

AYUSH WITNESSING GROWTH

It is really appreciable on part of the ruling dispensation that due to it focused approach and proactive working in order to provided all necessary medical facilities to people of the country, the AYUSH sector has been developed a lot in past few years. As per the research report on AYUSH Sector by Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM) under Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), the market size of AYUSH industry is US\$ 18.1 billion (INR 1,49,451 Crore as per current INR-Dollar rate) in 2020 whereas it was US\$ 2.85 billion (INR 23,532 Crore as per current INR-Dollar rate) in 2014-15 (Goraya and Ved).

The Ministry has developed a Central Sector Scheme for Promotion of International Co-operation in AYUSH (IC Scheme) under which Ministry of AYUSH provides support to Indian AYUSH Manufacturers/ AYUSH Service providers to give boost to export of AYUSH products & services; facilitate International promotion, development and recognition of AYUSH system of medicine; foster interaction of stakeholders and market development of AYUSH at international level; promote academics and research through establishment of AYUSH Academic Chairs in foreign countries and holding training workshop/symposiums for promoting and strengthening awareness and interest about AYUSH Systems of Medicine at international level. The Minister of AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal, in a written reply in Rajya Sabha, informed that the Ministry of AYUSH in cooperation with Ministry of Commerce and Industry has set up an AYUSH Export Promotion Council for medicines and products of Ayurveda, Homoeopathy, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Unani systems and services of the AYUSH systems.

As per the report of Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), on 'AYUSH Sector in India: Prospects & Challenges', the global market size of the herbal sector was estimated at US\$ 657.5 billion (INR 54,28,977 Crore as per current INR-Dollar rate) in 2020. In terms of overall exports, the total AYUSH export of India has increased from US\$ 1.09 billion (INR 9,000 Crore as per current INR-Dollar rate) in 2014 to US\$ 1.54 billion (INR 12,715 Crore as per current INR-Dollar rate) in 2020. Various steps taken by the Ministry of AYUSH to push exports globally included signing MoUs with 24 countries for cooperation in field of Traditional Medicine and Homoeopathy with foreign nations, signing MoUs with 40 international institutes for undertaking Collaborative Research / Academic collaboration, 15 MoUs have been signed with international institutes for setting up of AYUSH Academic Chairs in foreign nations, supporting establishment of 39 AYUSH Information Cells in 35 foreign nations, registering 'AYUSH Export Promotion Council' under section 8(4) of the Companies Act 2013 on 04.01.2022 under the Ministry of AYUSH in support of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to tackle the obstacles for registration of AYUSH products abroad, undertaking of market studies and research activities abroad, signing MoUs with London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSH&TM), UK and Frankfurter Innovations zentrum Biotechnologie GmbH (FIZ), Frankfurt Germany for clinical research studies on mitigation of COVID-19 through Ayurveda, providing WHO-GMP (COPP) to 31 Ayurvedic Drug manufacturers to facilitate export of Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani & Homoeopathy Drugs etc.

■ DR BANARSI LAL

Every year 22nd of March is celebrated as the World Water Day to create the awareness on the importance of freshwater and to advocate the sustainable management of freshwater. The theme of 2023 World Water Day is "Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis". This day is supported by the various institutions, organisations, stakeholders etc. across the globe. Campaigns, educational events, theoretical and musical celebrations are being organised to create the awareness on clean and affordable water.

This event shows how our use of water can help to reduce floods, scarcity and pollution, reduce infections, droughts and can help fight climate change itself. It was recommended to celebrate in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro.

It was firstly observed in 1993. Later on other events were added such as International Year of Cooperation in the Water Sphere in 2013 and the Current International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028. This observances reaffirm that water and sanitation are the key elements for poverty reduction ,economic growth and environmental sustainability. As the global population is increasing at an alarmingly rate so does the demand for water and this is depleting the water and other natural resources.

There is dire need to tackle the global water crisis. By using the water more efficiently we can reduce the green house gases. Water is the most precious resource on the earth. It is a finite natural resource on the earth.

