

CONTROLLING FLOOD

From disrupting human life to damaging the environment there are many negative consequences of floods that are difficult to deal with. Thus controlling flood is very important. It is the need of the hour to install better flood warning systems so that people are warned about the upcoming problem at the right time and they have enough time to protect themselves and their belongings. Buildings in the flood prone area should be constructed above the flood water level to avoid damage to the property as well as the people living there. The government should invest in building water storage systems to reuse rain water. In this way water can be used excessively instead of overflowing the plains and causing floods. One of the main causes of flood is poor drainage system. It is necessary to have a good drainage system to avoid water seepage so that flood situation does not arise. Flood barriers should be installed in areas that are prone to floods. These can be removed after the water has drained. Although rain events, melting snow-mountains, drainages and storms can be difficult to prevent but most of these cases can be pre-empted and the government can take measures to ensure drainage that does not lead to flood situation.

SHE, Voice of the hour

AYANA GANDOTRA

Divine Feminine 'as elegant as this word sounds no one ever really needed to suffice the depth of it, the significance of it and needless to say the power it holds. The literal meaning of divine feminine is, the feminine aspect of the divine power that connects and binds the earth together. In other words, it is the goddess energy that exists within all of us. Many ancient cultures have a divine Feminine concept. Years have passed, generations have gone but the issue of suppressing female energy still manages to somehow be at the top tier. We all have witnessed social movements, articles, welfare, parades and what not for the need of women to coequally exist but today I woke up and felt beautiful, beautiful in a way that can't be seen. I felt proud of how diverse and powerful the female culture is, sad how the glorified aspects of it gets neglected and how people keep forgetting what Nikita Gill once quoted, "Defined by no man, you are your own story, blazing through the word turning history into 'her story'". And when they dare to tell you about all the things you cannot be, you smile and tell them, "I am both war and women and you cannot stop me".

Motherhood, although my definition would fail to justify the power of this word but here goes nothing, the ability of a woman to give birth is unity in its own self. Women while giving birth experiences 57 del unit of pain (Labor), similar to 20 bones simultaneously getting fractured. My mom had me when she was 28 and my brother when she was 21 and coming of her being mother changed her in ways she never imagined. You evolve into someone just a little kinder, curious and imaginative.

You see life through the lens of truly selfless love, wholly unconditional and complete. Life as a mom is so much more than the care giving and nurturing a beautiful little soul. Its connecting with a higher part of yourself that is so full of compassion, care, and affection. Having a baby makes your heart feel as through its grown 10 sizes overnight. The love you felt towards your child before they are even born exploded into a whole galaxy the moment you laid eyes on them. And the feeling only grows more each day as you get to bask in the utter bliss of calling yourself this little human's mom. These are not just words or something that can be witnessed, we all should appreciate motherhood and its uncanny beauty. In Hindu mythology, women play a significantly deeper role that you might have thought. Its women who builds and women who breaks. Maa Kamakhya or Kameswari is the renowned Goddess of Desire whose famous shrine is located in the heart of Nilachala hill situated in the western part of Guwahati, the capital city of the state of Assam in the north east India. Maa Kamakhya Devalaya is considered most sacred and oldest of the 51 Shakti Peethas on earth. It is the centrepiece of widely practiced, powerful Tantrik Shaktism cult in India. This temple celebrated "menstruation" in the month of Ashaad (June) the goddess bleeds. At this time, the Brahmaputra river near Kamakhya turns red. The temple then remains closed for 3 days, and the holy water is distributed among the devotees of Kamakhya Devi. Women in Hinduism Brahman created women, according to the Hinduism, in the sense of imaginative duality to provide men's ventures and support procreate, progeny and family relations. If we research ancient history, we find that women held top religious and social roles in the Vedic era. On the other hand, a woman has minimal independence according to the tradition. In a household governed by male members, she is a dependent individual. For those who see women as land, Mann suriti preaches more restricted norms.

Women in Islam: Islam is the first religion in the world to accept and grant women all the rights that men have enjoyed. Islam has liberated women slavery and has given them equal treatment and recognised their individuality as human beings. By instituting right of land, possession, inheritance, schooling, marriage and divorce, Islam improved the status of women. The Quran has issued a radical argument that the rights of men and women are equal to their responsibilities. It made an open declaration of the gender equality. I would like to conclude by saying celebrate women every day, she is just like water. Powerful enough to drown you, soft enough to cleanse you and deep enough to save you.

