

## PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA 2024 RECORDS 1 CRORE REGISTRATIONS

The 7th edition of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Interaction Programme with school students, teachers and parents "Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024" has recorded, till today, a massive over 1 crore registration on the MyGov portal. This shows the extensive enthusiasm among students nationwide, eager to participate in this distinctive event and interact with the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi conceptualized this unique interactive program - Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) - wherein students, parents, and teachers from across the nation and also from overseas interact with him to discuss anxieties related to examinations and life after school. This event was organized successfully for the last six years by the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education.

This year, the programme will be held on 29 January 2024, from 11 am onwards in a town-hall format at Bharat Mandapam, IPTO, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Nearly 4000 participants will be interacting with the Prime Minister in the programme. Two students and a teacher from each of the States and UTs and winners of the Kala Utsav and the Veer Gatha competition may be invited as special guests for the main event.

The online MCQ competition is live on the MyGov portal between 11th December 2023 to 12th January 2024 for students of classes 6th to 12th, Teachers, and Parents to participate in the contest. As of 5th January 2024, over 90 lakh students, more than 8 lakh teachers and around 2 Lakh parents have registered so far.

Pariksha Pe Charcha is part of the larger movement - 'Exam Warriors' - led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to create a stress-free atmosphere for youngsters.

It is a movement that is driven by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts to bring together students, parents, teachers and the society to foster an environment where the unique individuality of each child is celebrated, encouraged and allowed to express itself fully. Inspiring this movement is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pathbreaking, bestselling book 'Exam Warriors'.

With this in mind, as a precursor to the main event, starting from 12th January 2024, i.e. Youth Day, till 23rd January 2024, a bouquet of activities shall be organized at school level which will include joyful learning activities like marathon run, music competition, meme competition, nukkad natak, student-anchor-Student-guest discussions, etc. On the last day, 23rd January 2024 i.e. birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Jayanti, a Painting Competition shall be organized in 500 districts across the country. The topics shall include Chandrayan, the sporting success of India, etc. - which show-case how examinations can be an Utsav of Life.

About 2050 participants shall be selected on the basis of their Questions on the MyGov portal and will be presented with a special Pariksha Pe Charcha kit comprising of Exam Warriors book in Hindi and English, written by the Prime Minister, and a certificate.

## Understanding the Amended Hit & Run Laws-A brief analysis

■ MUDASIR MUSHTAQ KHAN

Law; an ordinance of reason for the common good, made by him who has care of the community (Thomas Aquinas)

What does amended hit & run law says:

The amended law enumerates:

106. (1) Whoever causes death of any person by doing any rash or negligent act not amounting to culpable homicide, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, and shall also be liable to fine; and if such act is done by a registered medical practitioner while performing medical procedure, he shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Explanation.— For the purposes of this sub-section, “registered medical practitioner” means a medical practitioner who possesses any medical qualification recognised under the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 and whose name has been entered in the National Medical Register or a State Medical Register under that Act.

Furthermore the law states:

(2) Whoever causes death of any person by rash and negligent driving of vehicle not amounting to culpable homicide, and escapes without reporting it to a police officer or a Magistrate soon after the incident, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description of a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.The law to penalise the individuals accused in hit & run cases was already in place under section 304-A of Indian Penal Code (now amended).

Thousands of cases of are still pending trial before the competent courts across the country.

Now through the recent amendment Parliament of India introduced a new provision under section 106 (1) (2) of BHARATIYA NYAYA SANHITA, 2023 thereby enhanced the punishment maximum punishment up to 10 years with a fine for the cases falling under sub-section (2) of section 106. Pertinently the increase to a maximum jail term of ten years comes in response to Supreme Court judgments calling for stern action against drivers who flee the scene. However if a driver has accidentally hit someone and informs the police in time, then he or she will face a lesser punishment .

