


## PERFORMING PAR EXCELLENCE

The nation is recording excellence in various fields and registering record-breaking performances, which is no doubt a befitting reply to all those leaders of opposition parties, who quite often raise questions on the working of the Government and its policies besides making abortive attempts to misguide people over on issue or another. Although, the people of present time are much more aware and educated and well-experienced to judge between the good and the bad, yet those leaders, just to register their presence in the political arena, issue statements without any logic or base. Under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, all the sectors are touching record heights, which was earlier never witnessed in past. As per reports, Indian railways has recorded best ever September Monthly freight loading of 115.80 MT in September 2022. The incremental loading in the month of September has been 9.7 MT i.e., a growth of 9.15 per cent over the previous best September figures achieved in 2021. With this, Indian Railways has had 25 straight months of best ever monthly freight loading. The Railways has achieved an incremental loading of 6.8 MT in Coal, followed by 1.2 in Iron Ore and 1.22 MT in Balance other goods, 0.4 MT in Cement & Clinker and 0.3 MT in Fertilizers. Increase in automobile loading has been another highlight of Freight Business in FY 2022-23 and 2712 rakes have been loaded in FY 2022-23 till September as compared to 1575 rakes during the same period of last year i.e. a growth of 72.2 per cent. The cumulative freight loading from 1st April/2022 to 30th September/2022 has been 736.68 MT as against 668.86 MT achieved in 2021-22 i.e. an incremental loading of 67.83 MT, with a growth of 10.14 per cent over same period last year. The freight NTKMs (Net tonnes kilometers) have increased from 63.43 Billion in September '21 to 69.97 Billion in September'22 registering a growth of 10.3 per cent. The cumulative NTKMs in the first Half of the year have also grown by 17.1 per cent. The sustained efforts of Indian Railways to increase supply of Coal to Power houses, in close coordination with Ministries of Power and Coal, has again been one of the key features of the freight performance in the month of September. The loading of Coal (both domestic and imported) to Power Houses has increased by 6.2 MT in September, with 42.00 MT Coal being moved to Power houses as against 35.8 MT last year, i.e. a growth of 17.3 per cent. Cumulatively, in the first Half of the year, IR has loaded more than 64.53 MT extra coal to Power Houses as compared to same period of last year, with a growth of more than 29.3 per cent.



OFF 'D' CUFF

## Act after Accepting

abide by it". This reaction does come, but invariably it comes when we have run out of options and choices, not as a first reaction. Someone falls seriously sick, someone's child doesn't make it to the university of his choice, someone's child becomes a drug addict, someone has serious issues with their partner or parent, someone is struggling to make both ends meet-----these are scenarios which we see ourselves and others encounter, almost on a daily basis. And yet, when they do occur, we get upset, hurt, angry, frustrated, depressed, sad, jealous etc. and we react with compliance or with rebellion. Or we go into denial or escape. Acceptance is rarely our first choice. But all these reactions we offer come from a place of bad vibration and is out of alignment with our spirit or soul. If we could come to acceptance first, it means that we accept God's will or the will of destiny, and when we do that, our body-mind-spirit is in alignment and in balance with the universal laws and spirit. Life will then show us options that never existed before, and our life path will become smoother. How do we know whether we are resisting or accepting God's will? When we are in full acceptance of God's will, when we in alignment with the will of destiny, it is like riding in a powerful car on the expressway. The journey is smooth and pleasant. When we resist, it is as if the car is breaking down or struggling, or as if we have taken a turn off the expressway, and gone into smaller and poorer roads, where we don't have a clue where the road leads us, whom we will meet on the road, and whether we will have enough fuel to make it home. Resisting the Universe will always bring about suffering, discomfort, uneasiness, loss of money, loss of peace, loss of joy and unpleasantness. First and foremost, we need to completely accept our situation, whatever that is. We have no clue why we have landed in this situation, it may be our mistake, or it might be karma, or our soul lessons, or God's will or lessons for us to learn---we really don't know why something happens. But the fact that something unwanted or unpleasant has happened means that there is some strong cause or reason to it.

