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QUALITY OF AYUSH **DRUGS** NEW BUZZWORD

QUALITY OF AYUSH DRUGS IS VERY CRUCIAL. THE DRUGS SHOULD BE STANDARD AND SHOULD NOT PRODUCE ANY KIND OF UNTOWARD EFFECTS AFTER ITS ADMINISTRATION. AYURVEDIC TREATISES EMPHASISE ON QUALITIES OF THE INGREDIENTS USED IN THE MAKING OF DRUGS. AS TRADITIONAL PRACTICES PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN HEALTHCARE, THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAS SET UP PHARMACOPOEIA COMMISSION FOR INDIAN MEDICINE TO ENSURE QUALITY



■ ORGANISER BUREAU

The Central Government has set up Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H), as a subordinate office under Ministry of Ayush by merging Pharmacopoeia Commission of Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) and the two central laboratories namely Pharmacopoeia Laboratory for Indian Medicine (PLIM), Ghaziabad and Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory (HPL).

The Commission is engaged in development of Pharmacopoeial Standards for

Ayurvedic, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathic drugs. Further, PCIM&H is also acting as Central Drug Testing cum Appellate Laboratory for Indian systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy.

After re-establishment, a total of 1483 samples of ASU&H drugs have been tested during July 6th, 2020 to till date and three Pharmacopoeial monographs along with their formulary specifications for AYUSH Kwath related formulation has been published. Apart from Pharmacopoeial Monographs, National Formulary for Unani Medicines, Part-IV (2nd Edition) comprising formulary specifications of 166 formulations have also be published.

Fifty monographs of single drugs of Ayurveda along with 51 monographs of formulation of Ayurvedic drugs, 1 monograph of formulation of Siddha drug and 101 monographs of formulation of Unani drugs have been published during the last five years.

However, since inception of PLIM & HPL (now PCIM&H w.e.f. July 6th, 2020), a total number of 2199 quality standards on raw materials (Single Drugs of plant/animal/miner-



al/metal/ Chemical origin) used in ASU&H systems of medicines have been published in various Pharmacopoeias and also 405 quality standards of ASU formulations also been published in respective pharmacopoeias.

As prescribed in Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and Rules 1945 made thereunder, enforcement of the legal provisions pertaining to Quality Control and issuance of drug license of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, is vested with the State drug controllers/ State Licensing Authorities appointed by the concerned State/Union Territory Government. Rule 158-B in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 provides the regulatory guidelines for issue of license to manufacture Ayurvedic, Siddha, Unani medicines. It is mandatory for the manu-

THE PROCESS TO GRANT LICENSE TO MANUFACTURE AYURVEDA, SIDDHA AND UNANI (ASU) DRUGS HAS BEEN MADE SWIFT, PAPERLESS AND MORE TRANSPARENT THE LICENSE APPLICATION SYSTEM THROUGH ONLINE E-AUSHADHI.GOV.IN PORTAL

facturers to adhere to the prescribed requirements for licensing of manufacturing units & medicines including proof of safety & effectiveness, compliance with the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) as per Schedule T of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 and quality standards of drugs given in the respective pharmacopoeia.

As prescribed in Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and Rules 1945 made there under, enforcement of the legal provisions pertaining to Quality Control and issuance of drug license of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, is vested with the State drug Controllers/State Licensing Authorities appointed by the concerned State/Union Territory Government. As per the information received from States/UTs.



QUALITY CONTROL OF AYUSH DRUGS

As prescribed in Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and Rules 1945 made thereunder, enforcement of the legal provisions pertaining to Quality Control and issuance of drug license of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathic drugs, is vested with the State drug Controllers/ State Licensing Authorities appointed by the concerned State/ Union Territory Government. Rule 158-B in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 provides the regulatory guidelines for issue of license to manufacture Ayurvedic, Siddha, Unani medicines and Rule 85 (A to I) in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 provides the regulatory guidelines for issue of license to manufacture Homoeopathic medicines. It is mandatory for the manufacturers to adhere to the prescribed requirements for licensing of manufacturing units & medicines including proof of safety & effectiveness, compliance with the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) as per Schedule T & Schedule M-1 of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 and quality standards of drugs given in the respective pharmacopoeia.



Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H), a subordinate office under Ministry of Ayush lays down Pharmacopoeial Standards and Formulary specifications for Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy (ASU&H) drugs within the ambit of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940, which serve as official compendia for ascertaining the quality of the drugs included therein. Further, PCIM&H as an appellate drug testing laboratory receives the samples from Government agencies as per Drugs & Cosmetics Act & Rules there under for ascertaining their quality.

1. This Ministry has issued Gazette notification no. G.S.R 716 E for Amendment in the Drugs Rules, 1945 related to licensing process of ASU drugs on 01.10.2021. The amendments have been done with a view to reduce the compliance burden and facilitate ease of doing business. The process to grant license to manufacture Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani (ASU) drugs has been made swift, paperless and more transparent the license application system through online e-aushadhi.gov.in portal. The license of the ASU drugs have been made per-

petual i.e. with one time registration fee the license of the product will be valid lifetime with no further retention or renewal fees thereafter. The maximum time in granting the license to manufacture ASU drugs has been reduced from three months to two months.

In addition to the above, for facilitating exports, Ministry of Ayush encourages following certifications of AYUSH products as per details below:

- Certification of Pharmaceutical Products (CoPP) as per WHO Guidelines



for herbal products.

- Quality Certifications Scheme implemented by the Quality Council of India (QCI) for grant of AYUSH Premium mark to Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani products on the basis of third party evaluation of quality in accordance with the status of compliance to international standards.

(3.) Ministry of Ayush has implemented Central Sector Scheme AYUSH Oushadhi Gunvatta Evam Utpadan Samvardhan Yojana (AOGUSY). The objectives of the Scheme are:

- To enhance India's manufacturing capabilities and exports of traditional medicines and health promotion products under the initiative of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- To facilitate adequate infrastructural & technological upgradation and institutional activities in public and private sector for standardization, quality manufacturing and analytical testing of Ayush drugs & materials.
- To strengthen regulatory frameworks at Central and State level for effective quality control, safety monitoring and surveillance of misleading advertisements of

Ayush drugs.

- To encourage building up synergies, collaborations and convergent approaches for promoting standards and quality of Ayush drugs & materials.

