SAGAR PARIKRAMA: A SUCCESSFUL JOURNEY TOWARDS RESOLVING ISSUES OF FISHERS ON GROUND

massive fishers and fish farmers outreach program namely Sagar Parikrama Yatra led by Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Shri Parshottam Rupala is being undertaken since March 2022 through a pre-decided sea route from Gujarat to West Bengal covering around 8000 km of India's coastline. Sagar Parikrama aims to meet the fishers at their door-steps and understand their issues and grievances, promote sustainable fishing and publicise the schemes and programs of the government and it has been instrumental so far. During Sagar Parikrama, fishers get an opportunity to interact with Union Minister Shri Rupala and key officials of Department of Fisheries, Government of India, State Government and other stake holders at their door- step.

Shri Parshottam Rupala received a text message regarding capsized boat from a local fisherman who met him in Colachel during previous phase of Sagar Parikrama. The Union Minister issued directives immediately to concerned agencies for undertaking intense rescue operation of missing fishermen onboard fishing boat operating from Colachel Fishing Harbour.

Meanwhile the family members of missing fishermen met Shri Parshottam Rupala in Karaikal to apprise him the issue and they were surprised to hear that he was not only informed but closely following the matter.

Efforts on rigorous search and rescue operations carried out by Indian Navy as well as by Indian Coast Guard with two Vessels of Indian Navy and One from Indian Coast Guard, mortal remains of one fishermen have been recovered by the divers today.

Search operations are still ongoing to locate the mortal remains of the second fishermen. The family members of fishermen have expressed thanks to the Union Minister and entire rescue team for recovery of bodies of the missing fishermen.

With these endeavours and attempts, the Sagar Parikrama is expected to achieve its goal of achieving open communication and feedback while also build trust between the fishermen communities and proves an instrumental in resolving issues of the fishers.

Manda Wild Life Sanctuary

ry few cities are so fortunate as to have natural forests just literally at a stone's throw from the city center. Jammu city is one such fortunate to have an undulating sub-tropical forest named Manda. Kissing the National Highway, the sanctuary is a naturalist's delight.

Ever driven out to the wildlife sanctuary of Manda in the close proximity of the city of temples Jammu, One feels much akin to nature and its natural beings. At one point of time, not in the so remote past, a leopard was seen in wondrous nature, en route, Manda near Kar Nallah, which drains into the river Tawi.

With ever-exploding population, man's needs are ever increasing not just for hisneeds but more beyond greeds which are yielding a remorseful scenario. And strange enough, this piece of 'green gold' as we glimpse it today is well under the nose of every Jammuite, least to talk of those who are at the helm of affairs, the wildlife department and the government at large. Though the department of wildlife is making all out efforts for the preservation and conservation of the green gold vis-à-vis the fauna which subsist therein, yet lot of funding is the dire demand of the day in boosting the entire scenario in its entirety and we all humans will have to imbibe that zest and zeal to bring up the historic piece of green gold conglomerated with a variety of kaleidoscopic wildlife of prominence to the mark of desired standardization.

In such a frizzled situation, nothing seems sentinel to the sensational scenario of ghastly amplitude. Every one of us is well aware of the fact that by the turn of the day we are confronted with ever-amounting grave situation Viz. noise pollution, garbage menace, burning and charring of filth, mushrooming malls and many more of itsallieds and we are as such left with twin lungs, Manda and Mahamaya forests to refresh in the bee hours of morning and evening to inhale oxygen for sustenance.

This golden sanctuary of Manda is the richest and abundant of the Himalaya golden eagles, the vultures, the Indian black partridges, the Himalayan snow cocks, local cocks, the jungle fowls, jackals, the black neck cranes, doves, the war - headed goose, mongoose, duck, geese and swans, the beavers, chameleons, nightingale, Ladybirds, the spotted dear and not the least. Peacock-our national bird.

And apart from the winged visitors, who flock in here with seasonal changes from across the greater part of the Himalayas for breeding etc.

