

India G20 Presidency

From December 1, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over the chairmanship of G-20. India has assumed the chairmanship of G20 from Indonesia. India will hold the presidency of the G-20 for one year. It is a matter of pride for the Indian. As soon as he took over the presidency, the Prime Minister was congratulated by many countries. Indian economy is the fifth largest economy in the world. India has been a global power.

Fully capable of handling global responsibilities, India will lead the world's most powerful economic group G-20 for the 1 year. India will work to increase unity and universal spirit in the world. India has a golden history in non-alignment and building an alliance. India's foreign policy is an example for the whole world.

In the G20 conference, Narendra Modi has indicated that India's ambitious breakthrough agenda will promote eco-friendly lifestyles as well as "depoliticize" the global supply chain of food, fertilizer and medical products, reduce mass destruction by controlling weapons production. India will work to enhance global security. India will plan to maintain peace in the world and prevent mass destruction.

Greening Highways

■ C.L KHAJURIA

Roads are the lifeline arteries which carry the life blood of economy relating to trade and commerce to every hook and the corner of the country. These also play a pivotal role in national integration by way of communication amongst the various religions and shades.

According to the ministry of surface transport and highways, we are having a long stretch of around 4.50 million kms of roads length. And the overall benefits accruing there from ripple out vast, varied ramifications for the progress and prosperity of the country as a whole.

Now, with the ever exploding population which we all know has crossed 1.25 billion next to china and the traffic ways have correspondingly increased manifold face to face with urbanisation and industrialisation. And these in togetherness are Tanta mounting to ever-escalating pollution, temperature, dust and a combination of noxious gases namely carbon monoxide (CO) carbon dioxide (CO2), Methane (CH4), Nitrous Oxide (N2O) and emission of chloro-fluorocarbons (CFC's) apart from the most hazardous halocarbons. These halocarbons originate from refrigeration and other cooling compound pollutants and are long persisting over hundreds and thousands of years when once get released into the atmosphere.

The expansion of roads width on either side of highways has ruthlessly massacred over lacks of erstwhile plantations which way these have diminished the pristine well-established glory and grandeur of the highways which now are devoid of lush green vibrant tree cover across the country. Now, while travelling on these highways, we often feel as something of our very vital missing so much so that no shade insight where once a while we can aspire to have a short stop over. Doesn't it jitters us when we are in travel-spree with family or friends?

It is, therefore, most pertinent to realise the changed scenario over a couple of years. And this is evidently very well before our eyes. And imagine the scenario elsewhere away from our sight, the overall forest cover (green gold) which is frizzling by the turn of the day. This is fundamentally tanta mounting to environmental degradation resolutely giving birth to multihued off shoots of problem of problems.

Under this pernicious scenario, our highways demand top most attention for rejuvenation so that these become lively for beautification and glorification. It is as such becomes our moral and bounden duty to carry out mass campaign for gigantic plantation operation alongside highways so as to restore back erstwhile lost glory and beauty.

In forestry parlance, such plantations alongside highways are nomenclaturised as arboriculture or avenue plantation and the people so participating or engaged are called arboriculturist. These plantations are also carried out alongside railway tracks, canals apart from urban metropolises where this has an independent department. The predominant objective being to cloth such areas with green cover ensuring greenery, beautification and slowing down the temperature and averting pollution in its multitudinal manifestation.

The concept of such plantations is no new as over the years the earlier rulers were very much enthusiastic and compassionate with this concept of plantations when we unfold the history.

During Ashoka's regime, this concept was very much in vogue, as he carried out extensive/intensive afforestation's alongside all avenue, other denuded areas. Similarly, Sher Shah Suri in 16th century carried out abundant plantation of ornamental, horticultural and shade bearing trees intermixed with flowering climbers, creepers and shrubs right from Mureshidabad (the then Bengal) to Peshawar via Delhi and Lahore.

Similarly, the Mughals were very much enthusiastic and compassionate about the construction of new roads and supplementing these by carrying out plantation. ShahJahan brought Chinara from Iran and introduced in Kashmir and its Vicinity. They carried forward this campaign on all available barren areas, preferably, the roadsides and other road-linkages.

