

## GST REVENUE

GST (Goods and Services Tax) is an integrated tax system, that is, many taxes already imposed in India have been removed and replaced with only one tax, GST. GST was implemented in India on 1 July 2017, since then many changes have been made in it.

The Indian Constitution had given the right to impose tax on production and services to the Central Government and the right to impose tax on the sale of goods to the State, on the basis of which everyone made taxes as per their own. In this system, many types of taxes were imposed on one commodity, sometimes a situation of tax on top of tax was created. GST has been implemented to deal with these problems. Along with the advantages of GST, it also has some disadvantages but if its disadvantages are ignored then it is known that the format of GST has been prepared in such a way that it benefits the businessmen as well as the consumers. It replaces many indirect taxes of the Central and State Governments like Value Added Tax, Central Value Added Tax, Excise Tax, Customs Duty, State Excise Duty etc.

## No Aggressive Celebration of Lord Ram's Consecration

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

Celebration of Lord Ram's consecration and inauguration of grand temple dedicated to Ram Lalla is good and understandable .Hindus have every right to celebrated the historical occasion as it is after a long gap of 500 years that Lord Ram temple has been built and Ram Lalla will be kept in the sanctum sanctorum of the magnificent temple and the Hindu faith is associated with the celebrations .It is natural that the majority community of India feels proud about the consecration of Ram Lalla and the inauguration of the Ram temple .However there is going on petty politics about the grand event and the political parties without any exception are doing politics over it ,which is unacceptable and is harmful for the country and equal harmful and dangerous is the aggressive celebration of the consecration of Lord Ram and the inauguration of the Ram temple .But aggressive celebration is not needed as the great fanfare over the celebration of Ram temple will result into hullabaloo from the Muslim community as they are less tolerant .Thus the aggressive celebration may lead to further divide in the volatile society and in our diverse country .It will also broaden the gap between Hindus and Muslims and pit one community against other .Therefore while celebrating the grand occasion ,it should also be kept in mind that such celebrations should not lead into Hindu -Muslim tussle and affect the secularism of the country which is our big asset .Even Lord Ram besides being the incarnation of Lord Vishnu was an ideal king as well and he never differentiated between the communities and therefore as his followers ,it is our religious ,moral and constitutional duty to avoid doing anything which has the potential of creating communal tension in the diverse society .We should maintain the doctrine of unity in diversity at all costs and thus should not indulge in creating communal divide in the country .Lord Ram is the cultural ,national as well as religious and spiritual icon of India and the people of the country will not tolerate that Ram is politicized and made a thing of trade and instead they would like that the people should revere ,respect and honor everything connected with Lord Ram who is the essence and very breath and soul of India .It should be appreciated that Ram is not politicized and both the treasury benches and the opposition parties should not eclipse the real issues concerning the people and do petty politics on Lord Ram who is the sign and symbol of Indian cultural heritage and legacy .The people of the country are by and large sagacious enough to distinguish between what is good and bad and they will isolate those who trade in the name of Ram and do vote bank politics on Bhagwan Ram .Thus people of this country are wise enough to distinguish between doing politics on Ram and respecting and revering the cultural and national icon Ram .Therefore while celebrating the consecration of Lord Ram and the inauguration of the magnificent temple dedicated to Lord Ram should not indulge in aggressive celebration of the historical and cultural and national occasion and event as to destroy the most wanted secularism and communal harmony .Thus as the true citizens of India we should avoid the superficial issues and concentrate on the real and mundane issues concerning people and as for as possible avoid doing politics on Lord Ram .Ram is the life and breath of India and her people accord required and due importance to Ram and everything for which he stood .The life and teachings of Lord Ram are needed by the people and these are a source of great inspiration to all Indians irrespective of religion and caste .The people of the country will celebrate the historical and cultural event with dedication and devotion to Ram and they should celebrated this great occasion of consecration and inauguration of Ram temple with sobriety and should not give a political color to the event and instead to celebrate it so that the Ram temple issue will be solved for all times to come .Therefore while celebrating the inauguration and consecration of the historical event ,it should be ensured that the celebrations should not led to the division in our highly volatile society and instead bridge the gap between the different sections of the society .Thus this historical event and occasion should be celebrated with most humility and with sobriety so that secularism ,pluralism and communal amity and harmony is not only kept intact but it should result in furtherance of inter faith harmony ,secularism and tolerance .The Ram consecration and inauguration issue should not be hijacked by any political party as it is not a political issue but a cultural issue through and through and so no political party should make it a political issue and doing so will definitely backfire .At the same time all the political parties both saffronites and so called secularists should play a positive role and thus celebrate the grand and great occasion with unison and no political party should try to steal the show and take credit for the construction of Ram temple .The shrewd voters of our electoral democracy know it well who created impediments in the construction of Ram temple and which party facilitated the construction of the grand Ram temple and this will definitely find eco at the time of general elections which are coming nearer and will be held in April/May 2024.Thus while celebrating the national and cultural event of consecration of Lord Ram and the inauguration ceremony of the celebrations should not be stretched too far as to invite hullabaloo in the society which is very volatile .So the grand celebrations of the inauguration should not create communal division in the country and instead these celebrations should unify all Indians irrespective of religion and faith .Therefore it is the bounden duty of the Ram devotees to further communal amity and not to do anything which will weaken the secular and plural fabric of India .The minorities of the country should appreciate the fact that Ram is not only of Hindus but he belongs to all humanity and therefore all should contribute in the inauguration ceremony of Ram temple and Pran Pritishta of Ram Lalla and the Ram temple issue should be solved for.In short the grand celebration of the consecration and inauguration should unite the Indians and not disunite the people.

