

EDITORIAL

he border areas of Jammu & Kashmir, particularly those adjacent to Pakistan, have long been subject to cross-border firing and shelling. Civilians living in districts such as Poonch, Rajouri, Samba, Kathua, and parts of Jammu often find themselves on the frontline of these hostilities.

In such regions, the construction of more bunkers is not just a matter of infrastructure but of basic survival. The growing need for additional bunkers in these volatile areas has become increasingly urgent to safeguard civilian lives and provide psychological security to border res-

The primary reason for constructing more bunkers in border areas is to protect the lives of civilians during ceasefire violations and shelling incidents. These violations often occur without warning, leaving residents with mere seconds to seek shelter. Inadequate protective infrastructure has led to numerous casualties and severe injuries in the past. Permanent and well-distributed bunkers would offer immediate refuge to residents, significantly reducing the risk to life and limb.

Beyond physical protection, bunkers provide a sense of psychological assurance to border residents who live in constant fear of attack. The trauma and stress of not knowing when the next shell may land can lead to anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. The presence of easily accessible bunkers helps alleviate this chronic tension, allowing people to carry out their daily lives with a greater sense of security.

Additionally, ensuring the safety of border residents can help prevent mass migrations during conflict. In the past, thousands have been displaced due to shelling incidents, leading to overcrowding in relief camps and strain on government resources. More bunkers would allow people to stay in their homes even during periods of heightened tension, contributing to the social and economic stability of the region.

While some bunkers have been built in the past, many are insufficient in number, poorly maintained, or inadequately located. A systematic and sustained government effort is required to assess vulnerable areas and construct modern, reinforced bunkers capable of withstanding high-intensity shelling. Public participation and local input in identifying suitable locations for these bunkers will also be crucial for their effectiveness.

Investing in protective infrastructure also signals the government's commitment to the safety and welfare of its citizens. It builds trust between the people and the administration, a critical factor in a region as sensitive as J&K. Furthermore, comprehensive security measures like bunkers can act as confidence-building tools in the broader process of peace and reconciliation in the region.

The construction of more bunkers in the border areas of Jammu & Kashmir is a pressing need that goes beyond strategic defense-it is a humanitarian imperative. Safe and secure shelters are vital for protecting lives, supporting mental well-being, ensuring economic continuity, and fostering a sense of normalcy in a conflict-prone

NEED OF BUNKERS Fostering Academia-Industry Linkages in Agriculture

DR. PARVEEN KUMAR

griculture in the country is the backbone of the economy and has a major Contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country. Despite this, the sector suffers from some generic issues. Among those, lack of adequate linkages has been one of the major challenges affecting development of agriculture and overall economic growth of the country. Linkages in agriculture, particularly market linkages i. e both forward as well as backward are crucial for ensuring availability of critical inputs to the farming community, boosting farmer incomes and improving agricultural efficiencv. By connecting farmers to markets, inputs and services, linkages help stabilize incomes, reduce post-harvest losses and fostering technology transfer. Market linkages help enhance market access to a wider range of markets including local, regional, national and international markets, allowing farmers to sell their produce at better prices and access specialized markets like niche products at a place other than place where it may not be produced without the physical presence of the producer. According to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), this type of linkages further helps in stabilizing farmer's incomes by reducing price volatility and providing a more predictable supply chain. Besides development of appropriate linkages also help facilitate adoption of new technologies and best practices, leading to increased efficiency and productivity in agricultural production and also development of value chains in agriculture. Development of value chains involves all stages from production to consumption. Market linkages also come with an advantage of reduction off post harvest losses by focusing on processing and value addition, storage and transportation infrastructure. Besides, appropriate linkages do help in transfer of technologies, dissemination of relevant information in time and promotion of sustainable agricultural practices. Linkages contribute to growth of agriculture and rural development effectively as various research studies have highlighted that growth emanating from agriculture is many times more effective than the growth emanating from other sectors. Development of linkages ultimately results in poverty reduction in the countries. All this helps ensure food and nutritional security.