When we achieved independence, the spirit and sanctity of tree culture, plantation, promotion and propagation was still more invigorated. Our late Prime Ministers shri J.L. Nehru, shri L.B. Shastri apart from other prominent leaders, naturalist, environmentalists namely GB Pant, Dr. Rajinder Prasad, K.M. Munshi a footed large scale planting campaign. It was too recently on the first day of July this year, when Nitin Gadkari, the union Minister for transport and highways convened a two-day meeting at Vishakhapatnam and consequently, a mega mission for greening highways was promulgated and this mission was nomenclaturised as "National Green highways Mission (NGHM). Under the mission the Minister Kick started first ever massive National highways plantation campaign with a targeted budget of 300 cores to cover around 1500 kms of the first leg of 100000 kms of highways .

Nitin Gadkari further emphasised that the Ministry of Road and highways (MORTH), government of India endeavour the need and importance of developing green corridors along National highways, promulgating massive plantation, transportation, their progressive promotion and maintenance all through for the glorification- cum-beautification of highways apart from generating jobs and employment on larger scale. According to Raghav Chandra, chairman NH AI, the government contemplates to earmark an estimated amount amounting 5000 crores which works out around 1% of roads construction amounting to 5 trillion ending year 2019 of this mission. This is synonymous with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural employment Guarantee Act (MGN-REGA) in boosting rural economy. The funds as such are earmarked provide promotion and impulsive targeted greening highways mission, apart from opening up job-cum-employment avenues for around a million youth in broader spectrum.

(The author is Former Dy. Conservator of forest, J&K).

■ DR. BANARSI LAL

India is a young country and rural youths constitute about 41 per cent of total population of India. Youths are the building blocks of the country. They are considered as the greatest asset of any nation as they decide the future of the nation. They are full of innovative ideas and enthusiasm. Their importance should be acknowledged and their commendable contribution should be appreciated. The youths fill the country with energy and zeal and boost the country in many ways.

Development of any nation depends on the development of its youths.

Youths are more creative, energetic and innovative. It is highly important for any nation to encourage and support the young generation. Rural youths have indomitable energy and enthusiasm for the rural change. Migration of rural youths in urban areas in search of employment has risen fastly. This has resulted a decline in workforce in the agricultural sector in rural areas. The advent of free market has been able to generate employment opportunities in the private sector which requires highly skilled workers. A majority of rural youth may not meet the criteria of private sector for a variety of reasons, like lack of advance technical expertise, inadequate trainings etc. The globalization process has brought certain changes whose implications for the rural society and the rural youths need to be thoroughly understood.

As per the United Nations, youth is defined as

a person in 15-24 years of age group whereas the census of India treats people in the age group of 15-29 years as youths. According to Baizerman (1991), in the third world countries youth have not been able to play a vital role in the developmental process and has remained a marginalized group. The participation of the rural Indian youth can be more impressive if more attention is paid on them. Mass media does not pay more attention on rural youths. Due to their proximity to institutions like universities, colleges, institutions of mass communication, political centres and by virtue of being an integral part of modernisation process like developing a rational outlook, adopting different sub-cultures and promoting cosmopolitanism, the urban youth continuously remains in the limelight. Rural areas are slow in their socio-economic development, slow pace of modernisation, industrialization, overpowering presence of powerful but retrogressive social institutions, inequitable distribution of land and most significantly and underutilisation of human resources. The stereotype of rural youth is gullible, conservative and he himself tries to fastly change but cannot escape from the adverse impact of the aforementioned problems.

Present era is an era of information. Communication network has combined the world into a cyber-frame. The transaction in all the sectors is now being carried through computers. The rural youths in this field are left

behind their urban brethren. The urban youths have access to computer education while the exposure of youth to computers in rural areas is still limited. The 1990s witness a rapid expansion of television networks. The cable and satellite television made a mark in India and television emerged as the most effective medium of entertainment. It plays a key role in dissemination of information and entertainment even in the far-flung areas. In some of the rural areas still the rural youths miss the opportunity to view the informative programmes. Even in some of the downtrodden rural areas still the youths lack the information through print media. The latest information should be reached to the rural youths of these remote areas. Now-a-days social media is playing a major role in dissemination of information in the rural areas.