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

It is the Higher Power which does everything, and the man is only a tool. If he accepts that position, he is free from troubles; otherwise, he courts them.

-Ramana Maharshi

# Youth Empowerment for Rural Development

■ DR. BANARSI LAL

National Youth Day is celebrated on 12th of January in India to honour the birth anniversary of great spiritual and social leader Swami Vivekananda. The theme of this year National Youth Day is "Arise, Awake and Realise the Power You Hold." Government of India declared the celebration of National Youth Day in 12th of January, 1984. This day is dedicated to young minds, promoting education and encouraging community service. Swami Vivekananda was a great religious leader whose ideals inspired the country's youths. He was born on 12th of January, 1863 at Kolkatta, India. He was a Hindu monk and the main disciple of the mystic Ramakrishna Paramahansa. He was a great philosopher; poet, writer and orator. He always inspired the country's youths for better education, work and dedication. He was an instrumental in introducing the philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world. He published lot of books from 1887until his death on 4th of July, 1902.Many schools, colleges, universities and various other organisations across the nation celebrate this day and various programmes such as processions, speeches, recitations, music, youth conventions, seminars, sports competitions are organized. Swami Vivekananda was extremely patriotic and is considered as a hero for his contributions to the philosophies of India. He was a voracious reader and used a wide range of subjects including the philosophy, religion, history, social science, art and literature. After his 1893 speech at the World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago, he was called as the "Messenger of the Indian wisdom to the western world". His thought provoking lectures, quotes and writings have been a subject of study and a great source of inspiration for the youths.

Youths are more creative, energetic and innovative. It is highly important for any nation to encourage and support the young generation. Development of any nation depends on the development of its youths. Rural youths have

indomitable energy and enthusiasm for the rural change. Migration of rural youths in urban areas in search of employment has risen fastly. This has resulted a decline in workforce in the agricultural sector. The advent of free market has been able to generate employment opportunities in the private sector which requires highly skilled workers. A majority of rural youth may not meet the criteria of private sector for a variety of reasons, like lack of advance technical expertise, inadequate trainings etc. The globalization process has brought certain changes whose implications for the rural society and the rural youths need to be thoroughly understood. Presently India is the youngest country in the world. As per the United Nations, youth is defined as a person in 15-24 years of age group whereas the census of India treats people in the age group of 15-29 years as youths. According to Baizerman (1991), in the third world countries youth have not been able to play a vital role in the developmental process and has remained a marginalized group. The participation of the rural Indian youth can be more impressive if more attention is paid on them. Mass media does not pay more attention on rural youths. Due to their proximity to institutions like universities, colleges, institutions of mass communication, political centres and by virtue of being an integral part of modernisation process like developing a rational outlook, adopting different sub-cultures and promoting cosmopolitanism, the urban youth continuously remains in the limelight. Rural areas are slow in their socio-economic development, slow pace of modernisation, industrialization, overpowering presence of powerful but retrogressive social institutions, inequitable distribution of land and most significantly and underutilisation of human resources. The stereotype of rural youth is glibble, conservative and he himself tries to fastly change but cannot escape from the adverse impact of the aforementioned problems. The latest information should be reached to the rural youths of the remote areas. There has been a sustained cam-

