

USE OF ENTERTAINMENT

Today's era is the era of science. In this era, many means of entertainment are available to us. By using them properly, we can make our life enjoyable. Entertainment has great importance in life.

Entertainment: Entertainment works as medicine in a healthy life. Just as good food is needed to keep the body healthy, similarly entertainment is also needed to enjoy life.

Doordarshan- Like radio, Doordarshan is also very useful from the point of view of entertainment. We can only listen to the programs through radio, but through Doordarshan we can also watch these programs. Other means of entertainment- Wrestling, Kabaddi, tug of war, swimming, mountaineering, morning walk, exercise, country walks are among the important means of entertainment. These not only provide entertainment but also keep the mind as well as the body healthy. Traveling within the country and abroad or doing mountain climbing is also a means of entertainment.

Modi's Guarantee VS Congress's Promise

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

It is piquant in our electoral politics that there is competition and one upmanship between the BJP and the grand old party congress so far as the guarantee of Modi and promise of the congress is concerned. All this is done to woo and lure prospective voters in the run up to the Lok Sabha elections of 2024.The real masters of democracy -the voters should not take these guarantees and promises seriously as these disappears in most cases once the grand tamasha -the elections are over and those who are promised and guaranteed green pastures stand deceived and only made to vote .Thus the voters should make a proper choice and vote for those candidates who will deliver after the elections .The politicians promise and some even guarantee moon but in actual world failed to provide even a straw .Sadly there is no dearth of the politicians in our country who speak truth and on this basis appeal voters .There is a majority of politicians and the dearth of the statesmen like the yester years who fulfill their promises and election manifestoes .In fact there is great need for clean politics in Indian democracy so that the voters can choose right candidates in the elections .But alas! We are facing deterioration in morality in politics and there is value crisis and cultural perversion not only in the present day materialistic world ,however there is moral turpitude in the political life and the politicians indulge in dirty politics and thus give bad name to the pure avocation called politics .It is very disturbing that Modi as well as the Rahul Baba of congress guarantee and promise respectively unrealistic things which have no correlation with the practical world and thus land the innocent and gullible voters in trouble as all most all guarantees and promises fall like a house of cards once the elections are over and the promises remain only pure promises without any sign of fulfillment .The political leaders of various parties and those in power tour different states of the country which are going to vote in near future and they extend olive branch of guarantees and promises .In Madhya Pradesh rally ,PM Modi assures people of Modi guarantee.PM Narendra Modi assured people of MP that all promises made by BJP to them will be fulfilled after the party retains power in the state .He said the centre's free ration scheme ,covering 80 crore poor people ,will continue for five more years. "All promises made to you will be fulfilled .This is my guarantee ."PM Modi said ,addressing an election rally at Barwani in MP .Slamming the congress ,Modi said that party can even promise to build a 'castle of gold' for coming to power .Speaking about the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda on November 15,Modi said, "It is a matter of pride for the BJP government that we had the opportunity to declare this as the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas ."The PM said India's tribal 's have enriched the country's culture .He referred to the contribution of tribal warriors and freedom fighters in India's freedom struggle .As per Modi ,congress had neglected the tribal community and BJP has given them respect .Modi also mentioned about his visit to the boarder to celebrate Diwali with soldiers amid the hustle and bustle of electioneering .He blamed congress leaders for pushing the state into "dark well", adding BJP has pulled MP out of darkness .Ahead of the Madhya Pradesh elections ,slated to be held in November, the Kamal Nath -led congress released the party's manifesto .The manifesto made a slew of poll promises including Rs 25 lakh health insurance cover to all people in MP ,old pension scheme ,caste census ,Nari Samman Nidhi of Rs 1500 per month to women .The 106 page manifesto by the opposition congress made 59 poll promises ,with assurances for all sections of the society ,including farmers ,women and the government employees.MP will have an Indian Premier League(IPL) team of the state said Kamal Nath.He also announced waiver of farm loans up to Rs 2 lakh .The state congress president said ,MP is the state of farmers .Congress government will buy paddy at Rs 2500 per quintal and wheat at Rs 2600 per quintal .Under the Indira Girb Yojana,100 units of electricity will be provided free and subsequent 200 units of electricity will be provided at half rate .Modi retorted ,without naming anyone ,that a congress leader who is mahagayani (over intelligent) and murkho ka sardar (leader of idiots) is roaming around saying that Indians have Made in china mobile phones in their hands .The PM said mobile phones worth more than RS 3.5 Lakh crore are being manufactured in India and phones worth around Rs one lakh crore are being exported too .In all the five states namely MP ,Rajasthan ,Terengganu ,Mizoram and Chhattisgarh ,the various political parties are announcing poll freebies to woo voters .It is very unfortunate that the political parties without any exception go on announcing sops and providing lollipops to the voters and are announcing poll freebies without considering its adverse effects upon the health of the economy and the poll freebies are making economy shallow and hallow. The political parties are promising freebies to the electorate and thus denting the economy as they are promising freebies not out of their pockets but from the taxpayers money .Therefore political parties should recognize the reality and desists from indulging in poll freebies for the good of the economy and the country .The sanity should prevail upon the leaders of the various political parties so that they abstain from announcing popular schemes and poll freebies to the people for the good of the economy. It is very disturbing that the political parties indulge in competitive politics so far as announcing poll freebies is concerned and this is not in the interest of the country .The political leaders of different political parties should think prudently and no resort to poll freebies and populist promises which have adverse bearing upon the economy of the country .The politicians should rise above petty political considerations and as far as possible avoid promising poll freebies which are against the interests of the country in the long run .Therefore without wasting time ,the leaders of various political parties should learn positive politics and not to announce poll freebies which is not in the interest of the economy and the country .Let the people make a right choice of candidates in the ensuing polls to five state assemblies so that right candidates are elected who will rule in the interest of the states.

