

MAKING INDIA STRONG

As soon as Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over the reins of the country, the first change which India witnessed was the bolstering of country's defence and attacking power. In nearly eight years of BJP government's tenure India has made progress in leaps and bounds as far as its defence capabilities are concerned and today it added another feather in its cap by successfully test-firing an Army version of the Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) from Chandipur Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Odisha. Reportedly, the missile was test-fired at 10.30 AM validating long-range parameters. This is another milestone in making a robust defence against Pakistan and China, which is the prime focus of the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. MRSAM-Army missile system flight tested from ITR Balasore at around 10.30 AM intercepting a high speed aerial target at long range. The target was destroyed by the missile in a direct hit. There are several other achievements which the Modi government has made in the last few years with Rafale fighter jets from France being the most significant strategically. Another strategic missile which was tested recently by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was the indigenously developed low weight, fire and forget Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM). The test has validated the minimum range successfully. BY acquiring all this, the country has fortified its defence to the level next and this is not the end as the BJP Government is very particular in this direction and is treading to do more to make India Atmanirbhar in defence. The measures taken by BJP government will surely give an edge to the country in defence and it will continue to remain the leader in the region as far as defence capabilities are concerned. The effect of strong defence can well be gauged by the fact that unlike past, the China has to hold back in eastern Ladakh as the strength which India has acquired under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has forced the expansionist country to follow the status quo and also stopped it from doing any misadventure inside Indian Territory.

LEVERAGING TRADITIONAL PRACTICES

It is quite evident from the history that India, right from the times immortal, has been known across the globe for its rich heritage and culture. Not only education and art forms but the country was a hub of several distinctive things like Medicare and wellness techniques which at that time were present nowhere on this earth. It is a fact that several foreigners used to visit the country for learning various techniques and art forms, in reputed institutes including a university which several years back was functioning at Nalanda, the traces of which were later found by the historians and archaeologists. All this shows that our country was really a Centre of knowledge of every type even several years back and used to preach the same to others. But it is really sad that our ancestors failed to forward the same to posterity in a proper way due to which several such techniques were eliminated with their end. Ayurveda and Yoga are two such blessings given to entire world by India which few years back were at the verge of extinction due to lack-adaisical attitude of successive Governments but it is the endeavour of ruling dispensation that not only a proper stress was accorded to both these sectors across the country but same were taken even out of the boundaries in the overall interest of humanity. It is only due to the dedicated efforts of the present Government that Ayurveda and Yoga have been adopted by several foreign nations due to their immense benefits for a healthy living. Recently, while lauding the efforts of ministry of Ayush for signing the post country agreement with the World Health Organization to establish WHO Traditional Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar; Gujarat, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Yoga is uniting the world in pursuit of good health and wellness. He also congratulated the Indian Embassy for holding a Yoga Session in Doha for people from almost 114 nations. The establishment of this centre will definitely help a lot in ensuring the wellness of people besides leveraging our rich traditional practices for global good, as the same have been recognized and appreciated by the world.



OFF 'D' CUFF

Never Ignore Peace while Seeking Happiness

“When you are at peace, you are connected to the Grace of God. So, stay connected to him Who is eager to make you happy.”

Happiness is the prime call of hearts and everyone is trying to achieve it through various means. Happiness from materialistic gains and achievements is alright but still you need inner peace for enjoying these sources of happiness. It is important since it makes you effective in whatever you are doing. And it would be tough to achieve anything significant without it.

If an anxious person tries to accomplish a task, he might face problems in accomplishing it efficiently. There are very few chances that the job will be done correctly. It may turn into a big accident as well, causing great harm to all. Your karma, however, should lead you towards progress and development, not towards destruction.

Therefore, it is necessary that you maintain your inner calm while performing your worldly duties and never ignore it in collecting materials of comfort and happiness.

Advantages of Having a Tranquil Heart

A tranquil mind & heart also help you keep a smile on your face. Disturbed and

anxious people who are only behind fulfilling desires, cannot even laugh genuinely. Their laughter also looks artificial- just for show off. A serene mind keeps your voice sweet and behavior decent and it happens because your inner attributes are reflected outside.

