

Enhancing Public-Private Partnership

In today's rapidly evolving global economy, the role of public-private partnerships (PPPs) has never been more critical. Governments worldwide are grappling with the dual challenge of delivering essential services while managing budgetary constraints, rising infrastructure demands, and socio-economic development objectives. In this context, enhanced public-private partnerships offer a strategic pathway to leverage the strengths of both sectors, ensuring efficiency, innovation, and sustainable growth.

Public-private partnerships are collaborations between government entities and private sector companies aimed at delivering public goods, services, or infrastructure projects. These partnerships bring together the public sector's regulatory oversight, social mandate, and reach with the private sector's efficiency, technical expertise, and capital. Historically, PPPs have been successfully implemented in sectors such as transport, energy, health, and education.

For instance, infrastructure projects like highways, airports, and metro rail systems in India and other developing countries have demonstrated how joint investments can accelerate development while sharing risks. However, the full potential of PPPs remains untapped due to structural, regulatory, and operational challenges. One key issue is the lack of a robust legal and institutional framework. Ambiguities in contracts, delayed approvals, and inadequate risk-sharing mechanisms often discourage private players from engaging in long-term projects. Moreover, transparency and accountability mechanisms are sometimes insufficient, leading to delays, cost overruns, or compromised service quality.

To address these challenges, governments must establish clear policies, standardized procedures, and enforceable contractual obligations that protect the interests of all stakeholders. Enhanced PPPs are not just about financial investment; they also involve knowledge transfer, capacity building, and technological innovation. In sectors such as healthcare and education, private entities can contribute advanced technology, management practices, and digital solutions that improve service delivery and accessibility.

Strategic Importance of Gilgit-Baltistan

ER. PRABHAT KISHORE

In October 1947, the tribes backed by Pakistan army as well as a particular section of Maharaja's own army had captured a large portion of territory of Jammu & Kashmir. On the other hand, Major William Brown, the Commander of Maharaja Hari Singh in Gilgit-Baltistan mutinied on 1st November 1947, overthrew Governor Ghanasar Singh and handed over the whole area to Pakistan. These areas are together termed as Pak-Occupied Kashmir (POK). Gilgit is situated in a valley formed by the confluence of the Indus valley, Hunza River and Gilgit River. Total area of POK is approx. 79,000 sq. KM, out of which portion of Jammu section is 9,000 sq. KM, portion of Kashmir section is 6,000 sq. KM. The rest 64000 sq. KM is that of Gilgit-Baltistan, which is originally part of Laddakh. Of the three occupied sectors, the Laddakh portion (i.e. Gilgit-Baltistan) is most important for strategic point of view for Bharat as well as Pakistan.

Gilgit-Baltistan falls in Hindukush region. All attacks on Bharat Bhumi by Greeks, Shakas, Huns, Kushans, Mughals and others were from this area. Presently, this area borders four countries namely Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Tibet (illegally captured by China) and Bharat bhumi main land. Once America, Britain and Russia, wanted their Base in Gilgit and presently China has similar desire. So, for our country's security point of view, it has always been an important strategic region.

In ancient days, when Bharatvarsha was



called "Sone Ki Chidiya" (Golden Bird) due to its economic power, its trades from all countries were done through this Silk route. Presently ambitious Iran-Bharat Gas Pipeline project, which is to pass through Pakistan, is in suspicious state. If Gilgit would have been with us, the pipeline would have comfortably come through it via Tajikistan.

Eight out of ten major peaks of Himalaya are in the Gilgit-Baltistan portion of Laddakh. Three of the world's longest glaciers outside the polar regions, namely

Biafo Glacier, Baltoro Glacier and Batura Glacier, are found in this region. In addition, there are several high-altitudes lakes. These are the great resources of water. This area has rich deposits of gold, gemstones and minerals like mica, quartz, topaz, aquamarine etc.

Pakistan is facing unrest in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) region, where residents have been protesting in years against land acquisition, power shortages, and decades of political exclusion. The Pakistan Government is treating this area as a

colony, rather than an equal part of the federation. Unlike Pakistan's four provinces, GB is not covered by the constitution and has no representation in the National Assembly or the Senate. The region is administered from Islamabad through adhoc governance orders, with key powers vested in the hands of Federal Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and senior officers deputed from outside. GB's residents cannot approach Supreme Court of Pakistan as full citizens can. The constitutional vacuum allows federal & military authorities to exercise complete control over land, minerals, and administration.

