

GREEN ENERGY

A green energy strategy outlines a comprehensive plan for transitioning to renewable and sustainable sources of energy while minimizing environmental impact and promoting economic growth. Such a strategy typically involves a multifaceted approach that addresses various aspects of energy production, distribution, consumption, and policy.

The cornerstone of any green energy strategy is a significant investment in renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, hydroelectric, and geothermal power. This involves incentivizing the development and deployment of renewable energy technologies through subsidies, tax incentives, grants, and research funding.

To support the transition to renewable energy, there needs to be substantial investment in infrastructure development. This includes upgrading and expanding transmission and distribution networks to accommodate decentralized renewable energy generation, as well as investing in energy storage technologies to address intermittency issues associated with renewables.

Improving energy efficiency is a crucial component of a green energy strategy as it helps reduce overall energy demand and minimize waste. This can be achieved through measures such as building retrofits, appliance standards, industrial efficiency programs, and public awareness campaigns promoting energy conservation.

Accelerating the electrification of transportation is essential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. This involves incentivizing the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs), expanding EV charging infrastructure, promoting public transportation and active transportation modes such as walking and cycling, and phasing out fossil fuel-powered vehicles.

East or West Home Is The Best

■ TARA CHAND BHAGAT

If we turn the old pages of the primordial times of the Indian history it reveals that history itself is a testimony that the living of human beings is as old as Indian civilization and very much gives information about the life of the early man's living based on evidences that the human beings like animals used to live in the forests and also used to live in caves in order to be saved from the harsh effects of hot and cold weather for the sustainability of his life . There were no houses either in the form of thatched houses or even kutcha houses to be lived in in the early times of the human beings. With the passage of time slowly and gradually some of the tribes started living on the plain areas along the banks of rivers or lakes making/ constructing their kutcha or thatched houses.

As the period of time got changing ; the human beings' mind also got changed and he started living in wooden houses , jounparies , huts etc. Once he accidentally invented fire by rubbing two stones against each other . Fire provided him not only warmth from the cold but also provided safety from the wild animals . Moreover , he was able to roast raw food or meat of killed animals . Gradually he became a food producer moving close to water bodies' sources like rivers , lakes etc.

In India the remains of this period have been found in the regions of Upper Indus and Upper Narmada i.e. the old civilization of living revealed that human beings had progressed much more in the style of his living than that the living of the earlier times. Now, my idea switches over the living of magnificent palatial houses of the kings of princely states of India. These kings had made their life to be more comfortable with the style of living in such big forts than those of common subjects . Their royalty of life was at the cost of hard working of the poor masses .

Like the kings , I make a mention of living of big traders, businessmen whose living also used to be showing off their riches , amassing of wealth beyond any limits . These big businessmen and traders could not contribute for the upliftment and amelioration of the common masses as is being done now during the regime of Modi government.

Now I would like to discuss enjoyment of multi-storeyed buildings called as flats . Their living is very much within limits albeit the occupants of the flats enjoy every kind of facility going up and down through lifts , recreational activities are there for them to be enjoyed ,parks are there for their loitering , exercising and basking in the Sun .

Further the most comfortable living during the period of 20th century in the form of kutcha houses which were hygienically fit for human living beyond of any doubts . Those houses used to be constructed airy- i.e. cool in Summer season, warm in Winter season and free from epidemics diseases during the Rainy season . The walls of those houses used to be pasted , plastered with white clay and flooring of those used to be plastered with cow-dung which was considered antiseptic for effects , to be good for healthy living and free from prone to various communicable as well as non- communicable diseases. My dear grandparents used to tell me the advantages to be the enjoyment of peace of mind in the living of those wonderful houses .

he people who enjoy the life of very open farm-houses are the politicians, IAS Officers, big traders and businessmen and big landlords are really such type of rich people who enjoy their living on big farm-houses because of having landed property.

