

VISION 2047

At present, India is kept in the category of developing countries but India is a country with a very big economy. Therefore, we all should try to give a new direction to India in the coming 25 years, where there will be employment for all, there will be scenes of development everywhere, there will be no discrimination, the economic condition of India should also come first. Where India becomes stronger than a developing country and is at the forefront among other leading countries of the world. As per Vision for India in 2047, everyone will have a means of livelihood to live a smooth life, problems like human trafficking, child labor etc. will have ended, women will get proper opportunities and their safety will be ensured and there will be no discrimination of any kind.

Saving our shrinking forest

■ GL KHAJURIA

The forest is a peculiar organism of unlimited kindness and benevolence that makes no demands for its sustenance but extends protection to all beings offering shade even to the axe man who fells it Lord Buddha.

After independence, the Indian foreign policy was framed in 1952 wherein it was categorically enunciated that India would have 33% of the geographical area under the forests. But ironically, as per survey of Indian's latest report (2015), we continue to have 21% of forests despite population explosion, increased biotic pressure accruing from grazing, encroachments and diversification of forest land for multi-disciplinary purposes. As such, there have been a marginal increase of 1% forest cover. The overall situation is that the total green covers now stands for 697888 sq mm (21.23%) of the geographical area and upto 5871 sq mm (0.92%) from 92,027 sq km as had earlier been existing in the year 2011. As such, there has seen a marginal increase of just 31sq km in very dense forest, whereas moderately dense forest went down to 1991 sq km and the open forest accounted for 7831 sq mm.

As per Anmol Kumar, the Director General of Forest Survey of India, the carbon stocks of the country have increased by 4.07% whereas the regeneration capacity is around 48% of the total recorded forest area. It has further been reported that West Bengal and Odisha are in the top slot having forest cover followed by Kerala, Uttarkhand, Bihar and Tamil Nadu. The North-Eastern region accounts for one fourth of the green cover showing thereby a periodic decrease which of course is a matter of utmost concern.

The survey report reveals further that 257 Sq.km of eastern states of the country have mostly been effected arguably owing to shifting cultivation practices . Nagaland with 274 Sqkm in the forefront followed by Tripura (111 Sqkm), Manipura (100 Sqkm), Arunachal Pradesh (89 Sqkm) and Misoram (63 Sq Km) and amongst other states, Andhra Pradesh has lost the forest cover to the extent of 273 SqKm, Madhya Pradesh (178 Sq Kms), Karnataka (62 SqKms) and Chhatisgarh (53 Sq Kms) of the geographical areas. The Jammu and Kashmir state having a forest cover of 20,230 Hectare (recorded) out of 22, 539 Hectare (Actual). This shows the recorded percentages of the area having per capita forest cover around (0.1796 Hac) ending year 2011 which is dismally jeering.

In view of the seriousness and sensibility accruing from the overall declining forest cover, the scenario is unambiguously dismaying.

And in the same vein, the situation worldwide is also alarming. The scientists, environmentalists and the policy planners around the world are awfully worried about as per the presently prevailing scenario. In a situation like this and if it continues to be the same, there is impending apprehensions of further environmental degradation, tantamounts to cataclysm. A clear cut death Knell signal for all the nations if the world. At this crucial juncture, it is utmost warren for rapid planning and action able strategies to be put in place well before the holocaustic scenario overshadows this planet and its diversified bio diversity.

