> *"The will is not free - it is a phenomenon bound by cause and effect - but there is something behind the will which is free.*
> —Swami Vivekananda

## DIGITAL INDIA CONFERENCE

Carrying forward necessary initiatives for realizing the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-dependent India), the ruling dispensation is leaving no stone unturned for achieving the goal, that too at the earliest. Not only on domestic fronts, but the country is registering remarkable performance in sectors likes Information Technology, which form foundation of all other sectors, as at present there is not even a single field not dependent of the IT. As such, quite often various endeavour are taken by the Government in this regard, to further nurture the budding talent besides ensuring necessary platform to them for showcasing their capabilities and capacities. Recently, Digital India Conference of State IT Ministers, along with the sixth edition of India Mobile Congress (IMC 2022), was held on 1st October, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. Industry veterans Mukesh Ambani from Reliance Industries, Sunil Bharti Mittal from Bharti Enterprises, Kumar Mangalam Birla from Aditya Birla Group, and several other dignitaries graced the inauguration. It saw the national launch of 5G, exhibitions, and unveiling of several 5G use cases in education, health, worker safety, smart agriculture, etc. After the inaugural session of IMC 2022, the "Digital India Conference of State IT Ministers" was held under the chairmanship of the Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways, Ashwini Vaishnaw in the august presence of Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Rajeev Chandrasekhar and Minister of state for Communications, Devusinh Chauhan and IT Ministers from 12 States and UTs, namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Pondicherry. It was also attended by State IT Secretaries and State officers from all States and UTs and senior officers from MeitY and DoT.

In the welcome address and initial remarks, Alkesh Kumar Sharma, Secretary of MeitY shared - how Digital India proved its resilience during pandemic. He shared latest initiatives such as My Scheme, Meri Pehchaan, Digital Bhashini, and PLIs, which can be leveraged by the States and UTs for uplifting ease of living and ease of doing business. He emphasized on making all efforts for making this decade as India's TechAde. Devusinh Chauhan, in his address, stated that the introduction of 5G services in India today is a historic day. He shared that time taken to obtain a RoW permission has been reduced from 3 months to 6 days.

Rajeev Chandrasekhar said that there is an unprecedented opportunity for growth and the world is looking to India as a trusted supply chain partner especially in electronics sector. He mentioned about digital device, digital data, deep technologies, and massive diversification in supply chain. He emphasized that all States and UTs, as Team India, should leverage PLI schemes to attract companies, make policies to take startup culture to tier 2/3 cities, leverage India Stack solutions and digital platforms built around it to standardize the citizen centric and business centric services. All State/UT IT Ministers shared the progress of connectivity, electronic manufacturing efforts, e-governance initiatives taken under Digital India in their respective States. They also shared the issues concerned with connectivity, opening of more centres of NIELIT, CDAC, STPI, opening of CoE in emerging areas and the policy matters. In his closing remarks, MEIT stated that the connectivity is vital for the Digital India and its reach to every corner of the country. He announced that Rs 36,000 crore to install new 25,000 towers in next 500 days have been approved. The list of spots for installing towers is prepared in consultation with States / Chief Secretaries. States can further review the list. He also announced that Rs 1.64 lakh crore will be used for revival of BSNL in a comprehensive manner and it will be rolled out in next 18 months. Design in India and Make-In-India will be big beneficiary. He congratulated all States and UTs for their speedy onboarding at PM Gati Shakti. He also announced that the fibre network will be put on a common portal, which will help States and UTs to plan layout driven infrastructure projects, and digital transformational projects. He informed that the policy related matter are / will be determined in due consultation with States. He also shared that the special assistance to States for capital expenditure worth Rs 2000 Crore has been supported. He encouraged the States to be proactive and make business friendly policies to attract businesses in their States. Emphasizing on the moto of Sabka Saath and Sabka Vikas, he stated that the commitments from all States and UTs, large as well as small States, are vital in taking Digital India to higher level and in realizing the Atmanirbhar Bharat and Trillion Dollar Digital Economy.