paign by the market forces to increase their rural marketing operations as three-fourths of the consumers live in rural areas and more than half of the national income is generated in rural areas. It has been observed that mostly television is the forte of the market forces and continuously promote consumerism which stimulates unrealistic desires in the rural youths. The political processes at the village level are intertwined with the operational aspects of the existing social hierarchy. It has been observed that rural youths are encouraged during elections campaign but the number of elected representatives from this segment is very low. Thus, despite their sincere efforts in the democratic processes they have a long way to go in holding positions and decentralisation of political power has not resulted in major changes in the social structure of villages. It has been observed that increasing population, overexploitation of biological resources, construction activities and changing consumption has led to the loss of bio-diversity. For all this rural population cannot be held responsible for excessive consumption as it is the youth of urban areas whose consumption levels reached new heights leading to enormous pressure on the natural resources. The industries release untreated effluents contaminating the water reserves which will expose the nearby rural population to waterborne diseases. The toxic wastes of the industries are dumped in the waste lands on the outskirts of the urban areas or nearby villages which poses a serious impediment to the wasteland development projects. Watershed development is a major agricultural activity. It is the youth of village who take the responsibility in the success of watershed projects like construction of check dams and water tanks. The educated rural youths can prevail on the rest of population to take steps to preserve ground water resources. Joint forest management is another dimension of environment protection. The youth in the villages can be mobilised to take care of illegal felling of trees and make social forestry programme successful. In

rural areas gender discrimination is very high. Less literacy rate and traditional thinking of the people are the major reasons for the inferior status to the rural women. It has been observed that a large number of women representatives are chosen in the Panchayats. Despite their success the rightful ascendancy of women is questioned by the male dominated society and the position of rural female remains secondary in all aspects of life. Present era demands innovative solutions and technological advancements. Encouraging youths to embrace education, entrepreneurship and creative thinking will be very important for India' continued growth and prosperity. Rural female youths in many cases have to marry below the stipulated age because of family pressure and obsolete norms of the community. The higher death rate of the rural female youths indicates the lack of availability of proper medical facilities during pregnancy and delivery; poor diet and lack of care of their family members towards their health. Early motherhood combined with lack of proper education and inadequate physical and mental maturity compound the problems of women. There is need to motivate the rural female youth to take part in her decision making. With the implementation of employment generating schemes, efforts should also be made to sensitise the rural youths on various social issues. The mass media, whose influence on society is quite significant, should be prevailed upon to increase the focus on developmental issues and social concerns. In order to avoid the rural migration government should encourage the rural based industries. More employment should be generated in the rural areas during the off season of the year. Development in rural areas can stop the rural migration and may reduce the pressure on the urban areas. National Youth Day 2024 could emphasise the importance of cultural exchange, interfaith dialogue and fostering global cooperation among the youths.

(The writer is: Sr. Scientist & Head of KVK, Reasi SKUAST-J).

# Surya Putri-The grave of Duggars landscape

■ GL KHAJURIA

The Jammu city which is known as City of Temples throughout India for its monumental, archeological and historical importance is now losing its pristine grandeur and glory due exploding populating accruing from the migration of population from the valley, rural areas and from industrialization. The amounting pollution is yet another threat to the existence of ability. Over the years, the Tawi which is the life line for Jammu city is depleting and its nectar clear water which perennially flowed is now losing its majestic look with every moment. At one point of time, people in and around the vicinity of Jammu used to subsist on water. The same case is nowhere in sight now. Rather it be flowing water brings along with it,filth and debris from Nagrota and other areas.

The source of the Tawi river is "Kailash Kund Lasea and after taking Turns and twists all along the route it takes in its lap various tributaries varied catchments and reaches the base of "Suez Dhar"whose entire catchment drains into the Tawi at Seri and from Seri, the river encompasses various various micro to macro watersheds of Lati,Dhona, Jhaked, Marotih, Koi and Gharian

on its both sides and then it reaches Sudhmahadev where small rivulets confluence down below Sudhmahadev.

The river thence onwards moves serpentine and the entire catchments of Southern areas of Patnitop, Kud, Nathatop on the one hand and 'JugDhar' and its south eastern aspect on the other hand drains into the Tawi river.