Over the years, lot of summits and the conferences have deliberated upon right from stock holm on human development in 1972 followed by earth summit in Rio de Janerio (Brazil) and then earth summit in Johannesburg but in the ultimate analysis, all have proved to be unyielding. In the ongoing process of such summits, conventions, year 1995 unfolded another convention held in Berlin (COP1), wherein it became apparent that Rio was not enough and even in its after math the results were quite unyielding. This was sequenced by a protocol on climate change convention adopted in 1997, known as Kyoto-protocol. The targeted moto was emphatically aimed at to bring down global CHG emission by 5.2% during the period 2008-2012 and its commitment expired ending 2015. And now recently, a land mark framework agreement on climatic change was enunciated in Paris (2015) to keep and ensure global temperature slow down and this remarkable agreement followed as a sequel to united nations intergovernmental panel on climatic changes (IPCC) in association with world organisation (WHO) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP) scientific, technical and socio-economic information concerning to climate areas changes, its potential effects and opinions for adaptation and migration. This framework was laid down on the occasion of world earth day (22nd April, 2016) where apart from US and China around 120 countries across the global participated. And this agreement was more relevant and of vital importance as a follow up for enforcement of draft treaty' adapted by around 195 countries present at United Nations climatic change conference. It is, therefore, expected that this world conference shall provide the required push in reducing global emissions, to extent of 55% by the most populating 55 countries. Consequently, therefore, the signing of this agreement on climatic change, particularly when the most powerful countries viz US and China are in the lead is beyond doubt going to have a far reaching impact. This will rather change the glooming picture of the environment at large and shall provide impetus to the most magnanimous wordings of Margret Mead which go as such, " never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizen can change the world, indeed it is the only that ever has."

It is therefore, prudent to throw light on some of the very vital issues of the day and ensure their world wide implementation on larger scale.

* Averting deforestation. Our existing forest cover is frazzling rapidly with the revolving wheel of time and its further declination shall have to be averted by all the nations across the globe.

* Invigoratingextensive/intensive afforestations. This shall have to be ensured on gigantic scales as the losses we have already done are not so easily retrievable. And in doing so, we shall have to start from hills/ mountainous tops as these have doubtlessly become more sensitive and fragile and are subject to denudation and huge land mass movements in the shape of landslides, floods fury on an unprecedented scale. So unless our tops are safe , the low lying areas shall always be in peril. While celebrating earth day in 2015, it was pledged to plant 7.8 billion saplings world wide to account for every single person living on earth in a lead upto 50th anniversary of earth day in 2020. Where on the same earth such pledge has so far been initiated ? This invites special attention of the world leaders.

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

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra: a 'Sankalp' for Inclusiveness and Empowerment

■ DR. PARVEEN KUMAR

As the nation walks with the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY); the Yatra has emerged as a powerful tool for bridging the gap between the government and its citizens, ensuring that the benefits of various schemes reach those for whom they are meant and need them most. There is no dearth of various pro people' welfare schemes but unfortunately peoples for whom these are being programmed are unable to get benefits of these schemes. There are so many reasons for this, the major being the lack of awareness about them. This ultimately defeats the purpose for which they are being framed and the situation on the ground remains the same despite of tall claims. To overcome this and to bridge this inaccessibility and awareness gap between the government and the potential beneficiaries regarding the schemes, this nationwide 'Sankalp Yatra' has been planned and is going on.

The 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra', a nationwide outreach initiative of the central government aims at informing and empowering citizens about the about seventeen to eighteen flagship schemes of the Central Governments started in the last eight to nine years in all the 2.7 lakh Panchayats of the country. These schemes have especially been started for the socio-economic upliftment of poor, marginalized and deprived sections of the society. The 'Yatra' is taking various plans and facilities of the government to those people who have been neglected so far, who don't even have information about them. Even if they have information, they don't know how to access them. The Yatra launched on 15th November, 2023 on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas by flagging off IEC (Information, Education and Communication) Vans which initially visited the districts having significant Scheduled Tribe population and the remaining districts from third week of November 2023 onwards up to 26 January 2024. The Government of India, with participation of States and Union Territories, is actively engaged in the mission of saturation through its flagship schemes for providing basic amenities like sanitation facilities, essential financial services, access to LPG connections, housing for the poor, food

security, proper nutrition, reliable healthcare, clean drinking water, quality education etc. and making required services accessible to all targeted and eligible beneficiaries. The Yatra besides enrolling potential beneficiaries also aims at learning from the citizens by interaction with beneficiaries of various government schemes through personal success stories and sharing of their experiences positive and negative.