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

Embracing Diversity: International Day of Persons with Disabilities

■ DR. KANIKA GUPTA

Every year December 3 is observed as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons on December 3 was proclaimed in 1992, by the United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3. The observance of the Day aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

The primary program for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities at the UN Headquarters in New York includes the Opening, panel discussions, and cultural events. Member States, civil society organizations, and the private sector are encouraged to organize their own events, fostering awareness and advocating for the rights and perspectives of persons with disabilities globally.

The theme for the 2023 International Day of Persons with Disabilities is "United in action to rescue and achieve the SDGs for, with, and by persons with disabilities."

The 1.3 billion individuals with disabilities worldwide are disproportionately affected by this slow advancement. They continue to face exclusion from public goods and services, coupled with heightened levels of discrimination.

Significance of the day:

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities holds immense significance as it serves as a crucial platform for raising awareness, fostering understanding, and advocating for the rights and well-being of individuals with disabilities. Here are several reasons highlighting the importance of this observance:

►Promoting Inclusivity: The day emphasizes the importance of creating an inclusive society where individuals with disabilities can actively participate in all aspects of life. It calls attention to the need for accessible infrastructure, services, and opportunities to ensure that no one is left behind.

►Advocacy for Human Rights:Persons



with disabilities, like all individuals, have inherent human rights. This day provides a focal point for advocating for the rights and dignity of people with disabilities, promoting equal opportunities, and combating discrimination.

►Raising Awareness:The International Day of Persons with Disabilities plays a crucial role in raising awareness about the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities. It encourages societies to understand and empathize with the diverse needs of this population, fostering a more compassionate and supportive environment.

►Encouraging Policy Changes: By drawing attention to the obstacles faced by individuals with disabilities, the day prompts governments and policymakers to evaluate and strengthen policies related to disability rights. It serves as a catalyst for positive legislative changes and the development of inclusive practices.

