

## NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Nuclear weapons represent one of the most potent and controversial forms of military technology ever developed. These weapons harness the power of nuclear reactions to produce explosive force on a scale unparalleled by conventional weapons. In the 21st century, the proliferation, disarmament, and potential use of nuclear weapons remain critical global issues. The development of nuclear weapons began during World War II, culminating in the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The devastation caused by these attacks led to widespread recognition of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear warfare, sparking efforts to control and regulate nuclear weapons. Since then, nuclear weapons have played a central role in global geopolitics. During the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union engaged in a nuclear arms race, amassing vast arsenals of nuclear weapons as a deterrent against each other. The doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) emerged, positing that the possession of large nuclear arsenals by both superpowers would prevent either side from initiating a nuclear attack out of fear of retaliation. Despite the end of the Cold War, nuclear proliferation remains a concern. Several countries, including Russia, China, the United Kingdom, France, India, Pakistan, Israel, and North Korea, possess nuclear weapons. Efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons have been undertaken through international agreements such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament. However, challenges to nuclear non-proliferation persist. Some states, such as North Korea, have pursued nuclear weapons in defiance of international norms and sanctions. The possibility of non-state actors, such as terrorist groups, acquiring nuclear weapons or materials also presents a significant security threat.

Efforts to prevent the use of nuclear weapons include arms control agreements, diplomatic initiatives, and confidence-building measures. Multilateral forums such as the United Nations provide platforms for dialogue and negotiation on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

In conclusion, nuclear weapons represent a complex and multifaceted challenge in the 21st century. While efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament have made some progress, significant challenges remain. The potential consequences of nuclear conflict underscore the urgent need for continued diplomatic efforts, confidence-building measures, and international cooperation to address the threat posed by nuclear weapons and move towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

## The Himalayan Crises

**■ G L KHAJURIA**

If there were no Himalayas, there would have been no Ganga, Yamuna, Bramputra or Indus. If there were no Himalayas, there had been no rains and if there were no rains, India would have been a dead desert like Sahara, Said the father of the nation- Mahatma Gandhi. In the same vein, said our first prime minister PT J L Nehru, Himalayas are not only near us but also very dear; for they have always been a part of our history and tradition, our thinking poetry; our worship and devotion.

The Himalayas are virtually home to twenty thousand small and large glaciers and as well as a high repository of snow. And the snow line of perennial and seasonal snow cover comes down to two thousand meters. The appearance and disappearance of snows cover concern not only the men of the mountains but at large the entire country which is dependent on the flow of Himalayan rivers.

Apart from, snowcapped Himalayas, these have been the abode of our great rishis, munis, saints and sages who in their deep samadies meditate for years together to obtain favors of gods and goddesses.

With the over- exploding population which weknow have crossed 1.25 billion next to China and coupled with industrial culture has in unison over exploited our forest cover which stands now at the threshold of uncontrolled destruction. And this environmental destruction has taken the shape in hundreds of different ways. The resources of nature have been manipulated beyond sustainable limits. In the Himalayas, this process is no new but is now frightening and we are compelled to shout as no hope and help is expected to come to rescue us.

The Himalayan crises are no longer an isolated event. It is the outcome of consumption-oriented industrial culture of the day and the rapid proliferation of human population. It is in a way "Treshma" around wants ever-increasing in spirals but never the loss ever satisfied. Let us remind late Sh Daphtarys words: "Enough is just a little more than you have and therefore, you never have enough".

As a consequence, therefore, even the trees, the only renewable source, have become irretrievable owing to ever-amounting over-exploitation. Pollution and ecological degradation are the ultimate outcome in more than many ways. This is obviously one track development and civilization which we very proudly claim as the progress or to say development. Our late premier smt Indra Gandhi had very rightly remarked in Stockholm at world conference on environment way back in 1972 that "we do definitely want development but not at the cost of destruction. We have rather become a hunted civilization and are lacking foresightedness as to what lies ahead of us and our generations to come. Would not they abuse us for the blunder and utter neglect for our misdeeds? What kind of inheritance we are passing onto them? The immediate problem is to rectify the ecological imbalance of Himalaya before it is too late and the challenging situation is quite irreversible. The most vital solution is, therefore, to adopt a new development strategy in which the man and the nature must progressively coexist in harmony. We need to remember that prosperity in its manifestations is much more than material satisfaction. We in Kashmir call 'parkath'. It arises from a total feeling of well being, when we find ourselves In tune with environment and reasonably satisfied with what we have. Prosperity is the consequence of small population with abundant production of food and other necessities and would work ethically and considerably with restrained consumption.

