

IMPACT OF UP IN UT

There is no doubt in the fact that the poll outcome of the UP elections is going to impact the election results in J&K especially in Jammu Province as BJP cadre has become upbeat with the thumping majority which the party has got in the biggest state of the country in terms of population. The results of the UP elections have enthused resounding confidence among the party cadres in J&K and with new energy usurped after the big win in UP albeit not like the previous one, the party workers are in do or die situation to sway people towards the saffron party giving their 100 percent to bring BJP to power with a Hindu CM sitting in chair giving a rule which the people never saw in the history of the region. Kashmir being the contentious face of the country has a special significance as far as installing a popular government out there. The elections in J&K always proved to be the litmus test for the governments sitting at the Centre. With spectacular show in UP, BJP government's mission Kashmir is half done because sweeping Jammu Province will now become easier for the saffron party though turf in Kashmir is a difficult one but BJP being the shrewd entity will not open its cards until the right time will come and that is when the people will get to know something about the future course of the UT which in coming times can again attain the status of a state if the higher ups in the ruling party are to be believed. No doubt BJP has big stakes in J&K although the seats as far as Lok Sabha is concerned are marginal. The steps taken by the BJP led Central Government in the Union Territory of J&K need to be endorsed by the people of all shades and regions and that is where the importance of the election outcome comes. There is hardly any disagreement over Jammu going in the valley of the Saffron brigade but the question of the outcome of Kashmir is the big one and will ultimately decide the fate of the UT and also to some extent countries' ties with Pakistan and some other countries because the issue is complex and entangled in various ways.

STOP MISLEADING STUDENTS

The age of students studying in colleges is tender and this is the stage in life when the impact of others can sway youngsters to unnecessary things. The same is presently seen in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir where certain organizations are misleading the students by involving them in protests seeking online examinations for the undergraduate courses. The logic behind this demand is unfounded because holding online exams when the situation with regard to coronavirus is perfectly alright is not at all justified and the organizations which are swaying the students only want to play politics by misguiding the young minds who think that by indulging in exam malpractices they will get some benefit in reality the sanctity of exams can only be maintained when the same are taken inside the examination halls with invigilators monitoring the whole process. In this context, activists of a particular student organization have disrupted college work in the name of protests and demonstrations in GDC Samba, GDC Hiranagar and GDC Kathua seeking online exams, a demand which is highly irrational and should not be allowed because the intention behind this demand is giving undue benefit to students to take exams while sitting in their homes and trying unfair means otherwise there is no reason behind protesting for online exams. The logic that the whole semester study was conducted through online mode and now University administration was forcing them to appear in offline examination for 3rd and 5th Semester is sheer injustice and unacceptable in actual is weird because there is no difference in exams taken online or offline except there is a chance of students indulging in unfair means which actually should be unacceptable if the so-called students union is true to the cause of students. This is an attempt to misguide students and students should not fall prey to this under any circumstances because the reasons given by the students are absurd and clearly indicate that they want undue favours while attempting their exams which is uncalled for and should not be allowed at all.

OFF 'D' CUFF

Exploring the Mind of God - Book review

Exploring the Mind of God: How Technology Guided by Spirituality Can Lead to Happiness; Author: Anil K. Rajvanshi; Publisher: Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)

According to the author, the mantra for India's and the world's development should be spirituality with high technology.

This book is about exploring the larger issues of life and cosmos, aided by spirituality and technology. Anil K. Rajvanshi, who has more than 40 years of experience in renewable energy R&D and rural development, is convinced that a spiritual path can lead to positive transformation in humans. In simple language, spread over 65 easily digestible chapters, he explains how.

Years of personal experience have convinced the author that one of the prerequisites to having happiness and a sustainable lifestyle is the development of a powerful and smart brain. He reveals how one can lead a happy life by making the brain powerful through spirituality, and then using it to solve our problems through technology. Spiritual progress can submerge emotions of greed and lead one towards humility and simplicity – and from there to happiness and rewarding life.

Spirituality and technology Rajvanshi is equally confident that as people evolve

Anil Rajvanshi

God has neither form nor color. He is incorporeal and immense.

Whatever is seen in the world describes his greatness.

-Dayananda Saraswati

EDITORIAL

When will Russia-Ukraine war end?

