

## EQUITABLE APPROACH

The ruling dispensation has not only worked on the overall development of the nation but also paid equal focus on the all other sectors, which were deliberately ignored earlier by the earlier Governments. Sectors like sports, games, arts, were given due consideration by the Government so that they too flourish and develop like other sectors. Recently, 53rd edition of IFFI, the International Film Festival of India, has officially rolled out the red carpet for media delegates. The festival, which is being held in Goa during November 20 - 28, 2022, will showcase a collage of the best of contemporary and classic films from India and around the globe. As a media delegate at IFFI 53, awaiting you are world-renowned filmmakers, actors, technicians, critics, academicians, not to mention fellow film enthusiasts, all of whom will congregate in the tourist state of Goa to immerse themselves in an ocean of cinematic celebration and inspiration.

So come celebrate the joy of cinema, the vibrant beauty of the stories these films tell, and the eclectic variety of the lives, aspirations, struggles and dreams of the filmmakers themselves. Partake in the celebration of films which happens in, on and off the screens. Yes, the festival brings us not only a carefully curated selection of cinematic excellence from India and across the world, but also the invaluable opportunity to be inspired by an array of master classes, panel discussions, seminars and other conversations which make IFFI, and every great film festival, what it is.

Information and communication has a central role in the success of the festival, in propagating film culture, in cultivating genuine love for the art, in helping us soak ourselves in the breadth and depth of the human condition. As we invite media delegates to register for and attend the festival, we invite you to also embrace the professional privilege of contributing to the celebration of the festival, through the power of the media to which you lend your pen, voice, senses and more. You can be a media delegate if you have completed 21 years of age as on 1st January, 2022 and belong to Print, Electronic, or even a Digital/Online Media organisation. You are also welcome if you are blazing your own path as a freelance journalist, provided you fulfill the age criterion. You may register online, at this link: <https://my.iffigoa.org/extranet/media/>. The process is fairly simple, but in case you have some doubts, guidelines mentioned in the link should come to your aid. If your doubts persist, then feel free to reach out to us at PIB at +91-832-2956418. Don't forget to submit your application online by 11:59:59 PM (Indian Standard Time) of 5 November, 2022. But why wait so long? Submit it right away! PIB will process the accreditations, including the number of accreditations to be granted per media organisation, according to the periodicity of the media outlet, its size (circulation, audience, reach), its focus on cinema and the media coverage it is expected to give for IFFI.

We hope you are vaccinated against COVID-19, in public interest and for your own well-being. If you have received one or more doses of vaccination, do upload your vaccination certificate on the delegate registration portal.

The International Film Festival of India (IFFI), founded in 1952, is among Asia's most prominent film festivals. Held in Goa for the first time in 2004, the festival has since found a home in the coastal state, returning here every year. And in 2014, Goa was declared the permanent venue for IFFI. The idea of the International Film Festival of India is to celebrate films, the stories they tell and the people behind them. By doing so, we seek to nurture, promote and spread the enlightened appreciation and ardent love for films - far, wide and deep; to build bridges of love, understanding and fraternity among peoples; and to inspire them to scale new peaks of individual and collective excellence.

The festival is conducted every year by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India in collaboration with the Entertainment Society of Goa, Government of Goa, the host state. While the Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF) in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has generally been spearheading the festival so far, consequent to the merger of film media units with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), NFDC has taken over the conduct of the festival. All relevant updates of 53rd IFFI can be obtained on the festival website [www.iffigoa.org](http://www.iffigoa.org), on PIB website ([pib.gov.in](http://pib.gov.in)), social media accounts of IFFI on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and also on social media handles of PIB Goa. Stay tuned, let us keep drinking copiously from the cup of cinematic celebration...and also sharing the joy of it.

## OFF 'D' CUFF

## Two extremes

Human has all the potentiality to be with the timelessness of space because he is a floating mass of energy in the vast universe. Only physical and mental tuning and gravities keep him on Earth to manifest humane qualities. Mind is given to him to play at his own liberty. What he gathers, happiness or agony, it is his own responsibility. Knowing this is wisdom. Human is endowed with all the capacity to grow into a Superhuman. How he chooses to channelize his energies is up to his own will.

Simply by practicing and preaching that we are one or we should be one, problems do not get solved. There is a direct relationship between perfection and imperfection. Greater the imperfection, greater the perfection required to eradicate it. We have to acquire a power greater than the power of falsehood. This can happen only when one reaches that level of consciousness where Truth exists without any shade.

-Meena Om

ows and it becomes a luminous self...