We must have to endure to develop a complete and minimal vital and stable natural eco system and the benefits of the centralized productions shall at all casts are warranted be totally avoided. Alternate are substituting sources of fuel and energy are to be produced effortlessly . Hydropower is probably the best suited option for all the hilly reasons. Solar system can very conveniently be developed and solar energy can be trapped thereby eliminating pollution as well. As a consequence, Therefore, the new approach has to be stratified to treat Himalayan mountain system with a combination of a number of dynamic watershed ecosystems which of course have been expounded by many experts at national and international level at this pernicious juncture. Himalayas which, are our country's crown provides us a line of defense from the foreign invaders like China. The crisis arising out from the melting of glaciers and perennial snows is beyond all ambiguities an alarming challenge. The Chinese policies and strategies are quite unpredictable despite the fact that our prime minister, Narendra Modi made all out efforts for better ties.

There is an unforgettable reminder to us when China invaded India in 1962 and illegally occupied a larger part of indian territory owing to a big folly called as Himalayan blunder which was subsequently elaborated and documented by brig. J P Dalvi. This book by a senior army officer reflects as to how our Valliant javans and officers flowed their blood while counteracting Chinese aggression in safeguarding county's honor which, defacto left an indelible mark in the history of the world. As on date, our Valliantjavans are on active surveillance for the defense of the country and are defending teeming billions.

(The author is Dy. Conservator of Forests).

## Mobile addiction a slow poisoning for all ages in the society

■ SHIV KUMAR PADHA

These days everyone, irrespective of age and gender, in the society seems linked with the social media in one form or the other suiting to one's taste and necessity. We often find the teenagers on the Tik Tok, influencers and the small businesses on Insta gram, face book and the professionals on LinkedIn. Social media has become the first option that comes to mind when looking for expanding connections in any field. The modern age is the age of science and technology which has conquered the whole universe by dint of its latest inventions and innovations, amongst which the information technology is worth mentioning as it has enabled the mankind access the global information only by the click of the button. Internet, mobiles and the screen media is proving a great source of knowledge, information and entertainment to the subscribers in the modern world.

Where, on the one hand the information technology has brought in a great revolution in the field of global trade, health, information, weather forecasting, entertainment and surveillance, on the other its addiction and excessive exposure has brought with it many physical, moral and emotional hazards for the innocent children and the adolescents. We daily observe the young children and adolescents watching the video clips silently and without being noticed lonely in their rooms, or in a groups huddled in a corner of public places away from the crowd. The importance of the social media cannot be under estimated in the present times, but its misuse by both the selfish and anti social uploaders of objectionable contents and the innocent users have brought the entire social media under scanner.

Social media, if used intelligently can bring in loads of success because it is the best form of direct contact with the target audience. These platforms have made any one's life better. May it be for staying connected with the people, friends



and relatives every day, staying opinionated safely with a large number of people on line social media provides platform for entertainments with customized feeds consisting of Memes, news and short clips which gives relief after day long hectic work. The social media has become a means increasing popularity by uploading such material which they deem fit and appropriate for their popularity unmindful of its consequences on oneself or on the society. One of the most important impacts of social media in a today's worldliest within its ability to distribute information to the whole world. Social media refers to the means of interactions among people in which they create, share, or exchange information and ideas in virtual communities and networks like Face book, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and You Tube. Apart from the usefull, desirable and beneficial information, the social media is becoming a source of serving unwanted and objectionable information which is proving detrimental particularly in the case of the viewers falling in the category of children and the innocent youth. While going through the relevant information on the mobile screen we come across such type of lecherous, seductive and arousing visuals which allure