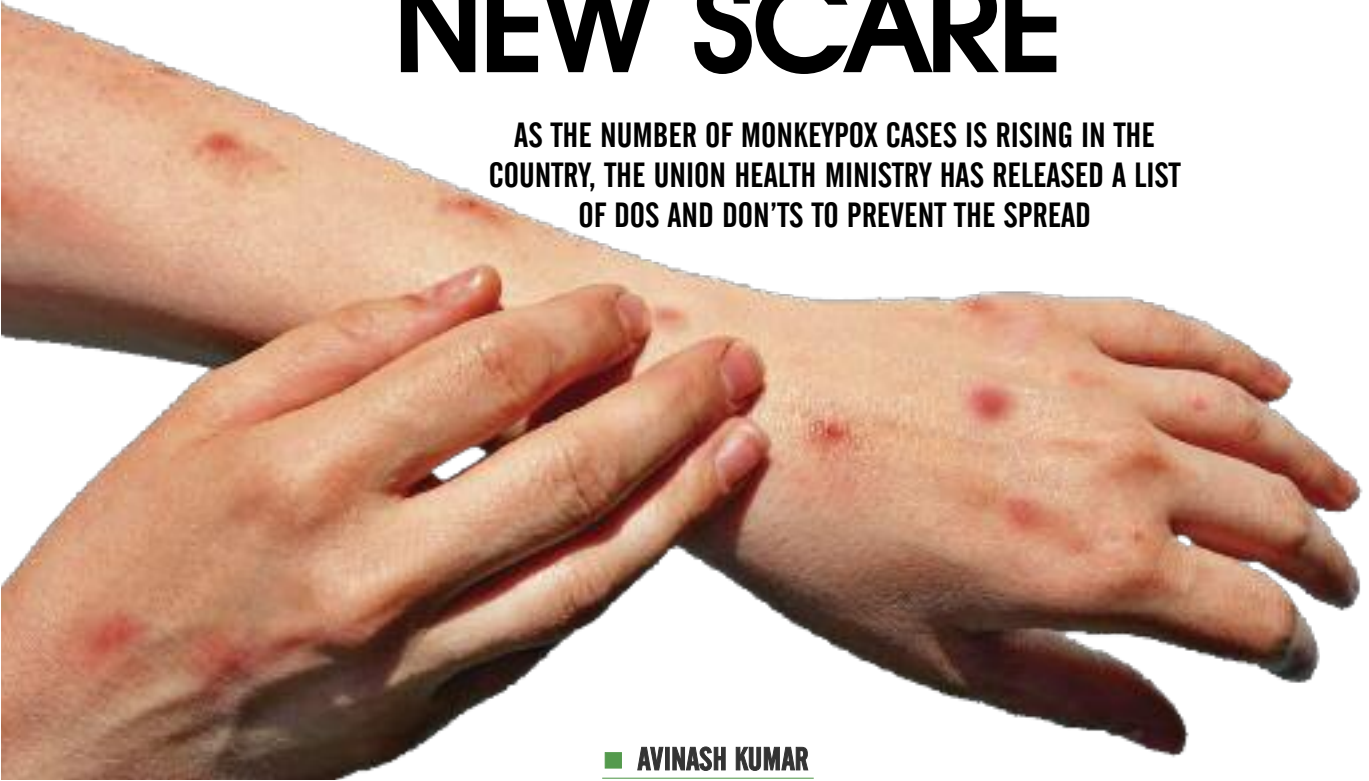
The components of the AYUSH OushadhiGunvattaEvamUtpadanSamvardhanYojana (AOGUSY) Scheme are as under;

- Strengthening and up-gradation of Ayush Pharmacies and Drug Testing Laboratories to achieve higher standards.
- Pharmacovigilance of ASU&H drugs including surveillance of misleading advertisements.
- Strengthening of Central and State regulatory frameworks including Technical Human Resource & Capacity Building programs for Ayush drugs.
- Support for development of standards and accreditation/ certification of Ayush products & materials in collaboration with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Quality Control of India (QCI) and other relevant scientific institutions and industrial R&D centres. ■



MONKEYPOX, THE NEW SCARE

AS THE NUMBER OF MONKEYPOX CASES IS RISING IN THE COUNTRY, THE UNION HEALTH MINISTRY HAS RELEASED A LIST OF DOS AND DON'TS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD



■ AVINASH KUMAR

The monkeypox is a highly transmittable disease and anyone can catch the virus if one had prolonged or repeated contact with an infected person. The first and foremost protocol the Ministry has advised is isolation of the infected person from others so that the disease does not spread. The Ministry has also advised use of hand sanitisers, or washing hands with soap and water, covering mouth with masks and hands with disposable gloves when close to a patient, and using disinfectants to sanitise the environment around.

To prevent the spread, the Ministry has advised people to avoid sharing linen, bed-

dings, clothes, towels, among others, with people who have tested positive for the infection. The Ministry advised not to wash soiled linen or laundry of patients and those of non-infected persons together, and avoid public events even if you only exhibit symptoms of the disease.

“Do not stigmatise people who have contracted the virus, and suspected patients as well. Also, do not believe any rumour or misinformation,” the Ministry advisory said.

The ‘Guidelines on Management of Monkeypox Disease’ issued by the Centre stated that any person of any age having a history of travel to affected countries with-

Tamba – India's history and traditions

INDIA'S INCREASED FOCUS ON HEALTHCARE

In an unprecedented move in 2018, India committed to providing universal health coverage to ensure that the citizens of India have access to essential healthcare services without facing financial hardships. In order to improve public access to health services and to meet the spiraling demand for healthcare infrastructure and services, the Indian government introduced several schemes such as 'Ayushman Bharat' (in 2018)—including Ayushman Bharat-Health & Wellness Centres, Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana), Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (September 2021) and the PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (October 2021) as potential measures to reinforce the public health infrastructure of the country and to make healthcare services more accessible and affordable to citizens.

The PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PMABHIM), one of the largest

pan-India health schemes for strengthening healthcare infrastructure, is aimed at ensuring a robust public health infrastructure in both urban and rural areas as well as responding to public health emergencies or disease outbreaks. These initiatives will not only help India build capabilities to effectively manage emergencies (e.g., COVID-19 pandemic), but also have the potential to create investment avenues, employment opportunities, contribute to the economic growth and overall bolster Infection Prevention and Control (IPC).

The PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission also aligns with India's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) initiative. In line with the government's mission to further the self-reliance of India, it is imperative to find solutions that resonate with the Indian tradition to catalyze the expansion of PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.



THE ROLE OF TAMBA AND PEETAL

Given the growing population of India, the government is constantly taking steps to expand the healthcare facilities for all its citizens. As a result, effective implementation of IPC becomes a crucial factor to achieve quality healthcare delivery. IPC affects all aspects of healthcare, including hand hygiene, surgical site infections, injection safety, antimicrobial resistance, and the functioning of hospitals during emergencies and for outpatient care. IPC will also help in reducing the likelihood of one of the most common health care complications: HAIs (Healthcare-acquired infections).

One of the most effective methods to strengthen IPC and combat HAIs lies in India's history, tradition, and culture – Copper or 'Tamba' has the potential to provide a long-term response to infection transmission through touch-surfaces.

Copper and its alloys, such as brass (Peetal), bronze (Kansa) and others, are naturally and scientifically considered excellent antimicrobial materials. 'Antimicrobial' is the ability of a substance to eliminate or inactivate microbes, such as bacteria, fungi (including mold) and viruses. The antimicrobial



leading the way for better public health

property of copper is intrinsic to the metal. This means the antimicrobial efficacy remains throughout the lifetime of a product – it never wears away or becomes depleted from the surface.

The use of Copper as an antimicrobial metal is not a new concept. Indian civilization and traditions across generations have made use of these properties. Copper products and materials have always been socially accepted in India. Historically, copper has been said to be used in ancient times in the Indian sub-continent as surgical tools in Ayurveda treatments and to make idols of Gods and Goddesses. Additionally, the renowned contributor of Ayurveda, Charaka, also endorsed the use of Copper and its alloys in the ancient text, Charaka Samhita.

Throughout India's history, Copper vessels have been used as kitchenware and as pharmaceutical equipment, mainly due to the metal's ability to eliminate harmful and disease-causing microorganisms. However, despite the plethora of benefits, the use of Copper in the healthcare space still remains nominal in India. Various researches have been conducted by leading scientific and medical researchers across the globe that prove the healthcare benefits of Copper. As a result, while the phenomenon was already known in ancient times in India, it is currently receiving renewed attention by the younger generations.

As India celebrates its 75th year of Independence, it is time to renew these ancient traditions that are backed by scientific evidence to combat diseases such as COVID-19, that have the potential to shake the foundation of the country.

“We have adopted a holistic approach in our healthcare system. Today our focus is not only on health, but equally on wellness” – Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi (February 2022)

In a post-COVID-19 safety measure, the Indian Railways has started utilizing antimicrobial copper coating on door handles, touching-points of train toilets and other points of train coaches, which are frequently touched by passengers during journey. The Railway Ministry has initiated this first-of-its-kind safety measure in mass transit based on proven science. The information was shared basis a question



raised in the Parliament in March 2022 by Bharatiya Janata Party, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Shri Dr. Rajdeep Roy on public health. In his response, Honorable Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw said, “There is no doubt of copper’s health benefits. The Antimicrobial copper coating has been provided in 300 coaches

manufactured by the Rail Coach Factory in Kapurthala”. Copper-coating on handrails and latches has been adopted by the Indian Railways keeping in mind copper’s antimicrobial properties. Copper is believed to degrade any virus or pathogen that lands on it within a few hours, said the official press note released by the Railway Ministry in July, 2020.