The Yatra is showcasing the positive impact of the Prime Minister's flagship schemes. The various welfare measures of the government include Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) meant to promote financial inclusion by providing banking services to all households in the country, Ayushman Bharat comprising of Pradhan Matri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) and Health and Wellness Centers (HWC). The PMJAY is the largest health assurance scheme in the world which aims to provide a health cover of rupees 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to over 12 crore poor and vulnerable families across different public and private empanelled hospitals in the country. Similarly PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) is a one year life insurance scheme renewable on a yearly basis offering coverage for death. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) is a one year accidental insurance scheme renewable from year to year offering coverage for death or disability due to accident. Persons in the age group of 18-70 are eligible for this scheme. Atal Pension Yojana is another social security programme for all the citizens of the country. The subscribers of APY are entitled to a minimum monthly pension of rupees 1000 after the age of 60 depending upon the contributions made by subscriber after joining the scheme. Beti Padao Beti Bachao (BPBB) to address the declining sex ratio in the country, Prime Minister Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN) Abhiyan to address the nutritional security especially among the children, pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls, PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, (PMGKAY) Primeminister scholarship scheme (PMSS) that has enabled children from poor families to study in top profession-

al colleges of the country; all have a positive impact all over the country.

Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy as about fifty percent of the population is dependent upon this sector directly or indirectly. A lot of attention is being paid to agriculture and allied sectors which have revolutionized farming in the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has started many programmes for the welfare of farm and farming community. One such of his measure aimed at doubling the income of farmers by the year 2022. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also gave a seven point strategy for doubling farmer's income and for that many programmes have been started. PM Kisan Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) focuses on 'per drop, more crop'. Every single drop of water matters. Besides focusing on big irrigation projects, we the government is also increasing the efficiency of already existing irrigation projects by plugging leakages, reducing conveyance losses, desilting of canals etc. This would ensure that a larger area is put under irrigation. Rainfed regions which constitute of more than fifty per cent of the arable land are being targeted to increase their productivity. Besides watershed management, micro irrigation, constructing check dams and farm ponds are taken up extensively. Seed play an important part in raising yields. Good quality seeds not only give us good yields but also protect the crop from many diseases. The government has also started many initiatives for quality seed production. The sub-mission on seed and planting material under NMAET also emphasize on providing good quality seed and planting material to the farmers. The country faces a problem of ware housing and proper storage facilities. The country need storage facility for more than 60 million metric tonnes but the storage capacity is only for 30 million tonnes. As a result of this huge amount of food grains get wasted. Larger investments in ware housing and storage structure at the village/Panchayat level are being made. Presently there is a very low level of food processing and value addition in the country.

The value addition in the country ranges from 5 to 20 per cent. Value addition facilities are also being strengthened through

food grain storage infrastructure, cool chain systems for perishables, post harvest processing and marketing facilities. For marketing of produce, a national farm market, an electronic National Agricultural Marketing (e-NAM) has been created connecting about 585 markets all across the country, where farmers can sell and purchase the produce online in and from any corner of the country. A new crop insurance scheme to mitigate risks at affordable cost has also been introduced. The government has now launched the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). The PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, (PMKISAN) comes with a financial support of rupees 6000 annually in three installment of rupees 2000 each to every faming household. Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth (PM PRANAM), Farmers mobilization through Collective associations like Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) promotes organic farming in the country, Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) to promote natural ways of farming so that the cost of cultivation can be reduced, Mission For Integrated Development of Horticulture MIDH, Farm mechanization through agriculture drones and machinery, Agri start ups and agri preneurship have now made the farmers to realize that farming is still a noble and remunerative enterprise.

These schemes have instilled a sense of inclusiveness and empowerment amongst all. Hon'ble Primeminister of the country Sh. Narendra Modi while interacting with Ms. Balbir Kour Sarpanch of Rangpur in Arnia on the last day of the previous month also focused on different welfare schemes of the government and how to create awareness and attaining saturation of these schemes. Hon'ble PM also suggested Ms. Kour to reach out to neighboring ten villages to ensure that all the benefits reach the last person standing in the queue.

