

## SAVE NATURAL RESOURCES

Modern age is the age of science. Man is moving very fast on the path of development. With that much time, he has collected all the means of happiness for himself. Factories, motor-cars, trains, airplanes etc. are all the result of this tendency. With this expansion, the danger of exhausting resources is increasing day by day.

Resources are limited in nature. In other words, the energy available in nature is also limited. With the increasing population of the world, the requirements are also increasing. Day by day the number of motor vehicles on the roads is increasing incomparably. Be it trains or aeroplanes, the number of all is increasing. Dependence of humans on machines is increasing gradually. All these machines require energy for their operation.

We hope that scientists will be able to discover and develop new sources of energy in time. Apart from this, it is necessary that all citizens understand the importance of energy and become aware of energy conservation. Make a constant effort not to let energy go waste in whatever form it may be.

## Changing J&K, Modi's big achievement

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

There has been a drastic and total change in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir ever since the abrogation of controversial article 370 of the constitution of India on 5th August 2019. A changed narrative and the effect and impact of the Modi's inclusive development has ushered in a new chapter in the socio-economic development of Jammu and Kashmir with the help and active involvement and participation of local population and thus there is change for better in the UT which is in the interest of the people and also of all the stakeholders. The changing Jammu and Kashmir's scenario is one of the big achievements of Modi and he is rightly credited for this far-reaching development of change which is bound to result in societal and economic development in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir .It is worth noting that PM Modi takes a personal interest in the change and development of the Jammu and Kashmir and because of this personal interest new Jammu and Kashmir has taken birth which in fact is a big development.

Former minister and the BJP vice -President Surjeet Singh Slathia counted and spelled the achievements of Modi's nine years rule and said that changing J&K with return of normalcy and peace as well development of the UT is one of the big achievements of Modi and he deserves to be complimented for this great work.

This achievement made Jammu and Kashmir the safe destination of the tourists from the world who are visiting J&K in big numbers and contributing to the development and economy of the UT. Moreover the change and normalcy also attracted huge investment from Indian and foreign corporate's and investors who find it easy and safe to invest in the industry and economy of Jammu and Kashmir thus making great strides in the economic and social development of the UT.

Addressing the Maha Jansamparak Abhyan in village Swankha in Ramgarh constituency, Slathia highlighted the achievements of Modi's nine years rule and said the recently successful three days G20 meeting confirms that there is change, tranquility and an atmosphere of development in Jammu and Kashmir and with the active participation of the local people Kashmir is moving on the path of peace and development. The peoples deep yearning for peace, tranquility has made development possible and there are no two opinions about the changing narrative of Jammu and Kashmir. The people of J&K yearn for change and want normalcy, peace and consequent development and progress.

The investment in Jammu and Kashmir has more than doubled by the end of 2022 and it was about 75,000 crore that is the five times the investment of past 74 years and so it is a big development and points towards the safe atmosphere for trade and business as well as for the investment. Thus economic and developmental scenario has undergone a drastic change for better and the people welcome this change in the conditions and environment and credit it to the dynamic leadership provided by Modi and his government. This is a very positive and encouraging development that tourist foot-fall has reached to 1.80 crores last year and in the current year it is expected to go up to over two crores which reflects the success of the various initiatives of Modi government. The political, social as well as economic scenario has completely undergone change for better and it is only due to the efforts ,schemes and program's of Modi government.

In fact post abrogation of controversial article 370,35A and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir in two union territories in 2019 has given death kneel to militancy and Pakistan sponsored insurgency and as a result has brought much change in the situation in Kashmir and this change is a positive and encouraging development. The efforts are on to harness J&K's hydel potential optimally and the target is to double the generation in the next three years and three times in seven years. It will make a huge difference so far as meeting domestic consumption is concerned and in turn this will give a boost to the economic landscape of the UT. The power generation in the Tawi basin will prove a game changer not only in terms of achieving self-reliance but also will result in providing jobs to the local youth and this is a significant development.