the immature minds with the result they become addicted of provocative clips and information. The you tube and the face book is becoming a source of cheap entertainment for the young hearts and minds as they easily feel tempted toward the mischievous intents and designs of the up loaders of such filthy information in the shape of erotic video clips under one or the other pretext. The video clips from the porn and blue films, exposing private parts nudity, publically stripping, un hesitating nasty gestures by the sex workers, undressing before the camera in order to arouse suggestiveness through visual, verbal or behavioral material or action with sexual undertones. Cosmetic, undergarment, and the ads promoting the sales of the medicines enhancing vigor, strength and stamina in the both the genders through the cheap and sensuous clips which appeal to the young one's. This way these business houses kill two birds with one stone where on the one hand they promote their sale by serving the youth with vulgarity and eroticity on the other they earn TRP simultaneously. The social media which is supposed to contribute towards making the society crime and violence free seems hell-bent serving the viewers with the incidents of

## Growing cyber crimes in India

■ MOHAMMAD HANIEF

The rapid adoption of technology in India has led to an increased attack surface for cybercriminals. As new technologies such as IoT (Internet of Things), cloud computing, etc. become more prevalent, the attack vectors for cybercriminals also expand. Cybercriminals are becoming increasingly sophisticated, using advanced techniques such as ransomware, zero-day exploits, and social engineering to target individuals and organizations.

With the second-largest internet population in the world, India was no exception to a growing digital village. While greater connectivity via the World Wide Web promises large-scale progress, it also leaves our digital societies open to new vulnerabilities. Cyber crimes know no borders and have evolved at a pace at par with emerging technologies. Each year, the number of cyber crimes reported across the country continues to increase at a significant pace. The nature of crimes, on the other hand, ranged from petty online frauds to lottery scams and sexual harassment. Sectors such as IT, healthcare, manufacturing, and finance, were most vulnerable to cybercrime. Additionally, small scale businesses were likely targets of cybercriminals, given that only 24 percent of all Indian companies adequately prepared to take on cyber attacks.

Despite the private sector bearing the brunt of crime online, government agencies have also experienced espionage. With the increasing use of computers in society, cybercrime has become a major issue. The advancement of technology has made humans more dependent on internet for all needs. Internet has given access to everything



while sitting at one place. Social networking, online shopping, online studying, online jobs, every possible things can think of be done through the medium of internet.

The cyber crime is different from any other crime happening in the society. The reason being, it has no geographical boundaries and the cyber criminals are unknown. It is affecting all the stakeholders from government, business to citizens alike. In India cybercrime is increasing with the increased use of information and communication technology. Cybercrime is a broad term that is used to define criminal activity in which computers or computer networks are a tool, a target, or a place of criminal activity and include everything from electronic wrecking to denial of service attacks. It is a general term that covers crimes like phishing, Credit card frauds, bank robbery, illegal downloading, industrial espionage, child pornography, kidnapping children via chat rooms, scams, cyber terrorism, creation and or distribution of viruses, spam and so on. It also covers that traditional crimes in which computers

or networks are used to enable the illicit activity. Cyber crime is increasing day by day, nowadays it has become a new fashion to earn money by fraud calls or to take revenge through hacking other accounts. Cybercrime poses a burgeoning threat in India, impacting millions of individuals and organisations. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), cybercrimes in India in 2023 resulted in a staggering loss of ₹66.66 crore, with 4,850 reported cases. A recent report by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) revealed that digital financial frauds accounted for a staggering ₹1.25 lakh crore over the last three years. In 2023, at least ₹10,319 crore was reported to be lost by victims of digital financial fraud. The Parliamentary standing committee on Finance in its report on "cyber security and rising incidents of cyber/white collar crimes" mentioned that the domestic fraud as reported by the SE (Supervising Entities) in FY'23 was ₹2537.35 crore. According to the report, the number of complaints received in 2023 alone was 6.94 lakh.

