

ELECTRIC VEHICLE

It cannot be denied that the era of Electric Vehicles (EVs) has truly arrived. EVs with zero emissions are not only a direct solution to air pollution, but they will also help reduce oil imports. The production and sales of electric vehicles have increased significantly in recent years. Many major automobile manufacturers have invested heavily in EV technology and are launching a wide range of electric models to meet the growing demand. The increasing availability and variety of electric vehicles reinforces the notion that the era of EVs has truly arrived. Advances in battery technology and infrastructure have played a significant role in accelerating the adoption of EVs. The development of more efficient and cheaper batteries has increased the driving range (distance traveled per charge) of electric vehicles, reducing range anxiety for consumers. Additionally, the expansion of charging infrastructure, including public charging stations and home charging solutions, has improved the convenience and accessibility of EVs for drivers. Additionally, governments and policymakers around the world have demonstrated a strong commitment to promoting electric vehicles. EVs have the potential to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change. It has a direct positive impact on public health, as clean air reduces the risk of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

Kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate

■ MAHADEEP SINGH JAMWAL

As a freelance theorist when we talk of traits in a living human creature, we can consider that no one is deprived of generosity and always carries some kindness somewhere in his soul. According to the bulk of the scientific evidence, most people are instinctively kind. We need to perceive that the best element bestowed by the almighty to every soul is kindness. Each one of us has something to give to the world; we just need to recognize what it is! Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see. William Arthur describes 'A warm smile is the universal language of kindnesses'. So one of the most significant life lessons we can pass on is the value of kindness. Even we find that kindness is one of the universal principles that all religious traditions adhere to. A traverse in different religions faith brings us to a point of commonality that kindness is the 'best way to live.' "This is my simple religion. There is no need for temples; no need for complicated philosophy. Our own brain, our own heart is our temple; the philosophy is kindness" - The Dalai Lama, Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader. 'The world endures because of three activities: study of Torah, divine worship, and deeds of loving-kindness' - Judaism. 'Five things 'Gravity, generosity of soul, sincerity, earnestness, and kindness' constitutes perfect virtue' - Confucianism. 'Dignity, kindness, courage, and a benevolent, loving heart' - these are the qualities of men born with divine traits' - The Bhagavad Gita. 'A spiritual person cannot be complete without kindness. Kindness is a most excellent way of life', Sri Guru Granth Sahib (SGGS) informs the Sikhs of the importance of kindness, a virtue which he puts on an equal footing with truth and contentment.

We feel that kindness in people has shrieked owing to tension and conflict in society that seems to care more about winning an argument than caring for peoples' hearts. The world is full of kind people, but if you cannot find one, be one, this we have to understand and to react accordingly. Kindness implies a deep-seated characteristic shown by considerate behavior as Kind, gracious, kind hearted, implying a sympathetic attitude toward others, and a willingness to do good or give pleasure. There are a lot of people who want to reach out to others in the smallest of ways, make someone else smile. Psychological studies have found that acts of kindness are linked to increased feelings of well-being. We may appreciate a person's beauty, strength, wealth, knowledge, or fame, but if a person is not kind it stands out like a huge blemish.

Why do we need to be Kind? When we ponder on this query, we need to reflect on what's important in life and in our relationships with others and I am sure, ultimately we will conclude that kindness is high on the list of what's important in our life. Kindness is caring for others, even when they may not care for you. Kindness has been defined as 'the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate'. It is the quality of being gentle, caring, and helpful. We can club kindness as a helpful or considerate act. Kindness in words creates confidence. The world would become a much better place, if people are kind to each other. Small acts of kindness can make a big difference. A person with a pleasant disposition and a concern for others is said to be kind. By being kind to other people, we do not only help them and light a smile on their face but also feel good at a deeper level. It gives a sense of satisfaction. Showing kindness towards others does not necessarily mean doing something big for them. It can be something as small as being polite and offering emotional support to someone. Kindness is must for humanity and humanity has no existence without kindness. Helping others can also improve our support networks and encourage us to be more active. This, in turn, can improve our self-esteem. Beautiful saying that constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate.

Kindness is more important than wisdom, and the recognition of this is the beginning of wisdom. A little thought and a little kindness are often worth more than a great deal of money. It is futile to judge a kind deed by its motives. Every choice of kindness raises our collective consciousness and manifests itself as a kinder humanity whether we, personally, see the result or not. Kindness can become its own motive. We are made kind by being kind. Being kind had a profoundly positive effect on happiness. When we reflect upon the prevailing scenario of kindness that is in rarity, we must focus on fostering kindness in our students and in ourselves, a habit we can practice every day of the year.

