

PROGRESSING INDIA

Even in the field of security, India is no longer behind anyone. Traditional and latest weapons are being manufactured in the country. The development of tanks, radar, missiles, combat vehicles, missiles like 'Prithvi', 'Trishul', 'Agni' etc. is making the country confident about its security. We have become the nuclear power of the world. The nuclear deal with America is noteworthy. The successful test of Agni 5 missile is a proof of India's growing security system.

In the end it can be said that the country has developed in every direction. India's credibility in the world has increased, but the destination is still far away. Economists have suggested some basic mantras to make the country a developed nation, but there is doubt whether today's crooked politics, greed for power and the confused nature of the people will allow this to be realized.

Charming Chinar-The beauty of the Valley

■ GL KHAJURIA

Chinar is virtually a person derivation meaning thereby 'chi' 'naar' haying affiliation to what is so called' fire' or owing due to 'fiery colour of leaves when leaves fall in autumn and in their turning out as golden yellow manifesting flaming red' leaves. Basically, this beautiful, giant and majestic tree is not only indigenous but exotic one. The mention of chinar as boin'is found in the folk lore of Kashmir.

The Chinar tree is the real beauty of the Kashmir valley where many films have over the years bear affiliations to this majestic trees as for example the most prominent films like 'Azroo' and 'JabJab Phool Khiley have beenshot in and around Dal lake and the most-magnificent 'Parks' and Gardens of Kahmir. The picturesqueand kaleidoscopic beauty of the Kashmir valley over the years have attracted and haunted the foreigners from China and western countries and they have described it as the 'Paradise on earth'. The environment that surrounds the valley is unambiguously enchanting and enthralling more and more so due to these largely spreaded over 'Chinars' amongst other enchanting greenery of the flora and salubrious and lush green deodars, kails, oaks, spruce and fir with altitudinal variations apart from Pinus gerendana (chilgoza) which is richly found next to Paddar in Jammu region. But the majestic Chinar finds its rich and unique placement in Kashmir Valley. The 'Charchinari' admist 'Dal lake' can most conveniently be attributed as a 'heritage' of velvet Kashmir valley and the more you praise, the less it is and this valley is in no way less than Switzerland of Europe over the mother earth which having other enchanting and bewildering spots on the other parts of globe, yet the enchanting beauty of the velvet valley has got its own significance of rarity of beauty.

The magnificent and majestic 'Chinar' tree attains a gigantic height more than a 100 hundred feet with 40-50 feet girth and with a round spreading crown, leaves are mostly heart shaped 10 to 25 cms and 12 to 30 cms in length and breadth deeply cut in triangular toothed lobes which give an appealing grace from long distance and provide abundant shade to the tourists and visitors alike. The bark of the tree is with silvery flakes.

The tree is propagated less by seed sowing, but it is preferential if it is propagated through cutting which yield success-oriented results and as the locals go in far propagation through cuttings. At times, it is reported that there were as many as 70 garden in the velvet valley of paradise' which have now reduced to few and all those gardens were well flourished with majestic chinar with kaleidoscopic variety of flowers of multihued nature but ironically now only few survive in their resplendence. The attention of the Govt. is invited to bring it to the pristine grandeur and glory to ensure and further invigorate more and more influx of tourists, pilgrims and cine-stars. These will in unison boost tourism which is the dire demand of the day and we can yield hefty dividends apart from providing job to the local populace and improve their socio-economic conditions.

Shah Jahan amongst the mughals was over-enthusiastic in the formation of gardens and parks and as such he introduced the magnificent and majestic tree inthe velvet valley of Kashmir in various parts and gardens extensively in Nishat Bagh, Shalimar, Harwan, Verinag, Hazrat Bal, Char Chinar, and on other prominent locations such as Tulmula, Avantipura, Mansabal, Sopore, Bara-mula, Anantnag so on and so forth.