We must use it judiciously with more responsibility. We need to balance the use of water while ensuring the poorest people don't left behind. Water is indispensable for the existence of animal and plant eco-systems and is an essential element in the development of any nation.

It is the most vital resource for the existence of life on earth. No other natural resource is having such an overwhelming influence as water has. Earth

three-fourths surface is covered by the oceans. Freshwater constitutes a very small proportion of this enormous quantity of water. Only 2.7 per cent of the total water available on the earth is fresh water out of which 75.2 per cent lies frozen in Polar Regions and another 22.6 per cent is present as ground water. Remaining water is available in rivers, lakes, atmosphere water and soil and vegetation. Climate change increases the intensity and frequency of natural disasters and water-related extreme events such as rainfall, droughts, floods etc. India is the seventh largest country in the world with a total area of 3,287,263 sq.km.

India accounts for about 2.4 per cent of the world's geographical area, 4 per cent of the world's water resources and 17.7 per cent of the world's population. Globally, 785 million people do not have access to basic drinking water facilities. Water is often contaminated from urban, industrial and agricultural pollutants. Many of those who lack access to basic water services also live in conflict-affected states with poor governance, high rates of poverty, insecure tenure and weak institutions.

The pressure on freshwater resources is rising including the drinking water supplies. There is need to increase the investments that can sustainably manage and equitably allocate water supplies, expand watershed protection and restoration. There is dire need to provide the basic facilities of safe and reliable drinking water even to the poorest amongst the poor of the nation for a good health and livelihood. The reliable provision and management of drinking water also develop credibility in local and national authorities. The rapid pace of urbanization also requires attention to urban services particularly clean drinking water.

There is dire need to provide adequate clean drinking water to the people, schools and clinics. It is predicted that upto, 5.7 billion people could be living in areas where water is scarce for at least one month a year. Climate-resilient water supply and sanitation can save the lives of more than 3, 60,000 infants every year. It is also predicted that by 2040, global energy demand is projected

to increase by over 25 per cent and water demand is expected to increase by more than by 50 per cent. With the extreme weather changes, rainfall has become unpredictable affecting the livelihood of millions of farmers especially in the developing countries. If water is used efficiently in agriculture then crops production can be increased and land, water and ecosystem degradation can be prevented.

Every year, there are around 250 million cases of water borne diseases with about 5-10 million deaths. It is not only the human beings who are threatened by water shortages and pollution but other living species on the earth are badly affected. About half of the world's wetlands have been destroyed in the last 100 years. Two-fifths of the fish are freshwater species and of these about 20 per cent are threatened, endangered or have become extinct in recent decades. The freshwater demand is increasing not only because of demographic pressures but also because of improved living standards, urbanisation and industrial growth. The world's thirst for water is likely to become one of the most important issues of the 21st century. Global water consumption is increasing more than the rate of population growth. In some areas, water withdrawals are so high relative to supply that surface water supplies are literally shrinking and ground water reserves are being depleted faster than they can be replenished. Water tables are dropping due to overexploitation of ground water and some rivers often become dry before they reach the sea.

It has been observed that the amount of water available per person in India has decreased steadily over a period of time. Water is scarce even for drinking purpose.

India already is facing an alarming situation and its fragile water resources are stressed and depleting while various sectorial demands are growing rapidly even as about 200 million people in the country do not have access to safe drinking water and nearly 1.5 million children under five die each year due to water-borne diseases.

The droughts conditions in several parts of the country are on the rise and

disputes over sharing of the water resources are increasing. If the available freshwater resources in India are not managed properly India can face a severe water crisis. At present, six of India's 20 major river basins already fall into water scarce category. It is expected that by the year 2025, five more basins will be water scarce. It is expected that by the year 2025, India can face a severe water shortage it is predicted that within a few decades availability of water in the country will be about 1700 to 2000 cubic metres as per person as against the world average of 5000 to 9000 cubic metres per person.

India is heading towards a freshwater crisis due to improper management of water resources and environmental degradation which has led to lack of access to safe water supply to millions of people.