Another important issue is the creation of job opportunities in agriculture and allied sectors. The country today has the edge of

demographic dividend which means a larger percentage of its total population falls within the working age group. The energy of these youths falling in the working age group can be channelized in a positive way by creating self employment opportunities for them. Government of the country has already done work towards this by implementing and promoting various skill and entrepreneurship development opportunities in farm and allied sectors. The government through its various policies and programmers has created an enabling environment providing one stop solution to young innovative minds including agriculture graduates to come forward and start various kinds of enterprises in agriculture and related sectors. Various agencies including agricultural universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras', research institutes, different departments. NGOs and others have been providing relevant training to the youths with the necessary handholding to establish business units and provide job to other also. Our agriculture universities are producing a large no. of graduates every year. Studies reveal that Indian agricultural universities produce approximately 21,000 graduates and postgraduates annually. This figure includes students in diverse disciplines like agriculture and allied subjects, animal and veterinary sciences, fisheries, agricultural engineering, and home science. Nearly one-fourth of these graduates are female, and roughly half

come from rural backgrounds. Unfortunately a large majority of them do not end up in government jobs and are left to roam here and there. Our education system also does not focus much on practical education and so our youths remain unskilled. This unskilled force ultimately instead of contributing to progress of the country becomes a burden on the country. To take care of the skilling and employment needs of the students as well as to give the best professionals to industry, Universities are now developing linkage in the form of academiaindustry linkage. It refers to the partnerships and collaborations between higher education institutions and industries. The main objective of this linkage is to develop a skilled workforce by bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge & its practical application and fostering innovation by exchange of knowledge and technology. These collaborations are seen as crucial for development of new products, services, and technologies contributing to technological

Various universities have now started involving industry experts in teaching and training programmes which have facilitated students to gain more insights and practical skills thereby furthering their chances of employability. Such collaborations between young ignited minds and the industry has the potential to contribute to economic growth and competitiveness and also to address societal challenges by developing solutions that are relevant to the needs of the community. It is a win-win situation for both academia as well as industry. While the industries under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative can also provide funds and resources for various research and development programmes of the universities, the universities in turn can offer access to expertise and facilities. Such collaborations can facilitate transfer of knowledge and technologies between academia and industry building capacity of both the sectors.

Universities and colleges are now increasingly partnering with industries to create research parks, establish industry relation cells (IRC), and offer industry-specific training programs. Joint research projects between universities and industries can lead to significant advancements in various fields. Industries can provide internships and co-opt programs for students, allowing them to gain practical experience and develop relevant skills. Students gain valuable practical experience through internships and apprenticeships with industry partners, Industry professionals mentor university students and faculty, providing valuable insights and guidance. Industry involvement in curriculum development ensures that agricultural students receive training relevant to the needs of the sector, improving their employability. These linkages can also prove to be a potent tool in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by promoting innovation, improving agricultural productivity, and ensuring food security. Both can also collaborate in research projects which may result in development of new area specific technologies. Industry and academia can use this collaboration to develop policies that support agricultural development and innovation. By fostering stronger industry-academia linkages, the agricultural sector can benefit from a continuous stream of innovation, improved training, and increased efficiency, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable and productive agri-

However, there are certain issues involved which may be taken care of while finalizing the academia-industry linkages. There can be a gap between academic research and industry needs which can hinder collaboration. Another issue is the determination of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). Determining ownership of intellectual property generated through collaborations can be a challenge.

It is here necessary to mention that both the farm universities of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir are already exploiting such type of collaboration. SKUAST-Jammu under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. B. N. Tripathi last year organized an industry-academia meet with a focus on skill and entrepreneurship development, establishing collaborations and marketing linkages. HVC Prof. Tripathi on that occasion appealed the industry to come forward for more collaboration with SKUAST-Jammu to stress upon need based and problem oriented research that can help in upliftment of the farming community of this region. Many students of the university have now been placed as interns in various industries related to seed, plant health farm machinery and many other sectors to update their skills and gain more practical insights.

The academia-industry linkages have emerged as a crucial link for driving agricultural development by merging practical expertise with academic rigor, fostering innovation, and bridging knowledge gaps. These collaborations help convert research into new products and services, while also providing a source of funding and rich knowledge to both parties. At the same time, these collaborations also play a vital role in preparing the next generation of agricultural professionals for various challenges faced by agriculture and agriculture related industries. The Government of India has also started various programmes to promote industry-academia collaboration such as the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and (SPARC), Collaboration Research Impacting Research Innovation & Technology (IMPRINT), and Uchhatar Aavishkar Yojana (UAY). It is necessary that the government comes up with proper policies and the necessary support to encourage and facilitate these collaborations.