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

More than a fortnight has passed since the Russia started the most devastating invasion on its neighbor Ukraine and to be more specific it is the seventeen day of the horrific war between Russia and Ukraine. The unwanted war between Russia and Ukraine shows no signs of a respite and it is of serious concern to the whole humanity. The war has caused enormous losses in terms of the men and material particularly to Ukraine but Russia has not remained immune to the losses as thousands of the army men of Russia as well as of Ukraine have lost their precious lives but the war between Russia and Ukraine continues unabated and causes unimaginable losses to both the countries, however the loss to men and material to Ukraine is definitely much more than it is to Russia. The fact is that Ukraine is no match for Russia as it is the super power and has military might at its disposal and has the scientifically and technologically tested arms and ammunition which she uses against Ukraine in the war. The cities after cities and villages after villages have been bombarded by Russia and the human habitations have been destroyed and put to ashes and there has been enormous loss to Ukrainian economy. America, Britain, European Union, NATO and United Nations have imposed many economic and other sanctions against Russia to pressurize and force the arrogant Russia to end war but she has up to now not responded favorably to the imposition of the economic and other sanctions and has not ended the war on Ukraine. The hundreds of the innocent civilian lives have lost due to the invasion of Russia on Ukraine as Russia is attacking and bombarding the civilian locations and she is guilty of the war crimes and she should be penalized for committing war crimes in Ukraine. The continuance of the war between Russia and Ukraine is causing enormous sufferings to the people of Ukraine as she is no match for the mighty Russia but there are losses to the army of Russia as well as thousands of the Russian soldiers have lost their precious lives. But the loss in terms of men and material to Ukraine is unimaginable. In fact the war is of a great and serious concern to the world community and the United nations and the UN has taken many steps to contain the devastating war but the war continues and poses a great threat to world peace and security and therefore the United Nations and all the countries and the super powers barring Russia wants that the war should end in the interest of the humanity, but Russia pays no heed to the pleadings, appeals and sanctions against it and continues war which is so catastrophic and is bringing doom



and destruction to Ukraine and therefore the war should end and pave way for world peace and tranquility. However there is no sign of the respite to the war between Russia and Ukraine and it continues and gives sleepless nights to the Ukrainian people who continue to bear the brunt of war. It is of serious and great concern that lakhs of innocent civilians fled from Ukraine and became refugees and took shelter in neighboring countries and this is a very serious problem and concerns all of us. The refugee problem is a human problem and refugees face untold sufferings and difficulties. As such, war should end in interest of world peace and for relief to the war suffers of Ukraine. Russia nurses the extra territorial ambitions and thus wants to include Ukraine and other states in this bigger dream of embarking of the path of ensuring the Akhand USSR once again but in this dream she will not be successful because the erstwhile USSR is a utopian dream of Putin which cannot be fulfilled. The United Nations, world super powers, the European union and all international agencies should play their positive role so that the war is contained. The United Nations general assembly, security council and international court of justice should use their august offices so that Russia will end the war with Ukraine to save the humanity from the destruction of the world war. Russia has nuclear weapons and chemical weapons so the war this time will be so dangerous and this is not in the interest of neither Russia nor Ukraine and such a war is threat to world peace. The continuous war is a threat to world peace and therefore the war should end in the interest of world peace. The clouds of the world war seem to be hovering and thus there is threat of world war third which means annihilation of the mankind and destruction to the property. Therefore the parties to war should see the sanity and end the war which is so devastating.

