> It is no measure of health to be well adjusted to a profoundly sick society.
> -Jiddu Krishnamurti

STAGE SET FOR IFFI

The 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.

Pertinent to mention here that 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, on PIB website (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

'The fledgling quail's tryst with fire'

Once the Bodhisattva was a fledgling quail in a certain forest. It was only a few days earlier that he had emerged from the egg. His young wings were still sprouting, and his other limbs were as yet too tender to have assumed full shape. He lived with his many brothers in a nest his parents had built among the vines of a thicket and concealed with grass.

Even at that stage of his life, the Bodhisattva had retained awareness of what is right. He did not want to eat the creatures his mother and father brought as food, but subsisted on the grass, seeds and banyan berries they gathered. Because of this coarse and inadequate diet his body did not strengthen, nor did his wings develop properly. The other baby quails fed on everything given to them, became strong and grew wings.

This situation is quite normal: one who is unconcerned about what is right, and consumes everything, lives at ease, but one who seeks a livelihood and food in accordance with dharma will suffer. The Lord has also said:

'The shameless and impudent crow, who lives by base and dirty deeds, has an easy livelihood; though such a life is full of sin.

'But a modest, scrupulous person, who always strives for purity and seeks a life of righteousness, will have a hard time here.'

' While the fledgling quails were living thus, a great forest fire broke out not too far away. It fumed and crackled fiercely, spewing sparks from widening rings of flame. A disaster for the vegetation of the forest, it terrified the animals which dwelt there. Their courage vanished before its spreading fiery arms and its swirling, dishevelled hair of smoke, as it advanced in a strange, leaping dance propelled by the wind. The forest grass was ignited by glittering sparks and blown about by gusts of air. The birds fled, terror stricken, and so did the beasts as they ran helter-skelter. Covered by a pall of smoke and filled with the sounds of the conflagration, the forest itself seemed to scream in agony.

Driven by a violent wind in its search for more grass and plants, the fire finally came near the nest of the quails. The fledglings shrieked with fear and agitation and suddenly flew away without any thought for each other. The Bodhisattva alone made no effort to fly, for he was as yet too weak and his wings were still sprouting. Yet he was aware of his power, and remained calm. Addressing the fast approaching fire, he said humbly:

'My feet cannot be called as such, my wings have yet to grow; seared by you, my parents have already flown away.

'For a guest like you, O Fire, there's nothing fit to offer here; it is therefore right that you turn back and make retreat.'

As soon as these words purified by truth had been uttered by the Bodhisattva, the fire suddenly abated. Though driven by the wind and raging amidst dry wood and dense grass, its progress came to a halt as if it had reached a river in flood. Even today, when a forest fire whipped by the wind into soaring flames reaches that famous spot in the Himalayas, its blaze slackens and subsides, like a many headed serpent spellbound by some incantation.

It might be deduced that even fire cannot transgress the commands of truthful souls, just as the sea with its crests, of waves cannot overflow its natural bounds, and a truth-loving person disobey the discipline ordained by the Lord of the sages.

-A N D Haskar

Burgeoning population-a global challenge

■ DR BANARSI LAL

Government of India has launched various policies, schemes and programmes for population stabilization. It is estimated that the actual population stabilization can take place in 2050. The birth rate in India is still higher than the death rate. Illiteracy, early marriage, poverty and age old cultural norms are the major causes of overpopulation. In many developing countries fertility rate is declining but even then population growth continues at an alarming rate. In 1804, world population was 1 billion; it was 2 billion in 1927, 3 billion in 1960, 4 billion in 1974, 5 billion in 1987, 6 billion in 1999, and 7 billion in 2013 and is about 7.8 billion in 2022.China, India, United States, Indonesia and Brazil are the world's five largest countries in terms of population. According to the UN world population grows at a rate of 1.2 per cent which makes a net addition of 77 million people every year. Six countries account for half of those annual increment-India tops the list with 21 per cent, followed by China 12 per cent, Pakistan 5 per cent, Bangladesh, Nigeria and the United States with 4 per cent each. Following reasons explain why population matters.2018 marks the 50th anniversary of a conference on family planning. In 1968, the International Conference on Human Rights was held. For the first time ever, family planning was affirmed to be a human right.

