

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF GIRL CHILD

The International Day of the Girl Child focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights. The Day, which is being celebrated on October 11 every year, was first celebrated in 2012. Now-a-days Generation Equality Forum GEF launching five years commitments from civil society leaders, Governments, Corporations and change makers from around the world for bold gender equality impacts.

The pandemic has accelerated digital platforms for learning, earning and connecting, while also highlighting girls' diverse digital realities. Let's seize the momentum to derive action and accountability of GEF commitments made for and with girls to achieve a bold vision of bridging the digital gender gap. Let's amplify the diversity for freedom of expression, joy and boundless potential. This generation of girls regardless of race, gender, language, ability, economic status and geographic origin lives their full potential. Nearly 1 in 4 girls aged 15 to 19 globally are not in education, employment or training compared to 1 in 10 boys till date. Thus, with an eye on social and economic impact to adopt bold investment, we should approach across these themes.

Moreover, National Girl Child Day 2021 is being celebrated across the country with the objective of raising awareness on the issue of and declining child sex ratio. The objective of celebrating National girl child day is to highlight the inequalities faced by girls. India also celebrates National Girl Child Day each year on January 24. It has been started by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India in 2008 with the purpose to spread awareness among people about all the inequalities girls face Indian society.

This day was celebrated by organising various programmes including awareness campaign on save the girl child sex ratio and creating a healthy and safe environment for a child girl whereas National Girl Child Day 2021 keeps aims towards promoting awareness about the rights of the girl child and to increase awareness on the importance of girl education and their health. On the occasion of National day of the Girls child, let's recognise the rights of girls and also problems they face around the globe to give them a better life, a better future. On National Day of the Girls child reminds us that it is our responsibilities to give them the importance they deserve and work together for their happier lives, it has been long the girl child has been discriminated against, it has been a long that they have been suffering. Let us get their honour back and make it a happy National day of the Girl Child. The world will be a better place to give the day to the girl child is as happy as the other gender. Let's work in synergy to make this dream may come true, because Girl child is the sweetest blessing and most beautiful creation of the God.

OFF 'D' CUFF

Unfolding the stockings: Mystery behind Christmas Toys

Christmas has become one of those festivals which has been infused with the materialistic practice of gift-giving. While the children who have now turned into adults have long been slapped with the 'harsh reality' that Santa does not exist and even if he does, he has never shown up to them in their entire lifetime. If anything can be known for sure, it is tracing back to the practice of giving toys to children at Christmas.

One historian Joseph Wachelder in his 2013 paper has traced the origin of gift-giving and in particular, toys for children to early nineteenth-century England. Early nineteenth-century England was when giving toys for Christmas first became a thing.

The story or rather, the history goes like this: Christmas in England before the Industrial Revolution, as Wachelder terms it, was a 'puffie, exuberant, turbulent feast'. The celebration of Christmas as a festival was associated with harvesting. Harvest was a matter of celebration. The laborers used to get drenched with the spirit of celebration, marking a good harvest, and the patrons used to make fresh meat and plenty of drink abundant to them.

The Industrial Revolution brought about massive technological changes which also reflected in the socio-economic life of the people. One such outcome was seen in terms of earning the living through wage labor and that brought about a halt to the carnival-style holiday. Christmas had now become a family holiday from a public one. The practice of gift-giving also transformed.

Now, the gifts were for children instead of servants. The natural choice of gifts for children was found in the concept of 'toys'. However, Wachelder has pointed out that the term 'toy' was not how we understand them today. It might be described as any small object which could help children exercise their senses of the imagination, their imitative and inventive power. Thus, the objective of giving toys to children was child development other than gift-giving on Christmas.

Rewati Karan

All action results from thought, so it is thoughts that matter.