There are as many as six protected Area Network (Wildlife sanctuaries and National Parks), amongst which, there is single park by name, "Kishtwar High Attitude National Park" Covering an area around 425 sq kmts and other five fall under wildlife sanctuary viz. Ramnagar(Manda), Surinsar, Mansar, Nandini, trikuta wildlife sanctuaries.

Ramnagar or Manda Wildlife sanctuaryis having a coverage of 31.50 sq kmts.

Apart from these sanctuaries, there are three wildlife reserves in Jammu region.

Insofar as Kashmir region is concerned, there are as many as ninewildlife sanctuaries of which Dachigam is in the top slot, having an area around 171.25 sq.kms with richest inhabitation of wildlife animal, birds and reptiles, hangul being the most prominent.

In addition, there are 13 conservation reserves and nine wetlands areas.

Coming to Ladakh region, this part is encompassing as many as (12) protected areas and amongst those karakoram (Nubra) Wildlife sanctuary and Hemis high altitudinal National Parks are on the top-slot having areas around 5000.00 sq.kms and 4100 sq.kms respec-

The Govt. should take all necessary steps to preserve the biotic diversity of Manda. Side by Side appropriate steps should be taken to promote it for ecotourism. A very welcome step, therefore, is to raise chain-link fencing of the height 6 feet and above and display of entry as well exit points and routes with least disturbance to the existing bio life and that way the spirit and sanctity of the Wildlife protection Act shall be carried out in full spirit and at the same time trekkerswill have the high time to enjoy the nature and its sur-

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Wild life in religious perspective

SHIV KUMAR PADHA

ave earth, save wild life, save environment' Are the slogans echoing in the nook and corner of the globe these days. Question arises, after all who is responsible for posing threat to our earth, wild life and environment? The answer to the question need not be sought from anywhere because it is the only mankind who is cutting the same branch of the tree on which it is sitting quietly and peacefully.

The mankind, by its very nature, has been expansionist since evolution. Increasing population at global level and the need for meeting its requirements have compelled him to spread its tentacles on the land, in the deep oceans and the infinite space has resulted in the global warming, greenhouse effect and depletion of ozone layer. The encroachment of the animal habitation by mankind has resulted in the extinction of many animal species like lions, white tiger, musk deer, black buck, Kail (pashmina yielding) goat of Leh and hangal (a deer found in Kashmir region). Cutting of forests for selfish purpose has brought with it extinction of many bird species like eagles, vultures (natural scavengers) and hawks (birds of prev).

There was a time when animals lived with human beings, peacefully and amicably confined to their respective territories. Their existence depended largely upon their interdependence on the earth. Unlike present age the animals have always proved a true and sincere friend of mankind since time immemorial. According to first shaloka of Geeta, 'god descends on earth, whenever there is erosion of human values and evil forces dominate the noble one's'. Our scriptures and epics have ample evidences about the descending of god (Vishnu) on the earth partially or completely in the shape of ani-

In Sanatan dharm (The oldest dharm of mankind) the human beings and the animals lived in peace and harmony. It is true, but for the assistance and cooperation of the animal world our gods of the times could not have achieved their goals of liberating the forces. The animal world can be classified as aquatic (water animals), terrestrial (animals of land), aerial (birds) and amphibians (of water and land).

Our Vedas, Granths, Upnishad, Ramayan, Mahabharat, and all Puranas are full of examples about the successive births of lord Vishnu on earth in different shapes and forms from time to time. Once Sankadi seers (rishi) went to Vaikunth Dham (heaven) with the desire of having a glimpse of Shri Hari (god Vishnu) but they were checked and not allowed to enter the seventh gate by jay Vijay the 'parshads' of the dham.

The seers could not pocket such insult and sent a curse upon them . As a result of curse these two 'parshads' were born as the two sons of Kashyapmuni and mother Dakshputri Aditi with the names of Harnyaksh and Harnyakshap. Harnyakash, a powerful daitya, in order to teach lesson to Devtaas (angels) sank the whole earth in the deep ocean which was later on brought back on the surface by Varha, pig like wild with rough hair and an incarnation of god Vishnu, with its snout. As per the commitment, god Varha vanished Harnvaksh from the soil and sent him to his abode.