We have to rise to such a level of awareness where everything is in its purest form, without any deformation. At this state we are connected to the purest source of energy which is omnipotent. We have to grow above the level of fighting falsehood or sacrificing, because it is energy depleting. When we fight or sacrifice we have to come down to the level of that evil. This again is a gravity and retards progress. It does not change the problem. One may go on struggling forever.

The answer lies in rising higher and higher to the level of consciousness from where imperfection is operating and to address it there, from that highest level. This is vision, highest level of Shakti - or to dip to the lowest level, seed level from where the imperfection erupted and eradicate it there - burn, blemish it completely with the power acquired by reaching the highest level.

-Meena Om

Life skills are just as important as academics, but are teachers equipped to teach them? The pandemic has shown us that success at work requires much more than just good academics.

Professionals who were able to stay in touch with their peers and teams and stand out despite working remotely were those who possessed good life skills.

The term life skills encompasses a range of qualities and skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, adaptability, creative thinking, communication skills and more. While there is no debate that students should be exposed to vital skills such as leadership, innovation, decision-making, self-awareness, empathy, and emotional intelligence, most are not included in the curricula or are not taught satisfactorily.

Today, technological skills-like proficiency in artificial intelligence and machine learning, Internet of

## Court cases &amp; modification in revenue laws

## MOHD AMIN MIR

Land ownership is the fundamental constituent of any system and is considered as an essential aspect of human society. An efficient land administration system is necessary for land dispute resolution since land rights are valuable and legal claims for them are enforced by the state. But in many states like the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir suffer from delay, cost, and uncertainty in final outcome of litigation. There are in place complex procedures that increase the total period by the process and appeals and revisions arising out of it.

Property dispute in land directly creates the doubts in the minds of stakeholders regarding the title of land, this results therein poor cultivation resulting low productivity and land degrades. Dispute over a patch of land, raising of crops become difficult as there is no proper ownership. At few places the non-agricultural land is of high value sale deeds, mortgage or lease is denied due to absence of clear land titles.

If there are land disputes it reduces the interest among farmers to cultivate the land resulting it becomes a waste of valuable resources. Litigations and appeals become a burden by loss of money, fee of advocates, travel expenditure and expenditure towards documents. It is a social loss.

It creates quarrels and at times result in murders. Land disputes are time consuming, expensive and sometimes non-transparent. These are inaccessible to the rural population. These are formed in such forms and languages which are not known to the common people.

To overcome this village panchayats are encouraged by government but the litigants do not prefer these alternatives. In the country maximum land disputes are on land ownership issues. There is no clarity of title and there is sometimes administrative loophole also a major reason for the land disputes.

Many litigants believe that major cause of delay in settlement of property disputes is time spent on proceedings and the delivery of the judgement. Many times there is non-availability of advocates and frequent adjournments when asked by either of the parties.

Policy makers made land reforms like Land Ceiling Act 1961 by which only a limited area of land was allowed to be held by a family. Surplus land was taken away and given to landless people.

Tenancy Act 1948- A tenant is protected from evaporation and later is deemed as a purchaser.

This act helped to raise the productivity. Author once asked his colleague Sanjay Kumar about explaining these twin sections of Agrarian Reforms Act (see 4 and see 8). He replied that land transferred under these sections to a tiller is meant for rice. Obviously, he was right in saying these words. Third is Land Acquisition Act 1894. By this law government has right to acquire any land for public purpose and the owner is given monetary compensation as is visible in our union terri-

tory by acquiring land for Railway line and NH-44.

Town Planning Act 1966- The government has right to reserve lands for special purposes, especially for residential and industrial purpose. Forest and Wildlife Sanctuaries Act- Government is having rights to restrict the property to forest dwellers for conserving wildlife. These all laws are in force but still lack of due process and attention in resolving land disputes has made the process more time consuming and obviously cost also. I have spent one year in record room where I met people from all walks of life.

They come here for mutation copies, revenue extracts or copies of revenue court cases.

I sometimes discussed with them and came to the conclusion that 90 percent land cases are related with the agricultural lands. Since non-agricultural lands are at prime location and is costly, the owners are very alert about their rights. Due to population growth and convergence of land many new disputes over land have arisen in last two decades. The nature of dispute is primarily based on the property rights like ownership, possession rights, right of use, right of way, right to use the land for water channel etc., one example of Khanabal village of district Anantnag Survey number 281 Khana east Column is makbozi Aataszadgan.

