

UNSCHEDULED POWER CUTS

Jammu, nestled in the northern reaches of India, is known for its scorching summers. With temperatures soaring above 40 degrees Celsius, the demand for electricity peaks as residents rely heavily on cooling appliances to beat the heat. However, despite the best efforts of the local authorities, power cuts remain a common occurrence during this season, posing significant challenges to the residents and businesses alike.

The problem of electric power cuts in Jammu during summer can be attributed to various factors, including inadequate infrastructure, increased demand, and supply limitations. The region's aging power infrastructure struggles to cope with the surge in electricity consumption, leading to frequent breakdowns and outages. Moreover, the erratic supply of electricity from the grid exacerbates the situation, leaving residents at the mercy of prolonged blackouts.

One of the primary consequences of electric power cuts in summer is the discomfort and inconvenience experienced by the residents. Without electricity, essential amenities such as fans, air conditioners, and refrigerators become non-functional, making daily life unbearable, particularly for vulnerable groups such as the elderly and infants. Moreover, businesses reliant on continuous power supply, such as restaurants, hotels, and medical facilities, suffer financial losses and operational disruptions during prolonged outages. To cope with the challenges posed by electric power cuts, residents of Jammu employ various strategies to mitigate the impact on their daily lives. Many households invest in alternative power sources such as inverters, generators, and solar panels to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply during outages. While these solutions provide temporary relief, they often come with significant financial implications, making them inaccessible to economically disadvantaged households.

Furthermore, communities in Jammu have established informal networks to share resources and support each other during power cuts. Neighbors come together to pool resources, such as diesel for generators or battery-operated fans, fostering a sense of solidarity and resilience in the face of adversity. Additionally, some businesses adjust their operating hours or implement energy-saving measures to minimize the impact of power cuts on their operations.

Despite these adaptive measures, the issue of electric power cuts in summer continues to plague Jammu, highlighting the need for systemic interventions to address the underlying causes. The local government, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, must prioritize infrastructure upgrades and investment in renewable energy sources to enhance the reliability and sustainability of the region's power supply. Additionally, measures such as demand-side management and energy efficiency initiatives can help alleviate the strain on the existing infrastructure and reduce the frequency of power cuts. In conclusion, electric power cuts in summer pose significant challenges to the residents and businesses of Jammu, impacting daily life and economic activities. While individuals and communities employ various coping strategies to mitigate the impact, addressing the root causes of the problem requires concerted efforts from policymakers, utilities, and the community at large. By investing in infrastructure upgrades, promoting renewable energy sources, and implementing demand-side management measures, Jammu can build a more resilient and sustainable electricity system, ensuring a better quality of life for its residents, even during the hottest months of the year.

