

## INDUSTRY-FRIENDLY AHSP PROCEDURES

The Government has been doing a lot to ensure resolution of all issues faced by people, across the nook and corner of the country, besides taking steps to tackle the challenges faced by people. It is really appreciable on part of the ruling dispensation that it is working relentlessly to ensure complete elimination of problems like unemployment, drug menace, etc which are detrimental to the society in general and youth in particular.

In order to promote entrepreneurship among youth besides helping them to stand on their feet with stability, the Government is leaving no stone unturned in proving ease of doing business, which is very necessary these days. Not only in a single aspect, but this concept is being implemented in every sector. Recently, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh has approved a proposal for bringing in industry-friendly reform related to Authority Holding Sealed Particulars (AHSP). The AHSP is the authority which is responsible for generating, maintaining, updating or declaring obsolete entire history and technical information of defence products.

So far, Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) was the AHSP for majority of defence items designed, developed and manufactured by various DPSUs and Private Industries. Under the existing procedure, certain bottlenecks were experienced by the industry to bring timely improvements in their products and technologies in line with changing times. Therefore, the Ministry has decided now to liberalise the AHSP procedures and make it industry-friendly.

The Indian defence companies, which have developed products, systems, subsystems, components on their own indigenous capabilities (except critical stores), will now be allowed to own and account for their final designs and specification as AHSP. In case of any change in the sealed particulars, a simplified mechanism representing all the concerned stakeholders, including the industry, will take a decision. The DGQA will notify the detailed procedure in this regard within two months. The DGQA has also been asked to examine all AHSPs with them and rationalise the entire list within two months. They have been, further, advised to transfer the AHSP to the industry at the earliest. It will be another significant step of the Government to further encourage Ease of Doing Business.

■ DR BANARSI LAL

Every year, April 22 is observed as the World Earth Day across the globe to create awareness on environmental problems and protection of the planet Earth. This day is observed worldwide with the conferences, seminars, rallies, outdoor activities etc. The theme of this year World Earth Day is 'Invest in Our Planet'. It will be a continuation of the successful 2022 year campaign. In order for a green, prosperous and equitable future to become a reality, businesses, governments and civil society must take action against the climate crisis. Developing a stable future requires widespread support from governments, society, institutions and businesses. Our planet's future can only be secured if we invest together in it. It will mainly focus on saving species which are on the verge of extinction due to climate change, pollution, deforestation and illegal poaching. Of all the planets the Earth is considered as the luckiest planet in the universe as it is the only planet where life became possible. Beautiful life developed on this planet whether that is in the form of humans, animals, plants or marine life. But the human race lost its humanity and used the Earth's resources ruthlessly. The world marks this day to make the human race to realize the importance of the Mother Earth. The Earth is the most unique planet because it developed the most intelligent life called as the human race. Environmental and climate literacy is the engine not only for creating the environmental and climate laws and policies but also to promote green technologies. Researchers estimate that our Earth planet is losing about 15 billion trees every year i.e., around 56 acres of forest in every minute. Many species are going extinct rapidly. With our joint efforts we can protect hundreds of species. Lack of environment education has led men to be harsh to nature.

There is need to empower everybody with the knowledge to inspire action in defense of environmental protection. The Earth Day gives every inhabitant across the globe the opportunity to express gratitude to the planet Earth. The

