

PRESERVING CULTURAL LEGACY

Heritage sites are tangible reminders of a community's history, culture, and identity. They reflect the achievements, artistic expressions, and social structures of previous generations and form an integral part of a nation's collective memory. Conserving these sites is not just about protecting old buildings or monuments; it is about safeguarding cultural continuity, fostering national pride, and educating future generations.

The significance of heritage sites extends beyond their aesthetic appeal. They contribute to social cohesion by providing a sense of identity and belonging. Sites such as forts, temples, palaces, forts, and archaeological remains connect citizens to their past and instill respect for the values and traditions of their ancestors. Moreover, these sites are often hubs for tourism, generating employment and boosting the local economy. Cities like Jaipur, Varanasi, and Agra in India, as well as globally renowned locations such as Machu Picchu in Peru or the Pyramids of Egypt, exemplify the economic potential of well-preserved heritage.

Despite their importance, heritage sites face numerous threats. Urbanization and unplanned development often lead to encroachment, degradation, and irreversible damage to historical structures. Environmental factors such as pollution, climate change, and natural disasters further accelerate deterioration. Neglect and lack of awareness among local communities can exacerbate these problems. For instance, improper restoration techniques can alter the original architecture, leading to loss of authenticity. Similarly, vandalism and illicit trade of artifacts pose significant challenges to heritage conservation.

Conservation of heritage sites requires a multi-pronged approach. Firstly, it is crucial to adopt scientific and methodical restoration practices. Experts in archaeology, architecture, and conservation science must work together to ensure that restoration preserves the structural integrity and historical authenticity of the site. Techniques such as non-invasive surveys, digital mapping, and material analysis are increasingly being used to monitor the condition of heritage structures and plan appropriate interventions.

Secondly, legal and institutional frameworks play a pivotal role. Laws like the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act in India provide a regulatory framework for protecting heritage sites. Similarly, UNESCO's designation of World Heritage Sites brings international recognition and funding support for conservation. Strong governance, effective monitoring, and stringent enforcement of regulations are essential to prevent encroachments and unauthorized alterations.

Community involvement is another critical factor in heritage conservation. Local populations often live in proximity to heritage sites, and their cooperation is necessary for long-term preservation. Awareness programs, educational initiatives, and participation in cultural activities can foster a sense of ownership among citizens. When communities understand the historical and cultural value of a site, they are more likely to protect it from neglect or exploitation.

Technology also offers innovative solutions for heritage conservation. Digital documentation, 3D modeling, virtual reality, and drone surveillance enable detailed recording of sites and help in planning restorations. These tools also allow virtual access, promoting awareness and education without putting physical pressure on fragile structures. Additionally, sustainable tourism models ensure that increased footfall does not compromise the integrity of heritage sites while supporting local economies.

Conservation of heritage is not merely an act of preservation but also a responsibility towards future generations. It fosters a deeper understanding of history, nurtures cultural pride, and strengthens identity.

Television-A Transformative Medium of Information, Entertainment and Culture

DR. BANARSI LAL

Every year 21st of November is observed as the World Television Day across the globe to recognize the beneficial effects of television for the social, political and economic developments of society.

This day is celebrated to recognise the major role television plays in shaping how people learn, share information and connect worldwide. This day highlights how television has transformed information sharing, education, entertainment and cross-cultural dialogue. This day renews the governments, organisations and individuals commitments to support the development of television as a mass media in providing the information and entertainment to the society. The observance brings attention to the role of television in connecting people, fostering media literacy and promoting social progress across the globe. This day was declared by the United Nations general assembly in 1996. The 2025 observance is expected to emphasise the evolving responsibility of television in promoting social awareness, reliable information and global connectivity. On this day schools and various other organisations invite students to participate in poster making, quizzes on television history or deliver speeches on topics like why is World Television Day celebrated. Although TV has replaced radio but still there are many people and places in the world where TV is not accessible. Television is both a visual and auditory medium. It is a very powerful and effective electronic medium of communication as well as globalization. It helps to educate and entertainment the people across the globe. Television is considered as one of the most influential mass media for communication and assists to increase the cultural diversity. On December 17, 1996, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 21st of November as the World Television Day to commemorate the date on which the first World Television Forum was held earlier in that year. All the members' states were invited by the UN to observe the day by encouraging the exchange of television programmes on issues such as peace, security, social, economic and cultural developments. Television is considered as the cornerstone of democracy. In the world of smart phones, social media, computers, laptops and many other electronic gadgets, television is still considered as the primary source of education and entertainment.