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Home is the first school of citizenship

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

There are no opinions about home being the first school of citizenship and mother being the first teacher who imparts social ,cultural ,religious and what not knowledge to their children .It is again the home where children learn first lessons about civic life as first lessons are learnt by children in the family. The foundation of human personality is laid down in the family as it is the family where children receive informal education about the things which matter most and are beneficial to the lives and personalities of the children .In fact it is the home where sanaskars ,values and moral and ethical lessons are imparted to children while playing .In fact the mother prepares ,children for schooling as children learn alphabets and rhymes in home and children learn how to talk and behave in family and therefore nothing such should be done in family which adversely affects the lives of children and therefore children learn through fruitful interaction and guidance of the parents especially the role of mother cannot be exaggerated as its importance is very great in the development of children .All great personalities which world produced was possible only through active role of mothers and all the great men owe their personality to their mothers. Thus in the development and growth of human personality ,the role of parents especially mother is very great .The influence of mother in the growth of human personality cannot be denied .Mother in fact is the first tutor and the personality of mother and father has a great bearing and influence in the personality of an individual .Moral ,religious ,social ,cultural etc values are imparted to children first in family and later on in the formal education in school .It is in the home that a child learns how

to talk ,walk ,behave ,eat and dress and the child learns the civic values first in the home and later in the school these finer values are strengthened .It is the home and mother which teaches and imparts the lessons of cultural heritage and transmits the treasure of culture to children as all cultural values and ethical values are taught to children by the parents more so by mother .The influence of mother in shaping the personality of an individual is great .In fact a child learns in the womb of his mother and the family imparts cultural ,moral ,religious ,spiritual ,social values to children which later on help in shaping the personality of an individual .Home in fact is the first school where he/she learns many things which helps the children to nurture in future in formal schooling .Things learnt at home help children to lead a good and desired life in future .Good behavior of children is formed at home .Many things are taught to children at first years of their life which helps them in future school days and in their life in later years .Therefore many good things are and should be borne home to children at home by the parents especially by mother .Discipline ,fulfilling duty towards society and country should be taught to children at home and so good citizens are formed at home and through home .Children learn decent behavior and manners and how to behave with others and children are taught how to use their knowledge and brain in the best possible way and they should be taught the responsibility towards society and of course to the nation as well .It is true that home is the first school of a child where he or she learns many useful things which in fact lays the strong foundation which builds the human personality of course with formal schooling in later

years .The brain of a child is so blank that what he sees is what he understands and does .The brain of the child is impressionable and what is taught in early years at school forms the part of his personality .So parents should be most careful in nurturing children at the formative and early years of his or her life .Parents have the sole responsibility for the formation of a child's character .The first thing that a child learn is good habits ,without which he may not be liked by anyone in society .Second most important thing a child should be taught at home is the his culture ,tradition ,which is must and the third important thing is the value of life .In today's context ,teenagers are misusing the precious life that they have been blessed with .At the birth of the child and in his formative days later, parents become his first teachers where the child learns many good things .

It is often said and rightly so that home is the first school and parents are the first teachers for a child .They should provide such an environment so that their child can easily cope with the situational learning .Kids must be nurtured and brought up to match with the school education at home before they are admitted in a school .The child's brain is like a white sheet of paper and whatever is said or done kids promptly mimic and behave accordingly .Good manners are the first thing ,parents must teach children .They should behave well with all family members so the child learns from home and behaves the same way in school too which would enhance their learning .A good mannered child attracts teachers and gets love and nurturing from them .Second important thing is to provide adequate information to kids .So that the child can at least say his name and other

simple stuff .The third important thing is that a child must be taught to listen to others .So the parents should teach their children the art and habit of listening to others .This can be by patiently listening to the child or other members of the family .Learning does not mean merely knowing alphabets and numbers .Good manners, punctuality ,regularity must also be taught ,then only parents aspirations will be fulfilled .For a child ,school is an introduction to world outside the family unit and parents must prepare them for it ,teaching them at home makes the new generation a good and great one .Parents are the best guides who lead us to the path of enlightenment .Parents must teach children lessons of ethical values ,which applies for life time .Secondly ,it is very important to teach children hard work that eventually and definitely pays .Parents ,being the best leaders ,must teach their kids that patience is the foundations of success .A child's first school is his/her mother's womb where he/ she receives tender care and feels safe until born .According to Hindu mythology ,a home is everything for a child as it gives the child a feeling of security ,safety and happiness .A home for a child is a small world surrounded with parents and rest of family members and an environment mingled with their love until he/she grows up .It is a fact that every child receives his /her first education at home .To conclude it can be said safely and rightly that home is the first school of citizenship where the foundation of a strong human personality is built .It has been said long ago that the hands that rock the cradle the rules the world so much is the importance of home and mother being the first teacher of the child.