The freshwater crisis is already evident in many parts of the country varying in scale and intensity depending mainly on the time of the year. Ground water crisis has been caused by human actions. Acute scarcity of water may cause the different nations to wage a new world war. There is need of new strategies for water management and development. Major institutional policies and technological initiatives are required to ensure efficient, socially equitable and environmentally suitable management of water resources. Water management programmes should be implemented in a systematic way. Immediate steps are needed for drastic reduction of wastage of water in all sectors.

There is also need to frame an appropriate water policy and equally important indomitable conscience of water users to utilize water judiciously. Climate policy makers should put water at the heart of action plans. Water can help to fight the climate change.

There is need to focus on sustainable, affordable and scalable water and sanitation solutions.

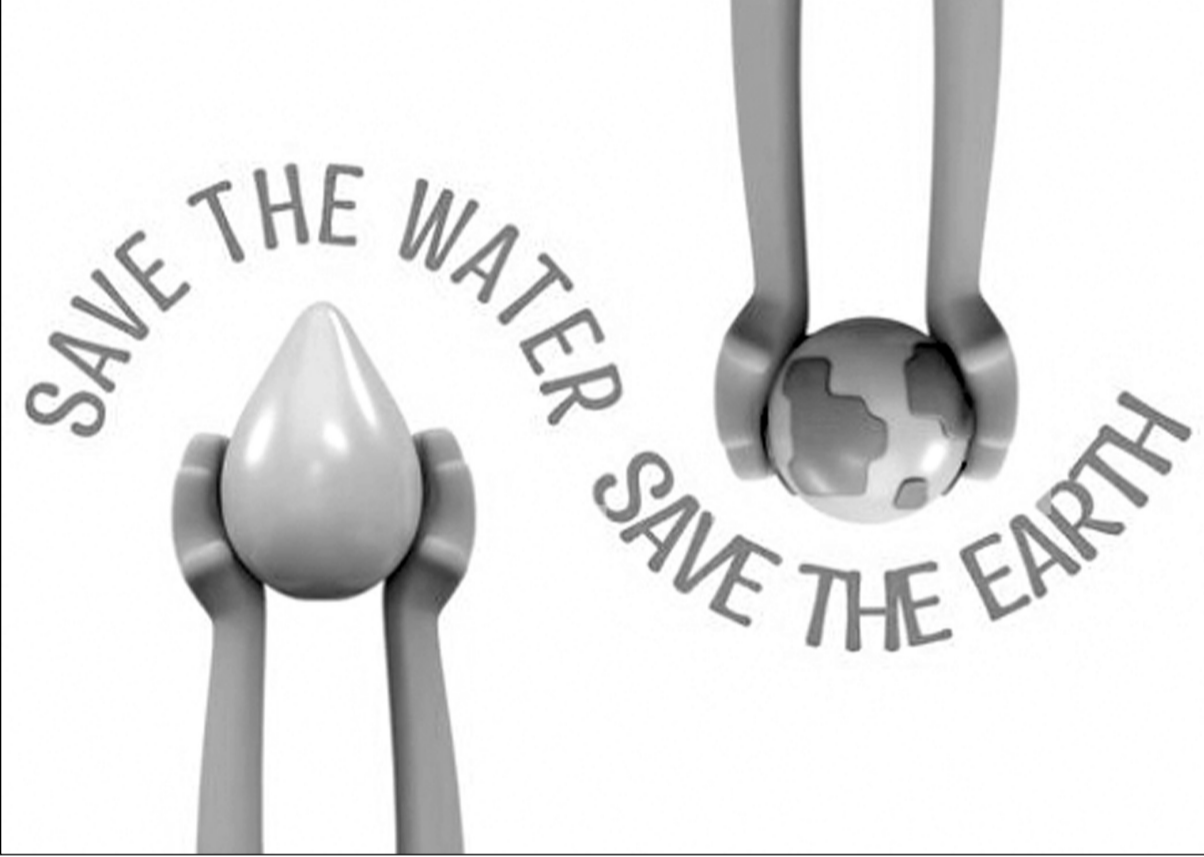
We all need to join our hands together to save water and protect the environment. There is need to make more efforts on water sustainability.