SETBACK TO RAHUL GANDHI

K.V. SEETHARAMAIAH

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has suffered a severe setback in Gujarat High Court also. Surat Court's conviction order in defamation case against Rahul Gandhi sentencing him to two years jail sentence was upheld by the Surat Sessions court. Now Gujarat High Court has turned down the plea of Gandhi to stay his conviction. Rahul Gandhi has learnt no lesson from the unconditional apology he had to tender in the Supreme Court in Rafale case for calling Chowkidar Chor Hai, a reference obviously made to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

While Gandhi's right to criticize the Prime Minister cannot be infringed, criticism should be more against the Prime Minister or his government for his policies and programmes. Personal and political vendetta coming from one against the other serves neither political interest nor national interest. These will only vitiate the political atmosphere. In his 125-page ruling, Justice Hemant Prachehhah of Gujarat High Court has emphasized the need for purity in politics. Mud-slinging has become more a norm than an exception. The judge has observed "the applicant is trying to seek a stay of his conviction on absolutely non-existent grounds. It is a well-settled principle of law that a stay of conviction is not a rule but an exception to be resorted to in rare cases".

The judge has also pointed out that there are 10 criminal cases pending against Rahul Gandhi. It is said "a single death is tragedy, but scores of deaths are statistics". The same analogy seems to apply for criminal cases in courts also. A single case in court bothers the accused very much. But when there are a number of cases, the accused will get used to it. It hardly matters if some more additions are made to the existing cases. The gravity of the crime by the disqualified MP is that it has prompted the judge to say "Rahul's alleged act would also be punishable under Section 171G of the IPC (false statement in connection with an election). The Gujarat High Court has held the trial court's order "just, proper and legal". The High Court has rightly said "it was not an individual centric defamation case, but something which affected a large section of the society. In a rally at Kolar in Karnataka, Rahul Gandhi had said "How come all thieves have Modi as the common surname?" He has not only (mis) directed his ire against Modi, but also the entire community of people having "Modi" as surname. Punishment is also part of educative process to learn in life.

G.L. KHAJURIA

Amidst lush green forest of deodar and other pines around 125 kms from Jammu and 19 kms from Patnitop is located Sanasar a wonder of wonders. This picturesque spot is akin to Gulmarg of Kashmir for its enchanting beauty, grandeur and glory where tourists in thousands throng in during peak summer spells for having a sigh of relief away from soaring temperature as well as to enjoy the dazzling natural beauty of this resort. Though the road lifeline from Patnitop to Sanasar is rugged and rough and is having serpentine twists and turns, yet the tourist inflow is ever-increasing year after year. The road link calls for improvement for the convenience of tourists influx. Even during winter, the tourists influx is undoubtedly unbridled and the visitors throng in heavy numbers to enjoy and cherish snowfall, when Kud, Patnitop, Batote and the areas in and around the vicinity is heavily snow-capped so much so that the National Highway oft-repeatedly gets blocked.

'Sanasar' is situated around 9500 feet from sea level and is termed as mini-Gulmarg of Kashmir. The picturesque spot is lapped all round with mystique of mystiques, bountiful engrossing lush greenery of pines, herbs, shrubs and abundant medicinal plants ranging from micro to macro flora coupled with the rich heritage of other flora and fauna. The natural springs yielding nectar-pious water are fountains at multihued places. Apart from scenic beauty, the place is a sanctum sanctorum from time immemorial as the land of 'Nag Rajas' in and around the vicinity of Sanasar itself et al 'Nag Raja' of Kasal is of immensive 'Shakti' where the visitors as well go for paying obeisance and obtain divine blessing. It is believed with oozing confidence that wishes made before 'Nag Raja' are fulfilled, though the photography of the temple and that of inside is strictly prohibited. These are miracles of 'Divine Shakties' in the modern age of most advanced Science and Technology (the writer has had his own experience, though not narrate able). At the peak of Patnitop enroute Batote, there is another 'Devasthan' (Shank Paul Shakti Devta) temple and is having equisiting 'Shakti'.

Much water has flowed down Chenab; but ironically this picturesque spot has been least bothered for its developments. A short stretch of 19 kms that links Sanasar with Patnitop is in a very dilapidated condition. You cannot call it a Paeca or a Kaecha road. The locals are deprived of the basic amenities, particularly when it is a heavy snowfall when the road remains cut off for days together and the electric supply creates the same sort of situation. This ever green cushioned spot is really a piece of heaven, the more you praise the less it is!!



Sanasar meadow is a green carpetlike ground and cushioned by silky soft grasses that glorify the resort. Add to it the small brilliant, refreshing fragrant flowers which add to the beauty of the spot. To lay to rest on this green meadow carpet is too comfortable and enchanting then that of confining oneself in the adjoining rooms constructed by various departments.