Start UPSC preparation after 12th, you will get success

VIJAY GARG
Everyone dreams but not everyone can pay the price to fulfill them. Dreams are fulfilled only by those who pay the price for it. One such dream is to become an IAS. To become an IAS, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) conducts the Civil Services Examination. UPSC is the most difficult and prestigious examination in our country. Every year lakhs of youth prepare for this exam just for a few seats. The success percentage in this examination is very low. In this exam only he who has discipline and patience along with educational qualification is successful. If you also dream of becoming an IAS, then it is important that you start preparing for it at the graduation level itself. To achieve success in civil services, it is important to have a precise strategy and system. If you also dream of becoming an IAS, then you can prepare for it like this- 1.Strategy and study material- For Civil Services Examination, first of all you should take the decision that you want to join Civil Services only after your 12th studies. civil It takes at least 2 to 3 years to prepare for the service. You should start preparing for it from the days of your graduation. Start your preparation for this exam by studying NCERT books. Apart from this, keep the complete syllabus of Civil Services Examination with you and prepare accordingly. Most of the candidates choose one subject of their graduation for the main stage of the examination. This makes it easier for you because you study this subject for three full years along with graduation. Apart from this other selected alternative You can choose study material for the subjects or take expert advice. 2. Prepare for contemporary issues like this- To prepare for current affairs, study newspapers regularly. Like, apart from The Hindu, Indian Express, definitely watch the bulletins of BBC and DD News. Last year's preliminary question papers also had a good proportion of questions related to current issues, hence it is important to keep preparing for current issues. Apart from this you can also read about current issues. You can also take help of books for this. For this, if you want, you can read NCERT and NIU books, these books are available online for free. 3. Keep these things in mind while selecting subjects- Study of the subject is most important in Civil Services Examination, therefore, while selecting the subject, keep in mind whether you have interest in that subject or not. Although no subject is impossible to study, still it is beneficial for you to choose the subject in which you are interested. Civil Services Examination Since the syllabus is huge, one has to study throughout the year. Therefore, it is important to study throughout the year following the plan. 4.Concentration is necessary for studies- To crack the Civil Services Examination, it is important that you remain focused towards your goal. Because Civil Services exam is not a banking or SSC exam in which success is achieved by rote learning. Therefore, to prepare for this exam, you will have to make sacrifices, without this you cannot do anything in this exam. you two to three will have to be paid for civil service. During these years you will have to study regularly every day. 5. How much reading is necessary? Although one year is enough for the Civil Services Examination, people also take two to three years. It depends on the capacity of different people as to how much they can study. Therefore, it is important to study for at least 6 hours every day. Many times it happens that you get demotivated while preparing, hence read motivational books. How people live around you has a lot to do with your life. It does impact. If there are negative people around you, then try to stay away from such people as much as possible. Be with people who make you feel good. 6.Is it necessary to go to Delhi? You must have also heard from people that for UPSC preparation it is necessary to go to Delhi and take coaching. But let us tell you that you can prepare for civil services even while staying at home. You just have to bring a little change in your life and you can pass the civil services exam even while staying at home with proper study material. to go out and study You also have your own tensions, so you can study even while staying in your city. If you want, you can also take some coaching. 7. Along with studies, practice of writing is also important- Along with reading, you also have to practice writing because after clearing the pre-exam, you have to appear in the mains exam in which you have to write. Try to write briefly on any topic in about 200 words. The more you try to write, the more your writing style will improve and there will be fewer mistakes in grammar. Have a plan B ready millions Candidates prepare for UPSC exam, but not all are successful in it. In such a situation, if you are not able to pass the exam then you should keep Plan B ready. While preparing for UPSC, you must have studied world history, politics, geography, economy, moral principles, various philosophers and revolutionaries, these subjects will be helpful for your future. Maintaining a positive attitude towards life and having clarity of purpose will always motivate you to live a good life.
Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist MALOUT punjab.

Bani -Hinterland Abode for nature lovers

■ NASEEB KR BHAGAT
Bani tehsil of district kathua which is located 236km away from Jammu. It touched its border with Bhaderwah district in one side and Dalhousie- a famous hill station of Himachal pardesh on other side. upper reaches of mountains remain covered with snow melting of which provide water for many perennial streams. The pristine environment of Bani is characterized by lush green meadows, perennial rivulets, waterfalls, springs which are quite abundant to ensure year around water supply for locals. Bani town is situated along the left bank of sewa river- a tributary of Ravi river over which 120MW hydroelectric project sewa is built upon. The mesmerizing scenic beauty of vegetative view of this valley one can enjoy in summer especially May -July. The temperature and climatic conditions of this place is of temperate type and quite similar with those of nearby located hill stations such as Dalhousie, Bhaderwah. The ethnic phaadi culture of Bani shows remarkable simple lifestyle closely interwoven with nature and natural practices. Local folks and ceremonies involves rhythmic beating of drums, flutes, raadshinka. The road connectivity easily available from multiple routes to reach this glaciated valley either from Pathankot via Damera or via Billawar can be accessible through all weather road. Bani to Bhaderwah although the road connectivity is available only in summer as it receive heavy snowfall in winter and road connectivity cut off The public transport is available only in summer from Bani to bhaderwah. Clad of meadows