There is urgent need to end the war to save not only the people of the two countries which are at war but to save the whole humanity. Therefore the horrific war should stop to usher peace, security and development. The super powers, NATO and other stakeholders should not do anything which will precipitate the war but they should play their positive role so that Russia and Ukraine will stop the deadly war for the sake of humanity. It is the responsibility and duty of the world community to act fast and in positive manner so that the war will end and peace will have a chance and peace will prevail in the greed torn world. The continuance of the war has left great toll of human sufferings and there is utmost need for the end of the war which has entered seventeen day. In fact the war should now end but there seem bleak chances of the clouds of the war receding so soon but the whole world prays for the end of the war between Russia and Ukraine so that the people of Ukraine, Russia and the world will heave a sigh of relief and for this the United Nations, the super powers and other stakeholders should play their positive role and part so that Russia will give in and submit to the appeals and warnings of the world and take necessary steps in the direction of the end of the war. The Russian president Putin should shun his rigid attitude and respond favorably to the world opinion and think of ending the war which is so horrifying and devastating. The Russia should play the part and role of a big brother of Ukraine and stop the invasion at once in the interest of the humanity. But the chances of receding the war so soon seem to be bleak but the United Nations and the super powers should not be discouraged but continue their sincere efforts so that the clouds of the war will be cleared and the war may be ended to save the countries at war and the world from the horrors of the war. Thus, all stakeholders should play their positive role to the effect that the war between Russia and Ukraine will end so that people of not only the two countries which are at war will feel secure but the whole world will heave a sigh of relief because if the war will continue there will arise the chances of the world war which is not in the interest of the humanity. America has done well to have withdrawn the most favoured Nation Status to Russia as such steps will force Russia to stop war. So, all steps should be taken by the arrogant Russia to stop the invasion and war with Ukraine so that war will come to an end soon to save the mankind. To conclude one can say that the pertinent question is how long the war will continue between Russia and Ukraine and when will the bleeding in Ukraine stop is the million dollar question?

(The author is a columnist and social activist).

Developmental Story

Horticulture- a viable economic activity



Kupwara, a north Kashmir border district, 100 km away from capital city Srinagar, is gifted with ideal agro climate conditions and topography. This atmosphere is very conducive to grow different kinds and cultivars of fresh and dry fruits. Over 80,000 families, comprising 04 lakh souls are directly or indirectly engaged with the Horticulture sector in the District. The total number of orchardists in the district exist around 81,205. The major fruits grown in the district are Apple, Walnut, Pear and cherry. Citrus and Olive are also cultivated in the Teetwal area of the district. The rural economy of the district is exclusively dependent on Horticulture sector, as the district is presently known as one of the major fruit producing districts of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

The area under different fruit crops in the district is 29114.18 hectares, out of 20287.2 hectares are under fresh fruits and 8827 hectares under dry fruits. In terms of production the district has shown a significant increase in production and touched the mark of 230042.09 metric tons in which 201836.49 M.T are fresh fruits and 26451 M.T are dry fruits.

Among the total production, around 29789 metric tons have been locally consumed and around 168810 metric tons have been exported outside the district. Because of the concerted efforts of the horticulture department in the district, there was a significant increase in the 'A- Grade' production of fruits during the year 2021 and the sector touched new heights. It helped the orchardists to sell their produce on average of Rs 800 to 1000 per box thereby improving the socio economic life of the people associated with this job.

In order to increase the production by 3 fold and improve the quality of

fruits and double the income of a grower, the introduction of a modified high density scheme has proven up to the mark. The department of horticulture is making all out efforts for coverage of maximum area under this scheme in the district so that the economic conditions of farmers and orchardists are increased to a respectable level. Under the scheme 6.15 Hectare of land have been brought under high density plantation in this district while a target of 100 hectare has been fixed for 2021-22 against of which 40 hectares have been already identified for execution and the work is in progress.

"As per analysis and field survey of the department, the beneficiaries who have shifted to high density plantation have market this scheme as a Grade A (10 out of 10 point scale),"

said Chief Horticulture Officer Kupwara (CHO), adding that the economic condition and social status of the farmers has increased manifold.

He further informed that encouraging farmers through different means of communication to shift from traditional farming into high density farming is bearing good fruit at ground level.

Many other government schemes to boost the Horticulture sector are in operation in the district. "Kupwara having bestowed with tremendous scope for high density and medium density walnut plantation, the department of Horticulture is introducing grafted walnut plantation in the district," said CHO, adding that in near future, the district will be equipped with this kind of plantation. He said around 5 Hectare have been brought under medium density Walnut plantations during 2021. With the introduction of centrally sponsored schemes, emphasis has been laid to improve the production and productivity of Horticulture pro-

duce by providing different incentives under different components. The incentives, as per the data, that are available for farmers under different Components include Component Area Incentive, under which Rs. 7.50 lakh are being provided for establishment of nursery of 01 Hectare.