HEALTHCARE FOCUSED INFRASTRUCTURE WITH TAMBA

Antimicrobial Copper Touch Surfaces: Every day, we come in contact with a variety of touch surfaces ranging from subway grab rails to doorknobs, hand railings, bus station handles, and lift button among others. Due to India's large population density, the surfaces, especially in public places, are prone to multiple touches. Frequent contact can leave behind infectious bacteria and viruses on these surfaces, putting the general public at risk. Cleaning the surfaces with potent disinfectants is only a part of the solution. It has been time and again established that proper handwashing and disinfection protocols are not sufficient to prevent



infection transmission in hospitals and public places. The future of healthcare infrastructure in India requires a mechanism that ensures the touch surfaces can continually and efficiently eliminate microbes. Antimicrobial Copper is the most effective antimicrobial touch surface material that can eliminate or inactivate more than 99.9% of certain bacteria and viruses within two hours of exposure.



in the last 21 days presenting with an unexplained acute rash and symptoms like swollen lymph nodes, fever, headaches, body aches and profound weakness is to be considered a 'suspected case'.

A 'probable case' has to be a person meeting the case definition for a suspected case, clinically compatible illness and has an epidemiological link like face-to-face exposure, including healthcare workers without appropriate PPE, direct physical contact with skin or skin lesions, including sexual contact, or contact with contaminated materials such as clothing, bedding or utensils, is suggestive of a strong epidemiological link.

A case is considered laboratory confirmed for

monkeypox virus (by detection of unique sequences of viral DNA either by polymerase chain reaction or PCR and/or sequencing).

Defining contacts, the guidelines stated that a contact is defined as a person who, in the period beginning with the onset of the source case's first symptoms, and ending when all scabs have fallen off, has had one or more of the exposures — face-to-face exposure, direct physical contact, including sexual contact, contact with contaminated materials such as clothing or bedding — with a probable or confirmed case of monkey pox.

Cases can be prompted to identify contacts across household, workplace, school/nursery, sexual contacts, healthcare, houses of worship,



transportation, sports, social gatherings, and any other recalled interactions.

Contacts should be monitored at least daily for the onset of signs/symptoms for a period of 21 days (as per case definition above) from the last contact with a patient or their contaminated materials during the infectious period. In case of occurrence of fever clinical/lab evaluation is warranted.

Asymptomatic contacts should not donate blood, cells, tissue, organs or semen while they are under surveillance. Pre-school children may be excluded from day care, nursery, or other group settings.

Meanwhile, a task force on monkeypox has been constituted to closely monitor the

emerging situation in the country and decide on response initiatives to tackle the spread of the disease.

It will also provide guidance to the government on expansion of diagnostic facilities in the country and explore emerging trends related to vaccination for the disease.

The health ministry guidelines stated that human-to-human transmission occurs primarily through large respiratory droplets generally requiring prolonged close contact. It can also be transmitted through direct contact with body fluids or lesions, and indirect contact with lesion material such as through contaminated clothing or linen of an infected person. Animal-to-human transmission may occur by bite or scratch of infected animals or through bushmeat preparation.

The incubation period is usually from six to 13 days and the case fatality rate of monkeypox has historically ranged up to 11 per cent in the general population and higher among children. In recent times, the case fatality rate has been around 3 to 6 per cent.

The symptoms include lesions which usually begin within one to three days from the onset of fever, lasting for around two to four weeks and are often described as painful until the healing phase when they become itchy.

A notable predilection for palm and soles is characteristic of monkeypox, the guidelines stated.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) had recently declared monkeypox a global public health emergency of international concern.

According to WHO, monkeypox is a viral zoonosis — a virus transmitted to humans from animals — with symptoms similar to smallpox although clinically less severe.