and agarian pathches at distict location adds beauty to fascinating nature. One witness the transition in vegetation while moving from kathua towards Bani with altitudinal grading from sub tropical to temperate. Rhododendron, Quereus, Deodar, Chestnut chir-pine trees are quite abundant naturally on hilly slopes of Bani. Wild fruits aakhrey, simlu, taneju, berberis, wild strawberries, himalyan wild cherries, laatich. Shaddy places along water channels idle place for growth of edible fern locally called kasrood. Among horticultural crop pears, peaches apples, apricots cultivated by fruit growers. local desi varieties of maize mustards, rice is grown in substantive capacity. The crops of wheat, barley maize, oats, mustard is quite common and its purely organic farming free from use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The Bamboo basket tied on shoulders by locals can be seen while performing agricultural activities be it dispersal of compost or collection of grains from agricultural farms. One can find number of water mills along the tributaries of sewa river which is source of livelihood for many. The ethnic culture of local is closely interwoven with ecofriendly practices weather its agrofarming or domestication of cattles. Sheep and goat domestication is prime occupation of locals and source of wool, milk and meat. The natural mud pools and ponds constructed by locals and watershed maintained by Rural deptt can be seen at several place which used by nomadic tribes for their cattles. Seasonal migration of these tribal people along with their flocks takes place twice a year in summer from plain to hills and reverse in winter.

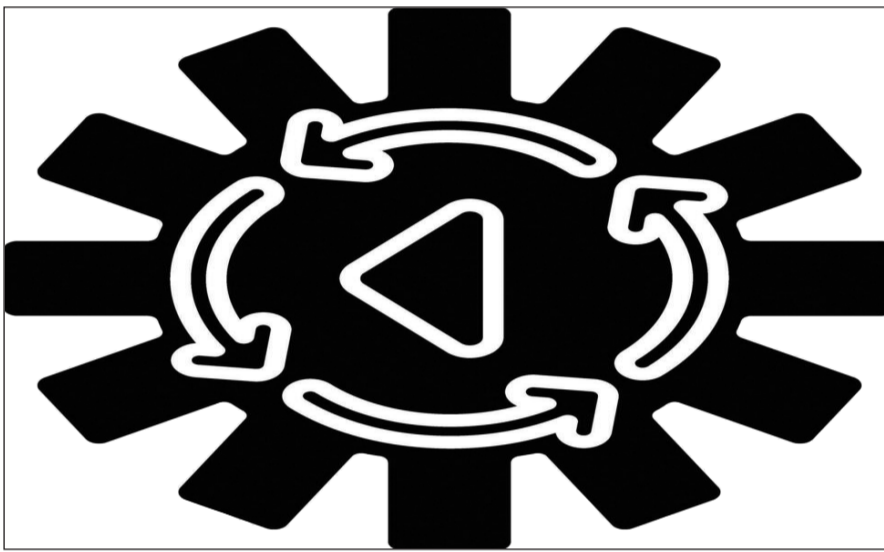
On The hill slopes you can find herds of sheeps and goats in summer. Rough terrain and topography attract tourists mainly bikers and trekker. It is also base camp of trekkers for Bhaderwah, chamba etc. Religious spots includes nag temple (Tringlot), Jodya mata shrine , Dholley mata shrine Sheelta mata temple are popular religious sites of the Bani. The whistlings of perennials waterfalls are further attractions and fulfill the demand of water supply . chilla dhar is easily accessible tourist spot located at top of mountains. The lush green meadow and majestic woods of rhododendron Quereus all around. This place is halt point on the way to famous religious shrine of Jodey Mata where langar service is available for a particular period.the upper reaches of dhok used by the people for farming and grazing of cattles only in summer: laevender farming initiated by agriculture deptt is also located at this spot. it needs to be developed further and bring on the tourism map of Jammu and Kashmir: It has great tourism potential which will not only boost econmy of UT but also helps in raising income level of locals. Sarthal valley is another spot which one can enjoy enrout from Bani to Bhaderwah. The local festivals and dangals (sej) still quite popular here. Local folk songs which retained and maintained the ethnic Pahadi culture.It is also famous as mini Kashmir of Kathua district. Author is Astt Prof in environmental science, (GDC Bani)