It is added over here that this majestic tree occupies its prominence in almost every corner of the beauteous valley of Kashmir also nomenclaturised as the "Paradise on earth".The majestic and magnificent treegains an attitudinal height upto 2600mtsbut however in the lower belts of altitudethis tree is cultivable and now in Jammuand its vicinity it is successfully flourishing to the exremes of Kud,Batote,Katra,Reasi so on and so forth.The wood is as good as anything likemanufacturing of plywood, apart from itsmultihued usages for the manufacture of furniture and its ilk. The tree as well find its usefulnesses in the firewood which mitigate problems of local populace of firewood in multitudinal ways. The timber is as well used for building construction and also used for the manufacture of furniture. It is, therefore, urged upon the Govt. to invigorate and boost 'chinar' plantation extensively and intensively not confined to the Kashmir valley but elsewhere too where it is well suited to site so as to enhance the beauty of the state and haunt more and more tourists apart from improvising the environment of the State. In other words, this will yield and boost the socio-economic status of the local populace and help in mitigating the firewood, timber and other related problems of the locals.

Since the vale of Kashmir'falls under temperate zone soextensive efforts should be accelerated to enhance maximum plantation on the occasion of 'Arbor's' day as is beingdone in the sub-tropical regionof Jammu on Vanamahotsava.Tree culture had been a ritual inour old scriptures if we unfold the pious pages of Vanupurana, Ramayana, Mahabbarta,these echoe that each part ofthe tree has most reverentiallybeen prayed. Let us, therefore,pledge to carry this message tothe posterity to come by so as to ensure our state ever-flourishing with trees like chinar andits allies so that the beauty of the velvety valley of Kashmir enchantsthroughout every nook and corner of the charmingvalley.Elsewhere too, where the sites arewell suited in chenab valley which is thebiggest forest area of the state theinculcation of this majestic and beautifultree shall occupy its own place of prominence. The 'pride chinar apart frombeing of magnanimity of beauty is having medicinal properties too. The bark ofthis majestic tree is boiled as vinegarwhich is curative to multihued diseaseseg. Dysentery, diarrhoea, toothaches, hernia and many more of its allies.

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

I have become a queer mixture of the East and the West, out of place everywhere, at home nowhere.

-Jawaharlal Nehru

Validation of abrogation of Article 370 by Supreme Court -Sine-Qua-non for development of J&K

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

The Supreme Court has validated the decision of the centre government of abrogating the useless, futile and discriminatory Article 370 which has placed the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir at a distinctive pedestal and it harmed the national interest and also dealt a blow to the unitary spirit of the constitution. The supreme Court decision of December 11,2023 has ended all uncertainty and suspicion about the continuance or otherwise of the Article 370.The controversial Article 370 was a big hindrance and obstacle in the socio-economic and political development of Jammu and Kashmir .Now the validation of the decision of abrogation of Article 370 made path clear for the overall development of the union territory as it removed all hindrances in the path of development and it will usher floodgates of domestic and foreign investment and it will create and develop industrialization and thus the tempo of economic development which is badly needed in Jammu and Kashmir .Due to the abrogation of Article 370 and subsequent historic and crucial verdict in favor of the Modi governments decision of August 5,2019 has made road clear for the socio-economic development of Jammu and Kashmir .Ever since the article 370 was scrapped by the centre government through the lawful course of passing the constitutional resolutions in this regard ,the winds of positive change and development are brewing and there is now peace ,tranquility, stability and development .The educated and skilled youth are

being empowered and the women flock is also empowered .Now the parliament has passed the resolution regarding giving of 33% reservation to women in the legislative assembly . Thus women will be politically empowered and this is no ordinary development .In Jammu and Kashmir there has been a big boost to the tourist industry as there was huge footfall in the number of domestic and foreign tourists and this resulted in the development of tourism sector .This also led to the increase in incomes of the people directly and indirectly associated with the tourist industry. There is augmentation in the employment opportunities and it is need for giving employment to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir .Lacks of tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir in the last few years of the abrogation of article 370.The abrogation of article 370 and its subsequent validation by the apex court led to the fall of the artificial walls of distrust and separation between the union of India and Jammu and Kashmir .The abrogation of article 370 and the judgment of the supreme court serves the purpose of not only dismantling the artificial walls of distrust between the Indian union and Jammu and Kashmir but also is paving way for the overall development of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir .Today the UT is running on the path of development and the verdict of the supreme court will led to the development of the UT and it will go a long way to bridge the gap between Jammu and Kashmir and India .The verdict of the