crimes, like stabbing, picking up quarrels over trifles, shooting incidents; bloody scuffle erupting as a result of individual and group rivalries, fatal highway stunts, hitting and dragging the victims dozens of kilometers deliberately on the busy and crowded highways and slaughtering of the animals in public leave an indelible mark on the mental horizon of the children and the younger generation which in no way conform to the goals and objectives of making a civilized and disciplined society. There is mushrooming of the infinite you tube channels on the social media where majority of such channels, instead of giving appropriate and healthy information for the harmony brotherhood in the society; have become a source and tools in the hands of rumor mongers, misinformers, those spreading hatred through venomous and communal speeches blatantly which tantamount to breaking the secular and social and delicate fiber of social network of the country. The entire social media seems over occupied with the ads promoting the sale of the banned products like different Pan Masalas, Gutkas, Khaini Nebba chewable Chutkies, Raj Niwas, Kamla Pasand Zuban Kesri Rajnigandha etc, by the celebrities who don't take even tea in their lives. The social media is becoming a rein less beast, which, if not , controlled immediately, will definitely land the entire nation and the youth in shallow waters. In order to nip the evil in the bud the Union ministry of information and broadcasting should at once take cognizance about the working of such you tube channels or issue an advisory for banning them which are vitiating the peaceful environment of the country and helping propagating wrong and biased narrative against the people and the popular governments of the country. Moreover it is the high time to plug the sources of funding of such channels working against the progress and advancement of the country unscrupulously.

In fact, according to a 2017 report, Indian consumers had lost over 18 billion US dollars due to cyber crimes. In 2018, there were over 27,000 cases of cyber crimes recorded in the country, marking an increase of over 121% compare to the number of the cases as two years back.

At the beginning of 1970s, criminal regularly committed crimes via telephone lines. The perpetrators were called Phreakers. Actually, there was no real cybercrime until the 1980s. One person had another persons computer to find, copy or manipulate personal data and information. The first person to be found guilty of cybercrime was Lan Murphy, also known as Captain Zap, and that happened in the year 1981.He had hacked the American telephone company to manipulate its internal clock, so that users could still make free calls at peak times. Cyber crimes are a new class of crimes which are increasing day by day due to extensive use of internet these days. To combat the crimes related to internet The Information Technology Act, 2000 was enacted with prime objective to create an enabling environment for commercial use of I.T. The IT Act specifies the acts which have been made punishable. The Indian Penal Code, 1860 has also been amended to take into its purview cyber crimes. It is of critical importance to ensure global cooperation through information sharing and strengthening joint efforts in cyber security research and development as most cyber attacks originate from beyond the borders. We are living in a digital age and cyberspace is not limited to one's boundaries, rather it covers an entire world. As a result cybercrime is increasing day by day in all the countries including India. The biggest challenge relates to cybercrime being its dynamic nature because of the ongoing evolution of digital technology. As a result new cybercrime methods and techniques come into practice.

## Students are opting for online internships to gain practical experience

■ VIJAY GARG

In today's rapidly evolving educational landscape, students are increasingly recognising the importance of proactive engagement in shaping their future careers. Embracing the adage of "building a door" to their professional aspirations, school students are turning to online internships as a means to gain valuable experiential learning opportunities and prepare themselves for the dynamic job market that awaits them upon graduation.

Online internships have witnessed a surge in relevance in recent years, offering school students an array of benefits that extend beyond traditional in-person placements.

Flexibility and Accessibility: Unlike traditional internships with fixed schedules, online internships provide students with a flexible work environment tailored to accommodate their schedules. This flexibility allows them to optimise productivity according to their peak hours of concentration while balancing other commitments such

as classes or extracurricular activities. Additionally, the absence of commute time associated with virtual internships further enhances students' ability to dedicate time to their roles.

Skill Development : Engaging in tasks aligned with their field of interest, interns acquire practical experience and hone essential competencies crucial for professional success. By demonstrating initiative and self-reliance in completing assigned projects remotely, interns showcase their readiness to thrive in diverse work environments. These experiences not only deepen their expertise but also bolster their resumes, setting them apart in competitive job markets.

Access to Talent Beyond Geographical Boundaries: Online internships offer employers access to a diverse pool of talent unrestricted by geographical boundaries. This expanded reach enriches organisations with diverse perspectives, skills and cultural insights, fostering innovation and collaboration within teams. Additionally, it prepares companies for the evolving dynamics of

the modern workforce by developing remote work capabilities.

Exploration of Career Paths: Online internships serve as a platform for students to explore different career paths and gain insight into various industries. This exploration phase allows students to clarify their interests, identify strengths and weaknesses and make informed decisions about their future career goals.