-P V Vaidyanathan

# Lal Bahadur Shastri: The Man of Values

■ ER PRABHAT KISHORE

Every person in the world has desire to perform extraordinary work in his life time and that is his great achievement when he succeed in his effort at a crucial juncture through his merit & passion. Such personality was the second Prime Minister of India - Lal Bahadur Shastri, who is considered as a golden and great legend of Indian history. Born on 2nd October 1904 at Deendayal Nagar (Uttar Pradesh), Shastriji was really a precious Prime Minister of India. His father was a school teacher, who died when child Lal Bahadur Srivastava alias Nanhe was just 2-year-old. He was brought to his maternal grandfather, where he completed his elementary education. His early days of childhood were poverty ridden and he faced numerous challenges with due allegiance and commitment. He completed his secondary education from Harishchandra high school, Varanasi. When he was just 17-year-old, he was attracted towards Indian freedom movement. Amidst the fiery freedom struggle movement, he occasioned to join 'Kashi Vidyapeeth', from where he graduated in Sanskrit and secured 'Shastri degree' in 1926. He replaced his parental caste title 'Srivastava' with 'Shastri', which in later stage became a part & parcel of his name & fame. He was married to Lalita

Devi of Mirjapur in year 1928.

Shastri jumped wholeheartedly into the freedom struggle and actively took part in various movements under the leadership of Gandhi. On most of the occasions, he was arrested along with other freedom fighters. After independence, he was inducted as Police and transport minister in Uttar Pradesh government. As police minister, he instructed to use water jets on processionals in place of Lathi; whereas as transport minister, he made provision to recruit women conductors in State Roadways' buses encouraging gender empowerment.

On 23rd May 1952, Shastri was inducted as Rail minister in Union government. He left an ineradicable print in the Indian history when in 1956, he voluntarily resigned on moral ground because of a 'Rail-accident' causing causality. This reflects that Shastri has rarest of rare quality which perhaps none of his contemporaries ever possessed. In 1958, he became Commerce and Industry Minister and he served as Home Minister since 4th April 1961 to 29th August 1961. Under Kamraj Yojana of the Congress, he resigned from Union cabinet; but was inducted as minister without portfolio to assist the PM, when Nehru's health deteriorated. In 1964, on the demise of Nehru, Shastri was unanimously elected

Parliamentary leader of Congress to succeed Nehru as the second PM of India and during his shorter spell of Prime Ministership, he led India on the path of development. For him work was worship and rest, the rust. He worked tirelessly to achieve his aims, with due dedication and devotion. He was a dynamic leader and he tackled multifarious critical problems meticulously and skillfully. Shastri will always be remembered by Indian masses for two stellar movements, the 'Green revolution' and 'White revolution', through which lives of numerous people were uplifted. He established himself as one of the principal figures to lead India towards self-sustenance and self-reliance. In 1965, Pakistan invaded India. Shastri provided full power to army to retaliate. Indian army fought bravely at all fronts capturing 1840 square KM of Pak occupied territory as against 540 Sq Km of Indian Territory by Pak. The handling of successful operation proved his boldness in dealing the adverse situations. Shastri mobilize the entire nation with the slogan of 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' in 1965, when India was fighting simultaneously at two fronts - one against enemy at border and second against hunger due to food crisis. He enshrined 'Jawan' and 'Kisan' as the fountain-heads of the motherland upon which

