

GAME-CHANGER
DBT SCHEME

PM KISAN Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme to supplement financial needs of land holding farmers. Financial benefit of Rs. 6000 per year is transferred into the bank accounts of farmer families through direct benefit transfer. Certain categories of higher economic status are excluded from the scheme. This ambitious scheme, which was launched on 24th February, 2019 by the Prime Minister, is one of the largest DBT Schemes in the world. The scheme has been able to reach out to crores of farmers, with no middlemen involved in between. Maintaining absolute transparency in the process of registration and verification of beneficiaries, Government of India has been able to transfer benefits within minutes of press of a button by the Prime Minister during the bulk release events. The release of benefits for any installment period under PM KISAN has now crossed 10 crore farmers from 3.16 crore for the first installment period - more than 3 times increase in over 3 years.

PM KISAN through a span of over 3 years has successfully provided assistance of more than Rs. 2 lakh crores to crores of needy farmers. Of this amount, more than Rs 1.6 crores has been transferred since the lockdown due to Covid Pandemic. PM KISAN is an evolving scheme. The scheme was initiated with eligibility of the farmers determined on self-certification by each farmer. Improvements have been made overtime in the way farmers are registered and verified by the States.

The success of this scheme lies in the improvements introduced over time for verification and validation of the farmer details. Mandatory fields have been put in place since inception for the first level check. Once the data of eligible farmers is checked and verified by the States, it is updated on the PM KISAN portal and the same is sent to PFMS for validation of financial details; to UIDAI server for authentication of Aadhar; to income tax server to check income tax payee status; and to NPCI to verify Aadhaar seeding of the bank accounts. This has enabled the Government in continuous validation and verification of the existing and new beneficiaries.

PM KISAN is a major shift in the nature of government support to farmers in India and is one of the finest examples of good governance and use of digital public goods to reach out directly to the citizens. Taking advantage of extensive use of digital technologies in implementation of PM KISAN, the Government has also initiated steps for building a digital ecosystem for agriculture or Agri stack. This will be another digital public good in the agriculture sector, using PM KISAN data as the basis of a federated farmers database to be maintained by the States. The building of the Agri stack also provides opportunity to Government in saturating PM KISAN scheme with all eligible farmers and to re-verify all the existing beneficiaries, as per the operational guidelines of the scheme. The land details of the existing beneficiaries are thus being seeded, as per the land records of the States, so that in future dynamic linkage with the digital land records of the States is ensured smoothly. E-KYC of the farmers and payments using Aadhar Payment Bridge (APB) have also been initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture to bring in further transparency in the scheme. This exercise will also help in weeding out farmers who may have passed away in between and have sold away their land, and may have meanwhile entered into exclusion criterion prescribed under the scheme. There are many studies and findings, which indicate that the PM KISAN scheme has helped farmers towards productive investment in agriculture activities. This, in turn, through a multiplier effect, has contributed to overall improvement of the agricultural sector. For instance, in an empirical study conducted in association with ICAR, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), found that the scheme has enabled greatly in addressing the liquidity constraints of farmers for buying agricultural inputs. Further, for the small and marginal farmers, it has not only helped them to meet their requirement of funds for farm inputs, but also for their daily consumption, education, health and other incidental expenses. Truly, PM KISAN has been a game changer in reaching out directly to the farmers in the country, every four months, and in time of their need.

OFF 'D'
CUFFTurn to the
Gita when
overwhelmed
by doubt

Do you find yourself torn between the devil and the deep blue sea? Are you cruising along and suddenly you get knocked down by a challenge? Do you get overwhelmed by doubt and indecision? The Bhagavad Gita helps resolve the conflict within.

Though 5,000 years old, the Gita is timeless. The inner space of uncertainty and indecision, emptiness and unfulfillment that Arjun faced is one we all know. The eternal principles of the Gita have inspired generations of young seekers across the world to gain victory over their own frailties. All challenges are within. You have to gain mastery over yourself to win external problems.

Arjun gets pushed into battle and buckles under the challenge. Krish says there is no place for grief in life. He speaks of joy, cheer and exhilaration. All problems stem from a slight maladjustment within. Correct that and the problems vanish.