Today, the world is facing disturbance & chaos because people are so involved in accumulating materials of happiness only. They ignore clam and just don't care about it. They are so much into 'let's-do-it-now-forget-to-morrow' attitude. But if you want real happiness, refrain from acting like that.

Always think about tomorrow's peace before taking any action today because peace is the foundation of long-term happiness. So, as you seek happiness and materialistic possessions do not do it at the cost of your inner calm.

But why is it important? Why do you Need Inner Calm?

It is important to maintain the state of calm, although it's tough to feel at peace all the time. Accept it, yet try to maintain it during the major part of your day. It will result in a lot of positive happenings.

Shri Sudhanshuji Maharaj

Transforming J&K J&K achieving major strides through ISDS

The Integrated Sheep Development Scheme (ISDS) launched has achieved major strides in supplementing livestock production and building entrepreneurship in this sector across Jammu and Kashmir. The scheme aims to promote the establishment of sheep and goat units in the union territory. Sheep sector makes a valuable contribution to the economically weaker sections of the society by their multifaceted utility of producing wool, meat, skin, manure etc.

Realizing this importance of sheep, many development activities including schemes for intensive sheep development in the J&K have been initiated. Under this scheme, financial assistance from the banks has been made available along with other incentives and subsidies. ISDS is one of the schemes of Sheep Husbandry Department aimed at not only achieving breakthrough in wool and mutton production but also addressing the problems of unemployment across Jammu and Kashmir.

Under this scheme, for establishment of Sheep/Goat unit on participatory mode comprising of 25 ewes/does, Livestock is supplied free of cost. Retrieval of equivalent livestock from female progeny is carried out in phased manner from 3rd year. Any individual/group of individuals/self-help group/cooperative society/farmers producer organization is eligible to apply for the scheme. Similarly for the establishment of Sheep/Goat units (25 Sheep/goat per unit), scheme provides 50 per cent of the unit cost as total eligible subsidy with a ceiling of Rs 1 lakh whichever is less per unit (25 sheep/goat) and a maximum subsidy ceiling of Rs 8 lakh for 8 Sheep/Goat units (each unit comprising of 25 sheep/goats.). Any individual/group of

individuals/self-help group/cooperative society/farmers producer organization is eligible for the scheme. The scheme also has the provision of Procurement of Shearing units (Comprising of one shearing machine, one Genset & shearing accessories/spares), 50 per cent of the unit cost as total eligible subsidy with a ceiling of Rs 75,000/unit whichever is less. Any individual (trained in MSS or intending to undergo training in MSS) is eligible for the scheme. The scheme is majorly contributing towards achieving Prime Minister Modi's vision of doubling farmers' income as it augments the income of farmers that they generate by practicing agriculture.

The Department also provides breeders with all kinds of assistance during disease outbreaks to minimize the loss. It is because of the help of the Sheep Husbandry Department that Sheep rearing has become one of the lucrative entrepreneurship choices in J&K. Even after having enormous potential and a conducive environment for sheep and goat farming, Jammu and Kashmir was still facing a significant gap between demand and supply of mutton.

According to Jammu and Kashmir's Sheep Husbandry Department data, 594 sheep and goat units have been established under the scheme in the financial year 2021-22, providing employment to hundreds of people in the Union Territory. As per the departmental statistics, under this scheme 69 units have been established in Anantnag, 93 in Baramulla, 65 in Bandipora, 60 in Budgam, 56 in Ganderbal, 58 in Kulgam, 77 in Kupwara, 47 in Pulwama, 43 in Shopian and 26 in Srinagar.