Out of 24 avtars of lord Vishnu we come across with the Matsya avtar of god not only in ancient Arvan epics but also in sacred Bible. One day when Manu maharaj took fistful of water for achman he noticed a new born fish in his palm. He wanted to put it back in the water but that small creature forbade him to do so till it grows too large to be contained in any water reservoir except the ocean with the fear lest the big creatures should swallow it and prayed for asylum.

The little creature warned Manu Maharai about the impending danger of tsunami and promised to help save the planet earth from the devastation and destruction caused by the tsunami in the coming centuries. As per the warning the planet earth started drowning in tsunami waters which tried to capsize Manu Maharaj's boat but with the remembrance of god Matsya the whole danger of saved from destruction forever. God Kurm or Kashap (torotoise) came on earth for the purpose of bringing peace and harmony between Sur (angels) and asur (devils).

Mountain Mandirgiri was used as churner (mathani) where the mountain was rested on the vast back of god Kashhap and the sagar manthan was enabled. God Vishnu, in the guise of Garudavtar, lifted the heavy Mandirgiri on its back and placed it on the desired place. Harnyakashap, the elder brother of cursed Harnyaksh, was blessed by one son Parhlad who had unshakable faith in omnipresence and omnipotence of god also he was a dedicated devotee of Shri Hari, which his atheist father never liked. He made many attempts to kill his son Parhlad, but was saved by Lord Vishnu every time and lastly god appeared in the shape of Narsingh (a combined shape of human and lion) from the piller and killed the tyrant and saved his dedicated devotee

Madhu and Kativ were created out of two droplets on the petal of lotus by the divine power of Lord Brahma who were extremely powerful and strong, once they stole away Vedas and hid them under deep sea. Deprived of priceless assets (Vedas) Lord Brahma prayed to Vishnu who appeared before him with face and long neck like that of a horse and rest of the body like human beings. This avtar of Vishnu, with halo around, was called Haygrib.

God Haygrib produced charming vocal sound and spread it throughout the deep ocean with the result these two wicked spirits came on the surface to have the glimpse of the singer. Haygrib availed this opportunity and recovered the Vedas from the hidden place and returned them to Brahma. God (Vishnu) took many avtars on earth in the shape of Nandi (bull) avtar, Hans (Swan) avtar, Gajender (elephant) avtar and likewise infinite avtaras which an ordinary human cannot

Sampati and Jatayu giant eagles were two brothers who were closely related with Raghu vanshis. They were gifted with extreme power

of flight by god. Sampati the elder among them helped Rama's sena (army) in pin pointing the place in Lanka where Mata Sita was housed, whereas Jatau laid his life while freeing Mata Sita from the custody of Cruel Ravan. Jamwant (a bear) manas puter of Lord Brahma provided his fullest support and cooperation to lord Rama during war with Ravan. Lord Hanuman a ruder avtar and true devotee of Ram provided his Baner sena (monkey) during war with Ravan and stood by Ram through thick and thin. Garuda freed Rama along with his allies'from the

Among the bird species Kak Bhashundi and Shuk Dev avtars occupy very high place in Hindu mythology. Crocodile, Mooshak, Garud, Lion, Peacock, Bull, Swan, Airawat (white elephant) have served maan Ganga, Ganesh, Vishu, Maan Durga, Krtike, Lord Shiv. MaanSarswati, Lord Inder respectively by becoming their rides (Vahan). Horses pulled the chariots of lord Krishna and Rama while the heads of Child elephant and that of goat were transplanted in order to revive the life of Ganpati and Raja Daksh by Lord Shiva. Naag remains coiled around the neck of lord shiv whereas faithful dog accompanied Yudhishtrer, the eldest brother of Pandvas, till he reached his final abode

It is quite clear from the old scriptures how human beings and the animals lived together without hatred and ill will with each other in the remote past but whenever man has made futile effort to push the animals out from their natural habitats, both human beings and animals have suffered equally. Every day we read and watch on TV about beating of leopards to death whenever they entered into the human territory and about the merciless killing of elephants for their tusks. Many animals like bears deers are killed and their skin is stuffed in order to make their trophies for their drawing rooms.