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Water has no alternative in world

■ DR SATYAWAN SAURABH

We forget that without water they are all useless. We keep using more water than we need. At least each of us can make proper use of water in our homes and workplaces. Many times it is seen that water is flowing from the taps on the roadside and going to waste, but we pass by and do not bother to close the tap. We should think about these topics and try to save water as far as possible in our daily life. At this time, to save life on the planet earth, the biggest need is to save water. How will water resources be managed to ensure that everyone in the country gets the same amount of water? As the population and economy grow, so does the water demand. With limited water and competing needs, drinking water management has become challenging. Other difficulties, such as depletion of groundwater and erratic rainfall. These difficulties have put a strain on the rural population, who meet their water needs with traditional knowledge and water wisdom. When it comes to health, people in rural areas need piped water. To maintain the relationship between water and energy, special attention should be paid to increasing water conservation and saving natural water sources as it is also very important for future energy production. Most of us wonder what a single person can do to save water. With this type of thinking, we waste water every day. In today's world, everyone is in a race to have big bathrooms in their homes, but we forget that they are useless without water. We keep using more water than we need. At least each of us can make proper use of water in our homes and workplaces. Many times it is seen that water is flowing from the taps on the roadside and going to waste, but we pass by and do not bother to close the tap. We should think about these topics and try to save water as far as possible in our daily life. If we talk about India, it rains in abundance here, but due to the increase in population, water scarcity is being felt in the country. Due to the increase in population, there is more use of natural resources. Water sources, local ponds, pools, rivers, and reservoirs are getting polluted and their water is decreasing. At present, clean drinking water is not available to the growing population of the country. Apart from this, agriculture in India is also dependent on rain. The success of agriculture in India depends on the availability of water, in which rainwater plays an important role. A good rain means a good crop. There is a great need to save rainwater and it should be ensured that no acidic elements are mixed in it as this will pollute the water



and its sources. That's why Jal Jeevan Mission is the foundation of the Prime Jal Jeevan Kosh. On 15th August 2019, the Prime Minister of India made a big announcement regarding a government program. The main objective of the Jal Jeevan Mission is to supply 55 liters of water per person per day to every rural household through functional household tap connections by 2024. Rainwater harvesting and water conservation are also the most important aspects of the mission. The focus is on using recycled water and recharging structures, developing waterways, and planting trees. Traditional and other water bodies are being renovated.

This mission will remove the shortage of tap water connections by harnessing the tap connections. This is

based on local management of how much water is used and how much is available.

The mission will create local infrastructure for things like harvesting water, injecting water directly into the ground, and managing domestic wastewater so it can be reused. By 2024, every person in a rural household will be able to get 55 liters of water per day from a tap connection. The mission helps the community come up with a plan for the water that includes lots of information, education, and communication. An amount of Rs 3 lakh crore was given in this scheme.

Everyone in this mission helps to give top priority to the mass movement for water. For the Himalayan and North Eastern States, the fund is divided 90:10 between the Center and the State, 50:50 for the rest of

the States, and 100 per cent for the Union Territories. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, tap water is provided to every rural household even in SC/ST-dominated villages in Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, so that 'no one is left out.' Also, tap water is given top priority in places where water quality is poor, such as desert and drought-prone areas, SC/ST majority villages, Sansad Adarsh Gramin Yojana villages, etc. The water supply system of the village is also in good condition in the scheme of water committees, which systematically operate the system. At least half of these associations have 10 to 15 members, at least half of whom are women. Other members come from self-help groups, recognized social and health workers, Anganwari teachers and other places. The committees prepare one-time action plans for the village utilizing all its resources. There are some problems in the implementation of the National Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Mission, the main one being the lack of reliable drinking water sources. In areas such as water-stressed, drought-prone, and subtropical, groundwater, uneven terrain, and scattered rural settlements have the presence of location-specific contaminants, as well as the involvement of local village communities in managing and operating the village water supply infrastructure. Disability comes in the way. In some states, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, the delay in issuing matching state shares is also coming in the way of the success of this mission. If we look at the progress made so far in Jal Jeevan Mission, at the time Jal Jeevan Mission was announced, 17.1 per cent of the 18.93 crore rural households had tap water connections.