‣ Human beings are rapidly spoiling the earth's atmosphere.
‣ Around 800 million people are malnourished in worldwide and this number can increase significantly.
‣ Lack of education in reproductive health is a factor in the recent upsurge of infectious diseases.
‣ Water scarcity stems in many parts of the world due to increase in human demand. Worldwide water tables are dropping down.
‣ Wild habitats that shelter endangered plants and animals are giving way to human activities and needs.
‣ Pollution is causing many respiratory diseases in human beings.
‣ Farming lands are suffering from soil erosion and desertification.
‣ The competition for resources is increasing day-by day and the poor are getting poorer.
‣ By rapid population pressure migration pressures are aggravated.
‣ Civil conflict often emerges in societies where rapid population growth combines with environmental scarcity to undermine governments.

India was the first country in the world to launch a state sponsored population control programme in 1952.It was however met with much skepticism. After 1952, sharp declines in death rates were not accompanied by a similar drop in birth rates. India has built-in population momentum because of its young age structure-one fifth of India's population is between 15-19 years of age. Different regions of the country with different demographic features required a different treatment was another reason of its failure. India's population growth rate depends on how effectively the four Indian states i.e. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh implement the policies because these states constitute 40 per cent of the country's population growth. Improved health services are mostly needed in these states. The fertility rate in these states is the highest and the women are the most disadvantaged. It has been revealed that in the coming 25 years, more than half of India's demographic growth will be in these states because of poverty and illiteracy. It has been observed that it has taken more time for the message like family planning to reach in these large agricultural and predominantly rural population states. It has been studied that fertility reduction began in the coastal areas of South India and then proceeded to spread inland. This was an advantage that the South had compared to the North. The Southern states have done better in providing family planning services. Population control programme has not been able to make inroads into all the pockets of the North Indian states as a result of which India's population has grown by gigantic proportions and in 2000 India touched 1 billion people mark i.e.16 per cent of the world's population living on 2.4 per cent of the world's land area.

It is predicted that India may overtake China in 1925 if the current trend continues and earn the distinction of being not the most populous, but also the most illiterate country in the world. In this century the global population has increased threefold- while India's population has increased five times in the same period. In 1911 India's population was 252 million,342 million in 1947,361 in 1951,846 million in 1991, 1 billion in 2000 and 1.27 billion in 2013.It can be mentioned that before independence India took 42 years to add 100 million. Since 1951 when the first census in India was conducted, about 600 million have been added to the population of India. The first 100 million was added in 12.5 years, the second 100 million in 9.3 years, the third 100 million in 6.4 years, the fifth and sixth 100 million in 5.8 years. It has been estimated that the population of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Orissa will increase by 15 to 19 per cent during 1998-2016, while it would increase over 40 per cent in the states of Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, the highest anticipated increase being in Uttar Pradesh with 55 per cent. According to estimate of Sample Registration System of the Office of Registrar General of India, the population of India is increasing at 15.5 million per year.15.5 million addition in existing population every year requires the opening of 66,000 new primary schools annually, creating 30 lakh new non-agricultural jobs every year and accommodating 50 lakh additional labourers in the agro-sector. No doubt, China has a different political system which can impose the one-child policy, but its success cannot entirely be attributed to the compulsion factor. China has certainly been able to educate its people on the importance of having a small family and has offered lucrative financial aid to small families. It reduced its infant mortality rate to 17 per 1000, in comparison to 50 per 1000 in India. It has achieved almost 100 per cent literacy thereby making its people to understand the benefits of small family.