idea of celebration of this day firstly came to a senator from Wisconsin, USA; Gaylord Nelson in 1970.He was worried about the rapid increase in industrialization and the careless attitude of human beings towards the environment and the Mother Earth. World Earth Day was earlier proposed to be held on 21st March, 1970, the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere but later, United States Senator, Gaylord Nelson proposed to hold it on 22nd April,1970. It was envisaged to encourage respect for life on Earth, promote the idea of ecology and highlight the control of different kinds of pollution. The first Earth Day was celebrated by more than 20 million Americans and now this important day is celebrated by millions of people across the globe. It seems that we have forgotten the most beautiful gift that we have got in the form of planet Earth. We also seem to have forgotten that this is our home and we need to take care of it in order to stay healthy and fit. We are mercilessly utilizing and depleting the Earth's limited resources. Our ignorance is causing severe problems like depletion of the Ozone layer, polluted rivers due to dumping of industrial waste, loss of soil health due to excessive use of agrochemicals, global warming etc. Deforestation is rapidly increasing due to increase in the industrialization. This has disturbed the Earth's environment. The increase in the Earth's temperature is melting the ice at the Poles. We already have dug quite a huge well for ourselves but still we can come out from it. This particular day reminds us for the care and love to the Mother Earth. We should protect the earth by planting trees; reduce pollution by limiting the use of vehicles, switching off lights when unnecessary, conserving petrol and diesel etc. These are small steps but when a billion people will do so together; there can be definitely the positive results to protect the Earth. The step of CNG vehicles in New Delhi is really highly appreciable that have considerably reduced the amount of pollution in Delhi. The mighty river Yamuna has also been polluted by the industrial waste.

The size of earth is fixed while its resources are being depleted abruptly. It has been observed that some countries are causing more pollution affecting the other countries also. Many species of flora and fauna are extinct. We should protect our environment for our development. Without adequate environmental protection, development is useless. By 2030, food production will need to double and industrial output and energy use will increase by three times in all over the world and five times in the developing nations. This growth will bring the risk of appalling environmental degradation. Environmental degradation affects the present and future generations. It will harm the human health, reduces the crop productivity and leads to the loss of amenities. Many other problems such as economic development, inadequate sanitation, clean water, air pollution are associated with the environment degradation. Environment and development explores two-way relationship. Firstly, safe, plentiful and healthy water and air are itself a part of development. If the benefits from rising incomes will be consumed in our ill health, it cannot be said as the development. Secondly, environment degradation can reduce the crop productivity. Soils are degraded, aquifers are depleted and ecosystems are destroyed to raise the income can jeopardize the prospects for earning the income in future. There should be positive link between development and environment. The fragile environment is undergoing unsustainable levels of stress from increasing populations, increasing pollution, increasing demand of resources, agricultural and industrial sectors put additional pressure on land and water and increasing solid waste. People have started to protect the environment in small steps but there is dire need to take giant leaps to save the mankind on the Earth. Stringent laws and rules need to be made, to make people realize the importance of protecting the mother Earth. Every nation needs to cut down on Carbon emissions to reduce the effects of global warming otherwise the global warming will make the ice-caps at the Poles to melt and

raise sea levels. It can be so devastating that it will wipe out many countries on the Earth.

There is need of collective efforts to protect the Earth from pollution. If we do nothing for the protection of environment and let things be as they are, then there can be the worst results. Earth may take revenge and the wrath of the planet may be even more furious. Many times we have seen it happen right in front of our eyes and observe cyclones, flash floods, sudden fires in forests, tsunamis, earthquakes etc. The havoc flash floods and land sliding in J&K on 5th & 6th September; 2014 is the biggest example. Such types of natural calamities are revenge of the Earth and a small revenge by Earth takes a huge toll on mankind. A major natural calamity happens only when we play with our environment. Humankind is rapidly depleting the natural resources on the Earth. It is acceptable that we need petrol and diesel to run our vehicles and the Earth is not refusing us. It only wants us to use it judiciously. Similarly the other natural resources should be used judiciously by the mankind. In the fast changing life we are so busy in day-to-day life that we don't have time to stand and contemplate about the planet we live on. The Earth will find some ways to survive with us if we love and respect it, or without us. So, it's ultimately we who stand to lose. We can avoid using our car on this day and save petrol and free the atmosphere from some pollution. We can recycle the papers and stop using plastic bags. We should make collective efforts to reduce Carbon emission in the atmosphere to protect the mankind. On this day each of us should take initiatives to plant more and more plants and return the balance to the beautiful planet Earth so that everybody on this planet can live in peace. There is need of innovative ideas and plans to protect our environment. On this particular day, let us pledge to do whatever little we can to do to protect this beautiful planet.