The word television (the Greek prefix 'Tele' meaning far or far off-combined with the word 'vision') describes the latest and the

greatest triumph in the field of mass communication. Television is the flourishing medium in the world. It is very effective as it appeals to both the ears and eyes. Television has shown the tremendous influence on the society. Television provides both education and entertainment. Communication is identified as the oldest continued activity of human being since birth and goes on and on till death. More precisely, communication is the basic need of human beings and web of society which makes the survival, growth, progress and development of man possible and holds the society intact and progressive. Communication plays a vital role in ones' personal life in the society. It is equally important in business, education, civilization, administration and other situations where people encounter with each other to satisfy their needs and wishes. The present age has been rightly termed as an 'information age'. Information plays an immense role in our society. Information has become an integral part of our daily life. Now people want adequate and authentic information as early as possible. The mass media namely newspaper, radio, television and internet are catering to this important need of people. For the rapid and overall development of a country it is must that the citizens of that country are well versed with the happenings around them.

Present Indian extension system is under numerous pressure where the extension workers have to cater not only the vast population but also to perform administrative, election, input supply and other responsibilities. Under these circumstances, it is not practically possible to serve all the farmers, all the time for all the problems when ratio of extension worker and farmer, the sender and receiver is more than 1:1000. Therefore, the potential of print and electronic media can be exploited to serve the rural population in this direction. Electronisation and mechanization in communication systems have provided opportunity to access the information rapidly, accurately and repeatedly. As far as the farmers of hilly areas of J&K etc. are concerned they are traditionalist-hardliners and shy in nature with poor communication behaviour. They hesitate to ask recent information's. The reason of poor communication behaviour is not only because of their personal weaknesses but there are number of constraints which come in the way and restrict them to make use of extension personnel and communication channels. Information and technologies generated are of no use for the farmers unless they reach to the ultimate users. It has been

estimated that only about 30 per cent of the technologies are being received and used by the farmers. It is further added that the information / technologies generated today reach to the entire ultimate users in about 20 years.

Use of television as a powerful communication medium has no doubt to captivate the agriculture educators to harness its potential for reaching far across the nation. While it provides words with pictures and sound effect like movie, television has the capacity to reach the largest number of people in the shortest possible time. People learn through the eyes and ears both thus, gain greater knowledge and understanding of the subject. The boom in television industries has not only affected urban masses but the rural masses are also fascinated with this media. Now this has become one of the most important media of mass communication for rural masses. It is paying a significant role in transferring the latest technological know-how to the rural people. In India where the rural masses are isolated in villages, the communication is difficult and challenging, in this situation television is one of the important sources of mass media which plays a pivotal role in reaching large number of people in a very short time. Television can bring the world to our door steps within a second. This mass medium has made dissemination of news, information and entertainment possible on a scale unprecedented in human society. It is undoubtedly one of the most versatile audio-visual aids ever developed. Admittedly, this is still a new field. There is a much to be done before television achieves its full usefulness in teaching.