In India, much success of population control programmes have been achieved in Kerala where the literacy rate is the highest and where women enjoy better status as compared to other states. Rampant illiteracy among the majority of population has failed to push forward the message of family planning programmes in India. There is need to aware the rural masses on problems associated with large families and benefits of small families. A metamorphosis is needed in the attitude of people. In India, one child out of 13 dies without seeing the first birthday, 47 out of 1000 die within first month and 90 out of 1000 die before they are one year old. In China and Sri Lanka it is only 20-30 per cent. The National Population Commission was constituted on May11, 2000, the day when India crossed the one billion mark. The commission is optimistic that population of India would be stabilized by 2045.Even if the goal is achieved, how we will meet the basic needs of people? The population growth rate in India has slowed down by 1.4 per cent, but it is nearly three times that of China's growth rate of 0.5 per cent. India is one of the most densely populated nations in the world. Its population density is 364 per square km. as per 2011 census which is much higher than many countries. The National Population Policy 2000 focuses on 12 strategic themes to achieve the 14socio-demographic goals. The immediate objective of the policy was to address the unmet needs of contraception, health care infrastructure and health personnel and to provide integrated service delivery for basic reproductive and child care. The long term objective is to achieve a stable population by 2045 at a level consistent with the requirements of sustainable economic growth, social development and environment protection. Higher rural population is migrating to towns and cities which overpopulate the urban centers resulting in growing number of slums and unavailability of housing, medical and sanitation facilities. It is estimated that world's urban population would rise to 5 billion by 2030 which was around 3 billion in 2003.Tokyo, the world's most populous city with 35 million was projected to still be the largest in 2015 with 36 million people followed by the Indian cities of Mumbai and Delhi. India should make population control a top priority because all the fruits of development are lost due to increase in population which lowers per capita needs of the people and reduces growth benefits per head. There is an urgent need for higher quality services in reproductive health and family planning together with supporting measures. Government alone cannot achieve these ambitious goals. People, NGOs, Panchayats and private sector participation is must.

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

NEP 2020-step towards a Global Knowledge Power

■ DR PARVEEN KUMAR

Coming 34 years after the last education policy of 1986, NEP 2020 is the first education policy of the 21st Century's in India emphasizing on the creative potential of each and every student. The NEP 2020 rests on the basic principles of flexibility, no hard separations between subjects, curricular and extra-curricular activities, Multi-disciplinary education, conceptual understanding, critical thinking, Ethical Values, teachers as the heart of the learning process, the strong public education system in India. To overcome the finance related challenges, the policy commits to raise the public expenditure on education to the recommended level of 6 per cent of GDP as envisaged in 1968 policy. The NEP 2020 that replaces the National Policy on Education of 1986 came after serious hectic deliberations. NEP 2020 also renamed the Ministry of Human Resource Development as the Education Ministry. From school education to higher education, the New Education policy envisions to provide a new structure to the education sector of the country. The major features of the New Education Policy 2020 are as:

Multidisciplinary and Holistic: It is a central recommendation of NEP 2020. The Curriculum content will be reduced in each subject to its core essentials, and it will make space for critical thinking and more holistic, inquiry-based, discovery-based, discussion-based, and analysis-based learning. At the same time it will also focus on development of physical, emotional and cognitive abilities. For this colleges will be research intensive and teaching intensive.

Medium of Instruction: The National Education Policy 2020 has emphasized on the use of mother tongue or local language as the medium of instruction till Class 5th while, recommending its continuance till Class 8th and beyond. Sanskrit and foreign languages will also be given emphasis. The Policy recommends that all students will learn three languages in their school under the 'formula'. At least two of the three languages should be native to India. It also states that no language will be imposed on the students. Indian knowledge systems including its languages, culture and wisdom will be given more focus.

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE): The new education policy also lays emphasis on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for ages 3 to 6 where provisions would be made to ensure universal access to high qualify ECCE across the country in phased manner. The ECCE will get a complete National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy and that mission will focus on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy.