Implications of the amended law:

The Supreme Court has stated in multiple cases that strict action should be taken against those drivers who recklessly drive vehicles, cause accidents resulting in someone's death, and then flee the scene. If a person immediately reports to a police officer or magistrate about the accident caused by reckless driving the individual will not be charged under subsection 106 (2). Instead, the person will be charged under 106 (1), where the sentence is lesser, i.e. up to 5 years and is a bailable offence. Section 106 (2) is non-bailable. The amended Section 106 (1) of the Sanhita says that “Whoever causes death of any person by doing any rash or negligent act not amounting to culpable homicide, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years, and shall also be liable to fine; and if such act is done by a registered medical practitioner while performing medical

procedure, he shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, and shall also be liable to fine. In contrary the contention of the drivers that they fear mob justice even when they are not at fault. But as discussed above the amended law has been introduced in a beautiful manner which had made every endeavour to strike a balance between individual & public interests . Therefore the need of the hour is to listen to all the stake holders so as to get their doubts cleared in order to pave way for implementation of the public welfare laws passed by the Central Government in letter & spirit.

(The authors is Government Law Officer, UT of J&K).

Death is not extinguishing the light; it is only putting out the lamp because the dawn has come.

-Rabindranath Tagore

# North East Region’s Tech Transformation- accelerating development through innovation

■ G. KISHAN REDDY



A decade back, North East Region's challenging topography, with vast forested area and landlocked geography was accepted as a natural impediment to development and connectivity in the region. Ten years hence, North East Region boasts of the world's second highest railway pier bridge in Jiribam-Imphal, a live technological marvel that promises connectivity unhindered by the challenges of topography. Impressively, since 2014, over 5 lakh crores have spent been across various sectors to unleash the region's true potential. Adding further momentum to this initiative, technology and digitization became an indispensable part of the strategy for holistic development of the North East Region. From public service delivery, governance to youth and enterprise, widespread use of technology is promising a new revolution in the Amrit Kaal of Uttarpoo Bharat.

To ensure robust infrastructure, use of latest technology in construction of roads has been made mandatory. This will make the roads more resilient in the face of adverse weather conditions. Further all the States under the aegis of North East Space Application Centre have prepared plans of action in the domains of Agriculture & Allied, Disaster Management, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Water Resource Management, Medical & Health, Planning & Development, Transport Communication using space tech-

nologies.

Agriculture and Horticulture are the two most potent sectors of the region, holding immense potential for economic growth and livelihood generation. Space tech is being used for acreage mapping, horticulture infrastructure mapping, site suitability assessment, mobile app for farmers among others. More than 600 Entrepreneurs, thousands of farmers and Artisans have benefitted from various technologies through Science and Technology Intervention for North East India (STINER) a dedicated scheme under North Eastern Council (NEC) for promotion of Science and Technology in NER.

DoNER Ministry is intensively employing technology for monitoring of projects as well. Almost all the project sites have been geo-tagged and a Project Monitoring Portal has been launched. The digital innovation is helping in speedier implementation of projects and efficient monitoring. For the first time DoNER ministry has housed its field units in all the states for smoother collaboration with State governments. A Mobile App is being developed for the field units through which they will ensure swifter implementation of projects and better coordination with the State government and central agencies.

In healthcare, the integration of digital solutions holds the potential to revolutionize access to medical services, via telemedicine and mobile diagnostics. An important development on the horizon involves the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region (DoNER) and Tata Trusts, aiming to establish state-of-the-art cancer hospitals across all states. DoNER

has already allocated a substantial grant of Rs 129 crore under the PM-DeVINE initiative for the high-tech Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute in Guwahati. Furthermore, 5G enables health applications have been rolled out in all States enabling door to door diagnostics, telemedicine etc. Adding to these strides, a cutting-edge 3D printing Centre of Excellence has been inaugurated in Guwahati, Assam, marking a significant leap in technological advancements within the healthcare landscape.