This means that 3.23 crore rural households had tap water connections. So far, 5.38 crore (28 per cent) rural households have been provided with tap water connections under JJM. Therefore, out of 19.22 billion rural households in the country, 8.62 billion (or 44.84 percent) have potable tap water. States like Goa, Telangana, Andaman, Nicobar Islands, and Puducherry have reached 100 per cent of households in rural areas with running water from taps. 'Har Ghar Jal' has become everyone's topmost priority. The primary objective of the mission is to save water while wasting as little as possible. At this time, to save life on the planet earth, the biggest need is to save water. This will be done by managing water resources to ensure that everyone in the country gets the same amount of water.

Take care of Basohli constituency

■ SHIV KUMAR PADHA

It has been a practice in India where the Monarchs, visionary and the subjects friendly kings used to roam about in the streets in the guise of a common man in order to have first hand information about the problems and sufferings of their subjects which were often not conveyed to them through their spies deployed for the purpose. Similarly many heads of states in the world have been following the same tradition in their respective principalities. The examples of Jens Stoltenberg the prime minister of Norway, Barrak Obama the president of USA and Vladimir Putin the prime minister of Russia are worth mentioning. According to news, the prime minister of Norway worked secretly as taxi driver in uniform in the streets of Oslo, Barrak Obama took his lunch in the restaur-

ants of down town and Vladimir Putin drove bike on the roads of Moscow to have knowledge about the welfare of the masses. We the people of Basohli constituency are lucky enough to have their own elected representatives in the state legislative assembly.

The jurisdiction of an MLA is confined to one constituency, of a minister the whole state and that of an MP over the entire parliamentary constituency covering more than dozens of the assembly segments. It is often experienced that the ministers usually take interest in their own constituencies or in those which are represented either by the powerful or the influential MLAs, but as a result of discriminatory attitude of its own representatives towards Basohli constituency that it has always been isolated and kept out of itineraries of not only the

ministers of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir but it is still missing even from the itinerary of its own sitting representative in the Indian parliament since 2014. Owing to the continuous neglect and discriminatory attitude of its own representative in the Parliament, entire Basohli Constituency has been reeling under number of problems like poverty, unemployment, scarcity of drinking water, health facilities, public distribution system, lack of connectivity, transportation and boosting the tourism.

Neither the non-local ex-MLAs have ever taken any interest in the development of the constituency nor the ministers have ever held any public durbars for the redressal of their demands during the coalition government in the state.

The constituency has never been granted

any grant out of the CDF or from the MPLAD till date. Many projects like B.Se Nursing college, Kendriya Vidyalay, Herbal garden, Industrial Estate, Fire fighting services, professional colleges, Heritage town projects, Solar energy project FM Radio station and promised railway line upto Basohli have either been hijacked by the powerful politicians to their own home constituencies or they have not been executed at all due to the lack of political commitment.

The tourism of Basohli is dying gradually due to the apartheid behavior on the part of the government. The groups of the central ministers sent to Jammu and Kashmir, under the public outreach programme never visit Basohli because nobody did ever suggest them in this regard. The visits of the state and central ministers have always

proved beneficial for the illaqs they visit because the masses get an opportunity for highlighting their problems before them for their immediate solution instead of routing their written complaints which are often lost in the din or move with the snail's pace due to red tape ism. But one fails to understand why Basohli is ignored by ministers during official tours except during the days of election. People of the Basohli constituency often fail to understand why the visits of their elected representatives are few and far between in spite of fact they have been given huge mandate. It worth mentioning here that Basohli constituency is also the part of Doda, Udhampur Kathua parliamentary constituency and deserves his love, sympathy and attention.

(The author is a social activist from Basohli).