# Maharaja Hari Singh's Birthday; declaration of holiday & its ramifications

■ ADV RAMESHWAR SINGH JAMWAL

The Sessions Judge was ordered by the Chief Justice Burjor Dalal to hold his trial in precincts of Central Jail Kashmir but this order was leaked to the members of Reading room party and on July 12, 1931, Sheikh Abdullah made a fiery speech and people of Srinagar were exhorted to assemble near the jail gate and a huge unruly mob thronged the jail premises and set fire the premises. There was complete commotion and then the District Magistrate ordered firing in which twenty two people died and around forty were injured. All hell broke out thereafter. From Bohrikadal to Alikadal, shops belonging to the minority community were looted, mayhem, barbarism, bloodshed and riots had engulfed the minority dominated Vicharnag and other areas and Kashmiri Pandit women were subjected to worst possible cruelties (Saxena Dr H L, 1975, P.134). Telephone lines were cut off, bridges at far off places were burnt down and this could not have been possible without prior planning. This atmosphere of communal frenzy was continued with support from British and the reading room group for several years and it was now spreading to other Muslim dominated areas of Jammu province. Mirpur town had been besieged by the communal forces and thousands of refugees from Rajouri, Kotli and Mirpur had taken shelter in Mirpur and District Magistrate of Mirpur, Raja Mohammed Afzal Khan failed to quell the rioting. The Gurudwara at Alibeg had been reduced to ashes and Devidwara, where refugees had taken shelter was also burnt down. Guru Granth Sahib was desecrated, idols were broken and many buildings in the town were set ablaze. Same type of happenings occurred in Rajouri, Darhal, Bahrot, Shahdra, Khalyan and Barang in Bhimber (Saxena Dr H L, 1975, P.150). Though normalcy restored after some days, but the communal virus had established its roots. Buoyed by the success of such brutalities and the subsequent climb down of Hari Singh, in implementing Galaxy Commission report, which had been formed after such rioting, the reading room party formed Muslim Conference in 1932, but with similar agenda. Sheikh Abdullah continued his communal tirade, in Mirpur, Srinagar and many other places. Passions were ignited against the Cow Slaughter law in the annual session of Muslim Conference in 1937. Under the influence of Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru, and advice from Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the name of Muslim Conference was changed to National Conference to give it a secular outlook and seek support of Indian National Congress, but its communal approach and fending anti Hindu sentiments continued ( Suri, S P 2016 & Singh, Dr GP 2016). However Sheikh Abdullah's leaning towards Indian National Congress led to the breaking away of more fundamentalists from party. He was also collaborating with Jinnah and invited him to Srinagar where he accorded grand welcome but when Sheikh Abdullah realized that Jinnah was insisting for breaking away from Indian National Congress and merge his National Conference with Muslim Conference, Sheikh Abdullah changed his stance and used offensive language against Mohd Ali Jinnah. Sheikh Abdullah also patched up with Hari Singh, when his close confidant Mirza Afzal Beig was made a Minister along with five others, representing different shades of state's population. However, Mirza Beig resigned after about one and half year in 1946, due to some differences with the Prime Minister of state, Pt. Ram Chander Kak. A rebel from National Conference, Miyan Ahmed Yar was inducted in his place which led to schisms in National Conference. Sheikh Abdullah even challenged the Treaty of Amritsar, by saying that once British left India, it would have no validity. The same line is still being adopted by National Conference, PDP and even Pakistan. The author submits that the reference year 1846, when the British signed the Amritsar Treaty with Raja Gulab Singh and handed over Kashmir to him, is being used by all the above said parties to state that this treaty is not binding on them as the wish of the Kashmiris was not taken into account. In this regard, it is submitted that why only 1846 is taken as the reference year, why not from Mughal or Afghan Rule and if 1846 treaty is not acceptable, then Kashmir, was under Sikh rule prior to that and before that it were the Mughals, then Afghans, and so many other dynasties prior to that also. Jammu was also a different kingdom and so is the case with many other princely states, it will be no end. Everywhere it would be similar demands. Secondly, it was a treaty between two sovereign states, signed by the persons, who had the legal authority to do so and neither in those times, nor in present times, the residents of a state can challenge the execution of an international treaty on the ground that their wish was not obtained by way of a referendum. To cope up with such unsavory situations, United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 97 (1) of 14 December 1946, titled "Registration and Publication of Treaties and International Agreements: Regulations to give effect to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations". This resolution of the United Nations General Assembly during its first session affirmed that it Adopted the General Assembly [Resolution 97 (1)], as modified by resolutions 364 B (IV), 482 (V) and 33/141 A, adopted by the General Assembly on 1 December 1949, 12 December 1950 and 18 December 1978, respectively (Wikipedia). The resolution on Registration and Publication of Treaties and International Agreements: Regulations to give effect to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations invited the Secretariat of the United Nations to draw up an international treaty and international agreements that would oblige Registration and Publication of Treaties and International Agreements and a certified statement regarding any subsequent action which effects a change in the parties thereto, or the terms, scope or application thereof, shall also be registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations and published by it. No party to any such treaty or international agreement which has not been registered in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article may invoke that treaty or agreement before any organ of the United Nations.The Secretary-General, or his representative, shall issue certified extracts from the Register at the request of any Member of the United Nations or any party to the treaty or international agreement concerned. The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT) regulating treaties between states, known as the "treaty on treaties", establishes comprehensive rules, procedures, and guidelines for how treaties are defined, drafted, amended, interpreted, and generally operated. The Convention was adopted and opened to signature on 23 May 1969, and it entered into force on 27 January 1980. It has been ratified by 116 states as of January 2018. The VCLT is regarded as one of the most important instruments in treaty law and remains an authoritative guide in disputes over treaty interpretation. Some persons, by virtue of their position and functions need not produce any documents to show that they have such powers. Heads of state and important functionaries of government are such persons (Shaw Malcolm N, 2008 P-908). In international law, states have the capacity to make agreements but since states are not identifiable human persons, principles have evolved to ensure that persons representing states indeed have the power so to do for the purpose of concluding the treaty in question.