INDEMNIFICATION OF LOSS

■ PURAN CHAND SHARMA
In this mortal world we find that all the usual operations of the human beings are carried out on the principle of profit, loss and compensation. In the event of some loss being caused to the fellow travellers as a sequel to the fault, negligence and any kind of wrong doing of the other person, then the person is legally liable to pay the damages or the loss incurred by the other party. However , there are some type of losses which cannot be compensated or indemnified in terms of money or reasonable compensation. Sometimes while navigating through the muddy waters of this phenomenal world we become so haughty and arrogant that being inebriated by the fake and unreal pleasures of the human kingdom wilfully inflict loss on others and project ourselves as if we are capable of paying indemnity for any kind of loss as sequel to our monetary richness. A short moral story would certainly enlighten our path while accomplishing our universal odyssey and can prove to be a potent game changer :- "Once there lived a weaver in a village. His only source of livelihood was to sell his woven clothes to make both ends meet. He was calm and composed, never lost his temper despite grave provocation. Once a bevy of children hit upon a plan to do mischief with the poor weaver. They approached him with a view to see as to how he would resist his anger. One of the boy in the group belonged to a very rich family, whose parents possessed huge wealth. On reaching close to the weaver ,he enquired about the cost of one SARHI. Weaver said, " cost of one Sarhi is Rs. 10/- ." On hearing this, high headed boy tore the new sarhi into two pieces and arrogantly spoke that 'I REQUIRE ONLY HALF PIECE OF SARHI AND NOT THE WHOLE OF IT'. He further asked , what would you charge for it. The weaver very sweetly said, Rs.5/- only. Thereafter that mischievous boy cut the remaining

piece into two and asked for the price. In reply thereof, weaver humbly replied it is Rs. 2.5 only. Soon after, he mercilessly and savagely continued to cut the entire SARHI into numerous tiny pieces and resultantly the entire well woven Sarhi was spoiled and rendered into a kind of discarded trash. In damaged Sarhi, it will not affect and impact me at all but how you would sustain this loss. It shall make your life more miserable. But the Boy did not come round and insisted for indemnification of loss. The weaver saint smilingly spoke, " you can not compensate this loss, just think!! A farmer had to put in tremendous hard work to produce cotton for this Sarhi, then my Better Half worked very hard to clean this cotton to make it worthy of weaving into a lovely Sarhi. After going through the strenuous process, it was ready for dyeing /colouring which I did religiously and meticulously weaved it into a charming Sarhi. Listen my child, the concerted efforts of the farmer, my wife and all others connected with this noble work would have fruited if some one in the society would wear it with all the humility and grace. But you tore it into pieces, no amount of money or wealth can make good this loss and its indemnification in terms of money is next to impossible in this perishable world. These words being uttered by the

weaver were fully charged with magnetic mercifulness and gentlemanliness. The so called uncultured boy was visibly shaken from head to toe and the electric current of positive transformation got instantly and powerfully triggered in him. The tears rolled down from his eyes he prostrated on the feet of the saint weaver, who lifted him , deeply embraced him in his arms and gently thumping his back pronounced these inspiring words, " Dear sibling!! Had I accepted compensatory amount from you, it would have been sufficient enough for me to smoothly get on with life but your life might have been shattered on similar pattern of that Sarhi having been slashed into pieces by you. It was grossly wasted and rendered useless for one and all. My one Sarhi has been spoiled , I shall make another one but once one life is ruined out of sheer arrogance and inflated ego, from where you will manage another one. Your self realization and sense of repentance for the immoral act is the most valuable asset for me. The saint's divine thought process and perseverance transformed the life a very haughty and obnoxious child. " Our country BHARAT , since ages, has been a blessed land of Gods, Seers , Sages ,Rishis and Thinkers. We have imbibed their value system and traditions in our ethos through various forms, fetes and festivals . The inspirational moral of the story is " If we change , the whole world would change." The inference drawn is ' Self correction or reformation is the greatest service in this temporal but complicated world.' However, in normal course we observe that vast chunk of people want all others to change except themselves. This trend can be reversed if we turn our focus on preserving the cultural and traditional treasure of our values and beliefs which seeks to promote cultural cohesion and national spirit among children and youth. This is crying need of the hour. Jai Bharat