Structure of Hr. Secondary Education: The existing 10+2 structure is to be modified to 5+3+3+4 structure where the first three years would be formative play school years of nursery and kinder garden. Foundational State of 3 and 2 years would include play school and Grades 1 and 2, Preparatory Stages of Grade 3 to 5, Middle schools of grade 6 to 8 and Secondary Stages of grades 9 to 12. There will be no rigid separation between arts, science and commerce streams, curricular and extracurricular activities and between academic and vocational education. Students can choose what they want to choose. Coding will begin from Class 6. Music, Arts, Sports, would be at the same level. Students will be given increased flexibility and choice of subjects to study, particularly in secondary school including subjects in physical education, the arts and crafts, and vocational skills

Higher Education: A 2019 report of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, now Ministry of Education revealed that India has the second largest higher education system in the world after China with 37.4 million students, 1.4 million teachers spread over more than 40,000 higher educational institutes. The first commission on higher education in the country in the post independent era was Radha Krishan Commission in 1948 and since independence two National Educational Policies 1968 and 1986 been implemented. The third NEP comes with a fresh vision for regulating the higher education system in the country. The growth of Higher education in the country has been slow and inadequate as represented by Gross Enrollment Rate (GER). NEP 2020 aims to take the GER from present 26.1 per cent to 50 per cent by 2050

Four Year Undergraduate Programme with Multiple Entry and Exit options: The undergraduate degree will be of either 3 or 4 years duration with multiple exit options within this period and with appropriate certifications, e.g., a certificate after completing 1 year in a discipline or field including vocational and professional areas, or a diploma after 2 years of study, or a Bachelor's degree after a 3-year programme. The 4-year multidisciplinary Bachelor's programme, however, shall be the preferred option. Students pursuing 4 year degree programme would have an option of getting a degree with Research, if the research process is completed in the area of study as specified.

Light but tight regulation through HECI: In higher education, the mass penetration of private institutes offering various types of degrees has lead to disciplinary distortions and a degradation of quality of education. This is perhaps the reason why Indian universities do not find top positions in World university rankings. The regulatory framework of quality assurance followed in higher education in the country is not much effective. To overcome all these related challenges, NEP 2020 proposes a regulatory system of Higher Education to be distinct for regulation, accreditation, funding and academic standard setting under the umbrella of Higher Education Commission of India or HECI. The Higher Education Commission of India will have four verticals. The HECI will have National Higher Educational Regulatory Council (NHERC), National Accreditation Council (NAC), Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) and the General Education Council (GEC). All these four bodies would further form a National Higher Education Qualification Framework (NHEQF). University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) would also be replaced by HECI. All professional bodies except medical and law stream of education would be under HECI.

Academic Bank of Credit (ABC): ABC will enable students to open their accounts of credits earned by them throughout their learning journey and also learning anything from anywhere. The ABC scheme specifies that students can avail up to 70 per cent of courses from other institutes while being enrolled in a particular college. If students avail these credits outside the parent college, they need not enroll for the corresponding in-house courses. ABC will be a digital store-house containing information about the credits earned by individual students giving them the multiple options to enter and leave colleges. As there will be multiple entry and exit points during the higher education, the credits will be transferable through ABC. The validity of these academic credits earned by students will be up to seven years and students can redeem these credits. The credits can be redeemed and students can seek admission directly in the second year at any university. The validity will be up to seven years hence, students will have to rejoin with in seven years in the same or any other institute. Such a mechanism will enables the student to drop out in any year and then exchange the credits earned so far with a certificate/diploma if they are eligible.