It has been observed that increasing population, overexploitation of biological resources, construction activities and changing consumption has led to the loss of bio-diversity. For all this rural population cannot be held responsible for excessive consumption as it is the youth of urban areas whose consumption levels reached new heights leading to enormous pressure on the natural resources. The industries release untreated effluents contaminating the water reserves which will expose the nearby rural population to waterborne diseases. The toxic wastes of the industries are dumped in the waste lands on the outskirts of the urban

areas or nearby villages which poses a serious impediment to the wasteland development projects. Watershed development is a major agricultural activity. It is the youth of village who take the responsibility in the success of watershed projects like construction of check dams and water tanks. The educated rural youths can prevail on the rest of population to take steps to preserve ground water resources. Joint forest management is another dimension of environment protection. The youth in the villages can be mobilised to take care of illegal felling of trees and make social forestry programme successful. There is need to motivate the rural female youth to take part in her decision making. With the implementation of employment generating schemes, efforts should also be made to sensitise the rural youths on various social issues. The mass media, whose influence on society is quite significant, should be prevailed upon to increase the focus on developmental issues and social concerns. More employment should be generated in the rural areas during the off season of the year. Development in rural areas can stop the rural migration and may reduce the pressure on the urban areas. In order to avoid the rural migration emphasis should be given on the rural based industries.

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Stubborn driving anvils lopsided traffic system

■ RAKESH AATHUR

Traffic a present concept of modern India and world which had rendered greater congestion pattern for daily riders/drivers including the heavy and light motor vehicles including people from one corner to another corner of the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir and India.

Whereas in India it has emerged a very critical hurdle which making the life of common people sick and boring. Most of the drivers of heavy vehicles mostly ride their vehicles on daily basis, service basis, but if we have a look into the Jammu-Samba-Kathua road and others of J&K, there emerged the hilly terrains and uphill like topography, where drivers of well trained nature are capable only. And in the hilly areas there is lack of regular or scant bus services too. Even though on the NH1 including Samba - Kathua-Jammu range there runs plenty of buses due to which number of accidents are happening on daily basis. During which innocent light vehicle drivers are losing their precious life at the callous hands of some heavy vehicles drivers due to rash and stubborn driving process i.e. buses, trucks, traullas, heavy load carriers. A rash driven bus also caused grim accident near Sarvan- Nallah of Nanky -Chak lastly because the prescribed speed limit is not followed by them and on the other hand they would used to overtake at unsuitable places where consistently light motor vehicles are also running on the same roads during which the construction of the road lines is also in motion here and there too. The heavy vehicle drivers did pays only little care towards the light motor vehicles while driving on the National Highway

The negligence of some drivers mainly of heavy vehicles' render destitute to several bread earners of the family, destitute to the prostrate parents and gave an extra socks to the widows who considered their life like burdensome to nurture the small kids without any key source of income except it. As we all knew that Indian nation is getting through its 3rd stage of transition of population

growth in which the people ratio is higher to the employment or government services, meant to say that the bread earners who are working in the private sectors should not scantily compensated to their family members when someone meet with such shocking incidents. But it is the negligence of some delinquent drivers who use to violate the traffic rules and adapt rash driving on the roads and causes an extra kind of pain to the diseased persons with such jeopardy. But if we talk about the agencies which are acting as safeguarding to these incidents are sunken in the own dawn of corruption. If we talk about the Regional Transport Commission office and its sub- offices in the shape of ARTOs in every district they have managed the extra kind of persons in the department called agents and others who arrange them money for illegal workings. In guise of it thousand of the driving licenses have been issued to the incapable persons whom commits such activities called accidents and causes aches to the innocent LMV drivers' in an extravagant manners. In turn they may not care the vehicles running on the roads having over speeding using pressure horns, taking unnecessary cuts on the roads, etc without caring the road signs and other traffic rules.

And a special wing of the J&K police installed called traffic police may not adventuring its duty at original venues and not following suitable norms, so one can watch most of the cops deployed in the bazaars at the tea stalls and grocery shops, etc as they are not so serious towards their duty, and if they care so they can be seen where the vehicle heavily loaded at some special installed Nakas, from where many times complaints have heard that they take money for illegal passes to the unfit and heavy loaded carriers.

