# ry beautiful. - Kailash Satyarthi EDITORIAL

#### **WELCOME AMARNATH PILGRIMS**

he pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave in Jammu and Kashmir is a journey of profound spiritual significance, attracting lacksquare devotees from all corners of the globe. Spanning over several days, this annual pilgrimage is steeped in ancient traditions and offers a unique opportunity for spiritual reflection, devotion, and communion with the divine.

Located in the Himalayas at an altitude of approximately 3,888 meters (12,756 ft), the Amarnath cave is believed to be the abode of Lord Shiva, one of the principal deities in Hinduism.

The journey to the Amarnath cave is not merely a physical trek but a spiritual odyssey that begins with deep devotion and preparation. Pilgrims often start their journey from Pahalgam or Baltal, two base camps that serve as starting points for the arduous trek through rugged terrain and breathtaking landscapes.

Pilgrims believe that witnessing the ice lingam brings them closer to Lord Shiva and grants them spiritual fulfillment. The journey culminates in the offering of prayers and chants, symbolizing devotion and gratitude to the divine. In conclusion, the Amarnath Yatra stands as a journey of faith, devotion, and spiritual awakening. It symbolizes the timeless bond between humanity and the divine, transcending individual beliefs to unite people in reverence and collective prayer. May all pilgrims embarking on this sacred journey find inner peace, divine blessings, and fulfillment in the presence of Lord Shiva, the eternal yogi and embodiment of compassion.

#### **Managing Watersheds**

n forestry parlance, a watershed cannotates an area, though small or large in its existence and is well identified ecosystem and can further be defined as such like areas in the broader outlook, which is having a common drainage system, and such like areas are very poor and with vegetative cover those which are particularly in the high canopy to the I6i level ground flora strata.

In a sense when we broadly nomenclaturise all such areas, there are three major watersheds in India alone viz, a). Himalayan range with its Karakoram branch in the north b). vindyan and satpura ranges in central India and sahyadri or western Ghats on the west coast And in general, with the ever-escalating environmental degradation and ruthless biotic pressure, preferably, over the forests, many areas have become barren most profoundly result being that our mountainous tops and other up-lands have now taken the shape of what we call as "wasteland". The environmental scenario, therefore, depicts vast, varied ramifications of watersheds, though of course, differing variably in their magnitude degrees, some forming maga or sub-micro watersheds. But one thing definitely stands that all such areas are warranting "rapid action treatments" by way of designing potential and the most workable strategies to arrive at developing such areas at all levels by the interactive response emanating from all the departments et. al. forests, flood control, agriculture. horticulture R&B and all the other line departments to rehabilitate all such areas to safeguard from further degradation throughout every nook and corner of country.

A watershed as well is the hydrologic system having cohesive linkage between inputs like those of rains / snowfall as well as the outputs viz, the water conglomerated with sediments, that out-flow in shape of Nallahs, streams and rivers etc, and the duo, the inputs and outputs are fundamentally being controlled by way of water percolation vis-a- vis its run-off, apart from water evaporation. All these factors in unison are wholly solely are dependent upon the remnant vegetative cover and the land use practice in vogue. The central soil and water conservation Research & Training institute" (CSWCRT). Dehradun and its ramified branches spreaded over throughout the country are pioneering agencies rendering yeoman's service through their research, demonstration and training

So, to make the integrated watershed development success-oriented, it becomes pertinent in an effort to bring in togetherness experience of multidisciplinary departments face-to-face with development which is diminishing quality of environments improving resources and adding to people predicaments and as well to mitigate ever- mounting the worst kinds of malaise of man-made mis-

Men of mountains have registered serious concern in what is happening in some of the most unique yet-most fragile, high mountains and as such it warrants rapid action treatment to provide green cover to the barren watersheds This coupled with raising of minorto major engineering works, gully plugging, check damming and allied operation to avert fast water run-off accruing from unprecedented and torrential rains which take along with it enormous sediments beyond all dimensions.