(To be continued…..).

# Medicinal values of Chilgoza

■ PROF (DR) R D GUPTA

Locally, Chilgoza is known as Neoza which belongs to family Pinaceae. Chilgoza trees are naturally present in North West Himalayas from Garhwal (Uttarakhand) to Westwards (Afghanistan' Baluchistan) in the upper valleys of the river Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej from 1650 to 2700m of height. According to Ayurveda, dry fruit nut Chilgoza has a lot of medicinal uses which are as follows.

Medicinal values: Chilgoza has great value as a desert especially in North India and is eaten raw as well as roasted. It is sweet in taste and helps in digestion (Sharma, 2009). It is also a nutrient tonic and aphrodisiac. It reduces Vata and elevates Pitta and Kapha humors. It is useful in chronic arthritis along with honey. Chilgoza I'd energetic, carminative stimulant and expectorant. It is an important food article in the hills. The seed oil is used for dressing wounds and ulcers.

Other uses: The cones exclude a copious white resin which is generally applied in patching cracked wooden vessels. The bark of the tree is used for making basket and buckets. It is a small and medium sized tree up to the height of about 70m. Stem bark grayish in colour, branches nearly ascending but not whorled (circular). Leaves are 510 cm long needle-shaped in a bunch of three leaves together while stiff in nature and dark green in colour. The tree flowers during May-June and the cones ripen during September to October. Flowers male cones are 6-13 mm long, whereas female cones are oblong ovoid 15-25 cm long and 10-15 cm broad. Seeds are cylindrical, 2-3 cm long pointed at tip dark brown coloured. Climatic requirement: Since Chilgoza is a hardy tree so it can withstand considerable cold and drought. By nature, it is a light demander and wind firm. The best growth of Chilgoza trees have been observed in dry temperate climate of Kinnaur district, Himachal Pradesh. In fact, Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh has the rare distinction of growing Chilgoza famous for its edible seeds. Chilgoza, which falls in the preferential category of dry fruits is grown under natural condition in a sizeable wooded area of the district (Bhalla, 2016).

In Kinnaur district, Chilgoza pine trees grow in the dry temperate forests which remain outside the influence of monsoon. Chilgoza pine grows in the company of deodar and chir pine which beautify the otherwise dreary and rugged mountain slopes and add to the scenic charm of the area.

Soil Requirement: Chilgoza is capable of growing on very dry hills with shallow soils.

There are at present no established techniques of raising Chilgoza plantation.

Harvesting and Yield: The tree flowers during May-June and the cone ripen during September to October of the next year (Sharma, 2009). Fruit yield depends upon the age and size of the tree and is highly variable, i.e., 25-400 cones on a tree. Seed cylindrical 23cm long pointed at tip dark brown coloured. Generally, 100 seeds weigh 30-40g. They are obtained from the ripe cones which are plucked green prior to open. The scales of the cones open by heating and the seeds are shaken out easily. The kerneels (giri or magaz) are oleaginous and bears a delicate flavour. As according to Ayurveda, Chilgoza is sweet in taste, digestive in nature, hot/heavy in nutrients, so it is suggested to impart it due consideration and significance. Further, it is added that Chilgoza reduces Vata and elevates Pitta and Kapha humors. It is useful in chronic arthritis along with honey. In light of the above, it is suggested that Chilgoza must be fully utilised by those who suffer from the above said troubles. It is also suggested to exhort more research on the aforesaid lines by the scientists of Agricultural Universities in collaboration with officers of Forest Department. It is further suggested that we must enjoy Chilgoza as gift of the nature communication to the next generation.

