

## CONSERVE WATER FOR FUTURE

To maintain the existence of life on earth, conservation and protection of water is very important because life is not possible without water. Water helps in continuing the life cycle on earth as an exception in the whole universe because earth is the only planet where water and life exist.

To solve the problem of water shortage in future, water conservation is the only way to save water. There is acute water scarcity in India and other countries of the world, due to which common people have to travel long distances to get water required for drinking and cooking as well as for completing daily tasks.

While on the other hand, in areas of sufficient water, people are wasting more water than their daily needs. We all should understand the importance of water and the problems related to water shortage in future. We should not waste and pollute the useful water in our life and should promote water conservation and saving among the people.

Water is needed throughout our life, so only we are responsible for saving it.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau survey, it is recorded that around many farmers have ended their lives by suicide, however, large number of cases have occurred due to drought. So we can say that lack of water is also the reason for illiteracy, suicide, fighting and other social issues in India and other developing countries.

As responsible citizens of India, we should keep ourselves aware about all the problems of water scarcity so that we all take a pledge and come forward together for water conservation. It is rightly said that small efforts of all people can give a big result like drop by drop a pond, river and ocean can be formed.

We do not need to make extra efforts to conserve water, we only need to make some positive changes in our daily activities like close the tap properly after every use, use bucket for washing or bathing instead of fountain or pipe. And use mugs. A small effort of lakhs of people can give a big positive result towards water conservation campaign.

To conserve and provide drinking water at the door step, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also announced Jal Jeevan Mission on 15th August, 2019 with the aim to provide all rural households with adequate quantity water of prescribed quality in adequate pressure, on regular and long-term basis.

## Rahul should avoid loose talk

■ PUPU JI KOUL

The Congress leader and scion of Gandhi-Nehru family Rahul Gandhi is no longer a Pappu now. He has become a matured and seasoned politician of the opposition and the country and he has given sleepless nights to his political rivals and his political adversaries and detractors who are afraid of his growing popularity and clout post successful culmination of his Bharat Jodo Sojourn and the unexpected massive response to this unite India march which he said was for removing the hatred and communal malice and had no political motive as according to Rahul it was purely a social movement.

But inspite of this it led to the revival, rejuvenation and mass appeal of the Congress. Rahul Gandhi has with maturity and seriousness led this Yatra from South to North India and it has aroused the interest and attention of the public. But despite the successes of his Yatra, what Rahul should do is that he should avoid loose talk and should exhibit control over his tongue to prove his real credentials as a seasoned politician of the modern times. Then only can Rahul become a successful politician and darling of the masses. It is because of his loose talk that he landed in political trouble because of being convicted for defamation relating to his referring to the Modi surname in an election rally in 2019. Not only was Rahul been sentenced two years jail term but subsequently he was disqualified from membership of the Lok Sabha which is an extreme punishment for an election speech.

Rahul Gandhi may also face uncertainty of future political career because he will be barred from contesting any election for six years from the completion of the jail term.

The Surat Court of judicial magistrate should have taken a lenient view of the election speech and should not have pronounced a harsh judgment on an election speech as everything is fair in politics, love, war and elections. Rahul has been granted bail for 30 days as the sentence stands suspended for thirty days to enable him to appeal in a higher court against the decision of Surat Court.

Now Surat district and sessions court has granted him bail in the defamation case till April 13 the next date of hearing. Rahul Gandhi was granted bail by the court. The sentencing was also stayed in 2019 defamation case.

The higher court may take a lenient view of his election speech and stay or quash the verdict of the lower court. But whatever it may be the fact is that Rahul Gandhi has landed in trouble for his habit of loose talk and therefore he should learn to avoid loose talk and have control over his tongue which is an asset for the life of a politician. The Congress top leadership and its president Mapanna Mallikarjun Xarge should prevail on Rahul and restrain him from loose talk so that he is insulated from anymore trouble to his political future and career as he has a long life before him. Therefore Rahul Gandhi should have control over his tongue so that in future he will not be in trouble due to his loose talk anymore and his political career is not sealed but kept intact so that he will provide political leadership to the country in future. This will only be possible when Rahul will have control over his tongue so that he will have a safe and sound political future and career.