The Area of Gilgit is crucial to Pakistan's external as well as internal affairs. It forms the northern gateway to 3,000 KM long China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), linking China's Xinjiang region to the Pakistan's Karakoram Highway. People have objectionsto projects such as CPEC passing through the area. India has repeatedly objected Pakistan's activities in Gilgit-Baltistan, including Chinese based projects, as violations of its sovereignty.

During Bangladesh Mukti Abhiyan, when more than 90,000 Pak military has surrendered before Indian Army, Bharat had a golden chance to bargain with Pakistan to take back the illegally occupied territories from Pakistan. But unfortunately, the Indian leaders were cheering for liberation of East Bengal (now Bangladesh) and done nothing to get liberated its own territories of Gilgit-Baltistan and some occupied parts of Jammu as well as Kashmir.

(Author is a technocrat & educationist.)

Education on Modern Technology/ Digitalization

ISHER SINGH JASROTIA

Universally Children's day was being celebrated on 20th November every year and thereafter before 1959, as decided by the UN General Assembly & sanctioned by 191 states across the world over. Subsequently universally linked with the rights of the children, the day 20th November was proposed with the birth anniversary of the Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, The First Prime Minister of India.

But now the trend of education has been changed due to Artificial Intelligence, Digitalization, Smart classes, NEP and similar others facilities which are being provided in the schools. I am talking about the schools of UT of J&K especially the Jammu Province. The schools especially the CBSEs school making all efforts to provide better education to the children so that they could be strong enough both mentally and physically.

Now the children are facilitated in the schools by various modes, sports function, graduation ceremony, quiz completion and others so that the children are encouraged

Earlier during the day of in the second decade and thereafter the children had great passion, love and affection for Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, The First Prime Minister of India

The fact was that Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of Independent India, who was also called Chacha Nehru ad Mahatma Gandhi who was called "Bapu" in the schools in the second decade and thereafter. When we recollect the memories in our school days time between 1954-1965 and thereafter, the children used to bear caps on their heads and called Pt. Nehru as Chacha Nehru.

Now the concept of education has been changed due to modern technology i.e Artificial Intelligence, Digitalization, Smart classes, NEP 2020 and similar others facilities.



These leaders had the visionary spirits and mission for transformation of society into an egalitarian one. The visionary spirits and mission recognition in terms of Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi, their statesmanship, autobiography, Panchsheel, Discovery of India, visionary concept, aspirations and perception of peace and tranquility and equality of human being are worth commendable.

The conception of Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru and

Mahatma Gandhi on the education was that when there is no creative energy, the nation become weak in every respect, hence they laid great emphasis towards the education of the children, who are the future of a nation and whose talents, expression, energies and contribution should be channelized for the betterment of society. They visualized that in addition to the academic education, the physical education of the children is equally important and now their conception has become true on

the context of Physical and mental fitness of the children.

Similarly in a country which is greatest democracy in the World and wherein there are Fundamental rights, especially the right to education and the children have their educational right, the education is to be given top priority.

The Constitution of India came into force on 26th January 1950 in the form of India as Sovereign, Democratic Republic, the priorities of these great leaders was education of the children who are the future of the nation. The conception of contemplation of children's mindset, insinuates the reality of egalitarian society - a society for attainment of equal rights. They had the perception that the wealth of the nation lies in generating faith, confidence and mindset of the children who realizes the reality of life. They had visual perception that human suffering, misery, illiteracy; superstitions are root causes of poverty and backwardness of the nation. And all these suffering can be mitigated when there is better education in the schools and colleges. They pleaded for the richness of the nation through educating the youth and exploiting their disposition, energies and potentials.

Their priorities were towards the education of the children as it is believed that the education is the basic factors for all round development of the children, they being tendered heart, to be handled carefully by the parents and the teachers.

To commemorate the memories of these distinguished and eminent personalities by contemplating their deeds in the mindset of our new generation in the educational institutions and other associated establishments relating to the education has great importance so as to disseminate and give wide publicity to the heroic characteristics traits of these great persons.

(The author is a Chairman of a CBSE school)

Don't treat Rivers as sewage tanks

SHYAM SUDAN

Rivers are considered as life lines of nation just as veins carry blood in the human body. In our own country our sacred rivers got the status of living entity in our holy religious books. But despite of having such an incredible status of rivers in our Vedic culture we generally treat this entity in a totally different angle. Almost every small and big city is located at the banks of river in our country. Even our small towns are located near to small streams and other water body. We use the water of these rivers and small streams for different purposes in our household i.e for drinking, washing, cleaning and other. But, ironically these rivers and small streams get a very harshest treatment from our side. Mostly in urban areas there lived a great percentage of literate population.