And 'in treating developing all such watersheds, it becomes per nent to gather basic datas, surveying the local human / live stock population falling under all these areas. It further needs to ensure and ascertain RF regime (legal status etc, Revenue, Forest or private owned), the location away from human denizens or in close proximity, credibility gap (inability through forestry is sighted away, fear loss of ownership), the afforestation works coupled with the choice o species most suited to site, preferably aromatically and medicinal plants; apart from survival and the best soil binding

species The second part inviting importance to "Integrated Watershed Management" is to ascertain estimated output capacity of land resources which include amongst others, to use the unused land crop improvement, regeneration potential, measures to shelter aforestation areas from human, cattle and disease/insects manifestations otherwise it will ebb away the entire exercise. In addition, there are three major potent factors to the "Integrated Watershed Management" fruitful and success oriented, first the possibility and probability to rehabilitate watersheds for sustained yield and rise in the productivity of land, second potent consideration inviting development (Ecosystem development) and lastly to test the CF model for planning implementation of" Integrated Watershed Management" for the landless poorer. Insofar as goes people's participation, it is beyond all ambiguities that the most pertinent part where the associated multihued communities are made to be motivated to function and to contribute as a predetermined task it warrants to be born in the mind that all adults who get their livelihood within the watershed itself are referred to as watershed community, apart from the fact that people living and in watershed areas have variable parameters of knowledge, literacy, attitude, capabilities above, all perceptions. In a sense, they cannot address to the problems and prospects of "Integrated watershed Management". It is, defacto, more so due to heterogeneity which becomes important to have people's participation cum organizational off shooting thereby community decision and later their implementation to make the integrated watershed development more success oriented. People's participation, therefore, 'in the process will involve interaction of people in the execution and further management of watersheds. Though, it is no more a denying the fact that "Integrated watershed Management" basically begins with the management of land, soil, water in such a manner that leads to the development and other allied resources and further leads to over all other sustainable development of the watershed community to become self recent / supportive. And insofar as goes its implementation part, land use modification and adjustment is very vital and essential. But ironically, this faces resistance from the community due to the ever mounting traditions and culture imbibed by them over the years. They rather look to such changes which have attempted to deprive from them of success to various resources to which they had full and free use earlier. And to cap it all the Integrated watershed Management impulses academic spectrum and urge to develop a blue print then to watch its implementation. which is be shelved. The detailed inflow of aims and objectives in this context from all related/sister agencies warrants consolidated support with maps, photographs and all other relevant data's in making 'Integrated watersheds Management" a mega success.

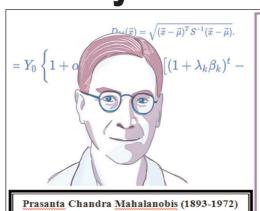
## National Statistics Day 2024: Intertwined Statistics with Al

■ DR. SUNALI MAHAJAN & DR. MANISH KR. SHARMA

tatistics is not a branch of mathematica be a matics but is a technology which is essentially concerned with the contingent world of reality as distinguished from a world of abstraction" words by Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis. The Government of India in 2006 decided to designate his birth anniversary as the 'National Statistics Day' on 29th June and is being celebrated as such since 2007.

Now-a-days, the data grow faster than ever and information is increasing tremendously, the role of statistics becomes more crucial as the field of statistics is the science of learning from data. It is the need to recall a famous quote by Karl Pearson "Statistics is the grammar of Science" which is a strong evidence. Statistics is the need of hour and Pearson highlighted the importance of statistics and particularly emphasizes the significance of quantification for various fields of scientific study because statistics has the tendency to convert data into information. The decisions based on data and its information will provide better outcomes than those just based on intuition or gut feelings. In our daily life, there is almost no human activity where the application of statistics is not needed. The application of statistics plays a very significant role in almost every field such as Agriculture, Veterinary, medical sciences, physical sciences etc.

The role of statistics is very important as this science help us to i) present and compare the facts from data in a definite form for scientists, policy makers, and many others ii) formalize our thinking iii) study



the current trends on the basis of sample survey. Sometimes the researchers use statistics for (i) Overgeneralization (ii) Biased samples (iii) Insufficient sample size which may mislead our results and conclusions.