-Sai Baba

EDITORIAL

Killings in Kashmir-Shift in violence pattern

■ MAHADEEP SINGH JAMWAL

When we pay homage to the recent innocent losing their life in Kashmir valley during the last few days, we observe an indicator that there is a shift in violence pattern. The stage actors like conceivers, proponents and executors of such events want to give a very specific message that non-Muslims and Minorities will not be accepted. The reaction of police chief that 'These recent incidents of targeting civilians are to create an atmosphere of fear and communal disharmony here and there is a conspiracy to target the local ethos and values and defame local Kashmiri Muslims, and being done on the instructions of agencies in Pakistan,' is just like walking on the beaten track. Now that we are living in the situation since 1990, we can say that we are tuned to listen to such statements even from the government but with certain more boasts that their deaths will be avenged and their martyrdom will not go in vain. Certainly those responsible to protect the lives and properties of the people will never put their failures in these responsibilities in public domain. But this time Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha has shown courage by putting a question mark on Security Agencies by admitting publicly that 'It is the failure of security agencies and we take responsibility for it.' Time and again, our forces have been claiming that a handful of terrorists are left in the valley, then why do we fail to corner them when the Valley is world's most militarized region. If we track down the measures/approach to combat militancy in the valley, both the government's in centre or state from time to time appear to be more on appeasement endowment policies rather than strategies to deal with the ideological warfare policy of terrorists and their masters. In 1995, words of P V Narsimha Rao outlining his package

and to set the stage to fulfill his commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir that 'Short of Azadi', sky's the limit! It was an attempt to appease the Kashmiri secessionists. We have seen much vocalization since 1990 that all culminates to the appeasement measures only, with imaginations as to win the hearts of Kashmiri Muslims, right from the Vajpayee's slogan of 'Kashmiriyat, Insaniyat, Jamhooriyat', much-vaunted 'healing touch' policy of Late Mufti, 'amnesty to stone-pelters' by Mehboba Mufti, the then Home Minister Rajnath Singh speaking of permanent solution of Kashmir based on five Cs - Compassion, Communication, Co-existence, Confidence-building and Consistency. Till date taxpayers' money is drained in organizing various 'Confidence Building Measures' in the valley by every command of Army, Para Military Forces, Police, as well as civil authorities but the results thereof 'Daak Ke Tin Paat'. The prudent man's faulty decision of demonetizing the currency on the presumption of heavy stroke on terrorism and its funding proved to be a trouble for the common man and cause of death of many but nothing effecting the terrorists' and their funding organizations. All failures in first term to contain militancy by the present dispensation, mostly no change in the region, they betted on repealing Article 370 and 35A of the Indian Constitution provisions that provide Kashmir and its residents certain privileges as well as the Kashmiri constitution. Although it was expected not to bring desired results yet all affairs of the state were taken directly under central government by division of the state and reducing its status to a lower position of UT and assuming sovereignty over Kashmir in its entirety. This had never been good news for average Kashmiris as well as political formations. The muscle policy was placed in order to silence the voice of people by put-

ting their elected representatives from both regions behind bars and thousands of people were put to house arrest. This way the general population felt politically disenfranchised and silenced into acquiescence. Off and on visits of central ministers mainly focused in the valley and recent 17 Ministers visit under outreach programme, although political in nature but was an attempt of the government to germinate some faith among tourists that Kashmir was calm and they needn't fear for their safety while vacationing. Strategically we can agree that there was a little curtailment in incidents of killings for the last sometimes but it was the silence before the storm that has culminated into the latest spree of killing of targeted persons. Alas! Those on the helm of the affairs and their wide range of intelligence agencies completely failed to understand it and were patting their backs for normalness in the valley. Here we have to focus on these aspects for a new strategy to deal in Kashmir. Whether the present killing of targeted community people is revival of what happened in 1990? Had dormant seeds of the ideological carriers that create fear and terror among minority have germinated now in order to force those who are now making minds to move to their older places in valley; Is it a message that Kashmiri Hindus will never be tolerated in valley and the efforts of resettling the Kashmiri Pandit community back in valley will never succeed? Is it a challenge to the BJP government that it cannot succeed in its design to propagate that BJP has been accepted in the valley and is relevant in the valley? Is it a message that Kashmiri Muslims cannot be forced to capitulate to New Delhi's wishes? Is Pak behind the scene to keep Kashmir issue as unresolved international conflict? Do Pak sponsored terrorism have gained strength because of Pak backed takeover of Afghanistan by Taliban?