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■ DR VIVAK M ARYA & TAMANNA SHARMA

In his quote, 'Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed', Mahatma Gandhi itself signifies the present situation as well as the importance of earth in the life of mankind. As tenth of Earth's wilderness has been destroyed by humans in the past 25 years, and if current trends continue, there might be none left by the end of the century. The importance of earth is well written in our Shastras which describes that the elements of earth, water, air, fire and Akasha make up our physical selves. Of the five elements, earth is the most fundamental and stable. All the other components are built on top of it as the foundation. The idea that the earth is the mother is deeply ingrained in Indian culture. We are born of the earth. Sadhguru, who is leading a campaign for protecting the environment against climate change said, "Essentially, we consume a portion of the planet to maintain the body". Therefore, how we treat the planet also affects how we treat our own bodies. Earth, our home planet, is a world unlike any other. Earth, the third planet from the sun, is the only place in the known universe where the presence of life has been established. It is home to about 300,000 plant species, over 600,000 species of fungi, and about ten million animal species. Earth has always been a generous planet. The natural environment around us has always provided humanity with everything they've needed to exist and prosper, including food, water, medicine, materials for shelter, and even natural cycles like climate and nutrient cycles. Although the development of technology and industry may have superficially distanced us from nature, it has not altered our reliance on it. The majority of what we use and consume on a daily basis still results from numerous interactions with nature, many of which are in threat. Beyond such material things, the natural world offers fewer tangible but no less significant gifts in the form of spirituality, beauty, and the arts. Earth Day seems as good a day as any to remind ourselves the free gifts that nature provides. Earth Day is an international event celebrated on April 22 to show support for environmental preservation. During the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Conference held in San Francisco in 1969, Peace activist John McConnell proposed a day to honour the Earth first to be observed on March 21, 1970, the first day of spring in the northern hemisphere. In response to US Senator Gaylord Nelson's invitation, 20 million people protested environmental deterioration on the first Earth Day in 1970. This day of nature's equipoise was later signed in a declaration written by McConnell and signed by Secretary General U Thant at the United Nations. Along with other problems like smog and contaminated rivers, the 1969 Santa Barbara oil disaster served as the catalyst for the event. The United Nations declared April 22nd, to be 'International Mother Earth Day' in 2009. This day is dedicated to the appreciation and protection of the natural environment, and it has become a global event. Since its beginnings, Earth Day has grown to be a truly international event that is observed in more than 190 nations. It is a day on which people from different countries can unite and take action to safeguard the environment. One of the main factors in Earth Day's success around the globe is its capacity to bring people from different backgrounds and cultures together for a common cause. Events on Earth Day can take a variety of shapes, from educa-

tional initiatives and community cleanups to political activism and open rallies. This Day also acknowledges our shared responsibility to advance harmony with nature and the Earth in order to strike a fair balance between the economic, social, and environmental requirements of the current and future generations of mankind, as outlined in the Rio Declaration, 1992. We are living at a time when environmental problems have transitioned from local to global challenges, as seen by the biodiversity crisis, the climate crisis, and the deforestation crisis. Humans are no longer only overusing one area of the earth; instead, we are overusing the entire planet, straining natural systems to their breaking point. Unprecedented shifts in global climate patterns, deforestation, pollution, and resource depletion have occurred in recent years. The environment is strained as a result of the rising demand for resources brought on by the expanding global population. The three main interlinked problems that earth is currently facing are climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. These three problems are often referred to as the triple planetary crisis.

Climate change: Climate change is the most pressing issue facing humanity today, which is brought on by the atmospheric release of greenhouse gases. Significant changes in precipitation, temperature, snowfall, and wind patterns over an extended period of time define it. Rising sea levels, more frequent and severe natural disasters, and the extinction of numerous plant and animal species are all effects of the increase in global temperatures.

Pollution: Air pollution, is the leading cause of sickness and early death worldwide with over seven million deaths. Amazingly, nine out of ten people on the planet breathe air with pollution levels beyond WHO recommendations. Traffic, factories, wildfires, volcanoes, and mould are just a few of the many factors that contribute to pollution. Cooking with hazardous materials and methods also contributes to indoor household air pollution.