rests the foundation of the nation. Despite strong opposition from Indian military, India bowed down to growing international diplomatic pressure from USSR, USA and United nation and accepted proposed ceasefire. After great deal of deliberations, Shastriji was made to sign the 'Tashkent agreement' to the effect that the Indian forces who had occupied Pak territory be withdrawn. This agreement was not in the interest of India and there was great resentment in the country. On 11th January 1966, i.e. after one day of signing the agreement, he was found dead in the hotel at Tashkent. Although it is said that he suffered heart attack in the night of signing the agreement, but neither his family nor general public accept this myth and his untimely death remains a mystery. The sudden and untimely demise of Shastri shook and utterly shocked the nation as a whole and holocaustic scenario pervaded over Indian horizon. He was the extraordinary personality who never ever yielded to power or pelf. His name & fame shall remain in the history of India till the sun shines, moon soothes and stars remain glittering in cosmos. His legacy will continue to inspire generations for the service to our motherland.

(The author is a technocrat & academician).

## Vertical Farming- an emerging trend

■ GOURAV SABHARWAL

A growing population places increasing demand on food availability. As farmers struggle with bridging the gap between demand and supply of crops using traditional farming methods, more innovative and efficient cultivation techniques continue to surface. One of these methods is vertical farming. Vertical farming refers to the system of cultivating crops in vertically stacked layers, instead of a single surface, like a greenhouse or field. Generally, cultivators incorporate these into vertical structures, such as shipping barrels, skyscrapers, used warehouses, and abandoned mine shafts. This farming method uses Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) technology to monitor required humidity, temperature, gases, and light in indoor conditions. For instance, farmers use artificial lighting and metal reflectors to mimic natural sunlight. The concept of vertical farming was first pioneered by Dickson Despommier in 1999. He was a professor of Public and Environmental Health at Columbia University. Challenging his students on whether food could be grown on the rooftops of New York skyscrapers, a concept was created in which a 30-story vertical farm grown by hydroponics and artificial light could feed about 50,000 people. Types of Vertical Farms:- Vertical Farms in buildings: Abandoned buildings are repurposed for vertical farming, but it's not necessary that such buildings be used often. Depending on the requirements new buildings are also used to construct vertical farms. Shipping-Container Vertical Farms: Old or recycled shipping containers are equipped with LED

lighting, vertically stacked farms, climate controls and monitoring sensors. Such types of farms can save space and get a higher yield in the process. Underground Vertical Farms: Also known as 'Deep Farms', these types of vertical farms are built in underground tunnels, abandoned mine shafts or any subterranean environment. The constant temperature and humidity means that they require less energy for heating and as for water supply, the underground water source can be used. Such farms can also produce 7 to 9 times more food than a conventional farm. Techniques of Vertical Farming-Hydroponics: Hydroponics is the method of growing plants without the involvement of soil. Here, plant roots are submerged in magnesium, nitrogen, potassium calcium etc. These solutions support roots, improving chances of higher yield and reducing dependence on water. Studies have shown that there have been 11 times yield compared to conventional farms at a cost of 13 times less water. Thus hydroponics is the most widely used method in Vertical Farming. Aquaponics: A slightly advanced method that Hydroponics, Aquaponics integrated production of plants with that of aquatic organisms in a closed loop system resembling nature itself.

Aeroponics: Like the name suggests, Aeroponics does not use mediums like solid or liquid, instead it uses air to grow plants. A liquid solution is used in air where the plants are located, through which the plants absorb nutrients. It is the most suited method as it requires neither water nor soil and requires no growing medium. Advantages of Vertical Farming

1. Efficiency: Conventional farms require too much land and water, while vertical farming requires a fraction of it with more yield per acre. Another additional benefit is that vertical farming can produce crops throughout the year. Even more that one crop can be harvested at once due to their individual land and plots.
  2. Weather resistant: Traditional farming is subjected to unpredictable weather patterns and natural disasters such floods, droughts, wildfires, etc. In a controlled environment of vertical farming such factors are negated and thus less susceptible to disruption in the supply chain process.
  3. Environmental Conservation: Vertical farming helps in environmental conservation as deforestation that accompanies traditional farming can be negated, thus saving resources in the long run.
- Indian Market Size for Vertical Farming: The Asia Pacific region is described as one of the most promising markets for vertical farming as the industry is projected to reach \$2.77 billion by 2026, marking a 29 per cent growth rate.
- Vertical farming in the Asia Pacific is currently valued at \$0.78 billion (as of 2021).
- The report suggests that continued growth and innovation of vertical farming in the region will be driven by India's need to feed a growing population and the fast-growing demand for organic products. Moreover, vertical farming is quickly gaining popularity in India with more startups and companies entering the market every year.