In an era of increasingly voluminous and multifaceted data, the role of statistics in science continues to expand. Its fundamental principles remain as relevant today as they were in Mahalanobis and Pearson's time, guiding new generations of scientists in their quest for knowledge. As we move forward, the grammar of science will continue to evolve, adapting to new challenges and opportunities. Still, its core mission remains unchanged: to bring clarity, precision, and understanding to the complex data language. This reflection on statistics as the grammar of science reaffirms our commitment to pursuing truth, disseminating knowledge, and celebrating discoveries that enhance our understanding of the universe.

IMPORTANCE OF STATISTICS

IN OUR DAILY LIFE

Statistics holds a central position in almost every field like industry, commerce, astronomy, information technology and many more. Statistics, as an interdisciplinary scientific field, plays a substantial role both for the theoretical and practical understanding of AI and for its future development. Statistics might even be considered a core element of Computer science like AI, Data science, programming, data structures, algorithms, system design, and narrative skills therefore statistics is a natural partner for other disciplines in teaching, research and practice. Statistics become an invariable asset of AI with advanced algorithms and models to better understand and adapt the data, this gives AI an invincible future.

Statistical parameters like regression analysis, clustering techniques, algorithms, classifiers, and other tools drive AI to better results. So, AI and statistics are inseparable.

Statistics are the building blocks of AI. The statistical algorithms like KNN Regression, Support Vector Machine (SVM), and Generalized Additive Models (GAM) are some of the powerful algorithms and even the statistical models like linear and logistic regression are designed with greater potential to help AI for understanding the data to make rightful predictions. It is clear from the supporting evidence that the computer science like AI, machine learning, data mining etc. are dependent on Statistics. The integration of statistical principles with AI technologies is likely to lead to further advancements and drive innovation in the related areas.

Statistics providing many career opportunities and challenges both in traditional fields and in new exciting areas but the integration of Statistics and computer science have an immense scope of becoming analysts, subject matter expert, expert in Actuarial and health sciences, corporate sector and even in government sector. There is no end to this list. It is expected that events like National Statistics Day, World Statistics Day etc. will raise public awareness especially among the younger generation about the importance of Statistics as a future perspective and a carrier builder.

(The authors working in SKUAST-Jammu)

## **National Statistics Day**

■ DR. PARVEEN KUMAR

tatistics is the scientific study that deals with the collection and analysis of data and interpretation of that data to arrive at useful conclusions. It is mostly used to keep records, calculate probabilities, and provide insights into new knowledge. Basically it helps us to understand the world a little bit better through numbers and other quantitative information. Statistical knowledge helps us to use the proper methods to collect the data, employ the correct analyses, and effectively present the results. A sound and reliable statistical base is the essential pre requisite for socio-economic planning and policy formulation and for performance appraisal of various government policies and programmes in different sectors contributing to the economy of the country. Statistics is the bedrock of modern evidence based analysis and policy making.

Importance of Statistics: Statistics is a crucial process behind how we make discoveries in science, make decisions based on data, and make predictions. Statistics is one of the crucial parts of planning. Without statistics, the plan can't be possible. Statistics helps to do planning in business, economics, government level, and even a person. It has been noticed that 63% of people plan their activity a year or less in advance. To do solid planning, companies use the data related to production, consumption, birth, death, income, and so on. Statistics help the countries do adequate planning that is crucial for them. The best and most practical example of the use of data pertains to the data collected and analyzed during COVID-19 pandemic period. Based on the data collected and its analysis, the government took various containment as well as precautionary measures. Modeling studies using data also reveal the rate of infection in future thereby enabling governments of many countries to upgrade their health and medical infrastructure.

We have already seen how government of different countries successfully planned and managed the control of COVID-19 virus. This pandemic also proved the importance of statistics in our daily life.

Statistics plays a vital role in understanding economic data such as the relationship between the demand and supply, quantity and price, economic output, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), per capita income of nations etc. Statistics helps an economist to present economic facts or data in a precise and definite form. Statistics helps to condense or reduce the bulk of data as in the case of finding the average income of the population. Statistics facilitates forecasting and predicting of future. The condensed figures using various statistical tools help us to arrive at various developmental indicators like the literacy rate, sex ratio, Infant and Maternal Mortality rate, population growth rate and many other demographic figures. Based on the condensed and final figures obtained by the statistical results, policies and programmes are formulated by the government.