On 5th of August 2019, the Modi government brought two resolutions related to Jammu and Kashmir. The first rendered Article 370 inoperative in Jammu and Kashmir by applying the power granted under the same article of the constitution. The second resolution was for bifurcation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories -Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh .This fulfilled a long cherished demand of the RSS-BJP, since the days of Bharatija Jan Sangh, whose leader Syama Prasad Mookerjee sacrificed his precious life for fully integrating J&K with India and it is Modi who made this dream possible in 2019.

A historic decision had been taken by the Modi government on 5th of August 2019 whereby two resolutions were passed which annulled the controversial Article 370 and 35 A and also bifurcated the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two UTs.

With this historic decision the geography of Jammu and Kashmir as well as the politics has changed. Slathia also said that Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a new era of hope and promise with the era of despondency becoming a nightmare of past. Modi government has taken a slew of measures taken in past nine years of its rule with the sole objective of ensuring development, creating infrastructure ,strengthening utility services and giving fillip to growth as a result of massive investment. In brief the big changes have taken place in Jammu and Kashmir and its socio-economic development which is a cause of envy to the neighboring country Pakistan. These changes will go a long way in scripting a new history of new Jammu and Kashmir.

(The author is a columnist, social and KP activist).

“Trees are the earth's endless effort to speak to the listening heaven.”

-Rabindranath Tagore

## HER LAND: HER RIGHTS

# World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

■ DR. PARVEEN KUMAR

Drought and Desertification are amongst the greatest threats to sustainable development. These two threaten the livelihood of peoples as well as the biodiversity existing on this planet. Drought refers to a slow-onset disaster characterized by the lack of precipitation resulting in a water shortage. It is a prolonged dry period in the natural climate cycle that can occur anywhere in the world. Drought can have a serious impact on health, agriculture, economies, energy and the environment. Reports reveal that an estimated 55 million people globally are affected by droughts every year and they are the most serious hazard to livestock and crops in nearly every part of the world. Drought threatens people's livelihoods, increases the risk of disease and death, and fuels mass migration. Water scarcity impacts 40% of the world's population and as many as 700 million people are at-risk of being displaced as a result of drought by 2030. Rising temperatures caused by climate change are making already dry regions drier and wet regions wetter. In dry regions, this means that when temperatures rise, water evaporates more quickly, and thus increases the risk of drought or prolongs periods of drought.

'Desertification' on the other hand refers to 'the process of persistent degradation of dry land ecosystems by climatic variations and human activities. Desertification occurs as a result of a long-term failure to balance human demand for ecosystem services and the amount the ecosystem can supply. As a result of desertification, fertile areas become increasingly arid the biological productivity is lost. It is in other words, the spread of arid areas caused by a variety of factors, such as climate change (particularly the current global warming) and overexploitation of soil as a result of human activity. If we trace the geological history, we find that the development of deserts have occurred naturally. In recent times, the potential influences of human activity, improper land management, deforestation and climate change on desertification has become the subject of many scientific investigations. As recently as 2005, considerable controversy

existed over the proper definition of the term 'desertification.' Helmut Geist (2005) identified more than 100 formal definitions of desertification. The most widely accepted of these was that of the Princeton University Dictionary which defined it as 'the process of fertile land transforming into desert typically as a result of deforestation, drought or improper/inappropriate agriculture'. Desertification and Drought have a bearing on each other. With less vegetation there is less transpiration and evaporation from the soil, causing less rainfall which ultimately leads to Drought like situation. Drought triggers the desertification and also the desertification can influence the drought by reducing the water soil content.

No matter where we live, the consequences of desertification and drought concern all of us. According to the UNCCD (UN Convention to Combat Desertification), 25% of the world's land area is either highly degraded or undergoing high rates of degradation and is no longer productive. 75 per cent has been transformed from its natural state, mostly for agriculture. This transformation in land use is happening at a faster rate than at any other time in human history, and has accelerated over the last 50 years. Scientists say the evolution from one state to the next is so rapid and the process is only observable over very short periods. Everyone needs to know that desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) have direct affect on their daily lives, and that everyone's daily actions can either contribute to, or help fight DLDD. To prevent further degradation and to restore the degraded soil by creating awareness and promoting practices which does not lead to desertification and drought, 'World Desertification and Drought Day' is celebrated every year on June 17 all across the globe.