For his untenured political future Rahul should demonstrate control over his tongue and he should avoid loose talk as far as possible as he is the main opposition leader and he will have to lead the whole opposition against the Modi. In fact there is discernable modification in the behavior of Rahul Gandhi and he has now matured as a serious politician, but if he has control over his tongue, it will work wonders in his political career and therefore what is needed most is that Rahul Gandhi should shun the bad habit of loose talk and prove that he has graduated as a serious, seasoned and really a matured politician and leader who can deliver once given a chance by the people of this country. Rahul is a young politician and leaders of 52 years of Congress and he has a wide world which awaits him and he has to lead his party Congress and India and come up to the expectations of the people of the country and therefore she should have control over his language and way of talking as this lands him in trouble. Therefore as far as possible Rahul Gandhi should avoid loose talk so that he provides leadership to Congress and the country as well as he will have to lead the country in 21st century and give a tough fight to Modi and BJP in 2024 general elections.

■ G.L KHAJURIA

In the vast, varied biodiversity around the world, the lakes and the wetlands are under great threat. This is more so due to human and biotic interference emanating from ever-escalating population, industrialization, overuse or misuse of land for agriculture and exploitation of resources beyond all limits. Alongside, the natural phenomenon, sizzling summer with soaring temperature year after year, the abrupt climatic changes off-shooting thereby disasters and calamities such as floods and many more of its ilk have sent alarming signal to the counties all around the world. In such a situation, The Survival of man is in Peril over the planet earth and as preserving bio-diversity has now become a catch phrase such for the ecologists around the world.

In Jammu and Kashmir State, lakes and wetland are drying due to ruthless encroachments and enormous siltation though the Govt. is endeavoring hard for rapid actions under the close surveillance of Forest Department (Wildlife wing and the department of Environment and remote sensing).

The public awareness and sensitization is the paramount need of the hour as the forest laws are brought under legislation and enactment but these are being honored in only its breach. This has further endangered thousands of the spectacular wildlife and birds (Avi-fauna) so much so that the winged visitors have become more sensitive and resultantly abandoned the lakes and wetlands and alienated migration which

over the centuries has been an ongoing process. Glaringly enough, the Siberian cranes have now abandoned visiting world renowned Bharatpur in Rajasthan and so is the case with Chilka Lake where the situation is grave. The has adversely affected the socio-economic status of the people, apart from depriving the serene and scenic beauty of these water-bodies. And in Delhi zoo itself the migratory birds cover long distance for Seasonal changes, food and finding new ground for breeding. The migration of birds in India is around 1200 species which is spectacular and inspiring. As per estimates, in India itself 4.5 million hectares comes under wetlands out of which around one and half million, are natural and some two and half million are manmade. Cota Donana (Spain) is world renowned house ground for half of the avian species in Europe itself. The situation is likewise same around the world insofar as shrinkage of water-bodies is concerned. Talking of our most famous lake (Dal in Valley) the area has now shrunk to 10 kms. Which was around 25sq. kms half a century back. Where has all the depleted area gone? Obviously, it has been either silted or devoured under encroachment. Admittedly, this has broken the natural fabric of environment. Same is the case with vular lake (Asia's largest) which has lost its pristine grandeur and glory. As such, it gives a pointer to the modern man to be eco-friendly and eco-conscious which defacto he is not so.

Over the years, the Wild Life deptt. in

association with the overall guidance of Forest Deptt. has endeavored to declare as many areas under wildlife sanctuaries, game reserves parks and further made endless efforts in the preservation of the lakes and other water bodies but again point arise about public awakening which I repeat is the paramount need of the hour. The present status as of now is that we are having as many as seven National parks and wild life sanctuaries (Dachigam NP, Hemis High altitude NP, Overa WLS, Kishtwar NP, Ramnagar Rakh WLS, Nandni Game WLS, and Surinsar Mansar WLS) and in so far as wetlands are concerned, there are as many as one is Ladakh region, six in Srinagar and five in Jammu regions. These are; Noorie Chan WL (Ladakh), HOKAR, WL, Shallabug WL, Mirgund WL, Chetlup Pampur WL, Krunchoo WL and Hygam WL in Srinagar and Garang WL, Parwal WL, Nanga WL, Kukarum WL and Sangral wetland reserves in Jammu. The overall status is that there is a sum total of 44 (forty four) Game areas under National Parks sanctuaries and wetland reserves and all these warrant protection by all and one in co-operation with the Deptt. and the close supervising agencies.

It is most unfortunate that Sanasar now stands almost shrunk and its restoration is of almost importance where visitors throng the lake during summer as well as in winter. The spot is located amidst lush green Chir pines and is famous for its scenic and serene beauty which is touching new height for its importance with every passing day.

Some suggestive measure in preserving

and protection of the wetland and other water bodies, apart from sanctuaries/National Parks.