Summing up with the words of Albert Einstein, 'The ideals which have lighted my way and time after time have given me new courage to face life cheerfully have been kindness, beauty, and truth'. Kindness is always rewarded. Being kind had a profoundly positive effect on happiness. True kindness should not be selective. All people with whom we have dealings should be the recipients of it. It should not be reserved for those in the higher positions in life. To direct its use in such selective manner would be to remove it from its heart-quality source of which it should be. Even the humblest servant should be afforded the opportunity to profit from it. It isn't so much what one says in life that counts, but the manner in which he says it. Even the word "no" can be said in a kind spirit which can be pleasing to the ears of a listener. Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind; the second is to be kind and third is to be kind.

■ G.L KHAJURIA

How many of us often accept our attachment in real sense of term in so far as love affection and fantasies of our kids and children are concerned. Well, the children mean much more than what we think of them. They are not only our children merely by giving birth to them but in broader spectrum they are the fountain head of the nation. They are the light and hope of the nation for the future. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Dr. A.P.J Kalam were most affectionate towards children. It has rightly been quoted, child is a father of the nation. Today's children are tomorrow's scientists, Scholars, Educationist and ofcourse plenitude of Doctors, Engineers and bureaucrats apart from distinguished luminaries, cine stars and record breaking sports stalwarts.

They are the best guardian of Borders who play with their lives defending the nation. Children are the future of the nation in more than many ways. They are the blooming flowers of dawn and seedlings of the Nurseries which make the surrounds vibrant and slaborous when nurtured and nourished.

Children are of utmostly warranting care of molding the first step to success in life's run-race. Any right or wrong step can make them heaven or hell apart landing into the Sea of troubles. It, therefore, becomes our boundan duty to boost their upbringings with rightful and dedicated devotional perspectives. If the natural and social cohesiveness between the father and the mother is carefully maintained, the children by all means are sure to succeed but if the same delicate fabric is distorted, there is every apprehension of their being carried away on wrong track.

It is no denying the fact that the parents do their utmost and sacrifice their everything for their children. Right from the time a child is born, the conscientious young parents see to it that their child has everything as for example Education, Clothings, Toys and whatever is available within their best possible reach. They leave no stone unturned

■ MOHAMMAD HANIEF



Most parts of the Kashmir, mainly plains, received season's first snowfall on last Wednesday as winter's harshest period - Chillai Kalan - went snowless and registered as driest winter spell ever. The "snowless" winter had brought disappointment to locals and tourists alike.

The much-awaited snowfall has brought cheer to the people of the Kashmir and turned the Valley into a winter wonderland. Most parts of the Kashmir, mainly plains, received season's first snowfall as winter's harshest period - Chillai Kalan - went snowless and registered as driest winter spell ever.

Late Wednesday night snowfall, in plains including Srinagar, brought cheer to people and caught them by surprise with netizens sharing videos and photos on various social media sites expressing joy. Chillai Kalan, the 40-day harshest winter period that starts on December 21 every year and ends on January 31, went almost snowless with the Kashmir Valley witnessing unusual weather conditions this winter.

Even famous ski resort Gulmarg in north Kashmir, other tourist attractions like Pahalgam in south Kashmir and Sonamarg in central Kashmir also received less or no snowfall during this 40-day winter period, a rare phenomenon seen during winters in the Kashmir Valley.

Kashmir in winter is a breathtakingly beautiful destination with a picturesque wonderland covered with pristine winter snow. The snow capped mountains and frozen lakes create a stunning backdrop against the clear blue skies, which makes it a perfect destination for winter lovers.

Kashmir in winter not only evolves as a bustling hub for winter sports and activities in the season but is also known for its region's rich cultural heritage and warm hospitality, making it a must-visit winter destination. Although, there are multiple places and activities to visit in Kashmir during the winter season.

There are a plethora of places to visit in Kashmir during the winter; and each of them offers something unique. Snow-draped mountains create the perfect backdrop for ancient shrines, frozen lakes beckon adventurers for a chilly walk, and the bare Chinar trees stand as silent sentinels of the changing seasons. Every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir in winter holds a story waiting to be discovered.

While the views alone can leave one spell-



for their child's upbringing and fulfilling his every demand and desire.

However, many strings are attached to their children by the over ambitious parents who expect the child as miniature adult, a master of all trades they also expect them to excel in every field whether in studies or sports, reading, writing, oratory so to say on all aspects of life and aspire them second to none. And there lies their happiness and all hope.

In such pursuits, the children are deprived of their fundamental rights of being child. The kaleidoscopic magic of childhood, the charms of wandering through delightful avenues are get lost. Apart from all these, the rainbow- coloured fantasies vanish like a silver lining in dark clouds. Do we as wise parents are doing justice by depriving them of charming dream from which they don't want to part with.