(The author writes on agriculture and social issues)

International Day of Families: Celebrating the Pillars of Society

-ay 15th marks as 'International Day of Families' every year, declared by United Nations in 1993, is a global observance that aims to promote the importance of families in the societal structure. This day emphasizes the pivotal role that a family plays in shaping individuals and societies. It helps in emphasizing the need to strengthen family bond worldwide and serves as a reminder of the diverse roles a family plays in nurturing relationships, promoting education and fostering sustainable development.

Families can be nuclear, extended, single-parented, blended or even chosen families. They all are fundamental in shaping social structure. The support, love and care they provide to each other make it more richer than ever. An individual learns about values, culture, responsibility and love from family

Theme of International Day of Families 2025

Every year, 'International day of families' celebrates a unique theme that promotes the importance of family life. This year's theme marks 'Family Oriented Policies for Sustainable Development' which will highlight key insights from national and regional initiatives, emphasizing the roles of families in achieving the 2030 agenda for sustainable

Previous year's themes are 'Families and Climate Action', 'Families and Social Protection', and 'Families and Sustainable Development Goals' encourage families to consider their roles in global issues. These themes are highly relevant and timely because they address issues such as mental health, gender equality and economical sustainability- all of which are required that make a family relationships more

Challenges Faced By Families



As we know, every family has their own hardships and challenges that vary by region and culture. Often, families face economic issues that affect the quality of their life. Poverty may contribute in preventing children to attend school which contributes in the strain in the development of children. In some parts of the world, conflict, war and displacement separate families make difficult for families to remain connected

The rise of single parent culture has led to new dynamics of family life. Single parents often suffer and face difficulties in terms of balancing lifestyle, work and nurturing their child. These difficulties are often accompanied by societal expectations and social attacks. Additionally, issues such as domestic violence, mental health struggles and substance abuse are growing concerns that affect family stability across the globe.

Promoting Family Well-Being

Various communities and organisations come together on this day and raise awareness about family well-being and highlight the importance and need for social policies that support families. Education, access to healthcare, financial security and emotional support systems are key areas that need attention to ensure families can thrive. By prioritising work-life balance, creating a healthy environment for both children and parents can contribute to the overall well-being of families.

THE ROLE OF FAMILY IN EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Parents are the first teachers of a child, they impart life skills, values, knowledge, traditional values in their child that helps in forming a foundation for their future success. Ir Indian culture, the bond between parents, children and even grandparents remain throughout life. They lass traditional knowledge, values and wisdom from one generation to anoth-

Another example of Indian culture would be that parents are expected to participate in school events and meetings, according to the education system. It ensures that the child is getting the support and knowledge at both places, i.e., school and home. It helps children to excel in their academic area.

Conclusion

The International Day of Families is more than just a day to celebrate - it's an opportunity to strengthen our family bond whether through policies or simple love and care. We must ensure that families are supported in every corner of the globe. We must remember that the heart of every thriving society lies in a healthy and happy family.

Truce and Turmoil: Can Ceasefires Tame Terror in Kashmir

BAIRAJ CHAWALGAMI fter all, all wars are fought for ultimate peace and normalcy and it is so good that the two South Asian neighbors that is India and Pakistan have agreed to the ceasefire of all escalatory activities upon each other and the ceasefire has come into effect at 5 pm as per Indian standard time on 10th of May 2025, but to our dismay Pakistan again resorted to firing at the borders, LOC and also struck missiles and drones a several northern cities of India thus violating the ceasefire which our country has agreed upon on the request on hotline by Pakistan's DGMO to India's DGMO.

In fact it is President Donald Trump of America who has played a commendable role in making India and Pakistan to agree on the ceasefire and thus great loss to the two countries involved has been averted. But the million dollar question is that will the ceasefire cease and stop the flames of terrorism with which India's Jammu and Kashmir in particular is beset since last over 34 years?

This question haunts every one's mind in India and Pakistan cannot be trusted given that country's track

record of resorting to unprovoked firing and its back stabbing.