supreme court which decided the constitutionality and legality of the parliament resolution of august 5,1019 regarding the abrogation of Article 370 will led to the inclusive development of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir .There is now free flow of investment in Jammu and Kashmir and this has led to the development of the industries ,thus giving a fillip to the incomes of the people connected with various industries .In fact the present verdict of the Supreme Court which ratified the legality and constitutionality of the decision of abrogation of Article 370 serves to give a boost to the economy of the UT which had seem bad days in the three decades of militancy also due to the continuance of the discriminative and anti national Article 370 because this article only led to the feeling of separatism and secessionism and thus is against the national unity and cohesion .The abrogation of Article 370 and its validation by the apex court will result in the constitutional integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the Indian union .Thus the historic judgment of the top court led to the fuller and total integration of Jammu and Kashmir with Indian union. The constitution bench of the Supreme Court unanimously upheld the power of the president to abrogate Article 370 of the constitution which in august 2019 led to the reorganization of the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories and denuded it of the special privileges .It reasoned that Article 370 was only a temporary provision to ease the accession of the then princely state to the union at a time of internal strife and war

.Modi dismantled the discriminatory as well as most controversial Article 370 of the constitution and now the supreme court has affixed its seal of approval on the centers decision of august 5,2019 and the top court said that the procedure adopted to scrap the Article 370 as well as its abrogation are lawful ,legal and constitutional. .So all uncertainty and suspicion about the continuance of the Article 370 came to an end when the top court gave its historic judgment in favor of the centers decision of abrogation and thus the path has become clear for the investment and development of the economy which had come to standstill during the three decades of militancy but now the economy including tourist economy runs fast on the track of development. In effect it means that the separate constitution of Jammu and Kashmir stood abrogated and a single constitution now applies to all the Indian states including Jammu and Kashmir. The abrogation of Article 370 heralded public order ,peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir. The decision of abrogation of Article 370 and its subsequent validation and vetting by the apex court will definitely led to the fuller and total integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the Indian union .Besides it will result in the socio-economic development of the UT. In fact there is unprecedented economic and social development and therefore it can be surely and safely said that the supreme court verdict on abrogation of Article 370 is sine-qua-non for the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

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

3 CMs..... Modi's Masterstroke For 2024

■ MANMOHAN DHAR

Modi's Masterstroke for the 2024 Parliamentary Elections is predominantly evident in the three surprises that he gave while naming the three CMs of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

In the realm of Indian politics, strategizing and recalibrating are the key factors of BJP cadre. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, known for his calculated moves, has unveiled a strategic gambit that is generating ripples across the political landscape-appointing three chief ministers in key states ahead of the 2024 Parliamentary Elections.

This unprecedented move signifies an unmatched approach to consolidate power, wield influence, and potentially reshape the electoral dynamics in the run-up to the next general elections. The appointment of three distinct leaders each with their own strengths, ideologies and regional appeal aims at a multi-pronged strategy to fortify the Bharatiya Janata

Party's (BJP) position and broaden its outreach.

The installation of CMs in M.P, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, India's political bastions with considerable parliamentary representation-undercores the meticulous planning and foresight underlying Modi's political maneuvers.

In Madhya Pradesh, the heartland of Indian politics, the appointment of a chief minister aligned with the party's core ideology seeks to solidify the BJP's standing among the electorate. The selection of a leader with grassroots connect and administrative experience reflects a sensible move to maintain the BJP's dominance in this crucial state, where electoral victories often foreshadow national outcomes.

Meanwhile, in Rajasthan, the appointment undercores a delicate balance between nurturing new leadership and ensuring the fruitful outcome in the coming general elections. This decision could be interpreted as a bid to rejuvenate the

state's political landscape while upholding the legacy of the BJP's stronghold.

Chhattisgarh, a state marked by political volatility, witnesses a strategic deployment of leadership to navigate the complex web of regional aspirations and party dynamics. The elevation of a leader with a mix of administrative prowess and regional acceptance signifies an attempt to solidify the party's base and counter any potential opposition alliances.