'Sanasar, over the years was a marvelous lake like that of 'Surinsar' and 'Mansar' of Jammu district but ironically now stands dried almost due more to the seepage for the last around 60 years or so. However, as per estimates the lake had encompassed around 2500 kanals with its outer periphery circumference rounding some 6 kms or so. The area was and is subjected to encroachment but the forest Department associated with revenue Department and law enforcing agencies are on the high and active surveillance to thwart any attempt to have an evil eye over the picturesque spot. In the version of L.P Rai (the then Addl. Dy commissioner, Ramban) thatas far as in the year 1992, he chanced upon to interact with the then, Director, Geology and Mining Department along with GREF agencies to survey the area and evolve strategy workable to restore to its pristine grandeur and glory and to analyze the root cause of its shrinkage and de-silting and in their ultimate analysis opined that the subtle cause being underground water flow down below Nashri Nallah, barely 8 kmsonfoot through the forest linking NH-1A. Further it was established that there are as many as nine springs underneath this Sanasar lake and at the same time, it was apprehended that lifting of silt to the extent of 20-25 feet may cause holocaustic consequences to the local inhabitants together with their cultivated lands as

well. The specialist further emphasized that the government should approach to the expert deptt. with enough expertise for the construction of a wall surrounding 20 feet in the length and 8 feet in width and only then the silt of the lake can be lifted to bring back this heritage to its pristine beauty and grandeur. The survey together with workable strategy remained as a hanging fire till date.

There is an astonishing legend that it that the farmers of the locality were once ploughing the field in the vicinity of Sanasar lake and they took a break for the lunch leaving the oxen aside. In the meanwhile, a Sadhu appeared on the scene and he advised the farmers to unyolk the oxen so that they may also graze and take rest. Instead, they aguishly said, "Who are you to advise us for unyoking oxen? Within moments, the Sadhu eluded and it is said that a calamitous storm with whirlwind engulfed the sky coupled with whimper cloudburst which struck the area and everything swept away along with the farmers and oxen so yoked.

People of the locality and those of faraway places come to this temple for paying obeisance and obtain blessings from "Chouncer Nag Devta"- a miracle of miracles. Manzoor Ahmed Forest Guard posted at Sanasar forest has had a holy Darshan- of 'Nag Devta' while being on its routine movement in the forest- A nine foot long "Nag" with hairy skin.

The sacred temple of Nag-Devta of Sanasar is visited twice in a year in the form of Yatra and of which one is vegetarian and is celebrated with the offerings of sweet rice, whereas the other is non-vegetarian which is celebrated by the sacrificial of goat and is offered to the 'Nag Devta'. Two Bhandaras are also held every year. Though many may not believe, but truth-

fulness and sanctity exists on the hilly areas of Sub-Himalayan regions like Bhadervah, Kishtwar, Duhu, Basantgarh, Kud, Patnitop, Billawar, Bani, Basohli and many of its pious areas adjoining the state of Himachal Pradesh. During Governor rule in 1990, a nine point golf course plan was earmarked for Sanasar which too remained in the offing and till date there is no let up.

Some Suggestions: Improvement of road: A short stretch of 19 kms linking the road with Patnitop warrants improvement. This is pertinent in view of the present scenario as the soil texture is good and metaling coupled with black topping of this rough road is the need inviting government attention and allied agencies coupled with maintenance of side drains for disciplined outflow of water during inclement weather conditions and even otherwise also this is the major bottleneck and once a healthy lifeline is established, this shall boost and ameliorate tourist influx.

Beautification of The Road Link (Patnitop-Sanasar) Plantation of ornamental trees, shrubs alongside road linkon the either side at equidistance shall expurgate the beauty of spot.

De-silting of the lake area: This is necessary and demanding too, to restore back the lake area to its pristine grandeur and glory. This is no longer a single agency show but many departments al Geological and survey forest, soil conservation and other allied agencies connected with the restoration and reclamation need to be associated with to chalk out workable strategy for the formation of lake which will not only enhance the beauty spot for the preservation of the spot which is of a National Heritage.

Development of meadows and golf course: The half way left over idea warrants proper shaping now onwards for years to come and heretoomany agencies shall to be associated with to chalk out workable strategies so as to attract the golf enthusiasts not only from the state but from India and abroad.

Accommodation: The tourism, the forest and allied departments have magnificently raised hutments to accommodate visitors, which do not demand its further exaggeration, else it would disfigure the beauty of spot. However, 'view points' on isolated spots shall further add beauty and grandeur to the area which are warranted to be constructor for the children to have an overview picture of the spot and its surroundings so may feel fascinating.

Mini-Creation Park: A mini re-creation park shall provide enchanting spell to the children and little kids who live in their own world. It shall as well feast and boost their excitements and merry making.