Tech-advancements are expected to open new avenues for the talented and skilled youth of the region. Recently, we rolled out India's first 5-G training labs across all the States of the North East Region. These labs will assist the youth in bridging the digital gap and acquiring futuristic skill sets. A successful Tele-education project was executed by establishing smart virtual classroom facilities in 75 government schools and 4 District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) in Sikkim and Assam. The primary objective of this initiative was to enhance the quality of education for students residing in remote and rural areas of the region. DoNER shall fund more such initiatives in the future. MeITY is also setting up domain specific Centre for Excellence across India to build next wave of budding entrepreneurs in the emerging areas of technology. Centers of excellence on healthcare, IoT in Agriculture, Graphic Design, Gaming, GIS etc are coming up across all the 8 State capitals.

The Region is also set to benefit from the upcoming National Data Centre for North East. Being built with the cost of Rs. 348

crore, the Data Centre will skyrocket digitization capacity of the Region, foster socio-economic growth across sectors and strengthen service delivery across sectors.

In the recent years, North East has shown a great potential for digital acceptance. In the North Eastern Region (NER), 47% of individuals own smart phones, which is almost same as the national average of 48%. Interestingly, the linkage of mobile and bank accounts in the North Eastern Region is also on par with the national average of 86%. We are strategizing activities to tap into it by enabling growth of Common Service Centers, increase in Aadhar penetration and using this opportunity to promote women's economic empowerment and participation.

North East region of India has a tremendous opportunity to accelerate its development through the use of technology. Aligned with Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Digital India, policymakers, businesses, and individuals must come together and collaborate effectively to exploit this opportunity and drive adoption for larger public welfare. Private sector should actively seek out opportunities to leverage technology in their operations and embrace digitalization, automation, and data analytics, to enhance their efficiency and competitiveness. It is an exciting time to be a part of this transformation unraveling in the North East Region and efforts are underway to position it as the powerhouse of tech-innovation and tech-led entrepreneurship in the region.

(The Author is Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region, Govt. of India).

## Challenges ahead in 2024

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

The new year 2024 will be full of challenges ,hopes ,resolutions and the governments and the people have to face challenges and come victorious at the final analysis .The year 2024 being full of challenges is not a hearsay and not an exaggeration but a reality and the governments and the citizens have to face the challenges boldly with determination and come successful at the end .Being full of challenges ,the new year will also be full of thrill ,excitement and activity and the government and the people at large have to face the challenging job and come face to face with challenges and reality .The people as well as the government will have to face the challenges ahead and be victorious at the end and thus there will be enthusiasm and adventurism among the people and the government .Many complex decisions will have to be taken throughout the year so that the adventurism and challenges will be converted into opportunities for the good of the society .While bidding farewell to 2023,it is time to take stock of strategic issues .Globally it has been a challenging year with many unresolved conflicts and Gaza joining the list .For India ,it is another year of strategic drift .It is hoped there would be a move forward on the promulgation of National Security Strategy and theatre commands .Armed with the judicial closure ,restoration of statehood and elections will be on agenda .From major elections across the globe to simultaneous and converging catastrophes ,2024 will be a pivotal year that shapes the geopolitical landscape and human-

ity's collective future .As we look ahead we find the five issues that will shape our world the most in 2024.These are-1-Crisis are converging everywhere and all at once.2 -Power shifts.2-Global election cycle 3-heightened tensions in the middle east.4-China's economic pressures 5-Ageing populations .Back home we have to face the tough challenge of holding general elections to elect and install a new government at the centre and all eyes of the people and the poll experts are set on the Lok Sabha elections of 2024.Along with the holding general elections which is a big and challenging tamasha of biggest democracy of the world ,the holding of the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be a tough and challenging job for the government .But the regional ,national political parties and the people of Jammu and Kashmir at large will welcome and embrace the state polls as these are long overdue and people as well as the regional political parties and the national party of congress support and will welcome the assembly polls .Both general elections and the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be the big challenges of 2024 which the centre government and the citizens have to face .Removing the residual militancy in Jammu and Kashmir will be a difficult and most challenging job as the militancy has again raised its ugly head in Poonch and Rajouri belt where terrorists have recently ambushed two army vehicles and martyred five soldiers which is a big loss to the country and so curbing terrorist activities in Rajouri/Poonch belt is in fact a challenging job and the security forces should maintain