Similarly, 329 units were provided to the beneficiaries in the year 2021-22 in Jammu region by the Animal Husbandry Department under the

Integrated Sheep Development Scheme. The structural changes and consolidation of different programmes for farm and non-farm population in the rural areas is nothing short of a revolution for rural J&K. The UT has also redefined the agriculture and horticulture business in the country with expanded operations and a strong supply chain system, which had never happened in the last 70 years. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the first-ever 'Vishal Pashudhan Vyapar Mela' at Sports Stadium, Hiranagar said that UT Administration will provide a major fillip to the Animal Husbandry sector with an additional source of income to the farmers. "It is an effort on the part of the government towards providing a single platform for sale/purchase of high-quality livestock breeds that will strengthen J&K's Dairy sector, besides exploiting the full potential of J&K in milk, fodder & mutton production, to cut down imports and bridge the demand and supply gap in the poultry sector; and generating employment by attracting new entrepreneurs," he said.

Recently Government of Jammu and Kashmir also signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) for transforming the Sheep Farming Sector in the UT. The partnership between J&K and New Zealand will boost production & productivity in the livestock sector of the UT. The overarching objective of the MoC is to improve farmers' remuneration, transfer of technology in research & development as well as marketing & value addition of sheep products of J&K. The Government is also creating enabling environment for the integrated growth of the livestock sector which is providing livelihood support to around 1.2 million families and contributing 5 per cent to the Union Territory's GDP.

New India's New Record- \$400 billion merchandise exports

■ PIYUSH GOYAL

India's achievement of record \$400 billion of goods exports is a shining example of the way this country is being governed, reformed and transformed since 2014 with a mission to decisively improve the lives of citizens. The surge in exports is helping farmers, artisans, weavers and factory workers, and helping businesses, small and large to create jobs, scale up operations, become more competitive and make a mark in the global business arena. The export target of \$400 billion seemed impossible to many in the COVID-ravaged world, where demand was weak, scarce containers were priced exorbitantly and the world was facing job losses and conflicts. But this did not deter Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government from acting decisively and swiftly with a bottom-up approach in assessing the situation, identifying products and regions where exports could be increased, and adopting a partnership approach with exporters and industry bodies to deliver results.

The exports mission was revved up when the prime minister gave a clarification call to industry to focus on exports and inspired them to aspire for a quantum jump in India's international trade in goods and services. The Prime Minister himself held consultations with ministries, states, Indian missions abroad, commodity boards, industry associations and experts to motivate and inspire all. He continuously monitored the progress of exports. It was indeed an ambitious mission because the best India had achieved in merchandise exports in the past was \$330 billion in the pre-COVID days of 2018-19, after which the pandemic battered global trade.

But India bounced back rapidly as policy measures, reforms, export-promotion schemes, major initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive Scheme, and bold decisions in the face of adversity propelled India to become the fastest growing major economy in the world. Exports have

boomed, setting a series of monthly records that have added up to historic achievement in 2021-22. Exports are contributing to economic growth, creating jobs and helping small businesses and workers. The world is now looking up to India as a trustworthy and reliable partner that can provide quality goods and services on time even at the peak of the pandemic. The results are spectacular. India achieved the target nine days ahead of schedule. We adopted the 'whole-of-government' approach and worked as partners with exporters. The government proactively helped them overcome any hurdle and encouraged them to grab every opportunity for every product in every country to help achieve the stiff target. Targets were fixed for 200 countries/territories and special emphasis was laid on new and existing markets, lost market share, and the role of small enterprises and startups as a vehicle for exports.

But it's not just a story of numbers. There are exciting new developments such as the export of new products, penetration of new markets, rising exports of manufactured products, an impressive 50% growth in engineering exports, and laudable contribution of small businesses and farmers, whose hard work has strengthened global food security. Agricultural exports have risen nearly 25 percent to a record of nearly \$50 billion. India's hardworking farmers provide almost half of the globally traded rice. Farmers have helped wheat exports jump to a record 70 lakh tonnes, which is softening the impact of the disruption in global wheat trade caused by the crisis in Ukraine, a major supplier. Similarly, coffee exports have risen to a record of nearly \$1 billion, an impressive achievement for the sector where 95 percent of the output is from small growers. Marine exports are also booming, helping many small businesses and fishermen.

