

NEW TECHNOLOGIES

The new year promises to usher in a wave of new technologies that will impact the global employment market; keeping upcoming global trends in perspective will help students and job aspirants stay ahead of the employment curve.

The year 2022 has been all about waking up to new realities and maintaining a balance between the old and the new.

New developments have taken place across all sectors, including education and employment. Mobile technology, cloud services and augmented reality tools have been making waves in the economy and their impact on the global careers landscape is inescapable.

The labour market the world over has witnessed an intensification of digitalisation. With the enhancement in remote working and hybrid workforces induced by the pandemic, the careers landscape has been influenced by rapid automation and adoption of new technologies. Immersive technologies like virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR) and mixed reality (MR) offer an integrated ecosystem to engage with employees and establish new processes.

The world has been preparing for 5G to go mainstream for a long time. 5G offers seamless coverage, low latency and highly reliable communication systems but that's not the whole of it. The integration of 5G is expected to take the Indian IT industry to great heights. By 2035, 5G is expected to have a cumulative economic impact of US\$1 trillion and increase GDP by US\$150 billion.

Yet another career trend that will top the charts is cloud computing. It has opened up immense possibilities for organisations as they employ cloud computing services in everyday functioning. Initially, its mainstream adoption was somewhat slower due to a lack of knowledge and the fear of losing jobs among the IT workforce. However, it has picked up pace in recent years. Cloud computing has made it possible to set up virtual offices with anytime, anywhere connectivity. 5G technology-led cloud systems are enabling business leaders to be more perceptive to meet real-time business needs.

While the world is harnessing the use of technologies to empower practical, technical and task-based abilities, soft skills have become equally important as well. The importance of soft skills in contemporary culture has been acknowledged to include critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, emotional intelligence, teamwork and flexibility, among other things. Business leaders and recruitment agencies will be looking out for prospective employees that demonstrate a fine balance of technical and soft skills.

Cross-functionality and merging careers are expected to be some of the top global career trends of the future. If statistics are anything to go by, a change in the human-to-machine labour ratio might result in a loss of up to 85 million jobs by 2025.

The new year promises to usher in a wave of new technologies that will impact the global employment market. Keeping upcoming global trends in perspective will help students and job aspirants stay ahead of the employment curve. Learning new-age skills will enable them to gain a strong foothold in their career trajectory and prepare for career success.

Take Time
to Find Time

We are living in an age where there is much to do and not enough time to do it. Every day, we are caught in a net of information; bombarded by information through various technologies, platforms and outlets and much of our time is spent in gathering this information, be it about the world around us or things that we believe are healthy for us.

Oftentimes, however, we end up simply spending our time in gathering this information but not making use of it to better our lives. We are given 24 hours each day to put to good use, out of which, after discharging our worldly obligations and giving rest to our body, we have about six hours to put to good use. How we use this time defines how we use our day and therefore it is important where we focus our attention during this time. The key to making the most of our time is to first and foremost understand what our priorities are.

It is helpful to stop and ask ourselves, where is our attention going? What are our priorities? We may find that we spend too much time and attention in the monetary aspect of our life or our careers at the cost of neglecting our families, our personal growth and our spiritual growth. If so, we may want to look at balancing out our life. Many of us become so absorbed trying to amass money and possessions in our everyday life that we neglect other aspects of our life.

We may not only miss out on the beauties of nature and the joys of relationships with other people, but we may be missing out on the greatest treasure of all—the spiritual riches.

There is nothing wrong in earning a livelihood. However, when earning money becomes all-consuming at the neglect of our health, our family, or our spiritual growth, then we may be leading an imbal-

India under leadership of Narendra Modi will showcase India's prosperity and culture at G20

■ TARUN CHUGH



It is a matter of pride for every Indian that India has got the presidency of G-20, a group of 20 big economies of the world. This speaks volume of leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi whose government has placed India in the top ranking countries of the world.

The G-20 presidency means that India will lead for the next one year the G-20, that represents 80 percent of the world's GDP, a 75 percent of international trade and 60 percent of the world's population. This is huge honour for India.