Likewise, establishment of orchard (Normal density), Modified High Density, Rejuvenations of old/senile orchards, Creation of irrigation infrastructure through Bore/tube well, Establishment of Vermi compost units, Establishment of Pack house, Establishment of poly green House (Tubular structure), Purchase of Tractor, Purchase of Power tiller, Weeder, Power Sprayer, Self-Propelled machinery and Procurement of Refrigerated Van (9 MT capacity), Establishment of food processing unit and Establishment of CA stores. The introduction of new schemes and supply of machinery equipment on subsidized cost have reduced the labour requirement on farms to an appreciable level, besides, the different operations are being completed in time which has reduced the input / production cost per hectare. To cater the requirement of fruit plants, the Horticulture Department has set up 5 Nurseries in district Kupwara at different agro climatic Zones.

The purpose of establishment of nurseries is to produce qualitative and adequate plant material for farmers. The efforts, being taken by the Horticulture Department to boost the Horticulture sector in the district, are always evolving and there remains scope to further develop the sector in accordance with the latest scientific technology. The final goal of the development of the Horticulture sector is to maintain and sustain its largest employment generation capacity.

Transforming J&K

Smart City Mission: Unique initiative towards making J&K cities hub of modern edifice

In India, the Smart City Mission (SCM) has been initiated with an aim to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life of people by enabling local area development and harnessing technology that leads to smart outcomes. Smart city mission mainly focuses on four things; Social Infrastructure, Physical Infrastructure, Institutional Infrastructure (including Governance) and Economic Infrastructure. Cities are mainly the places of confluences of people; places where people live, come to meet, exchange ideas, earn livelihoods, access education, health and other services and enjoy a life of good quality. People are at the core of the city and in that sense cities should work for their people. Cities that work for their people will continuously become better versions of themselves with each passing day.

We need to understand the reasons which make a city attractive to people in the first place. These reasons would be, to a large extent, different for different cities and different for different sets of people and therefore cannot be generalized. Some cities attract people for the opportunities that exist therein as markets and centres for manufacturing, some others due to the greatness of their cultures or their cosmopolitan vibes and others for their ability to provide better education and health facilities or a combination of factors and so on. The government of Jammu and Kashmir, in its endeavor to make cities of the UT hub of modern infrastructural edifice to enhance quality of life here, has initially taken up Jammu and Srinagar cities for development into smart cities under Smart City Mission. The vision for Jammu city is "Transforming Jammu into a sustainable and economically vibrant city focusing on tourism, quality of life and trade by leveraging its heritage and location." Promoting Jammu's identity, sustainable and liveable Jammu and promoting inclusion are the three main action areas which have been identified to make the vision implementable. Besides, city chowk multi-level parking, renovation of MA stadium, construction of musical fountain at Bagh e Bahu, improvement of street lighting by LED bulbs, multi-level parking at bus-stand, 100 bedded emergency block at GMC-Jammu, Jammu ropeway project are some notable projects completed under smart city mission in Jammu city, so far.

For Srinagar city, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), a Special Purpose Vehicle, has been created under Smart City Mission which envisions transforming Srinagar into an eco-friendly, resilient and socio-economically vibrant city that celebrates its natural and cultural heritage creating harmony and opportunities for all. Srinagar Smart City aspires to leverage its natural and cultural heritage/ tourism through innovative and inclusive solutions, enhance the quality of life for its citizens. EV charging stations, smart street lighting, multi-level parking, sports infrastructure (3 stadia and 5 schools), water transport system in Jhelum river, installation of ornamental LED lighting around Dal-lake, pedestrian walkways and footpath, riverbank development have been started under smart city mission in Srinagar.

The main goal behind launching Smart City Mission is to create a city for its people which possess their chosen pursuits. Not all people or sets of people desire the same things. In order to simplify the understanding of the diversity of needs expressed by a city's diverse residents, it is useful to classify them under three broad pillars including liveability, economic-ability and sustainability. These three broad outcomes are the main things a city needs to target in order to work for its people. In J&K, the Smart City Mission has brought remarkable transformation for both the capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar. Some magnificent projects of economic importance as well as those which will significantly improve the quality of life of people are being executed at both the capital cities. Notably, in coming years, Jammu and Kashmir will see a new dawn of development which will transform the overall economic landscape here besides raising the living standards of people across the UT.