

## CONSERVE NATURE

Nature has given us many gifts like air, water, land, sunlight, minerals, plants and animals. All these gifts of nature make our planet a place worth living. Without any of these the existence of human life on earth would not be possible. Now, while these natural resources are present in abundance on the earth, unfortunately the need for most of these has increased over the centuries due to increase in human population. Many of these natural resources are being used up at a high rate while their production capacity is low. Thus there is a need to conserve nature and save the natural resources provided by nature. Water is available in abundance on the earth, so people do not consider it necessary to pay much attention to its decreasing quantity before using it. If we continue to use water at this fast pace, then definitely we may have to face serious consequences in the future. To save water, we can use some simple things like closing the tap while brushing, using water in the washing machine according to the amount of clothes and giving the remaining water to the plants. Electricity can be created only by saving electricity. That is why it is suggested to make limited use of electricity. Just taking care such as turning off the lights before leaving your room, turning off electrical appliances after use and using fluorescent or LED bulbs as much as possible can go a long way in saving electricity. Paper is made from trees. Using more paper means encouraging deforestation which is a matter of concern in today's time. We need to ensure that we use only as much paper as is required. One has to stop taking print out and use e-copy. The government should teach farmers about mixed cropping, crop rotation and proper use of pesticides, fertilizers, organic fertilizers and organic fertilizers. It is very important to spread awareness about the conservation of nature and adopt the right way of method to be used for it. This goal can only be achieved if more and more people understand its importance and help in whatever way they can. Apart from this, it is also very important to plant more and more trees. People can contribute towards reducing air pollution by using shared transport for travel and employing rain water harvesting systems to conserve nature.

## Time is Timeless: Beware of Its Consequence

■ DR. RAJKUMAR SINGH

Time is a fundamental aspect of human life, and it serves as a framework for measuring the duration and sequencing of events and experiences. It is a finite resource that is distributed equally to everyone, and its passage is irreversible. Therefore, time management is an essential skill for individuals to achieve their goals and maximize their potential. Human life is shaped by the passage of time, from birth to death, and is influenced by various factors such as culture, society, environment, genetics, and personal choices. Time impacts different aspects of human life, including physical, emotional, intellectual, and social development. It also affects how individuals perceive and experience their surroundings, and their ability to make choices, learn, and adapt to changing circumstances. In daily life time and human activities are closely intertwined, and understanding the relationship between the two is crucial for individuals to make the most of their time and live a fulfilling life's purpose. It is a fundamental aspect of life, as it shapes the duration and sequencing of events and experiences. From birth to death, every individual has a finite amount of time to live, and the passage of time plays a significant role in the various aspects of life. Further, it impacts the physical, emotional, intellectual, and social development of individuals. It affects how individuals perceive and experience their surroundings, and their ability to make choices, learn, and adapt to changing circumstances. Time management is also essential for individuals to achieve their goals and maximize their potential. Moreover, the perception of time is subjective and can vary depending on an individual's age, culture, and life experiences.

### Pathways of time

The pathways of time refer to the different ways in which time can be experienced and measured, which commonly include: a. Linear time: This is the most common way in which time is experienced and measured. Linear time means that time moves forward in a straight line from the past, through the present, and into the future. b. Cyclical time: In some cultures, time is perceived as cyclical, with events and experiences repeating themselves in a continuous cycle. This perspective is often associated with concepts such as karma and reincarnation. c. Biological time: This pathway of time is linked to the biological rhythms of the body, such as the circadian rhythm that regulates sleep-wake cycles. d. Psychological time: This pathway of time is linked to the perception of time, which can vary depending on an individual's attention, emotions, and level of engagement in a particular task or activity. e. Historical time: Historical time refers to the way in which time is experienced and measured through significant events and periods in human history. f. Geologic time: This pathway of time refers to the vast stretches of time measured in geological eras and epochs, which extend over millions or even billions of years. However, these pathways of time are interconnected and influence how individuals experience and measure time in their daily lives. Understanding the different pathways of time can help individuals develop a broader perspective on the role of time in their lives and to appreciate the complexities of the concept itself.