In general for the public welfare the cops should be deployed at unknown places and at uncertain junctions from where they watch the activities of the delinquent drivers and ultimately get fine to them on the spot. And them should render helpful towards the innocent and hapless LMV drivers. As far as general police

deployed for it, once past the government had ordered to the general police to deploy an extra officer to check the traffic problems in the area, they can Challan or fine to astray drivers. But unfortunately it is so unfortunate that they may not render behind from having corruption and taking unnecessary cognizance of some VIPs and leaders of higher strata. Meant rule is rule not for everyone here in the U.T. But it is only for the common people who may not have higher approaches.

In-addition longer queues of loaded trucks and other load carriers parked covering half of the road from main bridge sambha to Nanki-chak on the both sides of N.H.1 can be seen s due to construction of the road here and there on N.H.1 causing greater stiffness to the daily and LMV drivers. Though it is a danger zone where road is congested in nature already but nobody caring so including all the agencies like traffic police, general police, ARTO sambha, etc. Whereas our traffic rules did not teach us so, therefore our traffic system had bent became its head towards callous hands of some corrupt and dishonest persons who are deceiving to the innocent people largely for their petty gain. In such circumsppection few people of vagrant and cordial characteristics are availing all such luxuries and facilities for their petty gains only. It is quite contrary to our traffic norm on one hand and misuse of powers on the other hand.

Meant to say that all such agencies are time passing and merry makings on the government remunerations, if their performance is to be surveyed one may astonished to vision that there is greater contrast in the work done and paid up to the employees of the both government and private sectors and how lazy the government sector had grown up and weak in its progress as compared to the private sector. So one can clearly asses that it is the main cause due to which the governmental sectors are running towards fall downs as compared to private sectors.

Newspapers- Helps us become 'Informed Citizens'

■ MAHADEEP SINGH JAMWAL

Reading newspapers is a valuable mannerism and it should have been a part and parcel of modern life. We don't comprehend that we grow into exceptional knowledgeable through newspaper (Low-priced and readily available informational and most important testimony) reading that broadens our perspective and helps us become 'Informed Citizens' by getting an insight into the current affairs, and other different domains including country's economic situation trade and commerce, Court rulings, new laws, political spectrum, entertainment world, corporate world, sports, jobs and many more. We keep up with new developments in technology, governmental regulations, academic research, and other things. Daily newspaper reading is a wonderful healthy practice that offers a lot of educational value. It contains a wealth of information on global events as well as what is occurring in the nation, town, and surrounding places. In actuality, the newspaper serves as our primary source for all pertinent information. It is the best connection between the government and the populace that one can discover. Newspapers provide readers with excellent career prospects. With the use of newspapers, students may learn about a variety of topics. They develop their oratory skills, which make it easier for them to participate actively in speeches, debates, and conversations that boost their confidence. "The newspapers have 'tremendous credibility' and, by acting as a link between the government and the people, play

a critical role in creating awareness" - PM Narendra Modi. The 'Editorial Pages' of the newspaper that carry everyday topics on different issues, socialize us with unknown world and their reading provides confidence to speak fluently on various topics but everything has become so visual now that no one bothers to read not only newspapers but books, Magazines or other readable material also. But unfortunately despite having so many benefits, newspaper reading is becoming a dying habit. We must not let this become so as newspapers are very reliable sources of news. Had we ever realized why it is becoming a dying habit? Its most credit goes to digitalization.

According to the data ([http://www.ifabc.org & http://brainly.in](http://www.ifabc.org&http://brainly.in)) more than half the world's adult population read a newspaper: more than 2.5 billion in print and more than 600 million in digital form. With the world transforming towards digitalization (As of January 2023, there were 5.16 billion internet users worldwide, which is 64.4 percent of the global population), the citizenry is getting everything on phones and computers. According to a recent report, (<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com>) 92.1% of internet users worldwide access the internet using a mobile phone. There are approximately 4.32 billion active mobile internet users in the world. According to the 10th edition of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism's Digital News Report 2021, 82 percent of Indians read the news online, and 73 percent do so, on their smartphones. According to an ASSOCHAM report in 2017, social

media platforms such as Twitter, Face book, WhatsApp, and others rapidly changed the reading and viewing habits of an increasing number of people, mostly youngsters. According to KPMG India Analysis, 2020, (<https://entrepreneur.com>) news consumption through digital apps has increased, and newspaper readership has decreased by 38% to 40%, while the consumption of news via digital apps has been growing.