►Highlighting Achievements:The day is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements and contributions of persons with disabilities in various fields. Recognizing their accomplishments helps break stereotypes and dispel misconceptions, promoting a more positive and inclusive narrative.

►Fostering Collaboration: The International Day of Persons with Disabilities encourages collaboration between governments, non-governmental organizations, advocacy groups, and the private sector. Working together, these entities can address common challenges, share best practices, and create a more supportive environment for individuals

with disabilities.

►Accelerating Progress Towards SDGs:Persons with disabilities often face unique challenges in accessing education, employment, healthcare, and other essential services. By addressing these challenges, the observance contributes to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly the goal of leaving no one behind.

►Empowering Individuals: The day empowers individuals with disabilities by reinforcing the idea that their voices matter and their rights should be respected. It encourages self-advocacy and empowerment, fostering a sense of pride and belonging within the disability community.

Progress and Challenges:

As we approach the 2030 deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is crucial to assess the progress made in achieving an inclusive society. Unfortunately, only a fraction of SDG targets are on track, posing challenges for persons with disabilities who continue to experience exclusion, discrimination, and limited access to essential services.

The Call for Inclusion:

The theme for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities often revolves around promoting inclusion. To achieve the SDGs, it is imperative to embed disability inclusion in every dimension of development. This means addressing barriers to participation, ensuring accessible infrastructure, and eradicating discriminatory practices.

Global Initiatives:



happens.

In 2019, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres launched the Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) to bring disability inclusion in every work and core functions of the entire UN system. The UNDIS initiate a bold systemic transformation, and is driving unprecedented progress for, with, and by persons with disabilities around the world. These achievements are remarkable demonstrations of the value of systemic planning for disability inclusion, a cause for celebration, and a source of aspiration to pursue these efforts.

It is a state obligation, through the health sector in coordination with other sectors, to address existing health inequities so that persons with disabilities can enjoy their inherent right to the highest attainable standard of health. Disability inclusion is critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and global health priorities of universal health coverage, protection in health emergencies and healthier populations. Acting to achieve health equity for persons with disabilities is acting to achieve Health for All.

The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons was proclaimed in 1992 by United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3. It aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

Building on many decades of UN's work in the field of disability, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), adopted in 2006, has further advanced the rights and well-being of per-

sons with disabilities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international development frameworks, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, the New Urban Agenda, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development.

Persons with disabilities, "the world's largest minority", have generally poorer health, lower education achievements, fewer economic opportunities and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities. This is largely due to the lack of services available to them (like information and communications technology (ICT), justice or transportation) and the many obstacles they face in their everyday lives. These obstacles can take a variety of forms, including those relating to the physical environment, or those resulting from legislation or policy, or from societal attitudes or discrimination.

Children with disabilities are almost four times more likely to experience violence than non-disabled children. Adults with some form of disability are 1.5 times more likely to be a victim of violence than those without a disability. Adults with mental health conditions are at nearly four times the risk of experiencing violence.

Factors which place people with disabilities at higher risk of violence include stigma, discrimination, and ignorance about disability, as well as a lack of social support for those who care for them.

Inclusive society and development Evidence and experience shows that when

Achieving the SDGs in collaboration with persons with disabilities requires integrating disability inclusion into every facet of development. Numerous initiatives and partnerships are making strides toward disability inclusion. Organizations like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) collaborate to integrate persons with disabilities into various aspects of society. Examples include inclusive climate action frameworks in countries like Jordan, Somalia, and South Africa.

Data-Driven Impact:

Improving data on disability inclusion is crucial for making a significant impact. UNDP is partnering with organizations of persons with disabilities to collect data on challenges and opportunities in realizing their human rights. Six such analyses, supported by UNPRPD, have recently been launched, informing the development of new inclusion policies.