Lastly , Let me discuss about the living to be in concrete houses. I mean to say that living of concrete houses is not only hard and uncomfortable but also harmful to the norms of health as these houses of modern times need to be warmed during the winter season by being fitted with electrical gadgets like those of heaters, geyzers, installment of ACs which itself are detrimental to be healthy lifestyle. Similar is the case in the Summer season these houses also need to be cooled with ACs , fans etc. then and only then one can enjoy comfortable living . More so these houses' floors , walls have been tiled with so many variety of colours which necessarily need to be kept neat and clean for its beautiful look . It is also pertinent to mention here that these marbled houses which cause slippery , fatal because of being multi-storeyed buildings also fall prey to earthquakes of large Richter scale degrees. Last but not least I would like to narrating an interesting and truly believable story about such a little bird who is so-called an engineering bird or a Bregaari Chidiya in Dogri language that makes its wonderful nest weaving into like that of an engineer feats ,binding that nest with thinner branch of a sheesham tree and after its completion it makes two holes-one for coming in other for going out. This little bird gets as much satisfaction and enjoyment to be living in it as human beings can't get to be in their palacial houses.When wind runs that nest swings as if a little bird were living in a heaven.It plans to be made it with that tree that had grown near pond of water which even if humans cannot approach to be got it easily. Such is the wisdom of that little bird.It is also free from dangers posed by any big birds. It is worth living for it in all weathers be it harsh winter or hotter summer.

In the light of above mentioned types of different living standards ; wheresoever one goes to four directions - East, West, North , South for one's journey does never have as much peace of mind as one gets in his own constructed house be it 3 and half marlas of house or more than that of ; So this universal proverb sits very well that "East Or West Home Is The Best."

A third term for PM Modi soon after winning 2024 elections



■ Y V SHARMA

India, our great nation, is in the midst of keenly contested general elections for the Lok Sabha right now. The results will determine the direction of the country not only for the near future, but also for the run-up to the centenary celebrations of the country's independence in 2047 & well beyond.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dived headlong into the election campaign for his party to ensure that it wins the elections. Modi is breaking all barriers of human endurance & is visible in road shows, addressing hugely attended political gatherings, notwithstanding the rising summer temperatures. He is facing dust & grime of the countryside as also giving interviews to various TV channels. He is doing it with an ease that is unprecedented.

His interaction with the TV channels during the election campaign has been highly informative. He has addressed several questions floating in the minds of the people as well as outlined his vision for the future of the country. His focus on several difficult issues facing the world & the country is heart-warming and in sharp contrast to the position adopted by the opposition leaders. The opposition parties are focused on removing the PM & the BJP from the government. However, they have failed to provide any alternative roadmap for the country. At times whenever they have tried to draw some roadmap, it is only focused on dividing the civilizational ethos of the country, rather than consolidating it.

One such example is the opposition views about caste census & their related slogans on the issue. They have been saying that the resources of the country shall be divided amongst the people based upon their population. That is not all though as the

Congress election manifesto says it will ensure the "minorities" receive opportunities in "public work contracts". Rahul Gandhi spoke about his intentions that had potential of dividing the Hindus.

In sharp contrast, PM Modi has taken a position that his concept of India of 2047 is that of a developed nation incorporating the concept of "Sabka Saathi, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas". He does not want to see divisions among people on the basis of caste, culture, language & and religious. He does not want these divisions and segments of society being used as captive vote banks. Modi is clear that during his third tenure as PM, India is going to become third largest economy in the world, a steep rise from the 15th position when he took over in 2014.

One more point that the PM has made regularly is regarding "one nation, one election". He has said that for the wellbeing of the country, it is important that it is not always in the election mode. That keeps positive energies of the country continuously being dissipated. He said that it is his conviction that the country should have elections only once in five years. That way, the energies of the nation are focused on its development for four & a half years and only six months are devoted to elections. During these six months, political parties rough it out in the electoral field providing their programmes & perspectives to the electorate to garner votes.

The PM was asked about the perception game being played by the opposition parties who time & again throw the gauntlet of his perceived closeness to industrialists, the Adanis & Ambanis. The PM has been very candid in his response. He said that he is not close to any of the industrialists, but he respects the wealth creators of the country. He said that he not only respects the wealth creators but also the common man & the labourers alike who sweat it out for giving shape to the dreams of the country into a

reality. He said that he has an equal respect for the managers of such organizations too who use their intellect to give shape to the aspirations & dreams of the countrymen & implement them on the ground.

He said that for him the wealth creator, the management & the labourers are equally worthy of worship. Modi said he has no hesitation in recognizing & respecting the talents, be it in the field of industry, sports, science & technology, or any other field. He said that it is this commitment of his that has brought out about 25 crore of fellow Indians from poverty line.