Facebook's war for minds of kids just beginning

■ VIJAY GARG

Until 2014, when Facebook was just ten years old, the company had a famous motto coined by its founder Mark Zuckerberg move fast and break things. In a sense, the catchphrase captured the swing for-the-fences, gambling-style culture that led to Facebook's rapid rise from start-up to global tech behemoth. But today, the company has a new bet. It's betting on our kids, and it doesn't seem to care what gets broken in the process. For those following the unfolding bombshell of Facebook's leaked internal research reported by the Wall Street Journal, the past week has been stunningly eye-opening and utterly banal. In testimony before Congress this week, a former Facebook employee turned whistleblower Frances Haugen stated that the company's products harm children, stoke division and weaken our democracy. The company's leadership knows how to make Facebook and Instagram safer. She accused, 'Won't make the necessary changes because they have put their astronomical profits before People.' Haugen's testimony follows last week's fifth installment of the Journals Facebook Files investigation. The latest release highlights Facebook's own research outlining its ever-expanding, cradle-to-unravel product ambitions.

Facebook's team Luvs out two road maps in a deceptively bland chart one labeled "Today" stops at age B, while a chart under the header in the future outlines targeted engagement starting attempt. That's Richter Let's be honest - this shouldn't surprise us. And yet, to see it laid out in such stark ters-a-dole tech behemoth sug-

gesting infancy as the new target customer starting line is a wake-up call for anyone who cares about kids and it's evidence that the invasion is just beginnings. While testifying before the Senate last week, Facebook's head of global safety, Antigone Davis, undiscovered several times that children under the age of 13 are not allowed on Instagram or Facebook. Yet the calculated PR response, placed against Facebook's own documents, seemed like more of a wink-and-a-nod than actual acknowledgement. The problem is an existential one in the halls of Facebook. This year, Facebook reached 2.89 billion active users, representing over one-third of the human race. But Facebook's has created a critical growth problem, and recent reporting reveals that Facebook understands this problem extensively. Its answer Kids are the new frontier.

Facebook has referred to its moves to reach younger audiences as "Big bets." and using gambling as a metaphor seems more than appropriate. A flood of research has emerged in recent years, signaling warming signs related to the developmental and mental health consequences of screen time and social media on young kids and adolescents. Events leaders across silicon Valley including Zuckerberg himself, have made changes in their own homes. And yet, for your kids, the concern is an afterthought to conquest. Facebook has again seen profit as primary over protecting kids. Or maybe it's just worth the gamble. For anyone who may have held out hope that Facebook or any Big Tech giants could indeed act in the best interest of families and kids this week should

place a nail in the coffin of those hopes. The now-famous 2020 Netflix documentary The Social Dilemma put a clear spotlight on this issue that's now unfolding in real-time. "We've created a world in which online connection has become primary. Especially for younger generations says computer scientist Taron Lanier in the film "In that work, anytime two people connect, the only way it's financed is through a sneaky third person who's paying to manipulate those two people."

As a society, we have to start asking ourselves what we want for the future of connection and who should be the broker. As the Founder and CEO of a family technology company, I spend a lot of time thinking about what tech can and can't do for families. And also, how so much of our solutions today undercut parents. Let's be clear - the technology itself isn't the enemy. It's the insatiable data hoarding, profiling attitudes that drive the business model of these companies like Facebook and put kids in the crosshairs. This week shows it's not this way by accident but by design. There's a growing outcry from parents, educators, activists, health experts, and more. This week, it's reached the halls of Congress in a fresh way with rejuvenated support for the Kids Internet Desin and Safety Act introduced by Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Ed Markey (D-MA). While legislation like this is important, the real change lies in the hands of consumers to demand better decision for solutions that put families first. Facebook's quest for the minds of our kids may be just beginning. But so is the revolution that's demanding something better.

describing outdoor air we think of air pollution, when indoor air quality is also important in your home. Second hand tobacco smoke is a dangerous form of all domestic air pollution.

Air pollution is suddenly on the rise in almost every major US city, interfering with people's ability to breathe, causing or exacerbating many serious health conditions, and putting lives at risk. Such issues are being faced in many cities around the world, especially in emerging economies such as China and India, where clean technology is still not in standard use. Respiratory ozone, particulate matter or other types of air pollution can seriously damage your health.