Networking Opportunities: Despite being remote, online internships provide students with networking opportunities that can be instrumental in their career development. Interacting with professionals within their chosen industry, connecting with fellow interns and building relationships with mentors and supervisors can lead to mentorship opportunities, job referrals and valuable insights into industry trends.

Innovative Learning Experiences: Through interactive projects, virtual meetings and online training sessions, online internships offer inno-

vative learning experiences that complement traditional classroom education. These immersive experiences bridge the gap between theory and practice, fostering critical thinking.

Cultural Exposure: Working with colleagues from diverse backgrounds exposes students to different perspectives, communication styles and work cultures, enriching their understanding of the global economy's interconnectedness.

Engaging in online internships significantly boosts students' resumes and bolsters their prospects for future employment. These experiences serve as tangible evidence of their initiative, adaptability and capacity to thrive in dynamic work environments, positioning them as desirable candidates poised for success in their chosen career paths. Thus, online internships not only enrich students' skill sets but also empower them to navigate the complexities of the modern job market.

(The writer is Retired Principal and Educational columnist).

## YOUR COLUMN SLIP OF TONGUE

Dear Editor,

Generally, slip of tongue is the result of thoughtless action. Hasty utterances also result in slip of tongue. Mind filled with anger sometimes causes slip of tongue. Apology for slip of tongue is like "Acting in haste and repenting at leisure". Apology for slip of tongue is a damage control exercise. Benjamin Franklin, American Polymath, Writer, Scientist, Inventor, Statesman, Diplomat, Printer, Publisher and Political Philosopher rightly says "A slip of the foot you may soon recover, but a slip of the tongue you may never get over". Slip of the foot hurts self. Slip of tongue hurts the others. It may hurt the others and it may also evoke angry response from the opposite site sometimes resulting in fisticuff, manhandling and physical fight apart from verbal duell. Slip of foot attracts sympathy and help from the onlookers or passers-by. But slip of tongue incurs the wrath from even the unconcerned persons. Every word has to be meas-

ured. Every unpalatable word has its own pros and cons. Slip of tongue plays dominant role in political speeches. Spontaneous apology hardly comes from the offender. If apology comes it would be in consequence of public, political and courts pressure. It does not mean that there is no one to realize the mistake and feel sorry for it. Latest to mention is B-JP leader and Puri candidate Sambit Patra's utterances. He called "Mahaprabhu (to mean God Puri Jagannatha Swamy) is the devotee of Prime Minister Narendra Modi". He realized the mistake and lost no time to apologize. He expressed that his statement was unintentional. There is a strong belief and saying that if devotees worship the God, the God worships the foot dusts of His devotees. In this, no offence is meant. The greatness of God has been eulogized in saying so. But to say that God is devotee of a man, it is an affront to the God. Undoubtedly, Modi is much liked person for majority of people in India. He has earned good name from foreign country leaders and people also to the extent of causing heartburn among his political adversaries. He is much respected person. Modi himself is an ardent devotee of God. He observes fasting as token of his devotion to God without feigning that he is devotee of God. Dedication and devotion to God with utmost sincerity can be seen in him. Slip of tongue has been

classified into six categories. They are: shift, anticipation, perseveration, deletion, addition and substitution. Later word replacing earlier word is called 'anticipation slip of tongue'. For example 'tongue of slip' instead of 'slip of tongue'. Example for Freudian slips: saying 'rain' for 'train'. Slip of tongue and slip of pen can be attributed to momentary lapse. Writing 'stationary' for 'stationery'. Both of them have their own different meaning. According to Carrol, perseveration happens when an earlier segment replaces a later item. Example: Waking Rabbits for Waking Rabbits. It is said for every 1000 words, one or two errors are made. Verbal behavioural mistakes look funny for the listener but embarrassing for the perpetrator. Slip of tongue enrages others when something is said in anger. But when slip of tongue is inconsequential in the on-going cordial conversations, the other side may prefer either to ignore or downplay. Slip of tongue sometimes throws up fun also. Fun or no fun, and anger or no anger caused by a slip of tongue would have its ramifications depending upon the nature of slip of tongue. Thoughtlessness often results in slip of tongue. Care should be always exercised before saying something to avoid slip of tongue.

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