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

YOUR COLUMN

Benefits of Milch Animals

Dear Editor,

Through the columns of your esteemed paper, a few lines are penned down to highlighting the innumerable benefits of milch animals like cow,buffalo and goat.

Introduction:- There was a time worth- remembering well before pre-independence as well as soon after post- Independence that every household was used to rear a cow or a buffalo to take their milko stay good health as well as to build good physique to work in their agricultural fields. They used to enjoy their pure milk, and other by-products such as curd, butter, lassi and cheese. But it became much more important when they put their manure into the agricultural fields to get more crops for themselves and pure desi fodder for milch animals. And by that reason we used to get pure milk to be taken in those days.

Besides, if any household rears a "black-coloured cow" whose milk is proved to be a great boon because a black-coloured desi cow's milk carries a golden properties and is more beneficial than those of other coloured Cows. It is said that a very intelligent personality to be called by the name of 'Chanakya'used to rear a black coloured cow with that speciality and Unique qualities of milk he took for being so intelligent to be a Chanakya neeti". I mean to say that every Indian household used to be a cow-rearing country. Slowly and gradually the time got changed and the people also

got changed by way of being highly educated and the very big and costlier cars got its appearance in the courtyards in place of a cow in every household and a pure milk also got disappeared not only in Urban areas but also in the rural areas where agricultural fields spreading over in lakhs of acres. The people left rearing the cows to get pure milk.

With the advent of new technology, the Indian farmers started using tractors instead of Ox ploughing in their fields and put excessive chemicals such as Urea,dia-amonium phosphate to get more yield of crops and fodder that our milch animals take daily and we get milk full of Urea chemicals which are more harmful for human health than beneficial to the health of kids, elderly people or whosoever take it.

3. Now what dairy farm walas and Gujjars do?

All the dairy farmwalas and Gujjars instead of mixing dirty or clean water with milk in the past; now mix the qunitals of Ice-blocs with milk that too is quite harmful to the health of whosoever take it daily. And its by-products such as curd, cheese, sweets are too harmful to human health. Generally, it has also been observed that there is no sample check of milk supplied to the markets daily Whether it is upto the mark of consumable or not. The Officers of the Health Deptt. let them go off with punishment by taking bribe and Corruption for its free Sale. These business men are playing with the health of the gullible people. The UT Govt. must take cognizance of this menace.

4 Benefits of Milk:

Milk if taken in pure form possesses the best source of Calcium. It also helps keep kids and adults teeth healthy and prevent cavi-

ties. It also increases their height, strength and immunity power. Pure milk contains fats that are required for developing babies too. Pure milk is an excellent source of energy. Due to its high-energy property and nutritional value, milk is usually recommended for those people who have just undergone surgery or those suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome or anemia weakness.

Pure milk contains essential vitamins like A, B12, D and E and minerals such as calcium and phosphorous. Milk has natural sugar (lactose) that help promote strong teeth and gums. Curd, butter, ghee to be medicinally is benefitted to stay Strong and healthy. Yet another benefit of milch animals is that cow-dung is considered to be antiseptic that's why it used to be cleanse hearth (Chulah) or floor of fireplace and keep that place cool where Cow-dung just like White-washed. Goat's milk is more beneficial than that of milk of buffalo. Its medicinal benefits for curing the disease of Dengue, Chikenguniya and also increase platelets, if one suffers from less platelets.

Besides, cow-dung is more benefitted if put into agricultural fields to maintaining the fertility of agricultural land for getting crops after crops than the use of chemicals such as Urea and dia etc. Animals' bones are also used for cleansing gurh into sugar chemically.

In the concluding lines I would like to make a special mention the property of the cow's desi-ghee that is offered at the altar of god's and goddesses.

Tara Chand Bhagat (Talab Tillo, Jammu).