the end he spoke , " These torn pieces of Sarhi are of no use to me, therefore , I am not interested to buy them." The weaver stayed calm and said , Dear son , you apart, these torn pieces of Sarhi are of no use to anyone else as well. On hearing this , the haughty Boy felt ashamed and said that I have caused huge loss to you, therefore, I would pay the full cost of the of the whole sarhi. Then the saint weaver said, " when you have not purchased the Sarhi, how I can charge its price from you? This statement of Saint weaver ignited the ego of that boy and he started boasting of his family's colossal wealth and riches , simultaneously addressed the weaver as very poor man making him realize that if I pay the cost of the

put in tremendous hard work to produce cotton for this Sarhi, then my Better Half worked very hard to clean this cotton to make it worthy of weaving into a lovely Sarhi. After going through the strenuous process, it was ready for dyeing /colouring which I did religiously and meticulously weaved it into a charming Sarhi. Listen my child, the concerted efforts of the farmer, my wife and all others connected with this noble work would have fruited if some one in the society would wear it with all the humility and grace. But you tore it into pieces, no amount of money or wealth can make good this loss and its indemnification in terms of money is next to impossible in this perishable world. These words being uttered by the

Ram Mohan: The Golden Man

■ SUJIT DE
Buddha taught the middle way, and Socrates told us to know "how to choose the mean and avoid the extremes on either side, as far as possible." Raja Ram Mohan Roy was the embodiment of this golden middle way or golden mean. When the Eastern extremes equated orthodoxy, prejudices, and superstitions with their identity and the Western extremes took liquor and licentiousness for liberty, Ram Mohan Roy followed the golden middle way. He was against blind clinging to India's own past or aping of the West. Ram Mohan, who first took India to the road to modernity, was born on 22 May 1772. He said that India should acquire all that was best in the East and the West. He had great respect for the traditional philosophic systems of the East and believed that the Western culture alone would regenerate Indian society. He rightly said that the caste system was doubly evil as it created inequality and

deprived divided people of patriotic feeling. Interestingly, he disappointed his many missionary friends who had hoped that his rational critique of Hinduism would ferry him to embrace Christianity. But they did not realise his golden mean. He wrote 'Precepts of Jesus' in which he praised the moral and philosophic message of the New Testament but criticised its miracle stories. This earned him the hostility of the missionaries. He had to face hostility from all orthodox quarters for his rational outlook. In fact, he had to fight with his relatives, rich zamindars, powerful missionaries, high officials, and foreign authorities all along. But he never gave up his crusade for guiding India in her darkest hour. The orthodox condemned him and organised a social boycott against him. There is no wonder in it as Dabholkar, Pansare, Kalburgi, and Gauri Lankesh were killed in the twenty first century for running with the torch which was lit by Ram Mohan.

they too could enjoy the fruits of the Permanent Settlement of 1793. At the same time, he also demanded the abolition of the Company's trading rights and export duties on Indian goods. He raised his voice for the separation of the executive and the judiciary, trial by jury, and judicial equality between Indians and Europeans. He founded the Brahmo Samaj. Again, it was a middle way and a synthesis of reason, the Vedas, Upanishads, and the teachings of other religions. It believed in one God and laid emphasis on human dignity, opposed idolatry, and criticised social evils. He was a firm believer in internationalism. Tagore rightly said, "Ram Mohan was the only person in his time, in the whole world of man, to realise completely the significance of the Modern Age." Sri Aurobindo said that when he was writing Yogic Sdhan, every time at the beginning, and at the end, the image of Ram Mohan Roy came before him.