The symbiotic relationship between these three appointments lies in their collective ability to resonate with diverse demographics, leverage regional influences, and reinforce the BJP's electoral prospects. Moreover, it signals a proactive approach to counter any potential anti-incumbency sentiments by infusing fresh leadership and addressing local grievances.However, this multi-CM strategy also presents its set of challenges. Coordinating the roles and responsibilities of these leaders, ensuring cohesive governance, and managing intra-party

dynamics might require adept political navigation.While the political ramifications of this strategy remain to unfold, Modi's masterstroke manifests as a calculated maneuver aimed at recalibrating the BJP's electoral arithmetic for the 2024 Parliamentary Elections. Its success will hinge not only on the astuteness of these appointed leaders but also on the party's ability to harness their collective strength to navigate the complex mosaic of Indian politics. In the chessboard of Indian politics, Modi's move to appoint three chief ministers unanimously emerges as a strategic gamble, poised to shape the contours of the forthcoming electoral landscape. As the political saga unfolds, the efficacy of this calculated masterstroke will reveal its true impact on the grand stage of Indian democracy. 2024 is set to frame a new political saga in the history of Indian politics since the Independence and the whole world will witness what is going to be the Magic of Politics in a democratic polity.

Hibernation a winter sleep?

■ DR RAKESH KUMAR GUPTA

Many a times we come across with animals that keep on wandering around us throughout the year but hardly observe during winters. So where these animals hide during such dip temperature conditions? And why?

Well! Some few animals such as non-chordates (e.g. Insects, Molluscs etc.) are unable to maintain their body temperature as per environmental conditions while other like bear Hedgehogs, Ground squirrel etc.finding enough food in winter can be difficult, because their main source of food such as insects or green plants is in short supply. In

either of cases these animals solve this problem by hibernating.

Some of people have belief that these animals undergo winter sleep. Despite what they may have heard, species that hibernate don't "sleep" during the winter.Sleep is a gentle resting state where unconscious functions are still performed. While hibernation on other hand is an extended form of torpor; a state where metabolism is depressed to less than five percent of normal. So the fact is their most of the physiological functions are extremely slowed down or completely halted.

So what happens during hibernation? During hibernation the ani-

mal's body reduced metabolic activity and thereby temperature drops, and seemingly its heartbeat and its breathing slow down so that it does not use much energy. Some hibernators go into such a deep sleep that it is almost impossible to wake them, and they appear to be dead!Let's understand with example, when dwarf Lemurs hibernate, they reduce their heart rates from over 300 beats per minute to fewer than six. Instead of breathing about every second, they can go up to 10 minutes without taking a breath and their brain activity "becomes undetectable."

How the animals get energy dur-

ing hibernation? And from where? Basically before undergoing hibernation these animals get ready for their winter sleep by eating extra food and storing it as body fat which they then use as energy while sleeping. In animals there are two types of fat - regular white fat and brown fat. It is the brown fat that forms patches near the animal's brain, heart and lungs sends a quick burst of energy to warm these organs and perform basic metabolic functions and also help them when it is time to wake up.

Do birds also hibernate? During cold or wet weather; there is always dearth of insects so the parent

swifts find it hard to catch enough airborne insects for feeding their chicksat the nest. The chicks, reducing their metabolism to go without food for 48 hours enough to survive until the front passes.But this is actually a semi-torpor; not hibernation.

However one bird is known to be a true hibernator i.e. North America's common poorwill that often hibernates among rocks during winters.It can slash its oxygen intake by 90 per cent, while its body temperature plummets to 5°C, barely registering signs of life.

(The Author is Lecturer Zoology, GGHSS Samba).

The Double-Edged Sword of Artificial Intelligence

■ VIJAY GARG

Nature of AI will be inherently changing the face of work and we have to understand the technology behind it and be careful in how we use it

Back in late 2022, few were surprised to learn that someone in Silicon Valley had finally managed to build a better chatbot. A chatbot that could actually raise the bar in terms of what consumers should expect? Many agreed that it was about time.

What almost no one had prepared for, on the other hand, was a chatbot of the kind eventually unveiled.