About 'Father of Indian Statistics': The man credited with revolutionizing Statistics in the country and given the title of Father of Indian Statistics is Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis. He was born on June 29, 1893 in Kolkata (then Calcutta) and left this world on June 28, 1972. He is considered the father of modern statistics in India as the Indian statistician who devised the Mahalanobis distance and was instrumental in formulating India's strategy for industrialization in the Second Five-Year Plan (1956-61). His other contributions include establishment of the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), shaped the Planning Commission, now NITI Aavog and pioneered methodologies for large-scale surveys. He introduced innovative techniques for conducting large-scale sample surveys, calculated acreages and crop yields, using the method of random sampling. He also devised a statistical method called 'Fractile Graphical Analysis', used to compare socio-economic conditions of varied groups. He is credited with promotion of statistical quality control movement for improvement of Industrial products. In 1930 he proposed the Mahalanobis Distance for the first time, which is a measure of comparison between two data sets. The formula is used to find the distance between a point and a distribution, based on measurements in multiple dimensions. It is widely used in the field of cluster analysis and classification. The Indian Statistical Institute was declared as an institute of national importance in 1959. He also started 'Sankhya: The Indian Journal of Statistics' in 1933. In 1950 he established the National Sample Survey and set up the Central Statistical Organization to coordinate statistical activities. In 1955, he became a member of the Planning Commission and continued in that capacity till 1967. He was instrumental in formulating India's second fiveyear-plan (1956-1961), which laid the blueprint for industrialisation and development in India. In 1968, he was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan, besides being conferred a large number of awards by international organizations.

History of the National Statistics Day: In recognition of the notable contribution made by Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in the fields of economic planning and statistical development in the post independent era, the Govt, of India decided to designate his birthday 29th June every year as the National Statistics Day. The National Statistics Day is in the category of special day to be celebrated at the national level. Notification to this effect was published in the Gazette of India on June 05, 2007. The Day is celebrated by holding seminars, discussions and competitions to

highlights the importance of official statistics in national development.

Acknowledging that the production of reliable, timely statistics and indicators of countries' progress is indispensable for informed policy decisions and monitoring implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the General Assembly adopted on 3 June

2010 resolution 64/267. The resolution officially designated 20 October 2010 as the first 'World Statistics Day.' The first world statistics day was celebrated under the general theme 'celebrating the many achievements of official statistics.' Before the resolution 64/267, at its 41st session in February 2010, the United Nations Statistical Commission proposed celebrating 20 October 2010 as World Statistics Day vide its decision 41/109.

As the world requires data to face many common challenges, let us use the National and the World Statistics Day to spotlight the role of statistics in advancing sustainable development for all of us. Needless to say that a fair and transparent statistical system of analysis is indispensible for formulation of different policies and programmes and also to monitor the progress achieved in terms of various indicators in different sectors of the economy. To put it in the words of Mahalanobis, 'Statistics must have a clearly defined purpose, one aspect of which is scientific advancement and the other human welfare and advancement'. The celebration of this important day must not be taken as a formality only to remind us of the contribution of the great statistician to the Indian statistical system, but it should also be the day to strengthen our resolve to modernize and further update this vital system in terms of timeliness, adequacy, credibility and

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### **Deplorable Position of Electricity in Jammu**

**■ OMKAR DATTATRAY** 

he electricity in Jammu is playing hide and seek with the people and the position of electricity is most deplorable. The electricity consumers are facing untold sufferings, inconveniences and hardships because of the sad condition of electricity in Jammu. The consumers by and large are paying electricity dues honestly. In these days of heat wave and scorching heat, the hardships of the people are compounded by the frequent electricity cuts both in metered areas and unmetered areas. It is the responsibility and duty of the power Development Department to provide uninterrupted electricity to the consumers so that they may not suffer due to lack of adequate power. The people of Jammu are facing electricity crisis of the worst order in these hot summer day when the humidity has also increased and people need adequate electricity. But adequate electricity is conspicuous by its absence and due to the apathetic condition of electricity; people are reeling under electricity crisis which is unprecedented in nature.