### Time and human development

Time plays a critical role in human development. There are many of the ways in which time is important in the context of human development: a. Biological development: Time is a key factor in biological development, from the time it takes for a fertilized egg to develop into a fully-formed human being to the changes that occur in the body over the course of a lifetime. b. Cognitive development: Time is essential for cognitive development, as it allows individuals to acquire new knowledge and skills and develop cognitive processes such as memory, attention, and problem-solving. c. Social and emotional development: It is also crucial for social and emotional development, as it provides opportunities for individuals to form relationships, develop social skills, and learn to regulate their emotions. d. Learning and education: Time is a critical resource in learning and education, as it allows individuals to acquire knowledge and skills through sustained effort and practice. e. Career development: Time is important for career development, as it allows individuals to gain experience, develop skills, and progress in their chosen profession. Life stages and transitions: Time plays a key role in life stages and transitions, from childhood to adulthood, and from working life to retirement.

### Future of time

In recent decades and years the concept of time has captured the imagination of scientists, philosophers, and futurists. While no one can predict with certainty what the future of time will hold, there are several trends and possibilities that may shape our understanding and experience of time in the coming years. One possibility is that advances in technology may continue to accelerate the pace of life, making time seem to move even faster than it does today. As technology advances, new methods of communication, transportation, and automation may make daily life more efficient and streamlined, leaving individuals with more time to pursue their interests and goals. Another trend that may shape the future of time is a greater emphasis on work-life balance and mindfulness. As individuals become more aware of the importance of mental health and well-being, they may seek to slow down and live more in the present moment. This could lead to a greater appreciation of leisure time and a shift away from the fast-paced, work-oriented culture of today. Finally, the future of time may be shaped by advances in physics and cosmology. Scientists are still grappling with fundamental questions about the nature of time, such as whether it is an objective property of the universe or a subjective experience of human consciousness.

■ G.L KHAJURIA

With around 330 million hectares of the geographical area, India ranks seventh largest landmass globally. The systems and types of land use have been conditioned by multihmed factors such as climatic conditions, temperature, air, precipitation so on and so forth. And of these, the climatic conditions are primarily expressed in terms of precipitation, rainfall received in various parts of the Country. Rainfall in India is unequally distributed in spaces. The mean annual rainfall ranges from less than 10 mm in parts of Rajasthan desert to more than 4000 mm in the western Ghats.

The intra-annual distribution of precipitations is also uncertain and seasonally skewed. The bulk of rainfalls is received during the South- West monsoons (mid June to September). However, during this season there are periodic spells or drought which are frequent in the arid and semi-arid areas /zones of the country covering the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat and partly some portions of MadhyaPardesh located in the central India. Consequently, the Crop yield of rainfed sorghum-Millet of the arid and semi-arid areas of India are subjected to periodic fluctuations.

The spatial difference in the availability of precipitation reflected in the relative differences in the amount of per unit area runoffs from the various rivers of India both in inter and intra annual terms. The central water commission (1988), places the average annual natural runoff available to India at 1880 million cubic meters . The water storage structures created or under construction are able to store only 13.5% of the mean annual runoff, in so far as ground water resources are concerned.

The estimates are that the replenishable ground water resources in India excluding North-east is 420 BCM per year of which 35.7 BCM per year is utilizable for irrigation against actual utilisation of only 106 BCM per year.

The unusual distribution of precipitation and water resources have conditioned agricultural cropping system and other systems of farming, though irrigation has successfully transformed the water starved areas of Punjab, Haryana and western parts of Uttar Pradesh into the food bowls of India. However, there are sufficient indications that the agricultural front has stopped expanding. This is quite evident from the fact of net areas having increased from 119 million hac

in 1950-51 to 140 million hac and stabilized at that level.

In any case , an expanding agricultural front was not essentially and environmentally conducive , since extension of cultivation to marginal lands had produced in its wake of the problems of soil and water erosion. And when this fact is related to the agricultural area subject to double or multiple cropping; the area of agricultural land sown more than once increased from 25,524000 hac 1971 to 36,77000 hac in 1986-87, resultantly increase in food grains production by 42 million tons in the period 1970-71 to 1985-86.