In 1907, television was first recognized as a word in English and in 1948, the acronym TV was coined. In 1924, a Scottish engineer John Logie Baird invented television. He was the first person to show a working television. The television in India began modestly on September 15, 1959 by a UNESCO grant to study the use of T.V. as a medium of education, rural uplift and community development. In 1959 an experimental television programme was started to train personnel and particularly to discover what television would achieve in community development and formal education. Philips (India) demonstrated its use at an exhibition in New Delhi. The range of the transmitter was 40 kilometers and the audience comprised members of 180 tele-clubs which were provided free sets by UNESCO. The year 1961 witnessed educational television programmes on science for

teachers. In the year 1965 entertainment programmes were introduced under pressure from manufacturers and the public. In the year 1967, Indian TV went into rural programmes and 'Krishi Darshan' programmes for farmers in 80 villages' tele-clubs in Delhi and Haryana were started. The year 1975-76 beamed educational programmes to villages through SITE. Commercial telecast for the first time was introduced in 1976. In 1977 terrestrial transmitters were put up at selected centres to extend television coverage. On August, 15, 1982, the national programme was inaugurated. In 1983 INSAT-IA India's first communication satellite was placed in geostationary orbit but failed in its operation. In 1983 INSAT-IB was successfully launched in orbit by the American Shuttle Challenger. Recently government has launched a channel known as Kisan Channel especially for the farmers.

T.V. is one of the most sophisticated means of mass communication media. It serves the people by disseminating the information in areas of agriculture, national integration, health and hygienic, entertainment programmes, advertisement etc. T.V. is an ideal medium to convey information to illiterate and literate in urban and rural areas on whom it would have profound impact. As an instrumental device it is being used in variety of ways such as for direct teaching for supplementing formal education, for developing psychomotor skills, for adult education and for diffusion of agricultural know-how from etc. It is expected that the rural oriented T.V. programmes can solve the problems of inaccessibility, illiteracy and shortage of skilled persons in India. In rural development nothing is more important than the transfer of useful ideas from one person to another. The researches in agricultural sciences are of no use, unless they are communicated to the farmers in an effective manner in the shortest possible time. T.V. has emerged as a powerful medium of communication. Television is providing information and entertainment even to the people of far flung areas. While it provides sound, vision and movement, it can reach the largest number of people in the shortest possible time. Television is really the great symbol of communication and globalization that educates, entertains, informs and influences our decisions and opinions. Participation in World Television Day is a great way to cultivate media literacy and appreciate televisions role in present era.

(The writer is Chief Scientist & Head of KVK Reasi SKUAST-J)

Cast and religion two edges of political sword in Indian politics

SHIV KUMAR PADHA

In India the cast and the religion are considered as the most effective weapons when the cast of the actual weapons in the market are not only unaffordable but beyond the reach of every citizen of the country. The target of this weapon is more severe and effective as compared to the physical weapons available in the market. The cast and the religion is considered both a weapon and a shield at the same time, a double edged sword which stand in good stead, with crooked politicians, the criminals involved and caught red handed in different crimes like corruption, scams, kickbacks, treason and antinational activities, especially when they are convicted for their crime or when they feel embarrassed in the society they live. It has become a culture among the

majority of the persons in the country, irrespective of the section of society they belong, to use cast or religion card, whichever they find suitable according to the situation, to justify their crime in order to set a narrative to invite attention, sympathy and support from the ilk with a sole object to escape from the responsibility with impunity.

In majority of the cases cast and religion is the last resort, for the politicians, the persons occupying the constitutional posts in legislature, executive and judiciary, separatists, conspirators, persons involved in tax evasion, money laundering cases, those hatching conspiracy against the nation and the celebrities from different fields wriggling due to the fear of conviction and notoriety in the society. Nation knows how the persons in discussions

have been blowing hot and cold with the same breath to escape scot free before facing any legal proceedings against them.

There are many examples in the country where the so called politicians, having taken oath of constitution and sovereignty of the country and occupying apex positions in the executive of the country, celebrities and the persons involved in the cases of violation of the law of the land, terrorist and subversive activities, using the victim and cast/religion card and call the legal proceedings against them as a result of political vengeance or a deliberate attempt to tarnish the image of a particular community.