ChatGPT, it soon became clear, as hundreds of thousands of people gave the tool a try, was more than just the latest iteration of artificial intelligence (AI) -powered customer-assistance software. Many used the word "revolutionary" to describe what the system was capable of doing. Others said the technology seemed sentient like they were interacting with another human and not a machine.

And now, attention is turning to the technology's next phase: the one where businesses put it to work. Across industries and at companies of all types and sizes, there are

already countless examples of ChatGPT deployments in actions

In nearly every case, business leaders acknowledge that it's still early days for ChatGPT. They're trailing the technology, "playing with the tool," getting a feel for what it can and cannot do. According to the Dell Technologies 2023 Innovation Index report, 59% of Indian businesses are currently investing or exploring the feasibility of investing in AI to advance innovation.

Many say they've already seen enough to know that they could be onto something big. In a report on

generative AI that McKinsey published soon after ChatGPT was made available to the public, they pointed out that the technology is one of several recently released platforms that make up the "latest class" of deep learning systems.

Challenges and opportunities Platforms like ChatGPT are trained on data from the internet, not on information held by individual businesses. This is getting underlined starkly with businesses not knowing how to fully extract value from data coming through AI channels employed across supply chains. The chatbots also come with

their limitations. They will be vulnerable to inaccurate information and bias if the input is not tailored to these chatbots. The rampant use of ChatGPT might also open channels to security threats.

ChatGPT is exciting for Indian businesses but it is changing every day. The nature of AI will be inherently changing the face of work. We have to understand the technology behind it and be careful in how we are using it. ChatGPT might be very smart but it is far from perfect.

(The author is Retired Principal Educational columnist Malout Punjab).

YOUR COLUMN

Suspension of Kunwar Danish Ali

Dear Editor,

Kunwar Danish Ali has been suspended by the BSP for his anti-party activities. No one is expected to go against the policies and programmes of the parties. Any one going against the policies and programmes must invariably be subjected to disciplinary action. Accordingly, BSP suspended Danish Ali for accompanying other opposition parties while staging a walk-out in protest against expulsion of Mahua Moitra from Parliament House while all other members of the party were seated. Danish Ali's party loyalty is not above suspicion. His suspension neither conveys the message that BSP is in favour of Mahua Moitra's expulsion nor opposed to it. What has angered the party is his

reluctance to toe the party line. According to BSP General Secretary Chandra Misra, Danish Ali has allegedly ignored the warnings on multiple occasions. After changing his loyalty from JDS to BSP, he seems to be on his way to Congress party. Defectors do not have ideological interest. They have only their political and personal interest. There is no guarantee that Danish Ali would remain in Congress also unless he is "treated properly" in the party. Former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar and former Deputy Chief Minister Lakshman Saudi defected from BJP to Congress in Karnataka. Now they have been cornered. They deserve it.

If Danish Ali crosses over to Congress, he is no more a charismatic person than Jagadish Shettar and Lakshman Saudi to treat him more fairly than them. Undoubtedly, he will also get raw deal in Congress even if he wins the Lok Sabha election. If he loses, he will be ditched to such an extent that people forget that he was an MP earlier. Despite warnings if he continued to be indulging in anti-party activities, it means that

he is not comfortable with BSP also. If he had quit BSP, he would have attracted the provisions of the Anti-defection law. Since he has no love lost with BSP, in order to avoid the provisions of the Anti-defection law, he has continued to cross the party line to prompt the party to ease him out. Indulging in anti-party activities by some Members of the Assembly or Lok Sabha is a clever ploy to hobnob with other political parties without endangering their membership. There is speculation that Danish Ali would contest the 2024 Lok Sabha election from the Congress ticket. Defectors should be junked by the voters. BSP chief Mayawati has passed on the baton of leadership to her nephew Akash Anand. For quite sometime the party has been maintaining low profile. How far Mayawati's nephew keeps the party alive or can take forward the ideologies of the party remains to be seen. Danish Ali seems to be having last laugh for his suspension since BSP has been losing ground in its own birth place Uttar Pradesh.

K.V. Seetharamaiah