As a consequence, it can very conveniently be concluded that agricultural production in India has had been on intensive margin i.e. modern technologies of production initiated during green revolution of late 1960's . But spatial width of the intensive agricultural operation is narrow since the green revolution has been evident mainly in the northern western portions of India and portions of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Naidu in South India.

India is as well endowed with large areas of non-agriculture production. And these areas are having expanse and diversified forest cover ranging from temperate vegetation in the sub-Himalayan and Himalayan region of moist -ever green forests in the North-east , the western coast and the Andaman and Nicobar islands. The forest cover of our country as per survey of India's latest report (2015), reveals that we continued to have 21% of forest despite population explosion, increased biotic pressure accruing from grazing, encroachments and diversification of forest areas for multidisciplinary purposes. As a result, therefore, there have been a marginal increase of 1% forest cover.

The overall situation is that the total green cover now stand for 697888 sq kms (21.23%) of the geographical area and upto 5871 sq kms (10.92%) from 92,027 sq kms as had earlier from existing during the year 2011 survey report. As such there has been a marginal increase of just 31 sq kms in very dense forests, whereas moderately dense forest went down to 1991 sq kms and open forests accounts for 7831 sq kms.

As per Anmol Kumar, the Director General , Survey of India, the carbon stocks of the county have increased by 4.07% whereas regeneration capacity is around 48% of the total forest area.

Broadly speaking, the forests of India have been divided into 16 major groups compris-

ing into 221 types . Tropical deciduous forests form the major percentage of forests cover in India (37% of total forest cover ) followed by tropical dry deciduous forest (29.6%). The tropical wet evergreen forests comprise only 8% of total forest cover . Of the total area around 63.91 million hac& dense forests (crown dense Cover) account for only 38.50 m. hac. There is no tree cover over 11.27 M. Hac forests are under stocked. About 52.8% of forests don't have adequate regeneration. The per capita forest area has astonishingly decreased drastically.

Apart from natural forests, manmade forests area also increased on account of afforestation programmers initiated by government of India as well various state governments under various schemes. The lands so afforested have substantially been increased. Despite this progress in afforestation, the target of 33% land area under forest cover as laid down in the National Forest Policy 1988, will be a remote goal at the moment. The reasons are the tendency towards deforestation and diversion of forest land towards non-forestry activities by the multi-disciplinary departments of all hues. And apart from meeting up fuelwood and fodder requirements, the increasing incidents of authorized as well as unauthorized felling.

In so far as forest conservation measures are concerned, these are not well in place, whereas the trend of deforestation is more severe compared to that which had been over the years.

With rising consciousness and the apprehensions involved allowing it to degenerate, there is an urgent need to build the methods for the protection and preservation of our natural resources. However, considering that the forests are the bedrock for the economic growth and development and also support the need of much of the population, these must be put to optional use. This involves integrating environmental concerns with all activities and making of correct choices and treads offs.

To ensure that the best choices are being made and the value of protecting the environment is not being ignored, adequate human resource development, especially through proper training programmers, needs to be promoted.

In so far as training aspect is concerned, the imparting of specific skills are warranted to be inculcated. And these involve such sort of persons who are either experience as a part of work to perform certain tasks

which require skills or those who would like a citizens of voluntary groups or organizations perform such tasks and such persons can be classified as civil servants who are required to assist in the formulation of policies and plans , and to carry out development projects or activities so associated with such programming. Two; professionals both technical (engineers, scientists, lawyers, Judges or Social scientists and managers, both within and outside the governmental organizations. These persons are needed to be involved in designing, assessing and managing projects activities having potential impact on the environment. These all educators or trainers who educate and train other people need, therefore, be trained initially themselves. Fourth; environmental activists who are basically involved in fighting for the environment often against government or corporate interests should qualify the skills to effectively carry on this coveted job on broader spectrum.

As a corollary , therefore, different categories of people need training to effectively perform the tasks related to the conservation, protection and regeneration of environment and to use one or more of the available strategies for which training needs to be imparted.