## Digitalization of Jamabandis & its benefits

Revenue department is the oldest and an important one. This department is understood as synonymous with LAND and maintenance of records of the same thereof. Land is divided into various categories depending on the use it is put into. Some of the categories are Agricultural, Non-agriculture, Banjri jaded, Bangri Qadeem, etc. The department maintains the records of these distinct types of land category-wise. Jamabandies, Girdawaries, Mutation registers and Fardi portal are well heard of. People throng tehsil offices to get the documents or information related to their holdings. The basic soldier of revenue department, Patwari, maintains and updates these records thereby making it available for reference to the government and general public. Jamabandi is an essential document which contains all the information of various categories of land along with different survey numbers. A survey number is a fixed number given to a fixed piece of land during settlement in an estate. Reading of Jamabandi register is a very specialized task and requires a vast knowledge and expertise thereby rendering it a forte of few skilled revenue officials. Jamabandi is also called "Char Sala" meaning it being written and re-written after a time period of four years. The mutations attested from the preparing of previous

Jamabandi of an estate are incorporated in the Remarks column of that Jamabandi with red ink as these entries become visible and entries in the Khanakast are tallied with the current Girdawari. Jamabandi Form has twelve columns where each column depicts unique information. Most of these Jamabandis were prepared in the year 1969-71 before the commencement of Agrarian Reforms Act. Then, after a gap of twenty years new Jamabandies were prepared in all estates of the erstwhile state. The process continued till 1999. The then officials compiled these Jamabandies but most of them were left unchecked and remain without the signatures of attesting authorities. This unattested record gave birth to litigations, on the one hand and, left a scope for embezzlement, on the other hand. Again after a gap of almost thirty years Land Records Information System was launched in the year 2017 entitled 'Aap Ki Zameen Aap Ki Nigrani' under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme. Under 'Digital India' Mission various initiatives were taken across sectors to digitalize records. Same was done with zeal and enthusiasm by the Jammu and Kashmir administration. The already available land records were scanned by the revenue department in collaboration with Ram Tech company. This marks a complete transition from offline to

online. Now people can check the records of their land online from anywhere. This has decreased rush in Central and District Record Rooms and Tehsil Offices. The information of land records especially recently prepared Jamabandies are made available to the people thereby making access easy. Before digitization manual processing was tedious. By digitizing new Jamabandis, transparency and fairness would be achieved. It will also help the revenue department to shift their workforce and attention towards other urgent issues, for instance, Settlement. Recently digitized Jamabandies are well documented and would hence boost revenue department's digital footprint and audience. As already mentioned, Jamabandis are reviewed and updated after every four years. However, this prescription was not followed in the past and hence most of these were not in line with the current ground reality. The changes in title and interests of the estate coming into the notice of revenue department were not reflected in these Jamabandies when these were subject to reverification at Regional Director Land Records Office. Now these Jamabandies got reverified at RDLR Office and were cross-checked by patwaris to minimize errors. It was ordered that before final digitization the scanned printouts shall be handed over to revenue authorities at the