constant vigil and the intelligence should cooperate with the security forces to contain and fight the terror in these areas. Along with holding the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir ,the statehood has to be restored to Jammu and Kashmir which is an urgent and top demand of the political parties and the people of J&K as well .As the Modi government is committed and bound to restore the full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir as the home minister Amit Shah and the PM Modi as well has umpteen times assured the people to restore the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir at the appropriate time and there will be no good and opportune time than year 2024 to restore the statehood to the subjects of Jammu and Kashmir .Tackling the violence and racial mayhem in Manipur where there is BJP government is one of the difficult tasks of the centre and state government .Manipur is in fact burning with caste violence and in 2024,the centre and the state government of Manipur should seriously combat communal and caste violence which has devoid hundreds of the innocent lives .The question and problem of reservations have engulfed the state of Manipur and there is no end to the caste violence and in 2024, the government should combat the violence and rumors 'and put a heavy hand on those anti social elements hell bent to destroy the peace in the north east state .Mob lynching and mob violence has spread tentacles in various states of the country and in a democracy there is no place for mob lynching and mob violence even if the victims had committed a crime as the law of the land should be allowed

to take its course and punish the law breakers and criminals .Therefore one of the big challenges is to curb the unfortunate and growing trend of mob lynching as the country runs according to constitution and law and no one should be allowed to take law into its hand .Thus mob lynching whatever be the reason is not justified on any account .The whole nation is ashamed of mob lynching and violence and it gives a bad name to our country and culture and therefore our government should deal with sternly with those who indulge in heinous crime of mob lynching. Drug addiction among young population throughout the country and especially in Jammu and Kashmir is a very serious problem and it is a big challenge and should be curbed for the good of the country .There is nexus between the terrorism and the drug traffickers and this connection between the drug abuse and terrorism should be weeded out to free the society .Terrorism and separatism as well as fundamentalism and extremism is raising its head in various parts of the country and it should be curbed in the interest of the country .These are the big challenges and should be curbed for the good of the country .criminalization of politics and nexus between the politicians and criminals is a big and tough challenge and should be dealt with strongly .Like year 2023,the year 2024 will also be full of the challenges .In short the government and the people at large should face these challenges boldly with firmness and come successful at the end.

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

## Save Earth, Save Future

■ DR. BANARSI LAL

The Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs but not every man's greed"- Mahatma Gandhi.

Of all the planets the Earth is considered as the luckiest planet in the universe because it is the only planet where life became possible. Beautiful life developed on this planet whether that is in the form of humans, animals, plants or marine life. But the human race lost its humanity and used the Earth's resources ruthlessly. The world marks this day to make the human race to realize the importance of the Mother Earth. The Earth is the most unique planet because it developed the most intelligent life called as the human race. Environmental and climate literacy is the engine not only for creating the environmental and climate laws and policies but also to promote green technologies. It is worthwhile to mention here that our Earth planet is losing the 15 billion trees every year i.e. around 56 acres of forest in every minute. Many species are going extinct rapidly. With our efforts we can protect hundreds of species. Lack of environment education has led man to be harsh to nature. There is dire need to empower everybody with the knowledge to inspire action in defense of environmental protection. Plastics are poisoning and injuring the marine life. Plastics are disrupting human hormones and causing major life-threatening diseases and early puberty. The exponential growth of plastics is threatening our planet's survival. There is need to reject, reduce and recycle plastics and for this purpose local government should come forward. There is dire need to find out the innovative ways to reduce the plastic pollution. There is urgent need to change the attitude and behaviour of the people towards plastics.