HISTORY OF WDDD: This day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/49/115 on January 30, 1995, after the day when United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification was drafted. The major objective for this day was to promote public awareness of the issue, to let people know that deserti-

## Power and position go after leadership quality

■ K.V SEETHARAMAIAH

Power and position go after the leadership quality to individuals. Sometimes caste and community matter for parties to climb up the ladder of power. Karnataka Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara in Karnataka has been now lamenting for missing the opportunity to become Chief Minister. He was mum when the tussle for Chief Ministership was going on between Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar.

Parameshwara, a dalit leader, did not stake his claim for Chief Ministership. Now he has been crying over the spilt milk one month after the election result came out and after Siddaramaiah has settled as Chief Minister for the second time. Cry for 'dalit chief minister' in Karnataka Congress starts when there is no vacancy. He is giving call to dalits to stand united and assert themselves.

Congress came to power in 2013 under the presidency of Parameshwara. Even then it was the writ of Siddaramaiah, a migrant from JDS, that ran large over D.K. Shivakumar because of which he became the Chief Minister. There is no point for Prameshwara to go back to 2013 when he could not make use of the opportunity in 2023.

At least Parameshwarappa was an aspirant for Deputy Chief Ministership.

Even it was not materialized since D.K. Shivakumar, after failing to get the Chief Ministership, insisted that he should be the lone Deputy Chief Minister.

Even when D.K. Shivakumar was vocal that he was rather prepared to give up the Chief Ministership for Mallikarjun Kharge than conceding to Siddaramaiah, no

dalit leader came in support of him.

If Kharge maintained low profile, what prevented Parameshwara to come out in the open and stake claim to make him the Chief Minister?

Parameshwara has been shedding tears at dalit leaders Basavalingappa, N. Rachiah or Ranganath not getting the opportunity to become Chief Ministers in the past.

It is the leadership quality that always matters to head a government. In the undivided Uttar Pradesh, Kanshi Ram, a dalit leader, founded Bahujan Samajawadi Party. Mayawati who is also a dalit leader, established her supremacy in the party and served as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister 4 times. She could not be sidelined on the ground that she is dalit.

Lal Bahadur Shastri and Atal Behari Vajpayee served as Prime Ministers not because but despite they were Brahmins. Ramakrishna Hegde and R. Gundu Rao in Karnataka and J. Jayalalithaa in Tamil Nadu were chief ministers not because but despite they were Brahmins. Devegowda did not become Prime Minister because he came from a major community.

Abdul Ghafoor was Chief Minister of Bihar and Abdul Rahaman Antulay was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra not because but despite they were Muslims. It is a different matter that both Ghafoor and Antulay lost their power since they were neck-deep in corruption.

If the Jayaprakash Narayan-led movement against Ghafoor dislodged him as Chief Minister, an exhaustive article in the Indian Express authored by Arun Shourie highlighting the corruption in the government stripped Antulay of his Chief Ministership.

Sharad Pawar, Laloo Preasad Yadav, Mulayam Singh

fication and drought can be effectively tackled, that solutions are possible, and that key tools to this aim lay in strengthened community participation and cooperation at all levels and to strengthen implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa.

THEME: Avoiding, slowing and reversing the loss of productive land and natural ecosystems now are both urgent and important for guaranteeing the long-term survival of planet earth and for the people living on the planet. When lands are degraded, Women are the worst sufferers. They contribute much but all the decision making authority rests with the male members. Women are just unpaid employers and invisible partners whose hard work is seldom recognized. Keeping in mind the role of women in increasing productivity and in ensuring food and nutritional security of their families, the 'World Desertification and Drought Day' this year focuses on women's land rights as a crucial component of achieving the related global goals of gender equality and land degradation neutrality by 2030 under the theme 'Her Land: Her right'. Importance of the Day: The importance of celebrating this day can be gauged from the fact that about 99 per cent of the calories every human being needs for a healthy life still come from the land. Land that is healthy and resilient is the first point of defense against disasters such as droughts and flashfloods, which are becoming more frequent, long and severe. The loss of more and more productive land is thus a concern for all of us. Given the speed with which the process is going on, the next few decades will be the most critical in restoring land for sustainable future. The problem is man-made, which means humans are also part of the solution. Thus, sustainable land management should be everyone's business. Together, we can restore the productivity of over 2 billion hectares of degraded land and improve the livelihoods of more than 1.3 billion Peoples around the world. Land degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss is intimately connected and is increasingly affecting human well-being. Tackling