Ozone can irritate your lungs, 'something like bad sunlight inside the lungs', according to the American Lung Association. Respiratory particulate matter (PM2.5) can increase your risk of heart attack, stroke and early death. And people with asthma, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease may need an emergency visit. Many cancers are due to chemical air pollutants. Air pollution is also a problem in developing countries that are not yet fully industrialized. More than half of the world's population still cooks with wood, dung, coal or other solid fuels in their homes with open fires or old stoves, high levels of protein contaminants such as wheat pollution and carbon monoxide, resulting in 15 million deaths every year. The health risks of air pollution are highest in young children and young children, older adults, and people with respiratory diseases such as asthma.

People who work or work outdoors face increased health risks from the effects of air pollution, along with people who live or work near busy highways, factories or power plants. In addition, minorities and low-income people are often affected by air pollution because of their living conditions, which put them at higher risk for air pollution-related diseases. Low-income populations

Don't allow 1990 to happen again

■ OKMAR DATTATRAY

Jammu & Kashmir, read Kashmir is passing through a very critical time as the enemies of peace are once again threatening the innocent people and are killing them with sadistic pleasure. These fanatics are derailing the peace process at the behest of the Pakistan. Thus are the terrorists again creating fear psychosis among the people especially the minorities? The atmosphere of fear, insecurity and uncertainty and suspicion is created by the new terrorist organization TRF which was hitherto unknown and all efforts should be made to combat this new form of the terrorists so that they will not be able to take Jammu & Kashmir back to the days of 1990 when the terrorism was at its peak and the terrorists were murdering the prominent Kashmiri Pandit leaders in order to scare them and thus force them to leave the valley. The terrorists were then successful in forcing minorities of Kashmir to flee their homes and hearths and were then leaving behind their movable and immovable properties worth thousands of crores. The same atmosphere of fear and uncertainty is now again being created so that non-Muslims will leave the valley and take refuge in the places outside Jammu & Kashmir. Thus it is for the powers to take drastic steps to create the sense of security among the minorities so that the communal amity and secularism and Kashmiriyat will be kept intact. So, all steps should be taken by the powers that 1990 situation will not be created by engineering the wholesale and en-mass migration. The centre and the LG administration should focus its attention on the prevailing situation in Kashmir created by the unfortunate killing of the minority community members which has created fear and suspicion among the minorities and some members of the minority communities have started to flee from the Kashmir and the situation resembles the hay days of the terrorism of 1990 when the members of the Kashmiri Pandits and other Hindu minorities have left the valley and had taken refuge in Jammu and other places of India. The forced leaving of the minorities in 1990 is a slap on the secular face of the country and now again such atmosphere of fear and insecurity is being created so that the Pandits and other minorities will leave their homes and hearths and this should not be allowed to happen again as it negates the doctrine of secularism pluralism and diversity upon which our society is based. The gun-wielding mercenaries are threatening the minorities and forcing them to leave the valley and this is very unfortunate and should not happen again. It is the duty of the centre and the UT government to see to it that the terrorists are not allowed to re-enact the conditions of fear and insecurity of the 1990 when the terrorism was at its zenith when the members of the Kashmiri Pandits and other Hindu minorities were forced to migrate to safer places outside the Kashmir valley. The enemies of humanity are again trying to create the 1990 situations and thus have the terrorists killed the members of the minority communities so that the conditions of fear and insecurity is being created among the minorities so that they think of their migration from the valley and forcing the minorities to resort to migration is the sole objective of the terrorists so that Kashmir is cleansed from the non-Muslims and the way is made clear for the creating of the Islamic state. In 1990 the members of the minority community have fled the valley en-mass as there was the failure of the administration to protect the limb and property of the minorities and the government was for names sake only and the rule of the government does not run then and in such a situation the minorities have left the valley and took refuge in hot and humid places outside Kashmir. The mass migration was the result of the killings of the prominent leaders of the Pandit community as the enemies of humanity were following the policy of killing few and scaring the hundreds so that the minorities were forced to leave their homes and hearths. It is a matter of grave and great concern that the terrorists are again trying to create the conditions like 1990 so that the Pandits and other minorities of the valley will migrate from Kashmir and there will be free for all in the valley were the rule of the terrorists will rule the roost. There is urgent need to clip the wings of the terrorists so that they will not be successful in their nefarious designs of creating the atmosphere of fear and insecurity among the non-Muslims in order to force them to migrate to places outside the valley. The hitherto unknown terrorist organization of TRF is making every effort to derail the peace process and create the atmosphere of fear and uncertainty among the minorities so that they will be forced to leave the valley. And thus are the terrorists murdering the innocent members of the minority communities so that they are forced to migrate from the valley. But the powers should act fast to defeat the ill designs of the enemies of the humanity so that they will fail in their plans of engineering the mass migration of the minorities from the valley. The centre government, UT administration and the majority community should work in unison to foster the sense of security among the minorities so that they will not resort to mass migration like what happened in 1990. The government is duty bound to protect the minorities and create a sense of security among them so that they will not think of migration. Thus what is needed is that the powers should make its presence felt so that the terrorists will be isolated and neutralized and they are not allowed to play with the lives of the people especially the members of the minority communities and there is no mass migration of the people still living in Kashmir and of the PM package employees.

