

REDUCING MANGROVE SPECIES

Certain mangrove species in Chilika and Sundarbans along east coast and Dwarka and Porbandar along west coast of India is likely to reduce and shift landward by 2070 due to decline in suitable habitats in response to precipitation and sea level changes, said a study based on a prediction model. The study can help identify highly suitable areas for conservation and management and develop conservation strategies for the future. Mangroves support numerous ecosystem services and help reduce coastal ecological risks, yet they are one of the severely endangered ecosystems declining rapidly due to climate change, sea level fluctuations, and human activities. A limited understanding of mangrove spatial distribution and species habitat requirement has reduced the success of conservation initiatives in many parts of the Indian coastline. This underlines an urgent need to develop model-based studies to identify conservation target areas at Spatio-temporal scales, specifically in rich mangrove biodiversity regions along the Indian coastline.

Scientists at BSIP, an autonomous institution of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), used Ensemble species distribution model to study the past and current state of two mangrove species and predict their future. They found significant reduction and landward shift of mangroves in the future (2070) due to decline in suitable habitats, specifically along the east and west coast of India in response to precipitation and sea level changes in the future. In contrast, the maximum range expansion of the mangroves was mapped in the past, which was validated by fossil pollen data. The findings would be useful in the implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies in the identified hotspots for conserving the coastal wetlands and reducing the impact of climate change on the coastal vegetation along the Indian coastline.

The Indian coastline is vulnerable to the impact of climate and sea level changes, and there is not much attempt for the coastal wetland species prediction and management, with limited research carried out for their future habitat mapping. To fill this gap, this study tried to project the potential impact of climate change on mangroves as coastal wetland species. The scientists collected species location points and extracted environmental data from Worldclim database. They combined the climate variables and species present occurrence points in the model to predict the potential distribution and habitat suitability of the species both over time and over the area under novel climatic conditions. Calculating the trend of suitable area change along the Indian coastline in the past, present, and future climate change scenarios, they estimated the total area of the suitable habitat for current, past, and future scenarios for mangrove species. The study published in the Journal Ecological Informatics produces a valuable resource for the conservation of coastal wetlands across India by mapping the suitable habitats of the key mangrove species in India. The study suggests that establishing effective buffer zones in these conserved areas can narrow down the effect of non-conservative areas on the core conservative zone, and adopting preventive measures can turn some areas into highly suitable regions for facilitating the growth of these mangrove species.

OFF 'D' CUFF

‘Stop fretting, start living’

have had formal training in the fine art of parenting, most of us simply treat our children the way our parents treated us. We know of no other way to do it.

Although being a parent is a great joy, it is also a privilege that involves tremendous responsibility. While I would do anything for my two children, that willingness is not enough. We need to develop the skills of excellent parents. We cannot just hope that the way we are raising our kids is the right way and pray that we will be lucky enough that they become thoughtful, caring and wise adults.

We must take the initiative to improve our parenting abilities by attending seminars, reading books and listening to audiocassettes by the leading thinkers in this field. Then we must have the courage to keep trying to refine the ideas we learn in the laboratory of our own lives in order to find the parenting strategies that best suit our families.

I know your life is busy and there is too much to do in too little time. But those miraculous years of your sons' and daughters' childhoods will never come again. And if you do not devote the time and effort to becoming the best parent you know you can be, one day you will deeply regret the lost opportunity.

As one father who attended a seminar I gave in Toronto said, "When my son was growing up, he constantly asked me to give him piggyback rides. Though I knew how much he loved them, I was always too busy to play with him. I had reports to read or meetings to attend or calls to make. Now that he has grown up and left our home, I have realized one thing: I would give anything in the world to give that little boy a piggyback ride."

-Robin Sharma

Stop complaining about having no time for yourself and get up an hour earlier. You have the option, why not exercise it? Stop complaining about not being able to exercise given all that is on your plate these days. If you sleep seven hours a night and work eight hours every day, you still have more than sixty-three hours of free time every week to do all the things you want to do. This amounts to 252 hours every month and 3,024 hours every single year to spend on life's pursuits. There has never been a more exciting time to be alive in the history of the world and you have the choice to seize the boundless possibilities that every day presents.