Special emphasis should be laid to retraining environment implementation assessment (EIA).The need for sustainable development involves, among other things, the ability to assess the impact of development activities and the projects on the environment.

This enables the making of correct choices so that only those projects that are environmentally viable are given the green signal, and even their environmental impact is minimized. The EIA also gives a direction for the development of new processes and technologies which help in determining the real social costs of products and services and highlights the need for conserving resources and finding or developing substitutes scare ones.

The rapid rate of economic growth in India means that there are at any given time, a large number of development projects in planning and implementation of environmental boosting . There is, therefore, a dire need to build trained human power for environmental implementation assessment (EIA), especially among independent institution and within the government.

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

# Progressive farmers of JK Haseena Begum Kupwara leads way in organic farming Certification as Model Organic Village opens new vistas for districts' progressive women

Haseena Begum, of Hyhana village Kupwara, has become a role model in organic farming for aspiring women entrepreneurs of Kupwara with her success as an empowered agripreneur.

Haseena Begum, wife of Mohammad Shafi, was earlier running a small hotel on rented building in village Hyhama and living a hard life.

After being encouraged and motivated by the officials of the agriculture department to start organic farming, Haseena embarked on this new venture with all her devotion and vigour which ultimately transformed her life.

She says after being introduced to the concept of organic farming, she started vegetable cultivation to cater to the daily requirements of her hotel. She had very poor financial health and had to borrow Rs18000 for purchasing seeds for the vegetable farm. She also sought guid-

ance from Agriculture Department to maintain the farm under constant supervision. And, in first year only she had produce of 18 quintals of vegetables including Squash, Beans, Cabbage, Tomatoes and Garlic which she sold for Rs 1 Lakh. Haseena Begum is now happy with her vegetable farming venture and have saved enough to even own the hotel building. She has now emerged as a role model for other women in village and is leading a self-help group of 25 women engaged in organic farming in Hyhama.

An official of the agriculture department says that the area under organic farming of vegetables has grown from 15 ha to 85 ha spread across 5 villages with enthusiastic participation of farmers.

Notably, Hatmulla-Deedikoot has been certified as Model Organic Village by PGS India in December 2019.

## Working Journalist movement

■ ER. PRABHAT KISHORE

Before independence, journalists used to get very low salaries in India. Neither the working hours were fixed nor there was any proper arrangement for holidays. The policy of "No work No pay" was adopted by the newspaper owners in case of illness. The journalists had to face many such problems and miseries. For the prevention of these problems, the journalists of the country and the states have been demanding from time to time to investigate the newspaper industry, in which they have been successful to a large extent.

In 1944, a committee was appointed by the All India Hindi Journalist Association to investigate the newspaper industry. Fifteen questions were asked by the committee, such as name, address, title, other qualifications, salary, whether there is any rule regarding increment etc. The answers to these questions were quite interesting. A journalist replied - "What is the destination of flying birds, where there is fodder, there is home. He got a job for fifty rupees. Salary hike is not expected. There is no provision for leave even in case of illness."

The answer of the second gentleman was- "My salary was sixty rupees per month. Presently he is being paid eighty five rupees. There is no provision of pension, gratuity, insurance etc". Shri BholPaswanShastri, who later became the Chief Minister of Bihar (three times), used to work in the daily "Rashtravani", published from Patliputra. His answer was - "I get fifty rupees here. Earlier, I used to work in RashtraSandesh for twenty rupees". Shri RamkrishnaRaghunathKhadilkar (Hindi DainikAaj) replied - "I have been getting eighty rupees to one hundred and thirty five rupees for working in different newspapers."

In the year 1944, the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference constituted an inquiry committee, which at its Karachi session recommended a monthly salary of one hundred

rupees for English journalists and seventy-five rupees per month for vernacular journalists. Delhi Hindi Journalist Association and Bihar Journalist Association opposed this proposal and demanded monthly payment ranging from one hundred to one hundred and twenty five rupees.