On the one hand, under leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India will get an opportunity to prove its potential on the international stage and on the other hand it will give us an opportunity to present its lofty heritage, rich culture and heritage in front of the world.

India getting the chairmanship of G-20 has many aspects. The G-20 is an important forum for coordination in the international economy. As over 80 percent of the world's GDP comes from these 20 countries, it has its bearing on the world's trade and commerce. It will not be wrong to say that to lead G-20 would mean virtually leading the world.

On December 1, when India took over the presidency of the G-20, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that 'India's agenda for the G20 will be inclusive, ambitious and action-oriented'. He had said that today's challenges like climate change, terrorism and epidemics can be tackled only by working together and not by fighting with each other.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar

had also clarified about India's role as G-20 President in the past and said that during its presidency, India will try to build consensus among G-20 countries on many global issues. India will use this opportunity to underline the country's 'Three Ds i.e. Democracy, Development and Diversity.'

The upcoming G-20 meetings will be one of the top international events to be hosted by India. By the way, meetings related to G-20 have already started in India. Over 200 such meetings of 32 different sectors will be organized at different places across the country. The G-20 meeting is being held in the wider context of the geopolitical crisis, food and energy security and the pace of the Sustainable Development Goals and the growing debt burden'.

India's endeavour is to build consensus within the G-20 and to shape the issues of the Global South in particular, as well as drive this agenda forward. There will be big events across the country before the proposed summit in October-November next year. G-20 meetings are to be held in major cities including Delhi, Chandigarh, Guwahati, Lucknow, Pune, Indore, Surat, Srinagar, and Amritsar.

Apart from 20 member countries, major global organizations like United Nations (UN), International Monetary Fund (IMF), and World Health Organization (WHO) will participate in these conclaves. Apart from this, permanent invitations are also sent to some other countries including Singapore, Spain, Bangladesh. Prime Minister Modi has kept the theme of India's G-20 chairmanship 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (The world is one home).

The next one year is very important for India. There is a chance to prove that India can lead in global affairs. All these

events will also be important in the emergence of India as a superpower. The President of Indonesia handed over its chairmanship to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the G-20 Summit held in Bali. It includes 19 countries Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, UK, US and European Union.

During the presidency of India, there are expected to be more than 200 meetings of G-20 countries in the coming one year. These meetings will be held in 50 cities of the country. In this way India will have a chance to present its diverse and rich culture and heritage to the world.

India's chairmanship of the G-20 has come at an opportune time, not just for India, but for the entire world as the climate crisis, COVID crisis, global supply chain crisis and debt crisis, geopolitical crisis and food and energy crises that have emerged in the recent past have thrown economies, especially developing economies, into turmoil.

The chairmanship of the G-20 does not confer any formal power, but being the host, the chairing country has its own influence. In such a situation, using its influence, India can give a meaningful direction to the G-20.

Thus under the leadership of Narendra Modi, India can give direction and vision to the world. Be it the problem of environmental change or food problem, health management or energy management, at this time the eyes of the whole world are on India. In such a situation, India has a chance to show its leadership.

India has rightly projected the theme of G-20 as 'One Earth, One Family, One

Future'. Member countries will try to build consensus on global economic recession, debt crisis, poverty caused by Covid, climate crisis. Besides this, reforms in institutions such as the World Bank, IMF and World Trade Organization will also be on the agenda.

India has become the centre of hope in the world at this time. All countries are keen to associate with India. On such an occasion, the chairmanship of a big organization like G-20 can prove to be a big opportunity for India. Decisions in the G-20 are taken by consensus. It does not have a veto system like the UN. In such a situation, big decisions are possible in this and India will get its benefit.

At present, India has close relations with all the countries of the world. The warmth shown by the heads of states including American President, the British Prime Minister and the Australian Prime Minister along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Bali is an indication of this. India is getting the presidency of G-20 for the first time. In such a situation, there will also be an opportunity to showcase your abilities on the international stage.