If you are not as fulfilled or as happy or as prosperous or as peaceful as you know you could be, stop blaming your parents or the economy or your boss and take full responsibility for your circumstances. This will be the first step to a completely new way of looking at your life and the starting point of a better way to live.

As George Bernard Shaw said, "The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and if they can't find them, make them." Make wiser choices about the thoughts you will allow to enter your mind, as well as the attitude you will bring to your days and the way you will spend the hours of your time. Stop complaining and start living. In the words of the poet Rudyard Kipling, "If you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run, yours is the earth and everything that's in it."

Be A Better Parent: The way you raise your children is the way you raise your future generations. Since few of us

The earth is supported by the power of truth; it is the power of truth that makes the sun shine and the winds blow; indeed all things rest upon truth. -Chanakya

Correcting historical wrongs

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

It is really a welcome development and a historical one that BJP led NDA Government is on the right path of correcting the historical wrongs and mistakes committed by the congress Government of J L Nehru and in fact has rectified the blunder of congress by abrogating the controversial article 370 and 35A of the Constitution of India. It was on August 5, 2019 that the parliament passed the resolution of scrapping and annulling the historical wrong of article 370. It made Jammu and Kashmir integral and inseparable part and parcel of India. It is very unfortunate that congress had kept the unnecessary and anti national article 370 and 35 A under its lap and provided protection to these unsavory articles for 65 years of their rule or to be specific misrule of the country. In fact the genesis and root of terrorism in Kashmir can be traced to the continuance and rearing as well as taking care of the article 370 only for its wrong policy of minority appeasement notwithstanding the fact that this had done irreparable damage to the country's unity and wellbeing. Thus Kashmiri separatism and terrorism took its birth and then flourished under the shadow of unwanted article 370 and the nation suffered a big loss due to the continuance of this Article 370. Modi's government has done a yeoman's job and achieved that impossible and surprised all when annulled the article 370 and paved the way for the complete and fuller integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India. Thus BJP government under the Modi Raj has achieved that which could not be achieved for 70 long years. The congress had kept the anti national issue of Article 370 under protection and carpet and watered and milked it for over six decades of its rule and never gave a thought to its abrogation. It was only the strong willed Modi who took the big initiative of abrogation of the superficial and controversial article 370 and 35A and abrogated

these with a single stroke and ensured the fuller integration of J&K with India and thus gave a big blow to separatism, radicalism and terrorism. Some political parties and political satraps were saying that much blood will be spilled and there will be no one to fly tricolour in Kashmir if article 370 was tinkered with because the article guarantees us the distinct identity. But they proved totally wrong because not even a blade of grass was spoiled and no bird lost its life on the abrogation of article 370. Instead the historical decision of abrogation of article 370 paved the way for the economic and social development of Jammu and Kashmir: The flood gates of money and investment came to Kashmir and there was an atmosphere of peace and development everywhere in Jammu and Kashmir and the sole credit for all this goes to Modi and his Government. Much needed investment came to J&K and it would result in the economic development and there will increase employment opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir: The article 370 was an obstacle in the development and progress of the erstwhile state of J&K and thus with its scrapping the path has become smooth for the economic development of the erstwhile state of J&K and for the employment generation which will be a big achievement because the UT is suffering from the curse of unemployment and with the annulling of the article 370 the problem of unemployment will be solved to a vast extent as the opportunities will be created in the private sector and the youth will be employed and this will definitely give a boost to the economy of the UT. Moreover the superficial walls of distrust and mistrust stand demolished and this made the emotional and psychological affinity of J&K with India. Thus a big blow was given to the alienation of the people of J&K and the misguided youth are entering into the national mainstream and this is a big and positive development. There is discernable change in the security situation