Our Earth is the most beautiful planet and is the only planet in the solar system that has life. Man has relationship with the mother Earth. There is dire need to protect the mother Earth because the whole world

is facing the problems due to environmental degradation and global warming. There is need to connect the people with the nature across the globe for the safety of present and future generations. It is estimated that if the present consumption and production pattern remains the same with the rising population at an alarming rate then we will need three planets to sustain our ways of living and consumption. There are 7 continents on planet earth. Every human being has only one dream which is to live better, to eat better and to consume better. But most of them do not care for the planet Earth. Now we are more than 7 billion but we have only one planet to live and survive. We have limited food, limited place and limited shelters. If we keep on using natural resources as we are doing every day, a day will come when our own grand children shall be forced to live homeless with full of hunger. So it's better to consume the natural resources with care and responsibility. Thus, we should stop the wastage and use the natural resources according to our need not on our greed. Each of us knows the importance of nature. It consists of all the living beings on the earth, which are mutually interdependent on each other. But due to the excessive pollution including plastic pollution caused by human beings, many species are becoming extinct and the global climate is also changing at a very rapid rate. The changing climate is inversely affecting our health and also going to give a long term effect on our future generations. We know that millions of people on the Earth depend on forest for their livelihood. Every living being is dependent on plants and trees. Only the plants and trees can make our food. But, we people are degrading the forests in a rapid rate.

It has been estimated that by 2030 food production will need to double and industrial output and energy use will increase three times in the world and five times in the developing nations. This growth can bring the risk of appalling environmental damage. It can also bring with it better environ-

ment protection, clean air, water and eradication of poverty. Environmental damage affects the present and future human welfare. There is need to establish a sustainable development process. Environmental aspect assumes great significance in growing deforestation, soil erosion, land degradation, water pollution, biodiversity loss and the like which continue to worsen economic development of India. The common property resources which are mostly natural resources must be protected for the overall growth of the nation. Such efforts for preserving the natural resources not only lead to optimum utilization of natural resources but also generate more employment for the people. This initiative requires people's participation. For instance, afforestation activities cannot be successful without the help of local communities. The relationship between development and environment is well established. There is dire need of awareness among the people on environmental issues. Environmental quality is an integral part of development. Without environmental ethics development is simply undermined. Natural resources are the wealth of any nation. Presently they are facing environmental hazards due to various reasons. Sustainable development is focused on any kind of betterment that should not harm the environment so that the well being of future generations is guaranteed and the harmonious relationship environment and development is sustained. The process of sustainable development tries to build social and economic progress satisfying the needs and values of the social groups without foreclosing future options. Rio-Earth Summit (1992) highlights the view that socio-economic development and environment protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing processes. Recently, the healthy rural environment has encountered divergent environmental hazards as an addition to their existing issues of social and economic hardships. Such threats badly affect the local community which is

the impetus behind research for alternative sources such as cultivation in marginal lands. It constitutes a growing class of environment refugees. Sustainable development is felt as a necessary intervention to fight against poverty, unemployment and other complicated problems. Sustainable rural development can promote growth and equity simultaneously and also promote the development of democratic process at the grass root level by creating awareness on social forestry, soil conservation, population control, protection of tanks, rural energy management, biodiversity, popularization of eco-friendly activities etc. Sustainable development on the one hand benefits local people and safeguards the flora and fauna of a particular region on the other.

Common property resources can generate more employment opportunities. The sustainability of development for the people should dexterously and lucratively aim at motivating the people to get involved in community action and to ensure their participation in diverse and numerous environmental protection and optimum utilization of natural resources. People's participation plays an inevitable role in driving the fruits of development schemes. It is an important instrument to augment the empowerment of the people. It increases the worthiness of the project by means of achieving a steady and balanced growth from within the best use of natural resources. Environmental issues cannot be solved unless the local people take part in it. Their participation will help in promoting wildlife conservation, afforestation and also in employment generation. Protection of environment is mainly in the hands of the people. On this particular day, let us pledge to do whatever we can to do to protect this beautiful planet. We can avoid using our car on this day and save petrol and free the atmosphere from some pollution. We can recycle the papers and stop using plastic bags. We should make collective efforts to protect the mankind.

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