Down below, the river loses its water table and is hugely encountered by garbage dumps, debris and other waste material of unprecedented nature. How this nectar of old golden days is to be kept clean is the clarion call of the day?And then what steps are warranted to restore back this most reverential river to its glory is doubtlessly, a paramount need of the hour. A few steps suggested are:

Averting encroachment: All out efforts are warranted to be taken to remove encroachments around the river Tawi and in this context the Forests, Revenue, JDA and MCD and other NGO's would have to come to the prefrontal.

The exercise needs to be initiated right from Nagrota downwards upto Ware House Belichrana and SouraChak on both the banks of the river so that the sybian surroundings of the

Tawi is restored back to its pristine beauty.

Discouraging garbage dumping: The tippers, samallcarriers loaded with waste filth, debris, ply thence and other noniodegradable wastes of all hues are dumped into the river making it filth-ridden. These waste materials are mostly an outcome of the marriages and other ceremonial occasions and the same is true of waste material of hospitals and medicare centers. The safest and healthiest way out is to recycle this waste material. Catchment area treatment: All the catchments right from the origin of the Tawi, downbelowRainbringapura where it mixes with Rivi warrants to be treated by way of massive afforestation works, coupled with soil conservation works. In the forestry parlance, the campaign should start from top to bottom as the barren tops are benefit of vegetative cover and unless, these are well clothed. The entire exercise shall prove futile. And in achieving this mission a multidisciplinary approach on the part of forests, soil conservation, agriculture, horticulture and sericulture departments has to taken intense at this resections. This will enhance scenic beauty of the area.

Velichuar cleansing : Does anyone of us claim

that Tawi river is having clustered service stations for vehicles which of all hues intrude into it for cleansing?And where have the concerned authorities gone? They probably seem to have gone under hibernation or deep slumber. So, at this juncture all-out efforts are needed to be taken to unit a blanket ban on this ugly practice which otherwise tantamount to desertification of river Tawi a pride of Jammu.

Fish Culture: Some natural springs and ponds do exist on the left bank of the Tawi river where there is ample scope of fish culture and the department of fisheries have to take a forward stride.

Massive afforestation along the Tawi banks- Arboriculture alongside the3 Tawi shall provide picturesque panorama to the people.

Bathing Ghats : On the left bank of the river exists idol of Lord Hanuman amongst a cluster of many temples. The place is also known as 'Hari Ki Pouri' where people of all hues throng for holy dip on the occasion of pious days. In case these steps are taken, there is hope that the Tawi will flow majestically once again.

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

# Shift in ideologies

■ K.V. SEETHARAMAIAH

Change of an individual's loyalty to another party or change of party's loyalty to another bloc results in shift in ideologies also. Latest example to illustrate is of Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi. Congress, once a bête noire of Shiv Sena is now fair-weather friend of Shiv Sena (UBT). She has drawn a parallel between the top Congress stalwarts not attending to Ayodhya event and the four Shankaracharyas skipping the event. Congress is caught in the dilemma of respecting the event in which BJP and RSS have significant role and fear of erosion in vote-share if the event is boycotted in the mask of 'respectful rejection of the invite'. In her defence of Congress, Chaturvedi has questioned whether the four Shankaracharyas who have declined to participate are also wrong. Congress has declined the invite for a different reason and Shankaracharyas have also declined the invite for a different reason. The wavelength of Shankaracharyas and Congress cannot be the same. Therefore both of them cannot be seen in the same page. Chaturvedi philosophically says "Lord Ram resides in all our hearts, minds, religion, faith, decisions and acts". She has not been saying anything that has never been said by anybody in the past. If this is her considered view and everyone born in this world can subscribe or had subscribed to her views, there would not have been a single temple, mosque or church or gurudwara

on earth. Congress had described Ram as an imaginary figure. While the party has declined to take part in the Prana Prathishtapana function, it has changed its stance to a little extent with the statement of some Congress leaders coming out that they would visit the temple any day after January 22. Certainly the party leaders are well within their rights to attend or not to attend the event or to visit or not to visit the temple even after January 22. In doing or not doing anything it is the vote vocation that matters. There are also some sincere Congress leaders who have not liked the decision taken by Sonia Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury to skip the Ram Temple event in Ayodhya. There are Ram devotees in Congress also. It is such people who only abhor the decision taken at the top.