and era of Hartals, Bandhs and of stone pelting has buried under the ground and now there are no such incidents. Thus, terrorism has been curbed and there are few incidents of terrorism post abrogation article 370. So Kashmir is fast moving towards peace, progress and development and this has been possible because of the far reaching and extra ordinary decision of Modi government of scrapping the unwanted and anti economic and anti national article 370. Unfortunately the people of J&K were made to believe falsely that Article 370 and 35 A are the guarantee of the distinct identity of J&K, but in actual it is not so. The article 370 as well as little Known article 35 A were in fact the big obstacles to investment activities and thus to the economic development. Therefore abrogation of article 370 ensured uninterrupted developments of trade and industry in J&K and thus this important decision gave boost to the economy of the trouble torn Jammu and Kashmir which today is on the path of peace and development. The tourist industry has got a boost as the foot-fall of tourists has considerably increased post abrogation article 370 in 2019 and it is no mean development for Jammu and Kashmir where majority of people are directly or indirectly associated with the tourist industry and it has got a boost because of the decision of abrogation of article 370. Not only economic recovery and development was made possible because of the abrogation of article 370, but emotional integration was also made possible by this decision. The people of J&K had a sense of belongingness because of the scrapping of the article 370. Thus, Modi was able to win the hearts and minds of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and this is very significant for this terrorism infested J&K. The home minister has rightly said in an election rally in HP that the article 370 was the mistakes of Nehru the first PM of the country and his congress party carried this article in its lap for 65

long years and never thought of scrapping it in the national interest. Abrogation of article 370 and little known article 35 A led to the unprecedented development of Jammu and Kashmir which was never witnessed before the abrogation of article 370. Modi had not only abrogated the controversial article 370 and 35A, but he has also waged the war against the signs of foreign slavery and did away with a great number of British laws which were redundant and therefore there was no utility and benefit of these laws except to perpetuate foreign slavery and mindset. Modi is doing great tasks of national development. Modi government took a very bold and apt decision of changing the 70 year long status quo and merged the state fully with India. It is in fact the people of Jammu and Kashmir who are the big beneficiaries of this epoch making change. During past three years Kashmiri's have realised that article 370 was a big impediment in the development of J&K and its scrapping is in their interest and thus they crusaders of so called freedom ceased to work on behest of ISI and Pakistani State. The gullible people of Jammu and Kashmir came to know that they stand deprived of the development which other states of India witnessed. Thus there is growing realisation among the people of Kashmir and thus they yearn for peace, security and development and do not support terrorism, but provide a helping hand to the security forces to contain terrorism. Modi has made it clear to the terrorists that they will be dealt with sternly if they indulge in the terrorist activities. There are indications that something big will happen so far as the PoK is concerned and the hint for this was given by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in an election rally in HP. The political Pandits and even the common people say, 'Modi Hai Tu Mumkin Hai', as this was very much true about the abrogation of article 370, which he did with a single stroke of pen.

Let's work for welfare of children

■ SUNAINA MALIK

Children are akin to small plantlets of a nursery bed, which would grow into a future progeny and lead the world to different heights. As the production of crop depends upon the health of plantlets of nursery bed, in the similar fashion future of a nation also depends upon health, safety and security of our children. But, I am very apologetic to say that our country is overflooded with dangerous monsters, who are curbing our toddlers out of their right to life, right to happiness, right to education, right to safety and security and right to freedom by committing innumerable crimes against them. You would be astonished to know that out of 27 million born Indian children every year 2 million died due to malnourishment and nearly 79 per cent have anaemia in early years of their lives. Story does not impede here, you would be pained to know that India is the home of largest number of child labourers in the world. As per official data, there are about 12 million child workers in India but some NGOs say it is about 60 million. Fire cracker, Match stick, Textile factories and hotels are filled with innocent children as laborers. Moving ahead, as per

Justice Verma commission report, a child is missing in India in every 8 minutes. According to Bachpan Bachao Abhiyan (NGO), number of missing children in India is almost doubled in 2013 as against 2012. Official statistic revealed that every year about 60000 children are missing in India (Aljazeera). These innocents are kidnapped for forced lab our, prostitution, sale of organ and illegal adaptation. After child trafficking, child marriage is also most dangerous crime against female child. According to reports, India has 13 million child brides. Next, rape is the most heinous of all crimes against our innocent daughters. Union Minister for Woman & Child Development Meanka Gandhi disclosed in Lok Sabha that 8,541 rape cases against minor were reported in 2012. This number reached up to 12,363 in 2013 and further exceeded up to 13,766 in 2014. This horrible story even does not end here nearly 53 per cent children are facing other forms of sexual abuse in India. It is a matter of enormous fret that even after 75 years of our independence we are not accomplished enough to give a safe, secure, educated and starvation free India to our children. Our innocent are vulnerable to criminals in schools, roads, parks, mar-