The PM said that his commitment towards zero tolerance towards corruption will not change, irrespective of what the opposition parties say. He said that the people of the country are witness to the tumbling out of unaccounted currency notes, worth hundreds & thousands of crores of rupees, from the homes & almshouses of politicians of opposition parties & their supporters. As such, raids by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) & CBI are necessary.

The most candid part of the PM in recent times has been on Kashmir. It is a fact that around 40% of registered voters participated in the elections to the Parliamentary seat of Srinagar. This was the highest turnout of voters in Srinagar in several decades. In Baramulla Lok Sabha segment, the voting percentage was above 59%, never ever witnessed right since 1967. There was no bandh call nor any stone pelting. The Prime Minister said that it is because of the policies of his government that there is a perceptible change in the situation on the ground.

The touchstone of improvement in situation would be a comparison in numbers of youth who died during the period 2004 & 2014 during the UPA rule & the 2014 - 2024 period during the NDA rule. He said that it is the prayers of the mothers of these

youth, who are striving for development of J&K in particular & the country in general, during the NDA rule, that are more valuable to him than disruptions in internet etc. He said that his government is committed to restoring statehood to J&K but that depends upon the situations that evolve & not necessarily the political position. To prove his point, he gave an analogy that if you don't sow your wheat seeds in an agricultural field at the right time then the chances are that you may lose the seeds as well. Thus, he said that appropriate steps shall be taken at an appropriate time.

He said that by taking requisite & innovative steps, his government has been able to stop the youth from treading on the wrong & dangerous path.

The PM was very worried about the drug problem in Punjab & was highly appreciative of the valour of the Sikh community. He said that his government has ensured women empowerment & women led development in the country. He said that when the Egyptian President witnessed women contingents at the Republic Day parade passing by the saluting dais, he said that if this is not women empowerment then what else is!!

The Lok Sabha elections are now on their way to coming to a close. BJP in general & PM Modi have taken steps to ensure that the message of the party reaches far & wide. He has also tried to showcase the record of their 10 years of service to the nation before the electorate. The government's steadfast role during the COVID pandemic & at times of confrontation with China & Pakistan is there for everyone to see.

Although, every party is trying its best, yet Modi government is sure to get great majority a third time when the results are announced on June 4.

(The author is spokesperson of BJP in Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.)

Integrated Farming System (IFS) for Sustainable Agricultural Growth

■ DR BANARSI LAL

Agriculture is the mainstay of Union Territory of J&K and livelihood of majority of population of this Union Territory revolves around agriculture. J&K is endowed with a wide range of agro-climatic conditions which are conducive for growing different kinds of crops. J&K has inherent agricultural potential.

Agricultural development harbingers the overall growth and development of this Union Territory. J&K is a mountainous Union Territory in which about 30 per cent of the area is under cultivation. Judicious use of land is necessary to mitigate the growing needs of the increasing population of this UT by keeping the sustainability of soils, ecosystems and environment in view. The average size of land holding of the J&K is only 0.54 hectare as against 1.33 hectares' land holding size on national basis. The agro-diversity of J&K varies from sub-tropical in Jammu region and temperate in Kashmir region. The average annual rainfall of these two regions is 1069mm and 660mm. The average temperatures of these two regions are 24.5 and 13.3 Centigrade respectively. Maize, wheat, paddy, pulses, oilseeds, potato and okra are the main crops of J&K. The farmers of J&K are now shifting towards high value crops such as flowers, vegetables, aromatic and medicinal plants, mushrooms etc. In some pockets of J&K Basmati rice, Rajmash, saffron, honey beekeeping etc. are also cultivated. Major part of J&K suffers from lack of irrigation facilities, remoteness, lack of transportation facilities, regular soil erosion, inaccessibility of quality agro-inputs etc. Lack of storage facilities, small size of land holdings, lack of agri-entrepreneurships, inaccessible terrains, lack of market networks, lack of farm mechanisation etc. are the other constraints for the farmers. These constraints hamper to increase the agricultural production in J&K and it further effects the income and employment generation in the rural areas. Although the production, productivity and area under different crops have increased over the years but still the development is slow. Cropping intensity of Jammu region is 176 per cent whereas in Kashmir region it is 123 per cent. The agriculture being less remunerative profession is unable to attract the rural youths of J&K towards agriculture. They are migrating towards urban areas to earn their livelihood. There is dire need to make some strenuous efforts to make agriculture a more remunerative profession. The aver-