Now, let us have a glimpse of surrounding scenario currently looming large amongst little kids and up springing children. The early morning picture is too amusing to have appreciations for all the wise parents in that their little kids are pushed into the labyrinth of learning with heavy load of books and note books beyond their caring capacity on piggybacks. This way they are confronted with triple-load - Physical, mental and Psychological.

Are we meting out justice to our budding kids and children is a very pertinent point

to ponder upon. The higher authorities at the helm should come to the forefront in framing policies and promulgating parameters in association with the conscientious parents.

How is the life of children of today? They are weaned straight from milk bottle to the nursery school! The more the homework he or she carries, the better school is considered to be. Not to be left behind in race for excellence, the child is sent for tuition and the teacher imparting tutio to more than 30-40 children at a time. Things are no better at home too. In many rich homes where parents are over-obsessed with their pursuits, the children are oftenly diverted to video games, expensive toys, computers to the extent of internet and social medias apart from mobile of all hues in a way that the very spirit and sanctity becomes somehow obliterated by overuse , misuse or to say abuse.

The enigmatic scenario doesn't stop over here. The generous amount of pocket money even in mediocre families, whether the mother is employeeed or otherwise routinely a housewife, there is hardly any time for the family members who can share their feelings to foster their togetherness. Whatever little leisure is there it is squeezed out of the marathon of life and is swallowed by the TV serials which instead of creating congenial environment add fuel to fire in hassle-packed progression which way in becomes like a quick-fix in family trifling over frivo-

lous issues thereby hooking the altitudinal inertia of our kids, children and their associates.

Surveys show, the more children watch the less they observe. Their thinking and responses become adultlike in other words around the minds of the children find shortcuts into adulthood without having the know-how of natural process of growing. And all these factors in togetherness are sure to create a generation of mini adults lacking imitative, motivation and enterprise. There is a tendency to put the whole blame at the door of school and the education system. It is an admitted fact that schools complicate the matters but at the same time, solution lies at home. It is, infact, the home that moulds the character of the child.

The kids and the small children are extremely sensitive and receptive as they are growing all the time and in the process they are accepting or rejecting the goods and bads as they are physically fragile and mentally fertile. So, in all manifestations, parent's guidance play a pivotal role in moulding the life of the children.

The educationist opined that a child is influenced by three prominent factors- the school where he studies, the friends and his associates with whom he plays and shares his feelings and finally home where he spends maximum time with parents and other kids/ children of his relation. So, home is predominantly the best school for the kids and young children.

Considering today's lifestyle, in almost all families dinner time is an ideal time. It is worthwhile to say that after the dinner is over, there is a cool and congenial environment when the children can conveniently be convinced to share their feelings and aspirations with their parents and the relatives and their kids and children on all matters and so such this can play a prominent part in moulding and shaping the future of both the kids and the children.

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

Much awaited snow turns Kashmir into wonderland

■ MOHAMMAD HANIEF



bound, there's no shortage of things to do in Kashmir during the colder months. From thrilling snow sports to savouring traditional Kashmiri winter dishes, there's something for every traveler's taste.

The "snowless" winter had brought disappointment to locals and tourists alike. No snow in the Valley had taken sheen of it, which otherwise would mesmerise people with white landscape during winter. Wednesday's snowfall, however, brought Kashmir alive, ending the longest dry spell in the plains as most parts received season's first snowfall.

The absence of snow at major tourist attractions and other parts of the Kashmir had also disappointed tourists with many cancelling their planned trips. The fresh snowfall has now infused a new life, turning the Kashmir Valley into white picturesque landscape that it is known for during winters.

Though the harsh winter period in Kashmir commences from 21st of December but the preparations are made in autumn months of September and October because people are aware about the miseries it brings with its onset. Making of charcoal, drying of vegetables to make Alla heache(Dried bottle guard), Wangan heache (Dried brinjal), Reantwangan heache (Dried tomatoes), Hoch palak (dried spinach), Hokh hakh (Dried collard green), Heand (Dried Dandelion leaves) etc etc have been the centuries old traditional practice of Kashmiris. Though the drying of vegetables has now been declining among masses but still a large

proportion of Kashmiri population is making these delicious dishes in this period.

Winter is the coldest season of year. During this season the sun loses its heat and brightness and often remains hidden behind clouds, fog or mist. The temperature is usually around freezing point. It's usually a cruel and an unpleasant season though it has a charm of its own.

After a prolonged dry weather, the glaciers have melted, there was hardly any snow left on the mountains before the recent snowfall. Snow is really important for the sustenance. without it, water resources would have dried up, it could have hit our horticulture especially fruit produce, and the dry spell resulted in many respiratory ailments.