these issues together is also a key to achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A decade of land degradation may create irreversible damage, but a decade of land restoration may bring multiple benefits. If countries can restore the nearly 800 million hectares of degraded land they have pledged to restore by 2030, we can safeguard humanity and our planet from the looming danger, according to I. Thiaw, Executive director UNCCD'

The 2023 Desertification and Drought Day to be held on 17 June will emphasize on investing in women's equal access to land and associated assets is a direct investment in their future and future of humanity. It is time for the women and girls to be at forefront of global land restoration and drought resilience efforts.

We all have a role to play, because we all have a stake in our planet's future. The creation of a 'culture of prevention' can go a long way toward protecting dry lands when desertification is just beginning and even when it is ongoing. It requires a change in governments' and peoples' attitudes. The various preventive approaches include integration of land and water management to protect soils from erosion, salinization, and other forms of degradation, protecting the vegetative cover of land through plantation, cover crops and other means, integrating the use of land for grazing and farming where conditions are favorable, allowing for a more efficient cycling of nutrients within the agricultural systems, using indigenous technical knowledge of different communities in conservation practices, capacity building of communities and looking for alternate land use systems like agro forestry, protected cultivation, agro-tourism and others.

Nearly half of the agricultural workforce is female, yet less than one in five land-holders worldwide are women. They hold a vital stake in the health of land, yet they have no control over it. On this Desertification and Drought Day, let all of us pledge to stand besides the women and to push hard with them to restore our lands.

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Yadav, Mamata Banerjee floated their own parties. All of them became the invincible leaders of their parties. These leaders have and had their say in their parties which nobody can or could challenge.

Despite losing the election, Mamata Banerjee became Chief Minister after winning a by election within 6 months. Because it was the leadership that mattered. If a Chief Ministerial candidate had lost the election in Congress or BJP, such candidate would have missed the opportunity to achieve his/her goal. What happened in TMC need not be repeated because it is Mamata Banerjee whose leadership cannot be challenged for the present. It was similar in the case of DMK and AIADMK in Tamil Nadu. M. Karunanidhi in DMK and Jayalalithaa in AIADMK could not be challenged.

If Dr. Parameshwar wants to realize the dream of a dalit adorning the post of Chief Minister in Karnataka, he has to take the risk of forming his own party, grow as an unchallenged leader like Devegowda, Mamata Banerjee, Mayawati, Jayalalithaa, Laloo Prasad Yadav, Sharad Pawar, Mulayam Singh Yadav, N.T. Rama Rao, M.G. Ramachandran, Chandrababu Naidu and K. Chandrashekar Rao, Chandrashkehar Rao floated his own party and fought for the creation of Telangana state for many years.

Rao did not become Chief Minister overnight. Ambition is not enough. Ambition should be backed by guts and leadership quality. Caste is no barrier. Anybody can become anything. It is not impertinent to quote APJ Abdul Kalam who said 'Failure will never overtake me if my determination to succeed is strong enough'.

## Amla In Ayurveda

■ G. L KHAJURIA

Amla in Ayurveda is considered as an elixir of sovereign remedy in multihued ways as it finds its significance for the preparation of medicines of vides, varied and ramified varieties. The Amla is nomenclaturised as "Emblica officinalis" in botanical parlance and belongs to Euphorbiaceae family of plant kingdom. It is also locally spoken as Amla, Anlika, Aonia, Amlaki or Indian gooseberry.