The government has allotted this piece of land to the families whose houses were burnt in devastating fire way back in the year 1984

One person residing in that patch of land is a businessman and has to made registration with the Municipality Committee Anantnag. There the officials asked him for revenue extracts and as my colleagues are busy round the clock with digitization, he approached my office for getting revenue extract. As he was thinking the land on which the house and shop was constructed will be in the name of his mother.

But getting to know that the said land is "makbozia this zadgan" he left the office sadly knowing that rent deed will not be prepared. This is another kind of dispute. In the event of globalization and autonomous economy principle. It is need of the day to accept the principles of "free hold property rights". We know land is the source of livelihood of weaker sections of the society. Government must take effective steps for modification in respective land laws thus safeguarding the interest of these poor sections. Outdated land laws may act as impediments in foreign investment and economy.

The government needs to pay attention towards improvements in many laws related with lands. World's most prestigious award acknowledging work of 'the greatest benefit to humankind'

Scientist, inventor, businessman and founder of the Nobel Prizes Alfred Nobel was born on 21 October 1833 in Stockholm, Sweden. His father, an engineer and inventor, used to build bridges and buildings and experimented with different ways of blasting rocks. Alfred was most interested in literature, chemistry and physics in his childhood. However, his father was not

very pleased with his interest in poetry, as he wanted him to follow in his footsteps.

He decided to send Alfred abroad to study chemical engineering. Alfred met Ascanio Sobrero, a young Italian chemist in Paris, who had invented nitroglycerine, a highly explosive liquid. He became very interested in the compound and wanted to use it in construction work.

Alfred worked with his father to develop it as a commercially and technically helpful explosive. However, his experiment with nitroglycerine resulted in accidents that killed seven people, including his younger brother.

The government decided to ban these experiments within the Stockholm city limits.

Alfred did not give up and moved his experiments to a barge (a flat bottom boat) on Lake Mälaren. In 1864, he could mass produce nitroglycerine but continued experimenting with different additives to make the production much safer. Finally, he found that mixing it with a fine sand called kieselguhr would turn the liquid into a paste that can be shaped into rods. He named it "dynamite."

In the 1870s and 80s Nobel built a network of factories throughout Europe to manufacture dynamite, and he formed many corporations to produce and market his explosives. His invention made him hugely successful and he opened factories in 90 places.

Besides explosives, Nobel made many other inventions, such as artificial silk and leather. He registered more than 350 patents in various countries.

Alfred had no family of his own. He had always been generous in humanitarian and scientific philanthropies. He wanted his fortune to be used to give prizes to those who have done their best for humanity in the field of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace. He died on 10 December 1896.

The Nobel Foundation was established in 1900 "with a mission to manage Alfred Nobel's fortune and has ultimate responsibility for fulfilling the intentions of Nobel's will." Between 1901 and 2021, the Nobel Prizes and the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences were awarded 609 times to 975 people and organisations. With some receiving the Nobel Prize more than once, this makes a total of 943 individuals and 25 organisations.

The Nobel Prizes are presented to the laureates on 10 December, the Nobel Day, that marks the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death. This year, the Nobel Foundation has decided to invite the 2022 Nobel Prize laureates to the Nobel Week in Stockholm in December, together with the 2020 and 2021 laureates. A prize award ceremony at Konserthuset Stockholm (the Stockholm Concert Hall) and a banquet at the Stockholm City Hall are also planned. Nominations for the Prizes are a closely guarded secret and made public 50 years after the nomination.

## Soil conservation &amp; sustainability

## DR BANRASI LAL

Soil provides living space for the living organisms as well as the ecosystem services which are essential for the water regulation, biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration etc. In fact, the soil is under tremendous pressure due to increase in population at an alarming rate and higher demand for food.

Problems like deforestation, bad agricultural practices and pollution have degraded soil. It has been observed that around 33 per cent of global soils are degraded. Soil is constituted of organic remains, clay and rock particles found on the earth's surface. Soil helps in food production, biodiversity and energy maintenance. Soil health is being deteriorated by the unhealthy agricultural practices, deforestation and pollution.

There is urgent need to create awareness among the farmers on soil health and technical and scientific advice should be provided to them. Soil is finite natural resource. Soil is a critical component of the natural system and as a vital contributor to the human commonwealth through its contribution to food, water and energy security and as a mitigator of biodiversity loss and climate change. The nutritional value of the food we eat is directly associated with the soil health. Soil high in organic carbon content enables better rainfall infiltration and retention and provides greater resilience to drought.

Soils are vulnerable to carbon loss through degradation but regenerative land management practices can build and restore soil health. It is estimated that natural processes take more than 500 years to form 2 centimeters of topsoil. Soil stores around 10 per cent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions.