India now needs to maintain the momentum. Our manufacturers, exporters and policy makers cannot

afford to be complacent in the fiercely competitive world. Indian industry needs to step up investment in Research and Development and focus sharply on quality. There was a time when there was a big gap between products sold to Indian citizens and the 'export quality' goods that were shipped out. There should be no such gap. The government will scale up efforts to help exporters. Many recent policies will bear fruits for years to come and give the country new global champions in manufacturing and exports. There will be many success stories like the mobile phone sector, which was once heavily import dependent but now exports have multiplied and imports are drying up. Exporters will also gain from PM Gati Shakti, the National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity which the PM launched last October. We now have to make a bigger impact in international trade. This will be challenging but exciting and achievable. Our government has a track record of achieving very ambitious targets, be it electrification of every village in the country, the dramatic rise in renewable energy capacity along with the equally dramatic fall in its cost, the LED revolution that drastically reduced the cost of energy-efficient bulbs, as well as game-changing welfare schemes to provide ordinary citizens the convenience of toilets, cooking gas, bank accounts, health insurance, water supply, homes, rural roads, internet connectivity and the world's biggest vaccination programme against COVID-19 with the help of India-made vaccines. India is on track to reclaim its status as major trading power it once was. That is an ambitious mission, but the story of Indian exports, like many game-changing initiatives in New India can be summed up with what Nelson Mandela famously said, "It always seems impossible until it's done."

(The author is Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles).

YOUR COLUMN Passion to join Army

Dear Editor,

Actually, Corona has shaken the whole country and the world. Everyone is trying to recover but India has established itself in the midst of very difficult situations and tough challenges. But there are problems in every sphere of life. Youth has its own problems. When we see India on the world map, it can and should be the wish of every true Indian to see our country progress. The country's economy has recovered to a great extent but challenges remain. Even today, there is a hankering among the youth to join the army and paramilitary forces in the country. Wherever there is an opportunity of recruitment and youth are called for physical test, be it Jammu and Kashmir or Assam,

youth fall apart. Youth facing curse of unemployment sees a hope of recruitment in the army. The government is sensitive which has done a lot for daughters, for women. So now the Government will have to do something for the sons of the country as well. If the recruitment is happening quickly in the army or paramilitary forces, then it is a good thing otherwise the work of recruitment should be speeded up. According to data received, the government's plan to conduct at least 100 recruitment rallies in the army in 2020 was to be held, but the figures testify that only 47 could happen and in many cases the common entrance examination was not even conducted. All these figures were based on several questions asked in the Rajya Sabha. At present, in the form of Rajnath Singh ji, there is such a Defense Minister with the Government of India who is very sensitive and responsible. When the highest number of youths in the world has been found in India, then those who are passionate to join the army,

J&K's Transformational Budget 2022-23: Push to realise PM's vision of doubling farmers' income

Jammu and Kashmir is predominantly agrarian with over 70 percent of the population directly or indirectly engaged in agricultural and allied sectors thus complimented with specific crop adapted to local climate and topography of the region. The recently announced budget of Central Government for Jammu-Kashmir brings hope for agriculture sector which aims at doubling the farmers' income in a planned manner. The strategy is to focus on encouraging the cultivation of High-Yield and High Density crops, use of modern technology and laboratory tested pesticides and other measures. An amount of Rs 23.97 crore has been sanctioned for high yielding varieties of hybrid seeds which would benefit 8.93 lakh farmers. In addition, Rs. 55.80 crore have been kept separately for providing infrastructure facilities like 3,200 pump-sets, 898 bore wells and 10,000 drip and sprinkler irrigation systems to farmers. It will benefit around 16,960 farmers and will cover over 15,240 hectares area.

Similarly, capacity building and training is another focused area prioritized in this budget. A total of 36,000 farmers are to be trained for capacity building with a provision of Rs 27 crore. Nearly, 22,000 farmers would be benefitted with establishment of 11 big and small Mandis with a provision of Rs 1.60 crore. Besides, 12,800 farmers would be covered by way of formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) with a financial assistance of Rs 80 Lakh.