age size of holding in India has been declining and over 80 out of 105 millions operational holdings are now below the size of 1.00 ha. With the increasing pressure of burgeoning human population, only the vertical expansion is possible by integrating appropriate farming components requiring lesser space and time and ensuring periodic income to the farmer. The integrated farming system therefore, assumes greater importance for the sound management of farm resources to enhance the farm productivity, improve the quality of resource poor farmers and to maintain sustainability. Integrated Farming System is considered as one of the best option towards intensification of small holder farm income to ensure sustainable livelihood.

In the Union Territory of J&K, small and marginal farmers are considered as the key for the food production. Their capacity building is essential for the rural prosperity. These farmers have low income, less storage facilities, lack of farm mechanization and less market accessibility. They do less re-investment on the farm activities. These farmers are greatly influenced by the weather and natural calamities such as floods, dry spells, land sliding etc. There is dire need to improve the income of these farmers by introducing the new interventions and by the adoption of scientific dairy farming, vegetables growing, mushroom cultivation, beekeeping, fisheries etc. An Integrated Farming System (IFS) approach mixes two or more components judiciously using cardinal principles of minimum competition and maximum complementarity with advanced agronomic management tools aiming for sustainable and environment friendly improvement of farm income, family nutrition and ecosystem services. In Integrated Farming System preservation of bio-diversity, diversification of cropping system and maximum recycling of farm produce are taken due care. Integrated Farming System (IFS) keeps the soil alive and it provides the sustainable support to farm and family through effective management of natural resources.

In Integrated Farming System, soil health is maintained by the application of need based use of chemicals, use of organic and biological fertilizers, use of crop residues as mulch, by the crop rotation, multiple cropping, by avoiding excessive tilling and keeping soil covered with green cover or biological mulch. Temperature of soil is maintained by the soil covers, plant

trees, orchards and bushes/plants on the bunds of fields. In an IFS model, soil and water conservation are taken extra care by creating percolation tanks, ponds, contour bunds etc. Under IFS different cropping systems are adopted with plantations. Mostly own seeds are developed and compost, vermicompost, vermiwash, liquid manures and botanical extracts are made by the farmers themselves. Diversity is maintained in an IFS and minimum uses of chemicals are permitted. Animals are the important component of an IFS .Animals provide not only the animals' products but also dung and urine to be used in the soil. It helps to increase the fertility of the soil. Biogas, solar energy and other eco-friendly machines can also be used in an Integrated Farming System (IFS). Farm wastes are recycled effectively. An IFS mitigates the basic needs of the family such as food, fuel, fiber, fodder etc. throughout the year and creates market surplus. Beekeeping, mushroom cultivation, dairy farming, on farm processing and value addition etc. can provide income to the family throughout the year. An intentional integrated farming system aims to increase the production, reduces the cost of cultivation, increases profit, increases family nutrition, develops sustainability, ensures ecological security and creates employment.

Small farms can be expanded by integrating appropriate farming system components requiring less space and time. It can ensure diversified options of food and nutrition in the rural areas besides providing protection against the market price fluctuations, weather vagaries, reducing dependency on market for inputs, ensuring periodic income and employment to the farmers. Integrated Farming System (IFS) helps to increase the yield and economics/unit time/unit area by virtue of intensification of crops and allied enterprises. Many successful cases of IFS have been observed in India with the excellent results. The results have shown that that integration of crops with poultry and cattle resulted in higher productivity than cropping alone. The animal component yields manure, milk and poultry birds gives eggs which are additional contributors for the farm income. If fish farming is integrated in the system that will provide income and protein supplement to the family thus helps to improve the health status of the family members. In order to upscale the Integrated Farming System (IFS) focus should be given on market-oriented diversi-

fication and livelihood improvements. Demonstration of model IFS can help to upscale the technology and many new farmers can come forward to adopt it. There is need to focus on plant, livestock and human health rather focusing only on soil health. There is need of capacity building on Integrated Farming System (IFS) of farmers and extension functionaries. Location specific livestock components need to be introduced. Monthly income should be ensured/improved by the Integrated Farming System. Less land requiring components such as mushroom and beekeeping should be stressed under Integrated Farming System.