Dhritrashtra, the blind king and father of the Kauravas, asks Sanjay, the commentator of the battle, what his sons and the sons of Pandu are doing. The root of all conflict and war is a feeling of separateness - mine versus yours - which Dhritrashtra displays. Pandu was his brother. He should have seen Pandu's sons as his own. But he

Jaya Row Mumbai

Choking finances of terror outfits

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

Money makes mare go is an old adage and it has got universal applicability. It applies to the funding and finances to terrorist outfits. It is common knowledge that money is indispensable for all activities and endeavors and as such terrorism, radicalism, extremism and fundamentalism cannot sustain and grow without finances. Thus it is in the fitness of things to choke the finances to terrorist organizations so that the war against terrorism is fought and this scourge is shown the door. The other day Prime Minister Modi as well as the home minister Amit Shah has underscored the need and necessity of choking the pipelines of finances to terror organizations so that the fight against terrorism can be taken to logical conclusion. There is no denying the fact that it is money and money alone which sustains terrorism in the world and keeps it going and therefore the governments of the globe should choke the finances to terror outfits so that war against terrorism is won because without stopping the flow of funds the giant of terrorism cannot be tamed and controlled. Therefore choking funds pipeline is key to beating terror. Gaps in global regulatory framework have created huge vulnerabilities for terrorists and criminals to exploit and abuse. Terrorism has become a global problem and as such it needs the concerted and coordinated efforts of the world community to fight terrorism as without the cooperation of the world the terrorism cannot be wiped from the globe. It is as such necessary and imperative that the international community should cooperate to choke the finances and money to terror outfits so that terrorism is curbed and does not raise its ugly head. The deadly 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States triggered a global war on funds to terrorist organizations, with governments across the world trying to grapple with one of the toughest challenges to peace and securi-

ty. 20 years on, efforts continue as there is recognition that choking the funds flow linked to terrorism is one of the most effective ways to deal with this scourge and prevent future terrorist attacks. There is great importance of combating terrorist financing. Everyone knows that terrorists need money and other assets, for weapons but also training, travel and accommodation to plan and execute their attacks and develop an organization. Disrupting and preventing these terrorism related financial flows and transactions is one of the effective ways to fight terrorism. Not only can it prevent future attacks by disrupting their material support, the footprint of their purchases, withdrawals and other financial transactions can provide valuable information for ongoing investigations. The need and importance for blocking finances to terrorist organizations has been outlined and emphasized by the prime minister and the home minister the other day while addressing the conference on no money for terrorists held in Delhi. Thus countering terrorism financing is therefore an essential part of global fight against terror threat. As the terrorists and terror groups continue to raise money with the use of various means, countries must make it a priority to understand the risks they face from terrorist financing and develop policy response to all aspects of it. Combating terrorist financing has been a priority for the FATA since 2001. However, in 2015, the scope and nature of their terrorist threats globally intensified considerably, with the terrorist attacks in many cities across the world, and the terrorist threat posed by the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL/D'Aesh) and by Al Qaeda and their affiliated terrorist organizations. Funds flow cross border to providing resources for nationally designated organizations and many jurisdictions continue to suffer from persistent attacks from small cells and radicalized lone actors, drawing inspiration from

range of dangerous ideologies. The FATA plays a central role in global efforts in combating terrorist financing, through its role in setting global standards to combat terrorist financing, assisting jurisdictions in implementing financial provisions of UNSC Resolutions on terrorism and evaluating countries' ability to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute the financing of terrorism. Yet many countries have not yet implemented the FATA standards effectively. They do not understand the nature of financial risks they face, nor have effective means to combat terror. PM attends third No Money for Terror Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing in New Delhi. PM said, "We consider that even a single attack is one too much. Even a single life lost is one too many. So we will not rest till terrorism is uprooted." He further said that there is no good and bad terrorism. It is an attack on humanity, freedom and civilization. It knows no boundaries. He said there must be a cost imposed upon the countries that support terrorism. He went on to say that only a uniform, unified and zero tolerance approach can defeat terrorism. There is also a need for a uniform understanding of the new finance technologies. Anyone who supports radicalism should have no place in any country.

The PM Narendra Modi, has strongly asked for avoiding any ambiguity in dealing with terrorism and also warned against nations that use terrorism as a tool of foreign policy. He said this while addressing the third NMFT ministerial conference on counter terrorism financing in Delhi recently.