The G-20 platform, which has the potential to bring change on a global scale, will be helpful in finding a way out of the current crisis. It is time for collective action and there is no better country than India for consensus and action. There is an opportunity to position ourselves as the voice of the Global South (Latin America, Africa and Asian countries). The G-20 chairmanship will enhance India's credibility as a responsible power in the world. Due to all this, India will be able to act as a catalyst for global changes.

(The author is the National General Secretary of BJP).

Dragon on its Toes

■ OKMAR DATTATRAY

There are strained relations between the two Asian giants, China and India and after the recent border crisis and physical clashes between the armies of the two countries, China has shown change in its behavior to India. The dragon now talks of cooperation between the two countries and wants to work together and have friendship with India. China seems to be on its toes so far as its stand with India is concerned. The marked and significant change in the attitude and behavior of China towards our country seems to be the result of the Indian diplomacy and it can be said that China's change in its behavior viz a viz India is the win of Indian diplomacy and it is the good augury for the normalization of the relations between the two countries. The dragon and its president Xi Jinping has realized that this is not the India of 1962 but the India of 2022 and Modi's India which cannot succumb to pressure tactics and so she has now been on her knees. The Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi Male Han has said that China wants to work with India and this statement of her foreign minister is significant because it will begin the normalization of the relations between China and India and so this in practice will be the first step towards the normalization of the relations between the two countries. Earlier India, China lashed out at each other as the talks reached bitter deadlock but now after the recent physical clashes between the two armies after the attempt of the Chinese troops there seems to be a thaw between the relations between the two countries as the China wants to engage with India and work with it so that the tension will not escalate and the situation will remain normal on the line of actual control. There is a marked shift in the attitude of China towards India and it augurs well for the bilateral relations between the two countries. There is utmost need that the two neighbors should build on the present optimistic and positive signs given by Chinese leaders and it will be in the interests of the two countries. Chinese foreign minister has given a very positive and encouraging statement which can go a long way to cement the relations between the countries concerned. Therefore the two neighboring countries of India and China should work together and in close cooperation to build cordial relations so that an era of goodwill and trust can be made possible. Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi has said

that China is ready to work with India through steady and sound growth of relations. The Chinese minister said this while addressing reporters on China's relations with India. Wang Yi stated, "China and India have maintained communication through diplomatic and military to military channels and both countries are committed to upholding stability in the border areas. We stand ready to work with India in the direction towards steady and sound growth of China, India relations." In fact this statement came in the backdrop of December 9 standoff between India-Chinese troops in Arunachal Pradesh's Twang sector. This statement of the Chinese foreign minister shows that there is a paradigm shift in the behavior and attitude of Chinese leadership and it is a good augury for the normalization of the relations between the two countries which are reeling in strained relations. This change in Chinese attitude towards India is perhaps the effect of the growing clout of India in the international sphere and this has resulted in the change in the behavior of China towards India after the December faceoff in Twang sector. Modi's diplomacy and his thrust towards the bilateral ties and his strong leadership has favorable impact on China and its leaders are now talking of working with India for steady and stable India-China relations. The fact that India has taken the mantle of presidency of G20 and her assuming of the world leadership has forced China to change its attitude towards India and this is no insignificant development for normalization of China-India relations. There is some commonality in the culture of the two Asian neighbors and from ancient time there have been cordial relations between India and China but in the twenty century the relations between the two countries are not clearly marked and there are differing perceptions so far as the long border between the two countries is concerned.

The relations between the two countries had plummeted so low and were strained in 2020 June due to the worst clashes in Galwan valley of eastern Ladakh and it resulted in the human casualties between the two armies and the border tensions continued for two years despite of the military to military talks. Now the situation was not so tense but the CLA transgressed into our side in Twang sector of Arunachal Pradesh and it resulted into physical and man to man clashes

between the two armies.

However Indian troops were successful in making the Chinese troops to retreat to their side of the Line of Actual Control. But after this border tension and face off between the two countries, Chinese leadership showed abrupt change in its behavior towards India and this encouraging change can be attributed to the growing stature of India because of the sound and strong diplomacy and the consistent foreign policy of India towards China. India wants bilateral relations with China and our foreign policy is directed towards it.