Monkeypox typically manifests itself with fever, rash and swollen lymph nodes and may lead to a range of medical complications. It is usually a self-limited disease with symptoms lasting for two to four weeks. ■

FOOTWEAR FOR DIABETES PATIENTS

■ ORGANISER BUREAU

A team of researchers from the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the Bengaluru-base, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), and Karnataka Institute of Endocrinology and Research (KIER), has developed a set of footwear for use by persons with diabetes. Foot injuries or wounds in persons with diabetes heal slower than in healthy individuals,

**IISC
RESEARCHERS
GIVE SHAPE
TO SPECIAL
FOOTWEAR
FOR USE BY
PERSONS
WITH
DIABETES**

which increases the chance of infection, and may lead to complications that even require amputation in extreme cases.

The new footwear developed by the researchers, which is 3D printed and can be customised to an individual's foot dimensions and walking style, has a snapping mechanism that keeps the feet well-balanced, enabling faster heal-





(a)



(b)

ing of the injured region and preventing injuries from arising in other areas of the feet. The footwear is expected to be especially beneficial for diabetic peripheral neuropathy, where the patients suffer from a loss of sensation because of nerve damage caused by diabetes. The loss of sensation leads to irregular walking patterns resulting in complications.

Healthy persons usually place their heel first on the ground, followed by the foot and toes, and then the heel again. This 'gait cycle' distributes the pressure evenly across the foot. But due to the loss of sensation, persons with diabetes may not always follow this sequence, which means that the pressure is unevenly distributed. Regions of the foot where the pressure exerted is high are at greater risk of developing ulcers, corns, calluses, and other complications.

To address this challenge, they designed

THE FOOTWEAR IS EXPECTED TO BE ESPECIALLY BENEFICIAL FOR DIABETIC PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY, WHERE THE PATIENTS SUFFER FROM A LOSS OF SENSATION BECAUSE OF NERVE DAMAGE CAUSED BY DIABETES

arches in their sandals that 'snap' to an inverted shape when pressure beyond a certain threshold is applied. When the pressure is removed, the arch automatically returns to its initial position. Multiple arches have been designed along the length of the footwear to off-load the pressure effectively.

"We consider the individual's weight, foot size, walking speed and pressure distribution to arrive at the maximum force

that has to be off-loaded," the researchers explained.

The team consisted of GK Ananthasuresh, Priyabrata Maharana, Jyoti Sonawane of IISc, and Pavan Belehalli of KIER. They have published a report on their study in the science journal, *Wearable Technologies* of Cambridge University Press. They are collaborating with start-ups Foot Secure and Yostra Labs to commercialise their product. ■

ICMR GUIDELINES ON DIABETES

IN THE WAKE RISING CASES OF DIABETES AMONG CHILDREN, THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH (ICMR) HAS ISSUED FRESH GUIDELINES

■ ORGANISER BUREAU

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), in its fresh guidelines, noted that children who are diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes could consume regular food items that contain salt, just like other children. A healthy lifestyle is vital for keeping diabetes in check. Insulin intake is inevitable as soon as type 1 diabetes is conformed in children. Besides, they need insulin shots throughout their life to survive.

Instructions about the diet, exercises for children, lifestyle management, insulin regulation, side effects and treatment schedules have been published in the guidelines. The ICMR has published these guidelines amid concerns that Covid 19 could have severe consequences for those who have diabetes.

In this context, it may be mentioned here that last year, researchers from the Boston Children's Hospital had assessed the health of 551 people admitted to the hospital for COVID-19 in Italy from March through May 2020. About half of the patients (46 per cent), with no history of diabetes, were found to have new hyperglycemia. A follow-up showed that while most cases were resolved, about 35 per cent of the newly hyperglycemic patients remained so at least six months after the infection, said lead author of the study, Paolo Fiorina, from the Division of Nephrology at the hospital.

Compared to patients with no signs of glucose abnormalities, the hyperglycemic patients also had worse clinical concerns: longer hospitalisation, worse clinical symptoms, a higher need of oxygen, a higher need of ventilation,

and increased need of intensive care treatment.

On the rising diabetes cases, Dr Chittaranjan Yajnik of the KEM Hospital and Research Centre, Pune says the escalating epidemic of diabetes in young Indians makes it imperative that we diagnose the type of diabetes correctly to avoid mistreatment and its long-term biological, social, and economic implications. The new genetic tool will be a great help in this. It will help decide the contribution of failing pancreatic B-cells against reduced action of insulin due to excess fat and smaller muscle mass in the body of Indians ('thin-fat Indians'). He further said, "We look forward to using this test in diabetic patients from different parts of India where the physical characteristics of diabetic patients differ from the standard description."