YOUR COLUMN
POLITICAL LEADERS' PREDICTIONS
Dear Editor,
Politicians are always busy in predicting the future of their rival politicians. Their prediction-sprees level reaches its crescendo on the eve of elections. Overestimation of seats for their parties and underestimation of seats for their rival parties are quite common. Politics is the seat of sycophancy of their leaders to curry favour and it is also the seat of hate speeches. Mudslinging has been integral part of politics. Today's political friend may be tomorrow's political foe and vice versa. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal predicted his own arrest even long before he was arrested. His 'prediction' came true. He says "Mark my words: If BJP wins on June 4..... next year Modi will turn 75 and so will retire (as per the rule he himself set)". Wins or loses, Modi turning 75 when time comes cannot be halted. Victory on June 4 or on anyday has nothing to do with the continuance of life journey. Kejriwal predicts that Amit Shah will be made the Prime Minister and Yogi Adityanath will be removed as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister. Further, he says that Supriya Sule, Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray, Aditya Thackeray will all be sent to jail. When he predicted his own arrest, it came true because probably Kejriwal knew that the gravity of his crime would land him in

jail. If he predicts the arrest of others, probably he is knowing the gravity of the crime committed by them also. AICC President Mallikarjuna Kharge predicts that BJP won't cross 200 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. He further adds "Dalits, tribals will again become slaves if Modi, Shah get third term". What does he mean for 'again'? Are the Dalits and tribals slave now? Governments irrespective of the parties in power are not denying any benefits to the weaker sections. Kharge needs to be reminded that a tribal has been made the President of India and a Muslim was made the President of India by the BJP-led coalition government. Is Congress prepared to make him the Prime Minister if INDIA bloc comes to power? Is Siddaramaiah prepared to give up his seat in favour of dalits when there are many many efficient and competent dalits to give good governance? He further says that if I.N.D.I.A. bloc stays united, BJP will be nowhere to be seen. Instead of staying together and then falling apart, it would be better if all the constituents of the I.N.D.I.A. bloc come together under one umbrella and fight the BJP if the BJP in power is troubling them so much. Too many parties with different ideologies can hardly stand and stay together. Even if I.N.D.I.A. bloc wins and forms the government, the stability of the government cannot be guaranteed and all the constituents of the bloc may pull in different directions and ultimately cause the fall of the government if the chunk develops. Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has views that BJP may not win more than 200 seats whereas INDI alliance would cross 300 seats. While Rahul Gandhi

predicts 150 seats for NDA, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah 'gives' 200-220 seats to NDA. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has been dreaming of AAP being a part of the government at centre on June 4 if INDI alliance wins. But he has not used the word 'if'. Understandably, Mann is under impression that I.N.D.I.A. bloc has already won the election but only the official announcement is awaited. There are no permanent alliances but only permanent interests in politics. "Modi won't be the Prime Minister after poll results", says the Congress leader Shashi Tharoor. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh predicts that Modi is outgoing Prime Minister. This is true. One day or the other anyone holding any post must go. Not necessarily it should be now. Election strategist Prashanth Kumar sees clean sweep for NDA in Lok Sabha polls. In 2019, Congress leader Janardhan Poojary had said that Modi would rule for another two terms. If that is to happen, BJP has to come to power in 2024 election also. The time is fast approaching to know whether the prediction of Poojary comes true. It must be recalled that the Congress leader late Sheila Dixit had said that Manmohan Singh was no stronger than Modi. In February 2019, Congress leader Sushmita Dev had 'foreseen' the formation of Congress government in that year. But it did not happen. Politicians' predictions are like trains running without rails under the wheels. Yours faithfully, K.V. SEETHARAMAIAH