Microbial activities controls and manipulates the chemistry of the soil. Living organisms in the soil control water infiltration, mineral density and nutrient cycling. Fungi and bacteria

help to break down organic matter in the soil and earthworms digest organic matter, recycle nutrients and make the soil surface richer. In a handful of fertile soil, there are more individual organisms than the total number of human beings that have ever existed on the earth.

Although soil plays an essential role for the human livelihoods but there is worldwide increase in the degradation of soil resources due to inappropriate management practices, population pressure driving unsustainable intensification and inadequate governance over this essential resource.

Healthy soil is the key to sustaining life and the adoption of sustainable land management practices are becoming more and more important.

Increase in the soil carbon builds a precious reservoir and helps to offset greenhouse gas emissions. It also contributes in the fertility of the soil, the foundation for all land-based natural and agricultural ecosystems which provide a major part of the world's food supply, natural resources and biodiversity.

More than 10 million people have abandoned their homelands because of environmental issues including drought, soil erosion, desertification and deforestation. Soil improves our resilience to floods and droughts. Majority of the known antibiotics originated from soil bacteria including penicillin.

Agriculture is a tool for poverty eradication. The government of India is making strenuous efforts not merely as a tool to feed the country but also as a means to uplift the socio-economic status of the farming community of the country.

The government has initiated a number of developmental schemes and programmes which have the potential to immensely benefit the farming community by strengthening the roots of agriculture. On 19th February, 2015 the Prime Minister of India launched the

nationwide Soil Health Card Scheme from Suratgarh, Rajasthan. Soil Health Card Scheme is a national movement across the country. Under this scheme the soil sample is taken by the experts from the farmer's field and tested in a soil health laboratory.

Then the soil health card is issued to the farmers regarding the ingredients and deficiencies in the soil. On the basis of the results of the soils of respective farmer field, he can add the plants nutrients in the soil accordingly. This scheme may not only maintain the health of the soil but will also reduce the cost of cultivation.

This will also help to identify the best crop suited in the respective field. Total geographical area in India is 329 million hectares, out of which 68 million hectares is critically degraded and another 107 million hectares is severely eroded.

A total of 175 million hectares area is subjected to serious erosion problems such as wind, water, water logging, soil alkalinity and salinity etc. It is expected that around 61 per cent of soil is displaced from one place to another. In steep land farming areas such as Western Ghats, topsoil losses are very high.

An unscientific way of farming in sloping lands may cause large scale soil loss by erosion. High intensity of monsoon rainfall on steep slopes contributes to high erosion rates.

Soil conservation programmes have been disseminated by the Government and also Non-Governmental agencies in our country.

Major objective of soil conservation is to keep everything in the soil in its place. It manages the soil erosion and process of sedimentation.

Soil fertility needs to be restored in order to allow a satisfactory and early return on the capital and labour invested.

So there is need of improved sustainable production through different soil management practices. Land husbandry considers management of soil, water and vegetation as an integrated approach.

For example, frequent failures to several water management schemes are attributed to the non-consideration of the interrelationships between soil, water and biomass.

A new strategy needs to be developed taking into account the needs of those in direct charge of the land. By improving the overall soil conditions for plant growth, better conservation of water and soil can be achieved. Better land husbandry is more relevant when the land is under active crop production. These apply to land use, crop management, tillage methods, integrated nutrient management etc. Land husbandry relies strongly on agronomic and biological methods in combination with a realistic soil management. The intensity of the soil conservation treatments depends primarily on the steepness of the slope.

The establishment or maintenance is very important. The physical characteristics of erodible soils can be improved with mulching materials.

An integrated approach should be taken to land water and its uses to avoid undesirable effects from human activities. Most of the soil conservation programmes emphasize on soil degradation than on the top-down approach in recommending and disseminating practices. Soil conservation programmes that aim to reduce soil degradation problems need long-term bottom-up approach.

It should be remembered that erosion is a consequence of how soil and its vegetation are managed and not itself the cause of soil degradation. Thus, prevention of soil degradation is more important than attempting to develop a cure afterwards.

(The author is Head, KV, Reasi SKUAST-J).

YOUR COLUMN  
Bridging the gap

Dear Editor,

Life skills are just as important as academics, but are teachers equipped to teach them? The pandemic has shown us that success at work requires much more than just good academics.

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The term life skills encompasses a range of qualities and skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, adaptability, creative thinking, communication skills and more. While there is no debate that students should be exposed to vital skills such as leadership, innovation, decision-making, self-awareness, empathy, and emotional intelligence, most are not included in the curricula or are not taught satisfactorily.

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