The tensions, conflicts and wars have no place in 21st century as this century is of cooperation and not division. Moreover world and China-India has common challenges and problems like terrorism, global warming and climate change as well as other common issues which can be fought in cooperation and therefore the two countries of China and India should sink differences and work closely to find solution of these problems and also need to reduce the border tensions for the good of the two nations. Thus there is need for the engagement between India and China not only at borders but at the level of the political leadership.

There is also a need to build normal political relations between the two countries after the December faceoff the two countries agreed to maintain the security and stability on the ground in western sector. The MEA statement said the two sides agreed to stay in close contact and maintain dialogue through military and diplomatic channels and work out a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest. There is a discernable shift in Chinese political leadership towards India but we should be vigilant and cautious as one does not know if the present change in attitude of China towards India is real or a trick of our clever neighbour. In the end we should also give a positive response to Chinese current attitudinal change towards India and try sincerely to build the cordial relations between the two nations while remaining cautious. In fact Dragon has come on toes so far as its attitude towards India is concerned and it seems to be because of the strong diplomatic and international leadership of Modi as well as his strong foreign policy towards China.

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

GOOD GOVERNANCE JK

J&K emerging as model of digital Govt across country

IT interventions, digital initiatives bringing transparency in governance, streamlining public service delivery

Jammu and Kashmir is emerging as a model of digital government across the country with focus on transparent and accountable governance system.

IT interventions and several digital initiatives are bringing transparency in the system and streamlining the public service delivery system for the welfare of common masses. J&K has achieved several milestones with solid technical architecture at the service of citizens with speedy development as the new identity of J&K.

The prime objective of government is to online and instead of travelling to Government offices, people just need to use digital mode for availing different government services. The Government aims to establish a system which enables people to access high-quality services anywhere, anytime, on any device.

Continuing its march on the path of providing E-governance to its citizens, J&K has been successful in providing

nearly 444 services online including all the major services commonly availed by the people.

Government is working to usher the UT into an environment where its citizens would carry offices in their pockets and avail any services without having to physically visit any of the office.

Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta in a recently held meeting maintained that the contactless administration not only ensures transparency and accountability but swiftness also.

He observed that the technology happens to be panacea for all the evils and J&K envisages to utilize the IT/ITEs for optimum empowerment of its population as per the vision of LG administration.

Notably, the number of online services provided by Planning Department shot to 411 in addition to 33 services integrated on Rapid Assessment System (RAS). Moreover 195 services had already been integrated with the feed-back system out of these 411 online

services and some 103 more services are going to be made RAS complaint shortly.

Synchronization with auto-appeal for the services of few departments has generated encouraging results with 99% applications disposed within the stipulated time frame as per the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) which not only ensures timely delivery of services but penalizes those officers/offices found failing in doing so.

The UT administration is soon going to integrate all its online services with the auto-appeal so that all the services are provided to its citizens as per the timelines specified in PSGA for these services for the benefit of one and all.

Government has directed the stakeholders to formulate short-term goals of 3-6 months and long-term vision statements to transform core ICT infrastructure, governance and services for ease of living, accessibility, innovation to transform J&K into digitally empowered soci-

ety and knowledge economy.

It is worth to mention that Digi Dost' program launched by Govt is aimed at developing a strong network of digitally empowered young volunteers at District, Block and Panchayat level who can work as the brand ambassadors for Digital J&K and Digital India to achieve maximum mobilization and awareness on digital services.

'Digi Dost' volunteers assist in digital service delivery, data collection, training, spreading information regarding Digital India campaign and make the people aware about cyber hygiene and cybercrimes.

As per official data, J&K is number one in the ranking of UTs in e-governance. Host of initiatives like e-office, BEAMS, Awam ki Awaaz, MyGov, e-Unnat, Digilocker, Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani have brought transparency and accountability in governance across J&K mad brought transformational changes in the lives of people.

Sant Rajinder Singh Ji
Maharaj