"Public awareness: The Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act 1978 was recently amended in 2002 and the amended rules, regulations, enactment made there under need to be made public by way of conducting debates, seminars symposium to honor the spirit in legal sanctuary.

"Environment Protection: This can be done with an equal ease by way of massive afforestation/reafforestation operation by planting the most suited species to site, preferably those which are soil binding and water conserving to dilute siltation of the wetland and avert erosion accruing thereupon.

"Aversion of biotic areas: Here, everyone of us need to be psychologically attuned and mentally prepared to make the wetland neat and clean and full of co-operation warrants to be extended to concerned deptt as a good citizen.

"Non-Diversion of the areas: It should be the most sinful to denitrify the areas under sanctuaries, National Parks, wetland for any purpose under pressure as these areas are as important as our national heritage.

Will Power: Though the thinking/attitude differ from person to person, but, there is always something common and that common we have to built in all our senses to safeguard the environs that enlivens us.

(The author is former Deputy Conservator, J&K Forests).

# Secondary Agriculture: Primary Importance

■ DR. PARVEEN KUMAR

Agriculture is the main economic activity in the country. As it provides raw materials for different industries, it is classified as a primary activity. Primary activities are directly dependent on environment as these refer to utilization of earth's resources such as land, water, vegetation, building materials and minerals to produce goods. It includes hunting and gathering, pastoral activities, fishing, forestry, agriculture, mining and quarrying. While, the primary sector generates raw materials from agriculture, forestry, fishing, animal husbandry, mining etc; secondary sector on the other hand deals with activities that produce finished products ready for consumption. Over the years, in a rush to increase agricultural production, the natural resources are being overexploited, biodiversity is getting lost and planet is becoming unfit for survival of living organisms. The focus is now on secondary agriculture. Secondary Agriculture is defined as a production activity on the farm that is done beyond the Kharif, Rabi and Zaid seasons i.e. income-generating activities that use crop residues i.e. paddy straw, fodder blocks and crop residue briquettes. Secondary agriculture can help drive the growth of primary agriculture.

When we talk of the prefix secondary to any activity, it typically implies the next step or higher level of operations, for example, secondary education in school, or secondary processors in computers, or secondary processing in the agro-processing sector, etc. The term secondary agriculture would therefore indicate and refer to an elevated level of agricultural operations, or those linked to agricultural activities. The Planning Commission of India had constituted a Technical Advisory Committee on Secondary Agriculture (TACSA) in 2007. The TACSA submitted its report in October 2008, but did not define the term 'Secondary Agriculture'. Instead it states that the term 'is very broad as it includes all food and non-food bio-resource-based products for human and industrial use'. Implicit in the TACSA report is that secondary agriculture means a high level technological capacity used at industrial level scales. Consequently, secondary agriculture, as referred by TACSA would belong to the domain of large high-tech industrial sectors.

The committee on Doubling Farmers' Income (DFI) felt that instead of defining Secondary Agriculture by its possible products, it will be more appropriate to define it by the resources it utilizes, the scope of involvement of the agricultural community, the type of technology it deploys, and the scale of the activity. As such, for an activity to be called secondary agriculture, it must be an enterprise that has direct involvement of the agricultural community and must provide growth opportunity to the primary sector. Secondary level activities, linked to agriculture, can include economic activities from the secondary or the tertiary sectors. It is important to delineate the various productive activities, keeping in perspective the national agenda of doubling

farmers' income, promoting farmer(s) owned enterprise, and enhancing rural employment and farm household income. Therefore, secondary agriculture is defined as a productive activity at enterprise level that utilizes as raw material the primary product and by-products of agriculture and other biological resources available locally in its rural agrarian neighborhood, and/or deploy locally available skills or a high level of rural manpower, to operate/manage/ maintain the production of goods and services; and can be categorized appropriately under the Micro, Small or Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act 2006. A cotton ginning unit, to separate lint and seed from locally grown cotton, using local human resources and within norms for capital investment under MSME rules would be qualified as secondary agriculture. However, a cotton textile factory, sourcing its raw material across borders and with high capital investment may not be qualified as secondary agriculture. A Jaggery making unit, in the sugarcane growing area would be secondary agriculture, but not a processing unit that procures cane molasses from other regions. Large industries, are not secondary agriculture but are a particular opportunity to farmers, as consumers of their raw material. However, if the locally produced raw material undergoes primary processing at village level, and such value added primary output is supplied to the industry, it is considered as secondary agriculture. Where the village level enterprise, uses local resources to create a value added product, it would be considered secondary agriculture.