The government has installed smart meters in major portion of Jammu and it was expected that the woes of power consumers will come to an end. But the woes of the electricity consumers did not cease but continued and even were compounded due to lack luster approach of the PDD. The PDD seems to be unconcerned about the shortage of electricity in Jammu and is reluctant and indifferent towards the inconveniences and hardships of the people because of the paucity of adequate electricity. Some day earlier the government had stated that there will be no electric cuts and shut downs in smart metered areas and it was only in theory and papers but in actual

world there is no respite from the scheduled and unscheduled electric cuts which compounds the difficulties of the Jammuites who continue to suffer a lot despite the installation of smart meters. It seems to be the fait accomplice of the people of Jammu to face the power woes of the worst order. It is pertinent to note that in most areas of Jammu, the electricity during the night is of the names sake and the people are facing uneasy nights due to the lack of adequate electricity. In Talab Tillo area and in Govind Nagar of Gole Gujral area the electricity is playing the hide and seek with the residents of these areas and the PDD is in deep slumber and has no time to attends towards the woes of the consumers and mitigate these woes or at least to lessen it.

The fact is that the demand of the electricity increases manifold in hot summers and the PDD should plan in advance how to deal with the increasing demand of the electricity. The government should purchase its deficit electricity from the neighboring states to tide over the power crisis and it cannot let its people to suffer due to the lack of electricity.PDD seems to be busy and interested only in collecting the bills and fares of electricity and is sending inflated bills to the poor consumers who are faced to pay these hefty electricity bills. But in return they are not getting proper and adequate electricity supply that too in these hot summer and humid days thus compounding the woes of the people. The government should wake from the deep slumber and take concrete steps to augment electricity supply in most of the areas of Jammu as all these areas are facing electricity crisis and people are suffering from the want of adequate electricity. The tall claims of the PDD that the

position of electricity will get improved at least in smart metered areas but nothing of the sort happened and there is totally no improvement in metered areas and the power consumers are suffering despite paying hefty electricity bill and that on time. The government should wake up and recognize its duty and responsibility and provide adequate electricity to people especially during nights as it is most difficult to pass on the nights with the so meager electricity. The crux of this write up is this that the people of Jammu are suffering most in these days of scorching heat and humidity and their problem gets compounded due to the lack of adequate electricity supply. The government should wake up and pay urgent attention towards the addressing of the electricity woes of the consumers who pay electric bills as honest consumers and in return they only get neglect and apathy of the PDD. Thus, the government should pay top most attention towards the woes of the power consumers and honestly and seriously try and strive to mitigate the woes of the power consumers so that some relief is provided to them so that they pass on their life easily and without any difficulty. The government should understand its duty and responsibility and rescue the people of Jammu from the woes of electricity.

Thus something on war footing needs to be done to augment the power position and supply adequate electricity to people so that some relief is provided to them and they pass on days in these summers. Government has no inborn right to send hefty electricity bills to consumers if they cannot provide uninterrupted power supply to them. So the government should at

the earliest take steps to augment the power position and supply and provide electricity to consumers without any cuts. The PDD should prepare a due schedule of power curtailment for both the metered and unmetered areas and stick and implement it strictly so that consumers will heave a sigh of relief. Few days back the transformer in Gobind Nagar Gole Gujral got damaged and the PDD replaced it and within a fortnight the replaced transformer also got damaged thus putting the consumers of this area to great inconvenience and hardship in these days of hot summer. The PDD should do away with its bad practice of imposing unscheduled power cuts so that consumers will feel some relief. Moreover during nights in these hot days, there should be no unscheduled power cuts which compound the woes of the power consumers. The government should immediately procure electricity from other states to tide over the power crisis in Jammu and Kashmir. It should provide adequate power supply to people so that they will not face any difficulty for want of adequate electricity supply. People should also make a judicious use of electricity supply and not waste power and also cooperate with the powers so that adequate electricity supply is made available to people so that they may not suffer any more in these hot and humid days. Government needs to stop the hide and seek practice played by the electricity with the consumers of Jammu. It is hoped that the government will come to the rescue of the people and provide them the needed electricity at the earliest and tide over the power crisis.

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