kets, public transports, neighbourhood and even in their own houses. Irony is, this section of society cannot resist to crimes but pay for being born as a part of Indian society. I am sure Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru would not have dreamt this kind India for his most loveable creature, those were children of India. His soul would definitely be in deep anguish on seeing the atrocious faces of criminals of India. Here I want to emphasise that mere remembering the magnitude Chachha Nehru's love for children, singing and dancing is not enough of children day celebration. Imagine, if you are celebrating children day in a sophisticated school and somewhere on a deserted lane someone's child is raped, abducted, kidnapped, molested, forcibly married or dying out of hunger: Will you feel pained or not? Surely yes, so let us fasten our hands and ensure that no naive should die of starvation, no innocent child should get raped, no child should be kidnapped, no innocent should fall prey to early marriage. In conclusion, I want to say that if we really want to wish Happy Children's Day to children of whole India, then we should give them a bequest of safe, sheltered, erudite and starvation free India.

Remembering Pt Nehru- 1st Prime Minister of India

■ G L KHAJURIA

Born with a silver spoon in his mouth on 14th November 1889 in Allahabad, Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru, the 1st Prime Minister of India was the real architect of democracy. Besides being a prolific writer, scholar, he was a veteran lawyer during British imperialism. Pt Nehru had explained him- self as a typical bourgeois, and more so communists had often called him in his early part of life a petty bourgeois-a man of wisdom, deep-rooted thoughts with wider spectrum."

In one of the speeches he made on 14th December, 1953, Pt Nehru said, "One has to find equilibrium among various forces at work, and in finding that equilibrium in a democratic country, one has to take the vast masses of people into confidence. And one has to produce a sensation in them that they are partners in the vast undertaking of running a nation, partners in Government and partners in Industry and this is the real essence of democracy". For him, democracy is not only the expression of sovereign will of people of their votes but comments at the same time, "I would say that democracy is not political way not even economic, but something of mind as everything is something of mind. It should be opportunistic freedom of masses at all spheres, political or

that of economic involving certain degree of freedom of people to cultivate the best of capacity and ability which should go parallel to each other." Nehru was a dynamic democrat, political philosopher, an unparalleled socialist of eminence, a humanist, Karmayogi and above all a big favourite of masses for the right of determination. Lord Bertrand Russel, renowned British Philosopher once said, "It was pandering, Nehru who made democracy safe in India as elsewhere in other parts of Asia and Africa," and added further, "I don't believe Nehru's greatness in words and deeds which are amply appreciable but if the mankind is allowed to survive, he will be utmostly recognized in a manner much more to his status. And his absence in the existing scenario will rather teach us as to how much we owe him." And about people of India, Nehru remarks, "Ours is an ancient land, a new born freedom achieved by us all greater with responsibilities. If anything goes wrong, we owe to it and we shall be defaulters in unison. And if we do well, it will not behave to us all, particularly the young men of defence services."

Addressing public at an occasion, Nehru remarked, "Our forces are operating in Kashmir to detract those who invaded this crown of India. We are peace lovers and want

peace, we don't want to invade other countries and enslave them as we got freed India through Gandhian philosophy of non-violence, so we desire freedom for other countries who are oppressed, especially those in Asia. Kashmir is beyond doubts an integral part of India and our forces went there not to conquer but to defend the people who were in peril and under aggression by the invaders. Our forces are known world-over went to Kashmir with utmost courage and performed their duty speedily. Much has been accomplished and much more difficult lies ahead."

Nehru was cosmopolitan in international relation and his doctrine of 'Panchsheela' is perhaps the greatest contribution defining exigent principles of 'International level Panchsheel' which virtually means five principles of peaceful co-existence and Pt Nehru explains it in the recognition of the right of each country to fashion his own destiny that India and the China Governments agreed upon five principles to govern their relations and this admittedly raised India's status globally. In his words, Pt Nehru explained, "Democracy is discussion, argument, persuasion and ultimate decision and more important undeniable acceptance, of those decisions even if these otherwise go against our gains.