The tree is medium to moderate size-deciduous one with greyey bark, exfoliating in irregular patches and with red insides and the branchlets are finely pubescent. The leaves are 3-5 inches long, subsessile, linear-oblong, acute or mucronate, distichously close-set on deciduous branchlets, having the appearance of pinnate leaves, stipules minute. The tree is normally found wild in the tropical forest and is as well cultivated throughout the deciduous forests in the Kandi belt and hill slopes extending to the height 2000 ft. msl. The tree normally catches a height from 8-18 m with crooked trunk and spreading branches and bears flowers which are greenish yellow in colour and the fruit is normally spherical pale yellow with six vertical furrows. Raw fruit is not palatable but the ripened one is slightly sour but gives sweet taste when water is taken and is the richest source of Vitamin 'C' and is mostoftenly eaten as thirst quencher and the pickles and preserves are also made of Amla.

Amla can be successfully grown in light as well as heavy soils except purely sandy soil and calcareous soil with rocky-substratum can also be good. However, well drained fertile loamy soil is of the best quality for better and higher yield. The plant has the capacity for adaption to dry regions and can also be successfully grown in the moderately alkaline soils. It is as well excellently well grown under tropical conditions and the species demands an annual rainfall arranging from-650- 800 mm and in such areas the amla has shown hefty yield. When the plants attain an average height arounding three feet or so, these demand adequate protection from hotter winds of May/June as well as protection from frost as the species is not so frost hardy. A mature and well grown tree of Amla can as well tolerate a freezing temperature.

The species is most oftenly confined to the northern part of India and is as well knowned of its sanctocity value and worshipped by 'Hindu Women' amongst Brahmans boy (unmarried) during as a 'punyapujan' and Kichehedhi is prepared and served amongst Brahmin boys in (Katak - adesi month) during winter as a spiritual 'Dharmi Month' just it is for with Tulsi (Katak month) or holy basil.

Nursery technique:- The seeds should be preferably sown in the nurseries in poly-pots and thence should be propagated through seeds but seeds sown varieties yield inferior quality fruits on account of a

long gestation period. So, it is preferably better to have shield budding over a span of a year or so and this is being done by obtaining shield buds from superior strains yielding big size fruits.

The process involves preparation of pits of size one metre cub during summer months of May and June, at a distance of 4.5 mts by 4.5 mts or its variables in the spacing designs and the excavated earth should be left to sunlight for weathering so that good earth is formed and thence each pit should be filled with around 15 kgs farm yard manure (FYM) with BHC and about one kg. Of super phosphate before planting the so grafted seedlings. Further, weeding and hoeing operations are being carried out periodically and regular monitoring is being done to arrive at success oriented results.

The Amla plants require regular watering during summer spells foraround 20 days or so till these get fully established but with the very onset of monsoons afterwards no irrigation is desirable. Watering of mature fruit bearing plants is advisable during peak summer months at fortnight interval to enhance fruit's productivity and reduce fruit drop and and wonderful aspect of this species is that it responds well drip irrigation and after the monsoons, preferably during October- December around 30 litres are required to be fostered per tree through drip-erosion.

The seedlings start bearing fruits in

around eight years after planting whereas the budded clones start bearing fruits from 5th year onwards. The best harvesting season is February when the fruits are ripened with maximum ascorbic acid contents. In South India, the fruit is found throughout the year and the matured fruits are hard enough and these hardly fall without shaking of the tree.

For better marketing, grading of the fruit is being done and on an average, the weight per fruit come to 60-70 kgs and one kg contain around 15-20 number of fruits and a well maintained tree yield on an average age arounding 60-70 years and the best yield period for fruiting is around 50 years or so.

It has been estimated that an eight-years old plantation of one hectare will yield 20-25 tons of fruits with a cost of production of the Rs 35,000 per hectare. Conclusively, therefore, it is pertinent to mention that this species is of ample importance in the ayurveda- "the Indian system of medicines is as beauteous middle sized tree having sanctimonious in the Hindus families in multihued rituals warrants to be boosted. And its fostering will not only improve our economy but also provide greenery and make our forest lushgreen, vibrant and salubrious and above all it will give impetus in improving surrounds and environmentalism which beyond all ambiguities is in peril.

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