OBSERVATIONS

- ▶▶ India clocks in the highest reported cases of type 1 diabetes
- ▶▶ India records the second most number of adult diabetes cases in the world. Among every 6 diabetic persons, one is from India.
- ▶▶ There has been a whopping 150 per cent increase in the number of diabetic patients in the last three decades.
- ▶▶ The number of diabetes patients in the cities and villages is becoming equal.
- ▶▶ Reported cases of diabetes among 25 – 34 age groups in the rural areas.
- ▶▶ The number of children with type 1 diabetes is going up.
- ▶▶ Diabetes was the cause of the death of about 40 lakh people in 2019. ■

AMRIT SAROVAR – Conserve Water for the Future

Aim: To develop and rejuvenate water bodies of the country as a part of the celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Key Highlights

- Focus to rejuvenate water bodies and emphasized connecting Citizens to local bodies.
- MoHUA has allocated Rs. 1300 Cr. of Central Funds under AMRUT 2.0 for 2022 - 2023.

Major Components – Gujarat

Signature Water Bodies need to be identified.

Area of Water Bodies = >4 to 5 Acre

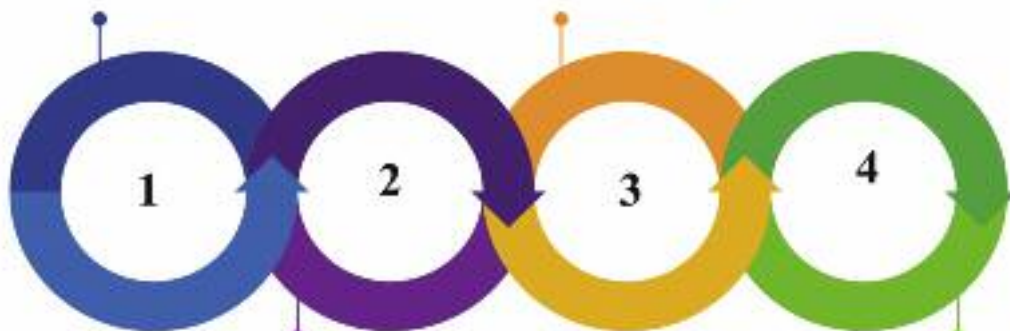
CA Allocation for WB & Green Space 263 Cr.

CA Allocation for WBR Projects under Special SWAP 88 Cr.

Status of Gujarat (Amrit Sarovar + SWAP I)

No. of Water bodies Covered – 99

Total No. of projects - 123



No. of Cities Covered – 68

Total Project Cost – 408 Cr.





Gujarat's development mantra: Progress and Prosperity

Gujarat leading from the front in public welfare projects

- Gujarat leads in 'Ease of Doing Business'
- Housing for more than 10.25 lakh people in Gujarat under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana
- In Gujarat, Health cover to more than 1.41 crore people under PMJAY
- Food grains to more than 71 lakh NFSA card holders in Gujarat
- Gujarat's Dang becomes 100% Natural Farming district
- More than 96 % people benefitted under 'Nal se Jal'
- Care for pregnant women and newborn baby for first 1000 days by Mukhyamantri Matrushakti Yojana
- More than 57 lakh farmers got benefitted under Kisan Samman Nidhi
- Student Startup and Innovation Policy (SSIP 2.0) announced to encourage youth innovation
- Gujarat leads India in solar rooftops : More than 3 lakh houses have solar rooftops : Customers received a total subsidy worth ` 2000 crore
- Launch of eFIR : Using technology to solve people's issues
- Real time monitoring of students and teachers through Vidya Samiksha Kendra
- Approval of 99 thousand applications of tribals: They are now owners of 13.95 lakh acres of land



Greetings to everyone on Independence Day



Progressive Gujarat, Prosperous Gujarat