Pakistan has always stabbed India at the back and so our forces of all the three wings and our paramilitary forces including BSF, CRPF should remain alert and on their toes as Pakistan can also stab us at the back as that country has a history of ambushing India stealthily as Pakistan believes and is on its policy of bleeding India by a thousand cuts.

Therefore it cannot be said that Pakistan will end its support to cross boarder terrorism in near future as terrorism is the very theme of its policy towards India.

Indian forces have done a very commendable job through its Operation Sindoor as it has destroyed nine hideouts and training camps of terrorists in POJK and Pakistan and has inflicted huge material and terrorist loss in those camps.

It is soothing to the mind that our brave and disciplined forces have killed more than 100 terrorists including several dreaded terrorists who were involved in terrorist attacks on Indian soil.

Indian defense forces deserves a pat at its back and salute for inflicting maximum casualties on terrorists. Indian air strikes were precise and were penetrated on the terrorists only and while attacking terrorist camps Indian forces ensured that no civilian is affected and so India's air strikes were made with precision and India has also responded to the escalation of Pakistan army with great restraint.

Now that there is ceasefire between India and Pakistan side, but that country cannot be taken at its face value.

Pakistan is habitual of training, sponsoring and exporting terrorism to India and it seems uncertain that she will mend her ways and thus she may continue to sponsor terror to India.

It is so good that India has agreed to implement ceasefire on its own terms and conditions and Modi has stated categorically and in unequivocal terms that the acts of terrorism unleashed with the support and involvement of Pakistan will be taken as an act of war and India will retaliated with full might.

India also made it clear that she will not differentiate between the Pakistani state and its terrorists and will resolutely crush both if Pakistan dares to sponsor terror to India.

India's consistent and persistent policy with regard to terrorism which it has been experiencing for the last over three decades is clear and loud that talks and terrorism cannot go together and now our Prime Minister Modi has added new meaning and broader scope to its policy and has said that trade and terror cannot go hand in hand and also water and blood will not flow together.

It has also been made absolutely clear that India has only halted its offensive against Pakistan and India can resume its operations against the enemy country if Pakistan dares to violate ceasefire

it is pertinent to mention the key points of PM Modi's address after the ceasefire with Pakistan.

In his address to the nation after the Operation Sindoor Modi said that the operation is still on. He said India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail, while acting against terror and its sponsor Pakistan.

Modi said that zero tolerance of terrorism was guarantee for a better world, referencing the surgical strikes of 2006 and the Balakot air strikes of 2019.

PM Modi said India has only paused military operations against Pakistan, it will retaliate if Pakistan tries any misadventure.

Speaking on the "understanding 'reached between India and Pakistan, PM Modi said that after Pakistan's dialed up India's DGMO, India has only paused its military operations.

If Pakistan tries to carry out terrorist activity or violates ceasefire we will retaliate with full force. Modi stated that this retaliation

will be carried out on our terms, in our way.

Modi further said India's Lakshman Rekha against terrorism is now clear adding that each act of

terrorism will be met with force. India knows well that Pakistan cannot be trusted given her past record of deceptions and it is so good that India is alert meaning that our armed forces will be alert and they are capable of dealing with Pakistan as was evidenced by its Operation Sindoor against terrorist camps and its strike on Pakistani military and airbase after that country's retaliation.

Modi said Operation Sindoor is India's new normal.All said and done it cannot be trusted that

Pakistan will mend her ways and she will stop sponsoring terrorism to India as there is no guarantee that Pakistan will not again export terror to India.

So our defense forces of all the three wings will have to remain on high alert and on their toes as our enemy is so cunning and she cannot be trusted.

So the moot question haunting the mind of all Indian's is will the ceasefire between India and Pakistan cease the flames of terrorism in which our country has been engulfed since last more than three decades? We have full faith and trust on our defense forces as they are capable to deal with any situation with Pakistan. India has to maintain vigil on the activities and behavior of Pakistan as the fate of that country in actual lies with the army and Jihadi General Munir is more powerful than the political executive their and given this situation of Pakistan our forces have to remain ever ready to retaliate if that country again dares to sponsor terrorism in India. Rest ceasefire is the call of the situation and it has averted a nuclear war and that would have been catastrophic for both the country's. But so far as stoppage of terrorism nothing certain can be said.