often live close to industrial or suburban areas where factories, utilities and other industrial sources can cause significant air pollution. The evidence is clear that our personal choices and industrial practices can affect the level of air pollution. Clear industrial technologies have been shown to reduce air pollution levels, and it can be shown that more temporary modern practices are on the rise at any given time, so there are dangerous levels of air pollution. Here are some obvious ways that humans can reduce air pollution. Reducing Bacterial Fuel in Favor of Renewable Energy Sources. Nations that derive their power from nuclear, hydro, solar and wind power have lower levels of pollution than coal or natural gas burning.

Reducing agricultural waste - a way to clear forest areas for agriculture - can reduce the levels of smoke and carbon dioxide in the air. This is a particular problem in developing countries. Reducing wood burning can also reduce the level of smoke in the air. In some communities, wood fireplaces are now outlawed, reducing dangerous levels of smoke in the air. Gas fireplaces are better than wood-burners, and electric fireplaces aren't as good as those without electrons. Indoor air quality is improved when tobacco is restricted by the ordinance. Citizens' pressure to limit smoking in public places has a real impact on air quality.

Pollution control is possible, but it requires personal and political will, and these efforts must be consistently balanced with economic realities, as 'green' technologies are often more expensive, especially when introduced first. Such choices are in everyone's hands: for example, do you buy a cheap but dirty automobile or an expensive electric car? Or are jobs more important than clean air for coal miners? These are complex questions that are not easily answered by government officials, but they are questions that need to be addressed with open eyes for the real effects of air pollution.

YOUR COLUMN

Effects of air pollution on health

Dear Editor,

The term 'air pollution' is so commonly used that you may not think the definition is needed but it is more complex than it used to be. Ask most people to define air pollution, and their first answer is to describe the fog, the dirty stuff that turns brown or brown and changes traffic in urban centers like Los Angeles, Mexico City and Beijing. Here, too, the definition may vary. Some sources define haze as the presence of natural levels of ozone at ground level, while others say it is 'mixed with haze'. Another modern and precise definition is 'a photochemical blue due to the action of solar ultraviolet radiation in hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides, especially in environments polluted by automobile emissions.' Officially, air pollution can be defined as the presence of harmful substances in the air, either defined or microbiological molecules that pose health hazards to humans, animals or plants. Air pollution comes in many forms and can include many pollutants and toxins in different combinations. The two largest types of air pollution are ozone and particulate matter (PM2.5), but air pollution includes toxic pollutants such as carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and paraffins, Arsenic, benzene, formaldehyde and acid gas.

Most of these pollutants are man-made, but some air pollution is caused by natural causes, such as volcanic eruptions. The specific composition of air pollution in a particular place depends mainly on the source or sources of pollution. Automobile exhausts, coal-fired power plants, industrial factories and other sources of pollution emit a variety of pollutants and toxins into the air. When