How a person adorning the highest constitutional position of the country, after his retirement, passed defamatory and derogatory remarks about the

country blaming India a land where the minorities are not safe and where there is intolerance all over only to win the sympathy of a particular community living in the world.

Majority of such MLAs and MPs, jailed as result of their involvement in the serious and heinous crimes like land encroachments, murders, stabblings, extortions running their parallel government s from within the jails in connivance with the jail and their friendly governments and if they are eliminated during an encounter; they consider it injustice and a crime on their entire community or cast.

The preceding five years have been the years where many politicians, in order to gain political mileage and attract the sympathy of their cast and religions have been making scathing attacks on the other cast and religion

and tearing of the pages of their epics and burning them in public. Such type of politicians do not hesitate, rather feel proud in passing the blasphemous remarks against the others. And if they are convicted and put behind the bars consider it an attack on their cast or religion. Their motive is only to commit the crime on behest of the cast and religion and escape scot free using the cast and religious card and go scot free.

The terrorists and their mentors, when apprehended on the charges of their involvement in the antinational and terrorist activities provoke their ilk and level it an example of atrocities being committed upon the whole community they belong.

The high profile politicians, bureaucrats and their accomplices, instead of confessing their crime or co operating the probing agencies in the matters of

their involvement in the cases of corruption, scams, tax evasion, money laundering and possessing the assets more than their source of income term it as an action politically motivated and a political vengeance against them. Using the cast and the religion card is their last weapon they use to win the sympathy of the people.

It is very unfortunate that the culprits and criminals believe more in the exploitation and provoking the religious and cast sentiments instead of facing the trials in the august courts of law. It is the duty of every law abiding citizen to help curb this suicidal menace and condemn the use of cast and the religion as a weapon and the shield with an intention of averting the legal proceedings against them.

(The writer is a social activist of Basohli)

Jim Corbett National Park-India's Living Legacy of Wildlife Conservation

G L KHAJURIA

Jim Corbett National Park is nestled in the foothills of the Himalayas in Uttarakhand, India. This park is one of the most celebrated wildlife sanctuaries in Asia. Established in 1936 as Hailey National Park, it is the country's oldest national park and was renamed in 1957 to honor Edward James Corbett, the legendary hunter-turned-conservationist whose efforts laid the foundation for modern conservation in India.

The land that became Corbett was once part of the princely state of Tehri Garhwal, later ceded to the British in the 19th century. Initially, the forests were exploited for timber and cleared for settlements. The Boksas tribe cultivated the land until they were evicted in the 1860s under British rule. Conservation efforts began under Major Ramsay in the mid-19th century, who restricted farming, cattle grazing, and timber exploitation to protect the fragile ecosystem.

The park is divided into zones such as Dhikala, Bijrani, and Jhirna, each offering unique landscapes and wildlife encounters. Jeep safaris remain the most popular way to explore, while birdwatching, trekking, and limited camping experiences provide visitors with deeper connections to nature. It is spread across more than 1,300 square kilometers, the park is a mosaic of dense sal forests, rolling grasslands,

marshes, and riverine belts. The lifeline of this ecosystem is the Ramganga River, which sustains a remarkable diversity of flora and fauna. It is world-renowned for its population of Bengal tigers, making it the launch site of Project Tiger in 1973, India's flagship initiative to protect the endangered species. Alongside tigers, the park shelters leopards, elephants, sloth bears, and a wide variety of deer. Bird enthusiasts are equally rewarded, with more than 600 species of resident and migratory birds painting the skies with color and song.

Almost three-quarters of the park is encompassed by deciduous forest including peepal, Rohini, and mango trees. There is a total of 110 species of trees making the forested area. Another 10% of the park is accounted for by grasslands. Altogether there are over 485 species of plants found within the boundaries of the park.