Benefits of Secondary Agriculture: a. Shifting the Direction of Flow of Money: Agriculture is largely confined to rural settings. Various reports reveal that the per capita income of a rural household is less than that of urban household. This is because rural peoples are only seen as consumers and not as producer of good quality industrial goods. All their produce is being sold in urban areas at a very high price. Thus there is a s an increased flow of money from rural to urban areas. The need is to transform the situation from 'rural people as consumers of industrial goods' to 'rural people as producers of industrial grade output, especially the population related to farming. Secondary Agriculture in such a case is expected to bring about a shift in the direction of flow of money from urban to rural areas, especially through meeting the demand for value addition or pre-conditioning services from the food processing industries in urban areas. b. Complimenting Primary Agricultural Activities: Secondary Agriculture activities complement various primary agricultural production systems and do not just supplement them. In other words, Secondary Agriculture increases the vertical elasticity of farm resources as against horizontal elasticity. Land for example is considered inelastic, but can be made vertically elastic. Given the seasonal production characteristics of agriculture in India wherein rainfed agriculture occupies 54 per cent of net sown area, the resources like land and manpower are

# J&K observes WHO Day; Sets goal of 'Health for All'

■ O P SHARMA

In Jammu and Kashmir also Ladakh UTs like other parts of the country and the globe, April 7 (World Health Day) is being observed with enthusiasm and fervour to ensure active and maximum public participation in the efforts to achieve the objective of "Health for All" to every the sections of society, including the persons with disability and weaker sections.

Every April 7, the World Health Day is celebrated every year to highlight a special theme current in the wellness and high health standards. This year's World Health Day will shed light on ensuring health to each and every citizen.

World Health Day

The unparalleled value of good health is celebrated on this Day (April 7) by spreading message of physical, mental, social and emotional well-being by all possible measures to the masses on this theme 'Health for All'.

It may be recalled that in December, 1945 an international health organization known as WHO, independent from any government powers came into existence and started work across the globe for ensuring higher health standards to the people across the globe through suitable

strategy and measures..

As one of the first official acts of WHO, they created the celebration of World Health Day starting from April 7, 1949.

Noble objective

Since 1950, the World Health Day uses a different theme each year selected by the current WHO Director-General, based on the suggestions of the member national Governments and staff. This provides a global opportunity to focus attention on important public health issues. On the occasion of World Health Day, promotional programs are launched that continue for a long time after April 7.

World Health Day will shed ample light on the vital role played by medical professionals and other health technical supporting staff. Both preventive, precautionary, curative services are to be provided and gradually upgraded to achieve the ultimate goal of "Health for All" through active participation of various agencies---official and non-official--around the world, where advocacy events will be held around the globe.

In the UTs of Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh different organizations are observing on this Day various activities

in this regard. Many educational, medical, health and others institutions are conducting different programmes to create public awareness about this year's vital theme 'Health for All' and their critical role in this important role.

Sustained efforts

The present Modi Government and UT Administration have is to play due attention to take sufficient preventive, promotional and curative measures to improve the general health standard of all the sections of the society including disadvantage and disabled persons.

The UTs of Jammu and Kashmir as well as Ladakh are striving hard to upscale the medical and well-being services in both urban and remote rural areas including far-flung remote villages as also and border belts so that people there also are made available modern medical facilities. The people in general must lend a helping hand in vigorous implementation of all the health and medical services to get the optimal results to ensure achievement of Health for All, as early as possible. Indian systems of medicinal medical as also Yoga treatment can be employed usefully.

Achieving Goal

The present Narendra Modi

Government is paying due attention to the up scaling of health and wellness initiatives for the people and assisting the States and also UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh as well to provide adequate medical facilities and have launched useful scheme called "Ashuman Card" covering free medical treatment to all the card-holders covered under it. It is really a matter of relief for all the poor and needy people of modern treatment in approved medical hospitals.

The Jammu and Kashmir as well as Ladakh are striving hard to meet the challenge of up-grading the medical and well-being services in urban and rural areas so that the people have reasonable reach to medical facilities and treatment. It may be recalled that a network of medical institutions including IIMS, hospitals along with diagnostic, treatment and other amenities are now being made functional for the benefit the people.

The general public at large must lend a helping hand and active participation in implementation and successful conduct of all Government and voluntary bodies in the challenging task of achieving the goal of "Health for All" in the country including UTs of Jammu and Kashmir as well as Ladakh.