Presently, there is no established techniques of raising Chilgoza plantation which is required to take up on priority by the officers od Forest Departments, in collaboration with the scientists of State Agriculture Universities (Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvidyala, Palampur and University of Horticulture and Forestry Solan; Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Jammu and Kashmir). ii. It is worthwhile to note that the Forest Department of Himachal Pradesh is attempting restocking of suitable area having compact manageable sites with good soil for raising Chilgoza plants. Considering the importance of Chilgoza as forest produce, a plan has been formulated for raising new plantation and maintenance of old Chilgoza trees under a centrally sponsored scheme.

(The author is ex-Associate Dean cum Chief Scientist KVK, SKUAST-Jammu).

## YOUR COLUMN
### Vocational Education- a solution to unemployment

Dear Editor,

Unemployment is a huge problem. Every year lakhs of youth after completing their school/college studies with degrees/diplomas in hand look for jobs.

Due to less employment opportunities in the organized and unorganized sector, unemployment is increasing.

Due to automation and mechanization, jobs are decreasing in every sector and the problem of unemployment has become more complicated.

The unemployment rate is not coming under control. The unemployment rate in Punjab is around 7 percent. To eliminate unemployment in Punjab Vocational and technical education needs to be given more impetus. The Department of Technical Education and Industrial Training, Punjab is playing an important role in controlling vocational education in industrial training institutes and technical education in polytechnics/engineering colleges in Punjab.

Government industrial training institutes are less in Punjab, while the number of private institutes is more.

Similarly, there are only 26 government polytechnic colleges, while there are 100 private polytechnic colleges.

There is a need to promote vocational and technical education in Punjab of no The number of Government Industrial Training Institutes, Government Polytechnic Colleges and Government Engineering Colleges should be increased in Punjab. More and more new institutions should be established in rural areas so that technical and vocational education is within the reach of the youth of the villages. Fees should be reduced for general category students so that students belonging to economically weaker families can acquire technical and vocational education by paying fewer fees.

The current Chief Minister Wazifa Yojana, in which more than 60 percent in the qualifying examination Fees are discounted on the basis of marks obtained, instead of a uniform discount for all, the fee (about Rs. 5000 for polytechnic colleges and Rs. 10000 for engineering colleges) should be made annually.

This will further increase the admissions in colleges. Until new buildings are constructed, some diploma courses of polytechnics may be started in existing ITIs. Courses like computer science, information technology, fashion technology should be started in girls' ITIs, which require less infrastructure.

It happens Technical courses which have no demand in industries should be closed and new employment oriented courses with more placements should be started or seats should be increased in such courses which have more job opportunities. Automobile Engineering, Tool and Die Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, Agricultural Engineering, Biotechnology, Beauty Culture, Costume Design and Dress Making, Environment Engineering, Food Technology, Fire and Safety Engineering, Marine in Government Polytechnic Colleges of Punjab Engineering, motion picture photography, medical electronics, printing technology, rubber technology, space technology, TV and film technology, textile technology, petroleum engineering, mobile technology, packaging etc. courses should be started.

To make diploma courses more employment oriented, technical courses related to agriculture like Agricultural Machinery Technology, Seed Production Technology, Dairy and Meat Processing Technology, Animal Technology, Horticulture Technology, Agro Processing Technology etc. should be started. Skills in such courses workers, technicians and mechanies are in high demand and employment opportunities are high.

At least one modern polytechnic and one modern engineering college should be established in Punjab, where artificial intelligence, machine learning, data science, biomedical engineering, automation and robotics engineering, mining engineering, environmental engineering, e-vehicle technology, drone technology, solar Advanced courses in technology, nanotechnology etc. should be started.

Technical education in mother tongue other than English by All India Council of Technical Education Under the donation initiative, a diploma course in Punjabi medium in a polytechnic college belonging to rural areas and a B.Tech degree course in an engineering college should be started.

In the examinations, the question papers should be printed in both English and Punjabi languages.

Books should be printed in Punjabi language in all polytechnics and engineering colleges so that the students educated from village schools do not face any problem in understanding engineering subjects.

Print and electronic media to spread awareness among general public and students about technical education. Media, social media should be used more.

Apart from schools/colleges, awareness seminars, rallies should be organized in villages. Must have practical knowledge In order to provide more employment to the youth of Punjab, the practical part should be increased by reducing the theory part in the syllabus and the syllabus should be revised according to the requirement of the industries.

Practical knowledge in college and then in industries is mandatory for every student. Due to lack of practical knowledge, passed out students are unable to get employment in industries. Area wise courses can be done, like textile engineering in Bhatinda region, information technology in Mohali, mechanical and tool and die in Ludhiana, agro processing technology in Moga etc.

Vijay.