The onset of snowfall across parts of Jammu, Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and the Himalayas has infused a wave of optimism among farmers, fruit growers, and the tourism industry.

Snowing across Kashmir valley is very beneficial for the farmers and orchardists. People in Kashmir were under distress because there was no snow in the plains which could have meant doom for the horticulture produce. However, the snowfall now has infused a new life into it and hoped there is more snow in the days to come.

This climatic turnaround is particularly welcome after a prolonged dry spell that led to significant crop losses for farmers and fruit and vegetable growers. The fresh snowfall is anticipated to be beneficial for Rabi crops.

The tourism sector, which has been lan-

guishing due to a lack of snow, is now looking forward to a boost in tourist arrivals.

Key resorts like Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg have experienced moderate snowfall, while scattered rains have quenched the mid and low hills. Despite the cold wave conditions and dense fog in some areas, the snowfall has raised hopes for a revival in business as local hoteliers are optimistic, expecting an increase in tourist footfall and better business in the days ahead. The snowfall has also brought joy to the tourism sector, where stakeholders had been facing challenges due to the absence of snow.

Tourist destinations such as Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg are bustling with visitors, including children, who are reveling in the snowy landscapes as the meteorological department's forecast suggests light to moderate rain or snow in many parts of the union territory, with heavy snowfall expected over higher reaches like Kupwara, Bandipora, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Shopian, Kulgam, and Anantnag districts in the coming days.

The recent snowfall marks a significant shift from the snow drought experienced earlier this winter, which had raised concerns about the local ecology and livelihoods. With the current weather patterns, there is renewed hope for the region's agriculture, water resources, and economic activities dependent on winter tourism.

The cold weather outdoors calls for some warm and hearty meals indoors. Wazwan is not just a meal; it's a celebration of flavours and culinary art. A multi-course meal, it's something that every traveler must relish. Winter in Kashmir is not just about cold and snow; it's also the season of festivities. Festivals in Kashmir light up with their traditional festivals. Whether it's a local fair, a religious ceremony, or a cultural festival, the spirit is contagious. Winter in Kashmir transforms the valley into a magical realm adorned with pristine snow. The landscape, veiled in white, captivates with its ethereal beauty. This season, from November to February, is marked by bone-chilling temperatures, often reaching sub-zero levels. Yet, the Kashmiris embrace the cold with warmth in their hearts. Kashmir captivating visitors with its natural allure and cultural richness as it remains an enchanting destination that lingers in the hearts of those fortunate enough to experience its ethereal charm.

YOUR COLUMN

Humble request of Khanmoh residents to LG Manoj Sinha

Dear Editor,

In pursuance of a letter to Honourable Lt. Governor UT of J&K, Manoj Sinha earlier, in the month of April 2023, by one of our revered members, we the residents of Village Khanmoh (Lower & Upper) very humbly hereby bring to your kind attention that;

The condition of Harshdal Mandir at Lower Khanmoh District Srinagar, and that of other temples in the adjoining areas, is pitiable in shambles because these remained deserted since the unfortunate exodus of People from the valley in 1990's; The Harshdal Mandir at Lower Khanmoh is an age old heritage of the people who lived in the area and one of the holiest shrines of the Valley as it

houses the Shiva Linga and has Murties (stone carved Idols of the archeological importance) in Mandir compound. And these Murties (stone Idols) need immediate attention so that the ancient heritage is duly preserved. The sacred Shiva linga is not in place and the Ancient stone idols are also damaged which is a matter of great concern and needs to be addressed.

The area around the Holy place of Bhairav (Swachandanath Bhairav) Shamshan Ghat at lower Khanmoh needs demarcation and proper fencing to avoid any encroachments and there is a natural cave of Lord Shiva in the mountainous region of Village Khanmoh. This natural and holy cave of Lord Shiva has remained unknown to the people at large.

Amarnath cave being the sacred and holy because of the natural Ice Lingam, this one has a natural Shiv Lingam and Mata Parvati's kitchen area. It has Gharba Yatra area inside the Gupha itself. There is another cave just above the Shiva cave which is said to be that of Lord

Ganesha.

Your Excellency, these caves need immediate attention of the administration towards the uplifting of the path to the cave to make it more easier and scalable.

Also, these caves ought to be brought into the limelight so that Shiv Bhakts and devotees all over the country know about yet another dwelling place of Lord Shiva and his family on this planet.

We the residents of village Khanmoh would feel highly obliged if Your Excellency would kindly issue orders to the concerned authorities to look into the importance of the aforementioned subject so as to take the necessary action needed to initiate the work.

We are sure that our humble request will never remain unheeded by a kind and sober hearted personality as Your Excellency, Sir.

Residents of Village Khanmoh
District Srinagar
Kashmir