The varied vegetation of the park creates an excellent sanctuary for wildlife with around 50 species of mammals, 25 species of reptiles, and over 575 species of birds. The birds are complemented in the skies by 36 different species of dragonflies.

Tigers are one of the leading species of mammals that bring visitors to the parks with hopes of seeing these stunning creatures. Spotting tigers is a challenge because of the abundance of thick vegetation.

Other predator species include leopards, jungle cats, fishing cats, and the leopard cat. Popular mammalian species include elephants, water buffa-



lo, barking deer, sambar deer, chital, black bears, mongoose, rhesus macaques, and hog deer.

Jim Corbett National Park is more than a tourist attraction-it is the birthplace of India's conservation movement. Its success has inspired the creation of dozens of tiger reserves across the country, reinforcing the idea that protecting wildlife is inseparable from protecting human heritage.

Things To Do:

Embark on an Exciting Jungle Safari-No trip to Jim Corbett is complete without experiencing the thrill of a jungle safari. The park is divided into several zones, each offering a unique glimpse into the wild.

► Morning Safari: Begin your day at

dawn-the best time to spot the elusive Bengal tiger. The forest awakens with birdsong and grazing animals, and you may encounter elephants, leopards, and herds of deer.

► Evening Safari: Prefer a slower pace? The evening safari is equally enchanting. The golden hues of sunset create a magical backdrop for photography and wildlife sightings.

Experience the Thrill of River Rafting

For adrenaline lovers, river rafting on the Kosi River is a must. Flowing along the park's edge, the river combines scenic beauty with exciting rapids (Grade I to III), suitable for beginners and seasoned rafters alike. The rafting season runs from late September to June.

Explore Cultural Gems:

Corbett Museum & Garjia Temple
 ► Corbett Museum: Located in Jim Corbett's former bungalow, the museum showcases his life and conservation legacy through photographs, letters, and personal artifacts.

► Garjia Temple: Perched on a rock in the middle of the Kosi River, this temple dedicated to Goddess Parvati offers spiritual solace and panoramic views.

Go Bird Watching in a Paradise of Avian Wonders-With over 600 bird species, Corbett is a haven for bird watchers.

► Riverside Trails: Spot kingfishers, fish eagles, and migratory birds along the Kosi and Ramganga rivers.

► Forest Trails: Discover colorful woodpeckers and the rare Great Hornbill in the dense woods.

Don'ts in Corbett

► No Unauthorized Exploration: Do not venture into restricted areas. Follow designated routes to avoid potential dangers.

► Avoid Disturbing Wildlife: Do not chase or attempt to get too close to the animals. Maintain a safe distance for both your safety and theirs.

► No Smoking: Smoking is usually prohibited in wildlife areas due to the risk of forest fires. Follow the designated smoking areas, if any.

► Avoid Flash Photography: Flash photography can disturb wildlife, especially at night. Avoid using flash when taking photographs.

► No Loud Noises: Keep noise levels to a minimum. Loud noises can be

stressful for animals and may disrupt their natural behavior.

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► Don't Feed the Animals: Feeding wildlife can disrupt their natural diet and behavior. It can also make them dependent on human food, which is not healthy for them.

► Respect Local Communities: Be respectful towards the local communities and their customs. Avoid any behavior that may offend or disturb them.

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► Do not carry any kind of firearms within the Tiger Reserve, it is strictly prohibited

► Smoking and lighting any kind of fire is strictly prohibited within the Tiger Reserve

► Driving after the sunset is strictly prohibited inside the reserve
 Conclusively, for nearly nine decades, this iconic park has stood as a living legacy, reminding the world that conservation is not a choice but a responsibility. With its breathtaking landscapes and thriving biodiversity, Jim Corbett continues to inspire awe, respect, and hope for future generations. Whether you seek adrenaline, tranquility, or a deeper connection with nature, Corbett offers it all-making it a destination that stays etched in your heart forever.

(The author is Former Dy. Conservator of Forest, J&K)