National Research Foundation: The New Education Policy 2020 also envisages setting up a National Research Foundation (NRF). The NRF would be set up with a goal to 'evolve a culture of research'. NRF would be governed independently by rotating board of governors. Primary task or NRF would be to fund competitive, peer reviewed grant proposals of all types and across all disciplines and also act as a liaison between researchers and relevant branches of government so as to allow breakthroughs

Choice Based Credit System (CBCS): To maximize skill-based learning and improve learning outcomes, the NEP 2020 modified the traditional teaching-learning system to create the Choice Based Credit System. The choice-based credit system is a flexible teaching-learning system that offers students the freedom to opt for different courses and chart their learning journey. Students can choose from a list of elective, core, and soft skill courses every semester. Evaluation in a choice-based credit system is based on grading.

Multidisciplinary Education and Research University (MERU): NEP 2020 also proposes to build a world class Multidisciplinary higher educational institute to be called as MERU

International branch campuses: NEP 2020 also has the provision of allowing top ranking foreign universities to establish campuses in India as well as giving permission for IITs to set up campuses overseas. The policy sets a grand goal of utilizing international education to reestablish India as a Vishwa Guru (or world teacher).

Special Education Zones (SEZs): These will focus on the education of underrepresented group in disadvantaged regions.

Gender Inclusion Fund: It will be specially meant for assisting the nation in the education of female and transgender children.

New language Institutions: The policy proposes new language institutions such as the Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation and the National Institute/Institutes for Pali, Persian and Prakrit. Other bodies proposed include the National Mission for Mentoring, National Book Promotion Policy, National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy.

(The author is a faculty at SKUAST-K).

Pros & cons of drone technology

■ SHYAM SUDAN

Technology is playing a very pivotal role in this changing world. New technological advances have changed the lifestyle of every creature on this world. Now the God's super-creatures i.e., humans has created lot of new technologies. In this changing scenario now we are focusing on invention of men-less machines. Because now it is the need of the hour for such kind of machines. These machines have provided us a security as well as result oriented benefits. Drone culture is one of such kind of miracle of present time. Now every nation of the world is giving importance to this new invention. However drone technology is not a new method for us, but recently its utility can be seen everywhere on this globe. when we discuss about war in present time we can't ignore the presence of this technology. Now in every field drones are playing a very crucial role. However there are lot of pros and cons related with this technology.

Right now the entire world is battling with the threat of a new kind of weapon. The drone which we invented for our convenience and assistance is becoming a problem for us. There is no doubt this modern weapon helps us a lot in the battlefield and in many difficult operations. This unmanned aerial vehicle has changed the scenario of battlefield in recent time. With the help of this weapon we have completed many successful air strikes on our enemies and their hideouts. By the use of this, many secret information is available without being visible to the enemy. The biggest feature of the drone is that it doesn't catch by any Radar and does its job accurately and secretly. Because it is operated from a distance, so there is no fear of losing anyone's life. It is also very small in size, so it is used every where without any difficulty. No doubt its feature and advantages are many. But it becomes trouble for us when it is operated by wrong and mischievous elements. These mischievous elements generally use this device as a lethal weapon against us. The recent drone attack on Jammu Air Station is the testimony of this fact. Even before this, drones have been used by our enemies, but then it was only used for dropping weapons and drug supply. This is the first time that the enemy has done this to harm us directly. It is an open challenge and threat for us in this new design of terrorism. Now it becomes a great threat for us that our enemies are equipped with such kind of disastrous weapons. Now it has become a challenge for us that how do we get rid of this problem. Right now we don't have any device or system with which we can combat it. Our anti-drone equipments works only for limited and particular areas for such a long boundaries and aerial space we have no strong device for this challenge. There is an urgent need to develop such kind of system which can check the activities of such lethal suicidal weapons. We have to take initiative to take such systems from other advanced countries. We can't prove that we have won the battle by just taking down a couple of drones. Now this is not a problem for us for a day or two but a long process. Now we have to pay our attention to drone hacking too only with the help of anti-drone medium weapons, sophisticated radar system and hacking strategies we can get rid from this new manoeuvre.