Killing of the animals mercilessly can disturb the ecological balance which can lead to some serious consequences. The slogans referred earlier seem genuine and justified at the first sight and if these slogans remain mere words on the placards nothing solid cannot be expected except the verbosity.

Electricity playing Hide and Seek with people

he electricity woes are increasing day by day with the approach of autumn season in both the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir and the people face untold sufferings and inconvenience due to the hide and seek of electricity. With the approach of the autumn season the electricity scenario is worse as the people are facing scheduled and unscheduled power cuts thus compounding the woes of the consumers .The position is same in both the metered and unmetered areas and the people are under the grip of severe power crisis and they feel pain of not having electricity and parting of the excess money for the use of same power. The government has without any reason and justification raised electric traffics without any improvement in the electricity situation. These days' consumers in both Jammu and Kashmir are being cheated and deceived by the PDD and the power corporation because they are facing worse electricity crisis as the people have to remain without electricity in normal times as well as in peak hours. One fails to understand as to what is wrong with electricity and why the people are being put to great inconvenience in the absence of the required electricity. Despite the installation of smart meters in majority of the areas, the power situation has not changed, but is deterioting with each passing day and putting the innocent consumers to hardships .There is no one to rescue the consumers from the worse power situation. In summer, hot and humid season, there was some improvement in the power scenario but with the onset of autumn and fast coming winter, the power is conspicuous by its absence as there are scheduled and unscheduled power cuts which are troublesome and inconvenient for the public. While the PDD and power corporation assured the consumers that there will be improvement in power scenario, but on the ground instead of any improvement, the electricitv situation has become worse as the consumers are now subjected to unscheduled power cuts, thus proving the fact that power situation is haywire and consumers are faced with the worse electricity crisis. Government is planning to privatize the power sector only to the disadvantage of the power employees but without any



Kashmir, people are facing unprecedented The consumers in both the divisions of power crisis and there seems no way out Jammu as well as Kashmir face the worst from the crisis. Both Jammu as well as Kashmir is plunging into darkness due to the failure of electricity. The consumers are paying the power tariffs like the honest men but in turn only get the scant power with the result that all the gadgets of ease which run and operate on power cannot be operated in the absence of electricity and thus the people are forced to spend their time without electricity. One fails to understand as to what for they are paying the inflated electricity bills. On one side the PDD /power development corporation are charging hefty amounts as the power tariff, but on the other side, consumers are reeling into power crisis which is a bad experience for the consumers. A consumer has the right to adequate power but they are provided very scant electricity which is a harrowing experience for the general public. Government has declared both Jammu and Srinagar cities as smart cities which means that the people of these two cities will be provided all the services and civic amenities hassle free, but so far as electricity is concerned, they are not provided electricity uninterruptedly because they face worst power crisis compounding their difficulties in the autumn season in both Jammu as well as in Kashmir. There is no meaning and fun of the smart cities unless power and water is provided to the citizens. Moreover power should be pro-

both the divisions of Jammu and vided uninterruptedly and hassle free. ever nower crisis compounding their troubles because of the absence of adequate electricity. The consumers of both the divisions have right to uninterrupted and continuous electricity, but in actual day to day life they are beset with scant power compounding the woes of the consumers. The consumers fear and are worrisome that the power situation is bad in autumn in Kashmir, what will be in store for them, in the winter when the demand of power increases manifold. Similarly the consumers in Jammu feel betrayed because there is very scant power in this autumn season and in the approaching winter their electricity woes will be compounded if the same electricity position continues because the heaters and geysers are used in winter season. Government cannot wash off its hands because it had constituted Power Corporation and the government is still duty bound to provide uninterrupted electricity to the consumers who pay for it at the higher rates. In fact much ahead of the winter season, the consumers of Jammu and Kashmir are presently facing power crisis. Due to shortage of power the PDD has resorted power curtailment and frequent unscheduled power cuts. As a result of the power cuts ,the life of the people in both the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir has turned into a hell. Due to unscheduled as well as scheduled power cuts, the life of