There is dissenting view among the four Shankaracharyas on the religious principles and practices. They have high respects in Ram. If they do not attend the function, it is not because of politics but because of the honest differences of opinion with other seers about the Pran Prathishtha taking place even before the temple construction is completed. Two of the four Shankaracharya have reportedly agreed to support the event. Swami Avimukteshwaranand is of the view that the construction of the temple doesn't signify a victory of Sanatana Dharma. He is also of the view that the ceremony

is not followed with the norms of Hindu religion. The view of Swami Nishchalanand Saraswati Shankaracharya is that the event is against scriptures. The report that Shankaracharya Bharati Teerth will not be attending the event has been dismissed by the Sringeri Mutt. His visit to Ayodhya has been neither confirmed nor denied. Even silent seers are also dragged into controversy. Reports say that Shankaracharya Sadanand Saraswati is not going to attend the function. The report has been neither confirmed nor denied. Apparently, the temple not fully constructed is not the main reason for not attending to the event by the said Shankaracharyas. If incomplete construction is the reason for not attending the event, people indulge in house-warming ceremony before the building is fully constructed. The rationale behind this is that the evil eyes would fall on the building if the building is fully constructed and opened. Gruha Pravesham is performed with some part of building not constructed because the eyes of people must divert towards the incomplete portion. With this belief only new buildings are opened when it is not fully constructed. This is in practice particularly among Hindus. Shankaracharyas are not so cheap to do politics in it. They have left politics to politicians. Shankaracharyas are capable of sorting out the issue. Chaturvedi has to take note of this.

# To reduce stress, help your child develop positive feelings

■ SURJIT SINGH FLORA

In today's hectic environment, many parents balance various jobs, with their occupations taking center stage. Busy schedules, limited quality time with children, and possible development and well-being issues might ensue. A number of scientific studies have examined how busy working parents affect their children.

Anxiety is a common mental health disorder that affects people of any age. Due to their calm and obedient nature, anxious children and teens often go unnoticed by their parents and teachers. Consequently, numerous individuals fail to receive the assistance they urgently require. Regrettably, if anxiety is left untreated, it can give rise to various issues in the future. These may include depression, missed chances in one's professional and personal life, heightened substance abuse, and a general decline in overall well-being.

Parents frequently express that, from an early age, they sensed a distinction in their child but didn't immediately identify it as an anxiety issue. Many parents hoped that their child would eventually overcome their challenges, only to find that their child's condition worsened over time. Parents of anxious children and teens can often feel uncertain about how to proceed, along with experiencing frustration and a sense of being overwhelmed.

Indeed! Parents have a significant impact on molding their children's behavior and values. However, for busy working

parents, finding time to teach and instill important life skills can be quite challenging. Child development research reveals that parents who emphasize work above family may impact their children's values. These kids may prioritize professions over material things.

Due to the pressure of studies and changes in life after the COVID period, the mental health of children has also been affected a lot. If your child is also struggling with stress or any other mental problem, you can take better care of them by:

Listen to your kid, support them, and ensure that they feel comfortable discussing their views and emotions. Nod your head or give short affirmative responses as the children listen. Don't judge them for anything. Trust them and be patient.

Be honest with your child and make them feel that you are always there to support them through your words and gestures. Support them in their interests and try to build a beautiful relationship.

Make sure to acknowledge and appreciate your child's accomplishments and efforts. Keep in mind that if you are angry or the child is not in a good mood, do not raise an issue. When you disagree with your child about something, take some time to think about how you and your child can work it out together.

Make sure your child never feels alone. Reassure them that

you are always there to listen if they ever want to share something. Tell them that it's easier to ask for help when someone is with you.

Try to spend time with your youngster: Ask about their day and activities. Allow them time and space. Tell them that kids become worried, agitated, and depressed.

Talk to your youngster about his emotions and thoughts. Sharing and seeking assistance is frightening but appropriate. If they don't want to speak to you, they may recommend an aunt or uncle, older sibling, close friend, trusted teacher, elder, or doctor.

Encourage your kid to take breaks from academics, homework, and other activities to spend more time doing what they like.

Accept your kid regardless of gender and encourage them to have emotions and accept themselves. Love and nurture children of all genders and orientations.

You may inspire your youngster by defying gender preconceptions. Father can cook and clean, while mother plays sports.

Prioritize things that offer you pleasure and relaxation, such as creative hobbies, nature walks, reading, playing a musical instrument, and spending time with loved ones. These actions have deeper importance. They help children and teenagers develop pleasant emotions to fight stress.

(The writer is a veteran journalist and freelance writer).