## OFF 'D' CUFF
### SIT DOWN AND SAVE THE EARTH

Buddhists regard the earth as a Boddhisatva, because it has many virtues — endurance, perseverance, it is solid, creative, and non-discriminating. When we recognise the earth's many talents and beauty, it is a kind of prayer — we are prepared to do anything for her. Not to pollute rivers, not to cut trees — that is not enough. We have to realise that when we take care of the earth, we take care of ourselves. Many people get sick today because they get alienated from earth. Our sickness is the sickness of Mother Earth. We forget that we are on earth, that we have a body that is given to us by Mother Eearth. Without that kind of enlightenment, we cannot hope to change our way of living. Collective Awakening

In Buddhism, we speak of meditation as an act of awakening, to be awake to the fact that the earth is in danger and other species on earth are also in danger. There should be a collective awakening in order to have enough strength to bring about a change.

I think the best way to bring about this collective awakening is to help put people in touch with the suffering they are undergoing now. Many people suffer and deeply so. They don't know that they suffer. And they try to cover up their suffering by being busy. It is not because they like to be busy, but they want to get busy in order not to have the time to touch the suffering in themselves. If you spend a lot of time in front of the computer, you forget that you have a body. And when you are not with your body, you are not alive. Breathe Mindfully

So, if you breathe in mindfully, with one in-breath you already get the insight that you have a body, that you are there on earth, and you become aware of so many wonders of your life on earth.

To meditate does not mean that you turn away from life but that you have the time in order to look deeply into the situation — to allow yourself to have the time to sit doing nothing, just look deeply into the situation, look into our minds and find ways to take care, to deal with the anger, fear and despair in us. And if we do not do that, the other things we do will not bring any results. Through meditation we learn to see that when things are going wrong, we are part of the wrongdoing in the way we live our life. Even if we have laws to protect the environment, people will find a way to continue the way they live. But if everyone of us, whether we are scientists, yogis, school teachers, fathers, mothers, brother, sister, or journalist, resolve in our own way to produce awakening, we can sit down and find some concrete ways of saving the earth.

-Thich Nhat Hanh

## PROGRESSING J&K
### Record number of tourist arrivals testifies change, development
#### Around 1.62 crore tourists visited J&K this year

After three decades, Kashmir is attracting lakhs of tourists which Tourism players say is the return of golden era of Kashmir tourism. The record number of tourists who visited Jammu and Kashmir this year, testify the overall development and change that has taken place in the Union territory. Tourism is the biggest source of employment in Jammu and Kashmir and since January, 2022 till date, 1.62 crore tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir, which is the highest in 75 years of independence. Tourism has generated maximum employment in various regions of Jammu and Kashmir including Poonch, Rajouri, Jammu and the Kashmir Valley. For last 70 years, people were demanding international flights from Jammu and Kashmir. Fulfilling this popular demand, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi started direct flight from Srinagar to Sharjah. Earlier, there was also no flight during the night from Srinagar and Jammu and the Prime Minister also started night flights from the both cities. Recently, a comprehensive Film Policy was launched to attract film-makers for shooting after decades and within a year of notification of this policy, as many as 140 shooting permissions for films and web-series have been issued. Soon, a film studio will be launched with state-of-art facilities. This, besides providing new opportunities to the young talent of Jammu and Kashmir, shall boost the business ecosystem of the Union territory. Various other models and schemes are also being launched to promote tourism here. Rural tourism is steadily occupying a space hitherto denied to it either due to not venturing into this area of tourism of vast potential or even if such an idea having been conceived, lack of resources has kept the roadmap for it in virtual doldrums. 75 offbeat tourist destinations are also being developed in Jammu and Kashmir as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. A record-breaking 20.5 lakh tourists, including 3.65 lakh Amarnath Yatris, visited Kashmir in the first eight months of this year, drawing visitors from all over the nation to the gorgeous and picturesque Valley. The 2 million tourists represent an all-time high tourist footfall for Kashmir valley. The tourist sites like Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and Sonamarg as well as all hotels and guesthouses in Srinagar experienced 100 percent occupancy. Tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir is being developed as per the vision of sustainable development goals. Besides, dedicated focus is also being given to strengthening the hospitality segment and for establishing a robust tourism infrastructure system. Government is working towards developing state-of-art resources through public and private investment. J&K Government has adopted a five-pronged approach for effective transformation of the tourism potential of J&K. A comprehensive mechanism is being laid down to provide the best facilities to corporate golfers, tourists and food connoisseurs. Despite setbacks faced due to COVID pandemic, the UT administration has taken sufficient steps for the revival of tourism in J&K and for providing employment to individuals associated with the sector. Notably, a number of policy interventions have been made to provide financial support to various stakeholders associated with tourism sector.