Biodiversity loss: The term 'biodiversity loss' describes the reduction or extinction of biological diversity, which includes ecosystems, plants, animals, and other living things. There are several causes of biodiversity loss, from overfishing to habitat loss (such as deforestation for development) to deserts brought on by climate change. Since we are all ultimately interconnected, biodiversity serves as the foundation for everything on the planet. Loss of biodiversity has an influence on our ability to feed ourselves and obtain clean water; without it, our world cannot survive. We must realise the urgency of these issues on Earth Day 2023 and act to resolve them. Our concerns are best focused on what we can do and how we can apply our actions to healthy and sustainable living. The theme for Earth Day 2023 is 'Invest in our planet'.

The goal of this year's Earth Day theme is to convince corporations, governments, and people all across the world to make investments in our planet in order to protect and preserve it for future generations, thus attaining the goal of sustainable development. We must work together to invest in our planet if we want to safeguard our health, our families, and our way of life. Businesses need to take action now to prevent more economic harm from climate change, which will also have an impact on all of us by reducing resources and increasing scarcity. However, we already know that nothing else can speed up the kind of rapid transformation we need more than pri-

ivate sector innovation (with Governmental assistance). Strong Environment Social Governance (ESG) norms help businesses be more profitable, have better financial standing, have happier staff members, and have more stable stock performance. Smart businesses are realising that sustainability is the way to success rather than having to choose between turning green and increasing long-term profitability. Not just scientists and policymakers but also the top companies are well aware of the problem's urgency. The co-founder of Microsoft and multibillionaire philanthropist Bill Gates has invested in an Australian start-up developing climate technology that aims to reduce methane emissions from cow burps. He also emphasized the necessity for the development of viable renewable energy sources to completely eradicate global greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2050. In order to make ecologically responsible decisions and aid in the transition towards a greener future,

Indian startups are also working in different sectors. Governments hold the power to transform and develop the green economy through rules, rewards, and public-private partnerships. Governments must provide incentives to their people, businesses, and institutions to help them create a resilient future, much like they did during the industrial and digital revolutions. Governments will eventually encourage green business practises as the profitable and ethical choice. For example, many projects and initiatives spanning numerous industries and ministries are planned for the Union Budget 2023-24. The objective is to advance modern reforms while also seeking solutions for the country's present problems in order to increase the momentum for green growth. And last, as an individual we must encourage the adoption of sustainable solutions on a global scale. To bring about the change the earth needs, climate change mitigation, restoration, and adaptation require the support of the entire population. To create a 21st century economy that restores the health of our planet, safeguards our species, and creates opportunity for everyone, we must collectively move away from the outdated, polluting economy based on fossil fuels. As Jammu and Kashmir relies heavily on Himalayan glaciers, it is our need to adopt climate smart agriculture to protect and safeguard our fragile ecosystem. Himalaya has been designated as one of the most significant global biodiversity hotspots due to the high species endemism and rising anthropogenic threats, so it is our duty that we should adopt green technology in our day to day life also that aims to reduce the carbon footprint, protect our ecosystem and ultimately save our planet earth. People are urged to take action to safeguard the environment on Earth Day. It is a day on which people, communities, and governments come together in search of remedies to environmental problems. On Earth Day, we have the chance to support conservation activities and increase public awareness of environmental problems. By educating people about the impact of their actions, we can inspire them to take action to protect the planet. It is our fundamental duty as humans to safeguard Mother Earth and make sure we take every possible measure to conserve our natural resources and stop their overuse and depletion. At last, we would like to conclude that 'Healthy planet is not an option it is a necessity' and everyone should contribute towards a safer planet.

(The authors are from SKUAST-Jammu).