And his stressful need of self-discipline was the culmination point as voiced by him that there is no democracy, if there is no discipline. He adds further that Democracy doesn't mean persistently shouting but otherwise requires discipline and responsibility within certain defined standards of behaviour. And conclusively, let us go by General Dwight EIsenhower's narration about Pt Nehru which very aptly goes as such, Pt Nehru was the foremost discipline of the great apostle of Indian freedom, indomitable leader of the people along the thorny path of liberation, wise counselor and moulder of the policies of reborn nation renowned interpreter of the aspiration of great race, his intellectual leadership has combined the profound knowledge of the West with great heritage and enduring traditions of East, a champion of under privileged people, and his devotional ideas of universal peace , his devotional ideas have won the respect and acclaim of mankind (Quintessence of Nehru). The great leader (India's Gem) left for heavenly abode suddenly on the ill-fated day of May 27, 1964 at 2.30 PM at his residence in New Delhi at the age of seventy four leaving behind mourning India.

(The author is former Deputy Conservator of Forests, J&K).

BEROZGAR SE SWAROZGAR

Govt providing new opportunities, interventions for youth to make Sheep, Goat rearing lucrative

ISDS emerging as major tool for strengthening Sheep sector

Jammu and Kashmir Government is providing new opportunities, and identifying necessary interventions to make the Sheep, Goat rearing more lucrative for the farmers. The aim of the Government is to increase livestock productivity and production in a sustainable manner and focus on untapped potential for the export and value added products. High genetic potential breeds of sheep, exotic breeds for cross-breeding, marketing facilities and preventive mechanism of endemic disease problems is bringing overall improvement in sheep rearing sector and improving socio-economic status of a vast majority of livestock producers.

Various reforms and initiatives like Integrated Sheep Development Scheme (ISDS) was introduced by the government for modernization and promotion of the sheep farming sector and strengthening of commercial activities and output of the sector which provides the means of livelihood to about 12 lakh families in the UT. The launch of Integrated Sheep Development Scheme (ISDS) has achieved major strides in supplementing livestock production and building entrepreneurship in this sector across Jammu and Kashmir. The scheme aims to promote establishment of sheep

and goat units in the union territory. Sheep sector makes a valuable contribution to the economically weaker sections of the society by their multifaceted utility of producing wool, meat, skin, manure, among others. Under this scheme, financial assistance from the banks has been made available along with other incentives and subsidies. ISDS is one of the schemes of Sheep Husbandry Department aimed at not only achieving breakthrough in wool and mutton production but also addressing the problems of unemployment across Jammu and Kashmir. Any individual/group of individuals/self-help group/cooperative society/farmers producer organization is eligible to apply for the scheme. The scheme also has the provision of Procurement of Shearing units (Comprising of one shearing machine, one Genset and shearing accessories/spares), 50 per cent of the unit cost as total eligible subsidy with a ceiling of Rs 75,000/unit whichever is less. Any individual (trained in MSS or intending to undergo training in MSS) is eligible for the scheme. The scheme is majorly contributing towards achieving Prime Minister's vision of doubling farmers' income as it augments the income of farmers that they generate by practising agriculture.

The Department also provides breeders with all kinds of assistance during disease outbreaks to minimize the losses. The structural changes and consolidation of different programmes for farm and non-farm population in the rural areas is nothing short of a revolution for rural J&K. 33-year old Muntaza Begum, a college dropout from Sheikpal Watrina area of district Bandipora in 2020 setup a sheep unit under ISDS. "There are two men working in my farm on a monthly salary of 9000 each," said Muntaza. Starting with 50 sheep, Muntaza now owns more than 250 sheep. She not only earns livelihood for herself but for the family besides providing livelihood to two other families. Similarly, 28-yr-old Masrat Jan from Lawaypora area of Bandipora has adopted 100 Eve unit. "I am giving employment to three unemployed youth besides supporting my family economically," Masrat said. She expressed her happiness and thanked UT Government, District Administration and Sheep Husbandry Department for providing her assistance in establishing the unit. Masrat Jan appealed to the unemployed youth to come forward and take benefit of different schemes provided by Government to be self-sufficient.