The Power of Collaboration:

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities encourages collaboration between governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector. By working together, we can create environments that empower persons with disabilities, ensuring they have equal opportunities in education, employment, and all aspects of life.The envisioned brighter future in the SDGs is one that requires collaborative creation. As we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it means heeding the call of the disability movement: "Nothing about us, without us."

Conclusion:

As we mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, let us reflect on the progress made, acknowledge the challenges that persist, and recommit ourselves to building a more inclusive world. Embracing diversity is not just a goal but a collective responsibility that, when achieved, enriches society as a whole. Through sustained efforts and awareness, we can create a future where the rights and dignity of every individual, regardless of ability, are upheld and celebrated.

(The author is a Ph.D. in Human Development from University of Jammu).

Celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities

■ MOHAMMAD HANIEF

Disability is part of being human. Almost everyone will temporarily or permanently experience disability at some point in their life. An estimated 1.3 billion people - about 16% of the global population - currently experience significant disability. This number is increasing due in part to population ageing and an increase in the prevalence of non communicable diseases.

Disability results from the interaction between individuals with a health condition, such as cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and depression, with personal and environmental factors including negative attitudes, inaccessible transportation and public buildings, and limited social support.

A person's environment has a huge effect on the experience and extent of disability. Inaccessible environments create barriers that often hinder the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in society on an equal basis with others. Progress on improving social participation can be made by addressing these barriers and facilitating persons with disabilities in their day to day lives.

Many persons with disabilities die earlier, are at increased risk of developing a range of health conditions, and experience more limitations in everyday functioning than the rest of the population. These health inequities arise from unfair conditions that affect persons with disabilities disproportionately, including stigma, discrimination, poverty, exclusion from education and employment, and barriers faced in the health system itself.

Each year the UN announces a theme to observe for International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD). The annual theme provides an overarching focus on how society can strive for inclusivity through the removal of physical, technological and attitudinal barriers for people with disability. This has been occurring since 1992 when the General Assembly announced 3 December as the International Day of Disabled Persons. The theme for International Day of People with Disability 2023 is 'United in action to rescue and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for, with and by persons with disabilities.'

The 2023 theme for IDPwD asks everyone to work together to make the world better and fairer for people with disability. The theme talks about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are 17 things countries want to work on by the year 2030 to make the world better and fairer for everyone. It is important that people with disability are part of this work and have a big say in what

YOUR COLUMN Exit Poll Results

Dear Editor,

Exit poll results reveal the contours of the actual poll results to be announced. Many times in the past, exit poll results are belied. Many times the results have come true also. Most of the predictions say BJP has edge over Congress in Rajasthan. Majority mark is 100. Jan ki Baat, P-Marq, Republic TV-Matrize, Times Now-ETG and TV 9 Bharatvarsh-Polstrat have expected the BJP to touch the majority mark.

Rajasthan has been maintaining the tradition of voting for the opposition parties in every election for the last 3 decades. There, it will be either BJP or Congress. Should the predictions come true, if BJP is elected this time, the juggernaut of same tradition rolls. About Madhya Pradesh, of the 9 surveys, 4 surveys predict the retention of BJP and another 5 surveys expect the Congress to replace BJP.

All the surveys say that Congress would retain power in Chhattisgarh and wrest the power from BRS in Telangana. Majority mark for Chhattisgarh is 46. 4 out of 5 surveys give passing marks to Congress. As per other surveys, Congress also falls short of simple majority. Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao is the

architect of the Telangana State carved out from Andhra Pradesh during the tenure of Congress government at centre.

Three out of seven have predicted the Congress to touch the majority mark of 60 in Telangana. MNF, an ally of BJP, has edge over ZPM in Mizoram. No party has been expected to touch the majority mark of 21 in Mizoram. The results of the five Assembly elections set tone for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. AIMIM is reduced to be a no force to reckon with in Telangana. It does not have its presence anywhere in other parts of India. Actual result shows who is nearer to accurate predictions.

K.V. Seetharamaiah