Welcoming the gathering the PM marked the significance of the conference taking place in India and recalled when the nation saw the dark face of terror long before the world took serious note of it. PM said over the decades terrorism in different names and forms hurt India. He went on to say that even

thousands of precious lives were lost, India fought terrorism bravely. He pointed out that it is all the more important to strike the financial roots of terrorism. Throw light on difference between fighting a terrorist and terrorism, the PM remarked that a terrorist may be neutralized with weapons and immediate tactical responses but these tactical gains may be lost soon without a larger strategy aimed at hurting their finances. The PM emphasized that we must pursue terrorists, break their support networks and hit their finances for our citizens' safety. The PM highlighted state support as one of the major source of political, ideological and financial support to terrorism. He asked the international community to be vigilant about proxy wars. He underlined the need to impose the cost on the countries supporting terrorism. He said the world needs to unite against all kinds of overt and covert backing of terror. Organized crime and trafficking of drugs is another means of financing terror and so the world must root out these anti-social activities and crimes. Highlighting the complex environment, the PM stressed that UNSC, FATF, FIU and the Egmund Group, are boosting cooperation in the prevention, detection and prosecution of illegal fund flow. The home minister Amit Shah has said that strict economic crackdown on terror heaven countries whose governments have made terrorism a state policy, should be launched to combat terrorism. The threadbare discussions and deliberations were held on the need to break and choke the finances of the terrorist network for a decisive fight against terrorism. To conclude it can be said with certainty that unless and until the financial support to terrorism is not choked, we will not be able to root out terrorism from the globe. Therefore snipping and blocking finances to terrorist organizations is necessary.

(The author is a columnist, social and KP activist).

Television: Fifth member in family

■ VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

November 21 is celebrated as World Television Day which recognizes that television plays a major role in presenting different issues that affect people. It is a day to renew governments', organizations' and individuals' commitments to support the development of television media in providing unbiased information about important issues and events that affect society. Television is a symbol of communication and globalization that educates, informs, entertains and influences our decisions and opinions. Today, we have smart-phones, tablets to play the smart apps, social networking sites, internet, YouTube, which help us connect with people, inform us about global events and entertain us simultaneously but it does not that mean a life without television makes not much difference. Television is one of the most influential forms of media for communication and information dissemination. It is used to broadcast freedom of expressions and to increase cultural diversity. Today, we are aware that Television continues to be the single largest source of video consumption. Though screen sizes have changed, and people create, post, stream and consume content on different platforms, the number of households with television sets around the world continues to rise. Television is one of the single greatest technologi-

cal advances of the 20th century, serving to educate, inform, entertain and influence our decisions and opinions. It is estimated that approximately 90% of homes around the world have televisions, however, with the introduction of internet broadcasting, the number is declining in favor of computers. Television creates authority. When something is shown on TV it has a particular authority about it because you know that you and millions of other people are seeing it and that professionals have produced it. Television is so influential that when an audience sees your day-in and day-out there's a certain acceptance that sets in; you're no longer a threatening personality. They become more willing to accept whatever you present. There are many channels which broadcast excellent educational programs. They can help students learn many beneficial things in an easy to understand way. Our parents, or grandparents are not habitual of using the internet. For them, television is the only source they are comfortable with.

This is why, the life without television will be difficult for them. The power of television is like every power: It has its good and its bad sides. It can help spreading a wonderful message, an idea, art, news, sports, movies and entertainment. There have been many success stories of using television for education in many countries

which has outlined the concept that television is basically not just an entertainment oriented medium and it is hostile to thoughts.

If we look at the history of Television, in 1927, a 21 year old inventor by the name of Philo Taylor Farnsworth invented the world's first electronic television. He lived in a home without electricity until he was 14 years old. In high school, he began to think of a system that could capture moving pictures, change them into a code, and then move those images with radio waves to different devices. He was years ahead of the mechanical television system as his structure captured moving images using a beam of electrons. Farnsworth later famously transmitted the image of a dollar sign using his television after a fellow inventor asked "When are we going to see some dollars from this thing?" Neither of them knew the television would become the emblem for an international day promoting the spread of global information. World Television Day is not so much a celebration of the tool, but rather the philosophy which it represents. Television represents a symbol for communication and globalization in the contemporary world. There is no doubt that World TV Day is perhaps best as it encourages us all to reflect on Television's history and future as more than just entertainment.

Pahari ethnic group, a game-changer

■ SUNAINA MALIK

The historic initiative of Narendra Modi led BJP Govt, which is going to change the fate of Pahari ethnic group, is the amendment made by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Rules 2005 on October 19, 2022, for the inclusion of Pahari ethnic group in the list of tribes getting benefits under Schedule tribe reservation. Undoubtedly, this step is going to open the gates of big universities, colleges and other educational institutions for people of Pahari ethnic group. This step is going to accomplish all those dreams of becoming high Govt officials, which eyes of Pahari people have been seeing since three decades. This amendment is going to raise the miserable living standard of Pahari people to normal, this amendment is going to fill the starved stomach of people of Pahari ethnic group and above all, this

amendment is going to confer to Pahari's their basic and fundamental right of becoming the part of state assembly or parliament from which they would be deprived of under reservation of assembly seats of Rajouri and Poonch for only ST population.