Tehsil level and will be read before Zamindars for cross-check of entries in Khanna Milkiyat, Khanna Kasht, Survey number, area involved and essentially update of mutations. Before digitizing any record, it is important on the part of concerned authorities to have widespread consultation with different stakeholders. In this case of Jamabandies , taking Zamindars and land-owners onboard along with Chowkidars and Lumberdars would help verify the entries. India is mostly a rural country. People are not aware of e-services as digital divide is high. Wrong entries in Jamabandi would give rise to endless worries for these rural folks. It would make them run from pillar to post to get their record corrected and consequently would render them vulnerable and helpless. This is so because once government is over with any project and the completion takes place then the onus lies on people who have been erred to get their grievance redressed. This is exactly what happened in Tamil Nadu where digitization was riddled with mass errors. The complainants, to whom the obligation to get their names etc., corrected had shifted, found it absolutely difficult and cumbersome. So, to their rescue an order was issued by Tamil Nadu government which called for extensive exercise to correct the details. What should follow completion of digitization is means to get wrong entries, if any, corrected.

## Pahari tribe's expectations from Amit Shah's visit

■ SUNAINA MALIK

In these days, the only voice which can be heard and felt amid foothills of Himalaya is demand of ST status to Pahari tribe and 1 million Pahari eyes are waiting for Amit Shah in Rajouri and Baramulla. Concern showed by our Prime Minister from ramparts of Lal Quila for Pahari tribe and frequent promises made by the Home Minister have given birth to innumerable expectations of development, prosperity in hearts of people of Pahari tribe and united whole Pahari community under one banner. Every Pahari, under the leadership of BJP senior leaders Vibodh Gupta and Iqbal malik, is leaving no stone unturned in making rally of our beloved leader, a grand success. Reports from different areas of Rajouri, Poonch and Baramulla show that Pahari tribe is going to emerge as a big tsunami at Amit Shah's rally because their long awaited demand of ST status is expected to be fulfilled. No doubt has so far left in the fact Pahari tribe qualifies for reservation under ST quota and the further mentioned points support the statement:-

The first requirement for any tribe to come under the ambit ST reservation as per article 342 of India constitution is (Indication of primitive traits) . As per writ-

ten records Pahari tribe is one of the most ancient tribes of Indian subcontinent because Pahari tribe has got its mention in one the most ancient scriptures of India (Mahabharata). This fact is further established by a writer Gernalad Berman, who writes on page 15 and 16 of his book (Hindus of Himalaya) that a peculiar group of people resided in south east and south west of Kashmir known as Pahari tribe. Gernalad further writes that this tribe was once named as Khasas, which later on renamed as Pahari tribe. Undoubtedly Pahari people depict peculiarity in their culture, dress, ethnicity, language and way of life. Pahari male wear a peculiar type of Salwar Kameez and Jacket. Male cover their head with a peculiar turban known as Saffa and dress of Pahari female is also very peculiar including Salwar Kameez and a peculiar Topi on their heads they also cover their body with a broad Dupatta.

Practice of peculiar rituals during their marriage ceremonies like (1) tying of a special type of thread Gaana on the wrist of both bride and bridegroom, collection of water in a special pot for bathing of bride and bridegroom and cutting of flow of water before collection in pot , make Pahari tribe a peculiar culture bearing tribe. As we all know that Pahari group of people reside

in foot hills of Himalaya. Before 1947 Pahari people used to go to Punjab and Rawalpindi for education and trade but demarcation of boundaries after independence has restricted this miserable tribe within the boundaries of Himalaya and thus all the avenues of trade and education to them, have reduced to almost zero.

Low literacy rate, poverty, and unemployment have developed an inferior complex in the minds of Pahari people. This long unending state of miseries and starvation is responsible for loss of confidence in the people of this tribe. It is because of this in today's world of competition and development Pahari people are feeling dejected, frustrated, alienating and totally isolated. Pahari tribe has totally been deprived of opportunities of higher education, Govt jobs , trade and any development since long . This has deteriorated their condition a lot and pushed them towards the deep George of backwardness. In conclusion, I would like to request to Union Home Minister Amit Shah that we Pahari people have been struggling for our rights for last five decades. It is ripe time now to grant us ST status, enabling us to also contribute in India's development as you always says 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas'.