In Integrated farming system we can make use of recyclable waste material of one component as input for other thus reducing the cost of cultivation. Recycling of farm wastes also reduces the market dependency for inputs. In 0.2 ha of farm, one cow and one buffalo, 150 poultry birds, a fisheries pond and one vermicompost unit can be kept. It will give a good income and security to the farmer because if one component fails due to any reason, he can get the income from another component. An IFS unit gives employment to the family members throughout the year without much lean. Beekeeping, mushroom, floriculture and agro processing units can be established in an Integrated Farming System unit. The crops grown such as cereals, pulses, oilseeds, dairy, fisheries, vegetables and fruits give economic and nutritional security to the family members and also their dependency on market for these products will certainly be reduced. The fodder and feed produced from the farm will also help to keep the animals healthy. All this will save the money of the farmer and help him to increase his income. In an IFS unit nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and micro-nutrients can be generated at the farm by recycling the farm residue. It helps to keep the farm soil healthy without expenses. IFS model also helps to reduce the risks involved in farming especially due to market price fluctuations as well as natural calamities. In an Integrated Farming System, the price crash of one or two crop produce may not affect the economy of the household.IFS approach can empower the small and marginal farmers of J&K by generating livelihoods.

(The writer is Sr.Scientist & Head of KVK, Reasi Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology- Jammu).

YOUR COLUMN

An illiterate gets 99.7 per cent in SSLC Examination

Dear Editor,

A case of totally illiterate student passing the S.S.L.C. Examination with distinction has come to light. This news has been going viral. The name of the student is Prabhu Lokare. He has 'scored' 623 marks out of 625. It is 99.7 in terms of percentage. A case has been reportedly registered in Koppala on April 26. He is an employee in Koppala JMFC Court. On the strength of the marks card showing 623 marks out of 625 marks, he has secured a peon's job in District Sessions court. The criteria for the selection of Peon's post is that the candidate should have passed S.S.L.C. with good percentage of marks. Since the marks obtained by him are too high, he was selected. As he was working in his court, the Magistrate had known the employee's "ability" to read and write. Suspecting foulplay at the marks seen in the marks

card, the JMFC Magistrate has ordered the police for an enquiry in the case with regard to his educational qualifications. The history of the case is that Prabhu was working as a scavenger in the JMFC Court of Koppala in Raichur district for the last few years. He has been selected for the post of Peon in District and Sessions Judge court on April 22. After passing the 7th standard examination, the employee is reported to have directly written the 10th standard (SSLC) examination skipping 8th and 9th standard as per rules. He knows neither to read nor to write Kannada, Hindi or English. It has been opined that the so high marks obtained by a person who knows neither to read and write Kannada, Hindi or English have done grave injustice to the hard-working students. Since the future of other students is affected due to the passing of such persons with very high percentage of marks, it has been rightly suspected that the marks could not have been obtained without conniving with the authorities concerned.

A detailed enquiry has been ordered including comparing his handwriting with the handwriting in the answer sheet. When the TV-9 staff contacted Prabhu, he has reportedly pleaded that he had attended to a private examination centre in 2017-18 in Banahatti of Bagalkot District conducted by Delhi

Education Examination Board. The veracity of the truth can be known by thorough enquiry only. It is not the examination conducted by the Karnataka Education Board, according to Prabhu's own confession. Even if it is true that it was Delhi Education Examination Board, the percentage of marks obtained raises eyebrows of anybody considering his inability to read and write Kannada, Hindi or English. In that case, he has also failed to meet with the criteria to pass the S.S.L.C. examination which was considered to be necessary for selection to the post of Peon in the District court.

An illiterate obtaining marks almost 100 per cent reminds the oft-repeated statement by Master Hirannaiah, a noted Kannada Playwright.

He quite often used to say in the dialogue scripted by himself for his dramas "Give me money, I will get you your own death certificate and place it in your hand". Master Hirannaiah played many dramas targeting corruption in government offices. It is obvious that in this case money has played pivotal role in getting 623 marks out of 625 marks to an illiterate. If some more money had been shelled out by the candidate, perhaps he would have got the remaining 2 marks also.

K.V. Seetharamaiah