the public is put to a lot of inconvenience and their work gets badly affected. The PDD attribute the bad power situation to low discharge of water from rivers resulting in low power generation from hydroelectric power projects. The government says that power scenario will get improved in a couple of days as they are in the process of purchasing power from UP and other places. It is being hoped that power scenario will improve and the problems of the consumers will come to end. Because of the dry weather conditions from several months and its impact on the generation of electricity, the government should have made arrangement for the purchase of additional electricity from outside the UT to avert the crisis but nothing of that happened with the result the consumers are caught unawares and are subjected to face the brunt of scant electricity. Now the PDD and power corporation are going to purchase 400 MGW of electricity from UP and Delhi and it is hoped that the worst power scenario will be over and adequate power will be made available to the consumers in both the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir and consumers will heave a sigh of relief. The PDD should take needed steps in advance of the harsh winter in Kashmir so that the consumers will not suffer for the want of electricity because the power cuts are very troublesome in winter and the government should in advance purchase the needed electricity to tide over the crisis. The public should not suffer in Jammu as well as Kashmir due to the shortage of electricity particularly in autumn and winter season. Power crisis is a bad sign because people were expecting improvement in power scenario as the government had assured improvement in powr position but nothing positive and encouraging happened as the power crisis further worsened. In short the government should come to the rescue of the consumers and purchase the necessary power and tide over the shortage of electricity and provide uninterrupted power to consumers in both Jammu and Kashmir so that the people will feel some relief from power crisis. It is hoped that the shortage of power and power crisis will soon end with the purchasing of the needed power from outside so that people will not be troubled anymore. social and KP activist).

(The author is a columnist,

YOUR COLUMN **Digital Technology for Children With Special Needs'**

improvement in electricity situation. In

In an era where technology is reshaping the way we live and learn, the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) paves the way for an education revolution. NEP 2020 envisions a future where education is not just accessible to all, but truly inclusive, regardless of abilities or disabilities. It recognizes the pivotal role of Digital Technology as a catalyst for promoting inclusivity in education. It emphasizes the importance of leveraging digital technology to provide equitable access to high-quality education for every child. Additionally, NEP 2020 highlights the critical role of teacher training in effectively harnessing digital technology for educational purposes. New technologies can enable the exploration of new learning modalities that disrupt the traditional hierarchies of educational systems and develop gen-

uine alternatives to rigid, passive learning approaches for children with special needs (CwSN) or Divyang. Extensive use of technology in teaching and learning, removing language barriers, increasing access for Divyang students, and educational planning and management is one of the fundamental principles of NEP 2020 and it also initiates for development a rich variety of educational softwares, made available for students and teachers at all levels, will be accessible to a wide range of Divvang students in all major Indian languages. ICT is recognized as a key enabler of inclusive education, and the NEP 2020 emphasizes the importance of using ICT to provide access to quality education for all children.

Incorporating digital technology into the education of CWSN is not merely an option but a necessity in the modern education landscape. NEP 2020's focus on inclusivity and equity aligns perfectly with the potential of technology to empower children with special needs. It not only promises to bridge the educational disparities but also offers tailor-made support to cater to their unique requirements. It represents a significant step forward in building a more

equitable and accessible education system for all. Digital technology can be a powerful tool for supporting children with special needs in their development and it can help them to develop their communication, social, and cognitive skills It has the potential to revolutionize education for children with special needs. Students with disabilities exhibit a diverse range of abilities and needs, thus requiring a variety of instructional and assessment methods and strategies. By equipping educators with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively integrate digital tools, we can create a more equitable and inclusive educational system where every child, regardless of their abilities, has the opportunity to thrive. To provide CWSN with access to quality education support their learning, and create a more inclusive learning environment, teachers need to be skilled in identifying the ICT needs of CWSN, selecting and using appropriate ICT tools and resources, adapting and developing educational materials using digital technology, integrating it into the classroom curriculum, and assessing and evaluating learning using digital technology.

Vijay Garg