# Electricity crisis amidst scorching heat

■ SHYAM SUDAN

Jammu and Kashmir is popularly known as paradise on earth due its serene views, lush green beauty and availability of many natural treasures of life. Despite having all these natural blessing and treasures the denizens of this region is facing lot of hardship and miseries of life. Due to improper infrastructure development and poor management the people are devoid of many basic facilities of their day today life. Especially in rural areas of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, there is acute shortage of potable water supply and electricity. Large percentage of population of UT is residing in villages and other rural areas. During summer season the vulnerability of power supply abruptly increased in such areas and thus affected the life of rural people. At present when there is partial lockdown like scenario in the region like other parts of the country. It become very difficult for children, old age persons and other sick people to confine themselves within their homes with no electricity or disrupted power supply. No doubt it is very tedious and laborious task for the power department to maintain the continuity of uninterrupted power supply in such inaccessible regions of the UT. Topographically the rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir are very inaccessible and isolated. Moreover due to various climatic barriers and other natural hindrances it is very difficult to provide all the hour power supply for domestic purposes. As we know during rainy season and

snowing many electric poles get damaged and effected by the natural way. But it is very unwise to blame only nature for this improper power supply in homes of rural inhabitants of Jammu and Kashmir. There are lot of human errors also responsible for this problem of poor electricity supply in homes .There are lot of power generation plants and other hydroelectric projects working in Jammu and Kashmir. Even we are the supplier of extra power in other states also. But in our region we are facing the shortage and deficient power supply. The problem of frequent cuts and low voltage supply generally appears in summer months. When the people are already facing the problem of harsh and intense heat such extra problem of electricity make their life more vulnerable. This low voltage supply generally effects the life of poor farmers and other labour class who generally depends upon electricity for their daily works and irrigation purposes. Due to low voltage supply their electric gadgets i.e., electric motors, flour mills and other machinery cannot work properly. Moreover due to low voltage supply the poor students of these areas cannot get the proper time for their study during night hours. As these students generally busy in their different house hold chores and other agricultural works with their family. In urban areas and cities there is no such problem and burden over the life of school going children. They can take their evening coaching classes and late hours study without any such kind of interruption .This is also

one of the reasons behind the poor performance of rural students in their exams and other competitive advantage.

In Rural areas however people generally pay their electricity bills without any betrayal and refusal on flat rates. However the consumption of electricity is low in rural areas as compared to the urban and city areas. But despite paying all the electricity dues well in time these people are suffering from this man made devastation. Generally large queues of rural people can be seen in bank counters, who dedicatedly submit their bills without any delay.

But despite of paying their electricity bills well in time they have got poor supply of electricity benefits in their homes. Power theft and poor infrastructural management is responsible behind the plight of such innocent rural people. Many careless people have installed various kinds of electric gadgets i.e., air conditioners etc without any proper electricity connection and registration. Such kind of power theft culture affects supply of power. Moreover in rural areas mostly people are facing the problem of frequent loud shedding and electricity curtailment for long hours. However electricity department has announced in advance the timing of curtailment due to various maintenance works on line. But in rural areas people generally waits for more hours beyond the prescribed curtailment time limit. Sometime due to carelessness of ground workers of power department rural people faces untimely cuts in power supply.

Even a small variation of weather effect the supply of electricity in homes. As we know the various transmission lines generally located in forest and other woody areas. Non-cutting or improper cutting of these trees branches where such transmission lines generally pass frequently effect the power supply in rural areas in odd weather conditions. Now the government has decided for privatization of power sector in union territories of the country. Such thing can put an extra pressure on the life of rural people of Jammu and Kashmir, because there is no guarantee of any kind of improvement in power supply in rural areas. There is an urgent need to launch a campaign against power theft culture in Jammu and Kashmir. Moreover some extra efforts are needed on priority basis for rural areas for supply of uninterrupted and proper voltage supply in houses. There are some areas and villages in Jammu and Kashmir where the voltage supply is very low. Extra transformers supply must be provided in such areas. It is generally noticed that it took many days in rural areas for the repair of old transformers and other grid power gadgets. Every year government has spent huge budget on this sector. Many other states where there is no power generation plant are enjoying the benefits of proper and uninterrupted power supply round the clock. Here we are producing sufficient quantity of power for our consumption but due to poor management and negligence of few suffering in our houses.