In 1944, Syed Abdullah Barehvi, while presiding over the All India Newspaper Editor's Conference in Chennai (Madras), said that journalists should be organized on the basis of trade union. In the meantime in Punjab, the Punjab Journalists Association was formed under the leadership of Rana Jang Bahadur Singh and A.C. Bali. This union threatened the newspaper-owners, as a result of which the journalists were paid good salaries in the form of dearness allowance. There was an increase in the salary of newspaper's journalist from Rs.60 to Rs.80. This increased the trust of journalists towards the trade union. In 1947, a committee was appointed by the Government ofUttar Pradesh to investigate the difficulties faced by journalists in the state. Similarly, the Government of Madhya Pradesh also appointed an inquiry committee under the chairmanship of Justice Madolkar. Both the committees submitted their reports to the respective governments, but no action was taken on them.

Meanwhile, in September 1947, an unpleasant incident took place in the daily Aajpublished from Kashi. Shrikant Thakur Vijaylankar, the then editor-in-chief of the newspaper, was forced to quit his job. Thirteen members of the editorial division went on a one-hour pen strike against the rude behaviour meted out to him by the newspaper owners. However; theyassured that the publication will be delivered on time and there would be no other loss. But the owners immediately fired those thirteen journalists. This untoward incident irked the journalists across the country and they were forced to form a federation of

journalists at the national level. On 28 October 1950, Journalists from all over India organized a conference in Delhi, in which the " IndianFederation of Working Journalists" was founded. Mr. M. Chellapati Rao was elected as the president of the federation and Jagdish Prasad Chaturvedias the secretary.

In March 1951, the constitution of the Federation was presented for approval in its convention held in Mumbai. According to this, it was decided that the federation will remain a proletarian federation in true sense i.e. organisers of the newspaper will not be its members. At the same time only those unions or associations will be recognized as members, who have been registered as trade unions. The constitution of the federation was passed unanimously. The representatives of the South Indian Journalists Association did not participate in it. In April 1952, in the Calcutta session of the federation, a strong demand was made to the Government of India to investigate the newspaper industry and appointeda commission. Along with this, some policy related decisions were taken which continued to conduct the activities of the conference for a long time. In the session, a demand was made to provide the benefits of Labour Law, Industrial Disputes Act, Wages Act and other similar laws to working journalists. After the formation of the federation, two journalists of the English daily "Leader" published from Prayag were suddenly removed from their jobs. In this one Mr. Mahipati Ram Nagar had served the newspaper for twenty one years and the other Mr. Ramnathan for twenty eight years. They were neither given retrenchment salary nor notice amount. Mr. Ramnathan had to get his daughter married. He was so worried that he died on 13 July 1952.

The Newspaper Commission was appointed on 23 September 1952, which submitted its report to the Government of India in 1954. Several journalists of the country testified

before the commission under the leadership of Vinaynath Narayan Singh, assistant editor of "The Searchlight" published from Patliputra. Under his leadership, the Bihar Working Journalists Union presented a very impressive report. Mr. Singh also submitted accountable documents, as a result of which he was fired by the Searchlight's management. Till then the journalists of the country did not come under the purview of the definition of labourer. The result was that even after knocking the doors of the Supreme Court, Mr. Singh could not get any legal help. After this, Mr. Singh stayed in Delhi for some time, but where he went is not known till date. He was the first recognized person to be martyred on the sacrificial altar of journalistic movement.

The Indian Federation of Working Journalists believes in the labour welfare, so it had to organize movements to protect the rights and interests of journalists. The Indian Working Journalist movement basically started with economic questions, but has been active in defending of newspaper's freedom, raising the standard of journalism, and restructuring the newspaper industry.

The other universal body of journalists in the country is the National Union of Journalists (India), which claims to believe in the same policy and objective as the federation. Indian Working Journalist Federation, Press Trust of India Union, United News Agency Union and Newspaper Employees Federation of India jointly formed a larger federation to protect journalists and newspaper employees from exploitation by newspaper owners. Even after this, the journalists associations formed in the states are trying to find solutions to the problems faced by the journalists of the country in different states and newspapers.

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