The budget has also laid special focus on farm mechanization which is another area instrumental in transforming the agriculture sector which will help farmers to enhance their production manifold. About 33,200 farmers would be provided farm machinery worth Rs 81 crore. Considering the significance of organic farming in sustainable development, the budget has kept Rs 6 crore, under area expansion programme, for expansion of 756 hectares under organic farming, 45 hectares under potato and 250 hectares under spices which will benefit about 44,204 farmers.

Due to erratic rains and long dry seasons, need for irrigation facilities are imminent and in this budget the irrigation for 8,670 hectare of land will be restored through maintenance of Field Channels for which Rs 30 crore have been kept in this budget. Horticulture is one of the major sectors in Jammu and Kashmir which contributes significantly towards economy of the Union Territory. The variety of horticultural products of J&K has earned worldwide fame because of its good quality and taste. The fruit crops grown here like apple, almonds, walnuts, pears, cherries and apricots in temperate areas and mango, citrus, litchi, papaya, guava etc in subtropical areas are known all over the globe. The UT's Horticulture industry is showing steep progress as the yearly pay produced by the natural product industry has gotten over Rs 10,000 crore, contributing 8 per cent to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). About 7.5 lakh families of around 35 lakh souls are associated with this area.

The government of J&K in collaboration with National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) is undertaking High Density Plantation over an area of 5500 hectare in next five years. Accordingly, a new scheme on High Density Plantation was launched in March, 2021 which apart from apple also included other crops being grown in J&K. While Controlled Atmosphere storage capacity of around 1.70 Lakh Metric Ton has been already established, another 30,000 Metric Ton is likely to be added by the end of the current financial year. Besides, 50, 000 Metric Ton Controlled Atmosphere storage capacity has been targeted for completion during 2022-23.

The focus will be to reach a Controlled Atmosphere storage capacity of about 5 Lakh Metric Ton in next three years.

Keeping in view the fact that hailstorms have often destroyed fruit crops like apples and apricot, the government in this budget has kept a provision of providing subsidy on anti-hail net under PARVAZ scheme to tackle the issue of fruit crop damage.

Also, the administration is providing subsidies for air transportation of identified perishable products under the PARVAZ scheme which is a market linkage support scheme essentially launched for shipment of perishable Agricultural and Horticultural products through air cargo. Under the initiative, subsidy will be provided on the air cargo charges through DBT mode.

The budget reads that expansion up to an area of 400 hectare under High Density Plantation of apples and 1000 hectare under sub-tropical fruit plants has been targeted for 2022-23.

A Mega High Density Plantation nursery over an area of 800 hectare at an estimated cost of Rs 12.30 crore for sub-tropical fruit plants is being established in Government sector at Chakroi, Jammu besides 10 High Density plantation nurseries in private sector have also been targeted for establishment in 2022-23. The Government of India as well as J&K government is keen to widen the growth of agriculture as well as horticulture sector which are vital sectors towards transforming lives of farming community.

These sectors can transform the economy of the UT tremendously over the next decade by creating numerous job opportunities, reducing poverty and backwardness besides increasing the production to facilitate optimum economic growth in a peaceful and eco-friendly manner.

then they should be given the opportunity as soon as possible. In our country, the craze for joining the army is also very high. It is my research work that in this country, 50-60 thousand soldiers from different armies and paramilitary forces retire every year, so it would have taken at least one and a half two years to recruit the youth who come in their place, then any priority. Youth should get a chance on the basis of the basis and the need of the country, it will have many benefits. One, unemployment will end and secondly, talented people will get an opportunity to join the army. Although the recruitment work was not stopped, but somewhere Corona had created obstacles. It is the wonder of our Defense Minister that he has put daughters on duty in the difficult task of flying a fighter plane. So now it is the turn of the sons of the country as entire country has faith that youth of the country will soon get a bright future in the army.

Vijay Garg.