Fulfillment of promise of Union Home minister, Amit Shah to Pahari ethnic group has strengthened the foot of BJP in the foot hills of Himalaya and established one fact that BJP is the only leadership, who is committed to its promises to masses.

These people friendly initiatives are going to benefit BJP in the forthcoming assembly elections and discussions are going on that BJP is sure to win all the assembly seats inhabited by people of Pahari ethnic group.

And far sure that BJP would form Govt in Jammu & Kashmir with full majority.

But friends' resentment recorded by a small fraction of people from Gujjar community against grant of ST status to Pahari ethnic group, is very disappointing. They must add their knowledge with the fact that inclusion of one more ethnic group in the list of tribes getting benefits under ST reservation, is nowhere going to affect their rights because there are about 705 ethnic groups, which are getting benefits under this umbrella in India and to your revelation, these 705 tribes have not been added at one time these have been added over a span of time and out of them 12 ethnic groups namely 1. Balti, 2. Beda, 3. Bot, 4. Bota, 4. Brokpa, 5. Changpa, 6. Dard, 7. Shin, 8. Gaddi, 9. Gujjar, 10. Bakerwal, 11. Purigpa, 12. Sippi are from J&K, who are getting benefits from this reservation.

As inclusion of Gujjar tribe in ST list

in 1990 had not affected the rights of already included 11 tribes then how inclusion of one more Pahari ethnic group would affect only Gujjar's rights. Gujjar community must also be aware of the fact that when number of people in ST group would increase, it will surely lead to the increase of percentage of reservation.

Sorry to say friends but resentment marches of Gujjars are nothing but face of unawareness and hate politics. Gujjar community must not become puppet at the hands of hate mongers. We are one, we have to share one lane, one bazaar, one class room, one bus and one road so please stop spreading hate amid hearts. To conclude, I just want to say, that sharing is that deed of human persona which uplifts him to superior mortal so let us be instrumental towards everyone's march towards success and progress not impediments.

Every good citizen adds to strength of a nation

Every year November 19 is celebrated as World Citizen Day to provide an opportunity for the people to understand and recognize different kinds of people and their actions. Being a citizen of the world makes a closer bonding with people of different culture, religion, races, and location. It makes every citizen of the world know every other citizen of the world in a better way possible. There is no proper mention about the first occurrence of the World Citizen Day. In the year 2000, the Association of World Citizens (AWC) has filed a resolution proposing that November 19th should be declared as World Citizens Day. The aim of the Citizens Day is to make the people realize that all the humans of the world are united, and any decision taken by few will impact others. It should be realized that all the humans of this world are associated, and any decision taken by few can impact on others. This is true for both negative and positive actions. Hence, this day calls for a greater recognition of the need for cooperation and willful action.

A citizen of a country is an individual recognized

under the custom or law as being a legal member of a sovereign nation or allegiance to a government in exchange for its protection, whether at home or abroad. A citizen is one of the dominant pillars of the country. A good citizen must live in peace and harmony with his neighbour and fellow citizens. He must respect the institutions of his country. A good citizen must always respect the laws of the state and should have no patience with criminals and anti-social elements. He must be vigilant against the enemies of the country.

The role of the citizen is a role with many parts that make up one model character.

A good citizen must remain loyal to its country and respect all laws laid down by its government. They also work to improve their communities and stay up-to-date on all the goings-on.

They also obligate all Indians to promote the spirit of common brotherhood, protect the environment and public property, develop scientific temper, abjure violence, and strive towards excellence in all spheres of life.

Rights are given to the citizens for their individual moral, material or personality development and growth in social life. Responsibility is a moral duty that one should perform, such as recycling, preserving culture and heritage, etc. Voting is both a right and a responsibility. Another great duty of a citizen is to work for the good of his people. He should enjoy his personal and private liberties in such a way that the liberties of other people are not interfered with. Every citizen owes to his country unconditional service and obedience. Perhaps the greatest duty of a citizen is to take a keen interest in the political affairs of his country. He has to make wise use of his voting power and place honest, intelligent and patriotic men at the helm of state affairs.

As a citizen of the country, we are morally and legally required to perform our duties furnished by the government. Let us cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom and uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India.