But our rivers and small streams near to our towns are generally full with heaps of garbage and other sewage products of our houses. Every year we have celebrated the Swatch Bharat Abhiyan with great enthusiasm and determination. But our actual behaviour can be shown after seeing the pathetic condition of our rivers. Every citizens feels that it is a birthright to throw garbage of house in nearby river and stream to our house. Mostly in cities we give priorities to the cleanliness of our houses,



es, but the condition outside our houses are totally different and very vulnerable. And we generally blame others for this pathetic condition of our neighborhood. We are habitual of throwing our every waste near to our house stream and rivers. And after seeing the pool and heap of garbage in these water bodies we give blame to others. No doubt garbage and sewage is the main problem of every crowded area whether it is small or big in size. But there are various municipal corporation and other private agencies almost in every town for the treatment of sewage and garbage instead of having health complications. Moreover, these polluted rivers give the ugly look to its surroundings places. These rivers and small streams generally started

car in an open space. However all are not doing the same thing but many are habitual of this filthy trend. Our nurturing environment built in such a manner that we were told very earlier to throw everything in flowing water. Rivers and any small streams near to any town adds beauty to that place. But due to our bad habit these beautiful water bodies looks in a very ugly manner. It is the duty of every civilized citizen to give priority to the cleanliness of these sacred water bodies and flowing rivers. Due to adulteration in these water bodies we get various water borne diseases and other health complications. Moreover, these polluted rivers give the ugly look to its surroundings places. These rivers and small streams generally started

their journeys from mountains and forest areas. In those areas mostly wild animals and other beasts are residing, and the condition of these rivers are very pure and transparent. But, in our towns and cities where educated and literate people are residing, the condition of these small streams and rivers are in vulnerable condition. Its a serious humiliation for our civilized society and it's behaviour. Merely giving respect to these sacred rivers in our religious rituals and other cultural occasion is not enough. There is an urgent need to do some practical actions for the welfare of these water bodies only then we can give respect and honour to our sacred rivers. True respect lies in the preservation and restoration of these water bodies.

Empowering Consumers - Navigating Rights and Responsibilities

DR. VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

We celebrated World Consumer Rights Day on March 15 to promote consumer awareness and rights worldwide. The 2026 theme is "Safe Products, Confident Consumers," focusing on product safety in physical and digital marketplaces. Consumer rights are now an integral part of our lives like a consumerist way of life. As a consumer, one should know how market products are constantly under-

weight, of inferior quality and do not prescribe to quality standards specified by quality-control agencies. Today the consumer choice is influenced by mass advertising and other promotional devices which make people want things which neither they really need nor they can afford. Consumers not only do not get value for their money but also often have to suffer losses and inconvenience due to market manipulations. The Consumer protection law applies to the goods and services we buy every day, from grocery items and whitegoods, to vehicle repairs and hairdressing services. Consumers are legally entitled to a refund, repair, replacement or repeat service if there is a problem with any goods or services they buy. In our country, buyers have a very weak bargaining power and cannot assert their right being heard. Consequently, manufacturers and traders are tempted to follow diverse practices which turn out to be unfair to consumers.

Consumers therefore have an important role to play in persuading food companies and butchers to make the changes that are needed to stop the global public health threat for prudent use of antibiotics and protect the drugs for the future. Mahatma Gandhi said that "A customer is the most important visitor on our premises. He is not dependent on us. We are dependent on him. He is not an interruption in our work - he is the purpose of it. We are not doing him a favour by serving him. He is doing us a favour by giving us the opportunity to serve him." India is one of the few countries in the world, which has exclusive courts for consumer redressal and is known for the rapid development of its consumers' movement. World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) is a fantastic annual celebration that unites con-

sumers around the world. In fact the original Consumer Protection Act, 1986, was meant to ensure that the consumers themselves argue their cases in a friendly atmosphere but the experience has been different. One must remember that businesses can't refuse to help, nor simply refer consumers to the manufacturer. There are many businesses do, as a matter of goodwill, give refunds and exchanges even when legally they don't have to, so consumers should make a habit of checking a



store's refund policy before purchasing. "The law helps those who help themselves." Hence consumerism is necessary. Self-regulation by business will minimize the need for extensive government intervention. In order to check the onslaught on consumers, a host of legislations are implemented by the government. These include Sale of Goods Act, 1930; Essential Commodities Act, 1955; Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954; Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980; Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1956; Agricultural Products and Grading and Marketing Act (AGMARK), 1937; Indian Standards Bureau Certification Act, 1952; MRTP Act, 1969 etc. Despite the various check and balances put in place by various institutions, we still have crimes. The only way to stem the cases arising from newer forms of technology is through consumer education. Consumers need to understand the new technology.