When we talk of newspapers, the availability of its contents 'Online' has a very important role in the digital world but it has declined the readership of the printed newspapers. The people are getting instant updates on their mobile phones and computer systems, they barely read the newspaper. The information gathered by reporters whether electronic or print media that is dispensed and then consumed by the audience has a direct bearing on the public opinion. The information is critical for a democracy to survive. But, what we have observed is that the media fraternity is drifting away from its purpose and inclining to the dispensation of the information of specific interests to maintain their TRP. This is another very important reason; the readers and viewers are avoiding newspaper readings that used to be a partner of citizens at the morning tea session. Another strong reason for drifting away from readers from reading printed newspapers is the association of power with media that has been instrumental in manufacturing public consent and controlling dissent. This is evident from the 'World Press Freedom Index' released by

'Reporters Without Borders (RSF)' that ranked India at number 161 out of 180 countries surveyed, dipping 11 number from the previous year. Media associations in the country have voiced concern over India slipping 11 places to 161st rank in the World Press Freedom Index. We remember the impact, when some Indian newspapers published blank front pages to protest against the Emergency of 1975 and more recently, many dailies in Kashmir Valley printed a blank front page to protest against the "unexplained denial" of advertisements by the J&K government to some newspapers. Mahatma Gandhi in his autobiography has described "The sole aim of journalism should be service. The newspaper is a great power; but just as an unchained torrent of water". The quality of the information should be as defined by H. L. Mencken (an American journalist, essayist, satirist, cultural critic and scholar of American English that "The average newspaper, especially of the better sort, has the intelligence of a hillbilly evangelist, the courage of a rat, the fairness of a prohibitionist booby-jumper; the information of a high school janitor; the taste of a designer of celluloid valentines, and the honor of a police-station lawyer." My study on 'What a newspaper needs in its news, in its headlines, and on its editorial page' carried me to the conclusion that it requires expressive capability, ingenuity, and veracity in addition to humor; sports and entertainment.

ience as a pivotal step towards addressing the existential threat of climate change and finding sustainable solutions. India's motto, "One Earth, One Family, One Future," underscores the need for global cooperation and solidarity in confronting this pressing issue.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi aptly stated, "The future belongs to those who build it." India's unwavering commitment to a low-carbon development strategy and its rapid shift towards renewable energy has established the nation as a leader in the transition to a more sustainable future. With its energy demand projected to double by 2040, India is actively pursuing universal electrification, enhancing energy efficiency, and promoting conservation. A testament to this commitment, India's parliament has passed the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022, which seeks to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Apart from its domestic efforts, India has been providing technical and financial assistance to other countries, particularly those in the Global South, to support their transition towards a low-carbon and sustainable future. Initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) have been launched by India to promote renewable energy adoption and the construction of disaster-resilient infrastructure.

India's G20 presidency, with the main destination being Kashmir, represents a significant opportunity for the region to showcase its efforts and achievements in addressing climate change and promoting sustainable development. Hosting the G20 summit in Kashmir can have a positive impact on the region's economy, tourism, and overall development. It provides a platform for Kashmir to highlight its potential as a destination for sustainable tourism and investment, while also raising awareness about the environmental challenges faced by the region. Moreover, the G20 summit offers the world a chance to come together and collaborate in finding inclusive, meaningful, and sustainable solutions. By hosting the summit in Kashmir, India can draw attention to the importance of preserving and protecting the natural beauty and resources of the region.

The G20 summit under India's presidency, hosted in Kashmir, marks a critical milestone in the global fight against climate change and the promotion of sustainable development. India's unwavering commitment to low-carbon development, leadership in renewable energy adoption, and efforts to provide assistance to other nations exemplify its dedication to finding meaningful and sustainable solutions. Let us unite and work together to build a brighter and greener future for all.

(The author is a Motivational Speaker).