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

'Live - in Relation' - Not acceptable to civilized society

MAHADEEP SINGH JAMWAL

India is a developing country, where people are also transforming to the modern era. In India, there are various traditions and customs being followed and also the Indians are very much protective as well as possessive about their traditions and customs. There have been dynamic changes that took place in the customs & traditions along with acceptance towards modernization like widow remarriage, inter-caste marriage etc. Many practices and customs such as: abolition of sati system, abolition of child marriage has been done away. Similarly adultery (offence u/s 497 IPC) is no more an offence under Criminal law. With these drastic changes in our society, there is one more concept of relation our new generation is adopting and that is 'Live-in-Relationship'.

A live-in relationship is an arrangement when two people involved in a sexual relationship as partners for a long term or permanently, decide to live together without marriage. The concept of marriage is defined under law or under personal laws like Hindu Marriage Act, 1955; Muslim Personal laws etc but there are no such specified laws regarding live-in relationship. Marriage is a sacramental institution in our society. Unlike marriage, live-in relationships are highly criticized because these two people live under the same roof that resembles marriage but not married. In Canada, the practice of live-in relationship is recognized as Common-Law relationship. In the regions of UAE, and Dubai, living together with someone you are not married to, is an offence against Sharia Law. In England and Wales, it is legal for a couple to have a sexual relationship, as long as they are both 16 and over and they both consent. Live-in relation of a man with a woman has been the focus of civilized societies and legal entities in India. The reason why people are choosing to live in a relationship is remarked by some as to check their compatibility with each other before getting legally married. This is

an unacceptable reason as for how long this compatibility test will prolong and with how many people to live in as partners before arriving at a decision to have a nuptial knot with one man for the whole period of life and in Hindu mythology for 'Saat Janam'. We can keep this practice in the parameters of the prostitution. It is simply taken as a shameful relation by civilized society. Indian conventional society finds it difficult to accept this relation. With time many incidents have been reported and seen where partners in live-in relationships or a child born out of such relationship have remained vulnerable for the very simple reason that such relationships have been kept outside the realm of law. For the past some-time, we come across some ghastly murders that have horrified the responsible parents' and civilized society and these murders are connected to the relations coined as "Living-in-Relationship". We have some examples like that of Shradha Walker murdered in 2022 by Aaftab Amin Poonawala and her body chopped into 35 pieces, had been living in a relationship since 2018, Nikki Yadav, strangled to death and body dumped in refrigerator; was in a live-in relationship, in the Palghar district of Maharashtra, a man allegedly killed his live-in partner and stuffed her body in a mattress, Megha Torvi was allegedly murdered by his live-in partner Hardik Shah, and hid the body in a bed box, Saraswati Vaidya, murdered who was in a live-in relationship with Manoj Sahani, for the last three years, and many more cases. One thing common we find is that all the victims were unmarried and their living-in-relationship was well within the knowledge of their parents. The living in relation of unmarried girls (may be an adult) with a man and indulging in all sexual activities like married couple is not acceptable in Hindu mythology and civilized society as there is no social claim or position attached with a live-in relationship unlike a marriage where families are involved and individuals are bound with social responsibilities. In the con-

text of live-in relationships and its societal acceptance, the Supreme Court held that a living relationship comes within the ambit of right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The Supreme Court gave the judgment that Live-in relationship may be immoral in the society due to religious and conservative nature however it is not illegal. In India marriage is given importance over live-in relationships. But the biggest disadvantage of live-in relationships is the lack of support from families and friends. It causes the couple a lot of mental agonies and sometimes is also the reason for the downfall of their relationship and culminating in serious crime. It is not compulsory for couples who are living in a relationship that they have to marry each other. Unmarried couples while in live-in relation don't have the same legal protection as married couples; and they also have no legal responsibility for each other in the event of a breakup. This means the rules that apply in a divorce, don't apply if you're not married. Legally, living-in-relation couples have no financial responsibility to one another if they separate. If their relationship ends they have no legal responsibility to provide a former partner with financial support. So to say, such relations are just to satisfy the sexual lust, nothing more than that and no protection of any kind especially to female gender after the live-in relations are over. Those with the psyche of changing sexual partners like dresses take to the recourse of eliminating the one by committing their murders as in most cases; the female partner hesitates to free their live-in partner for fear of acceptance in the society. True relations do not matter in live-in relations, as friendship and such relationships will come and go, and where toxic situations arise, the crime takes its space. These live-in relations are more visible in metropolitan cities as these are the business hubs where western ideas and lifestyles are readily accepted.

Ah Tomato Tears!

OMKAR DATTATRAY

We are conversant with and have heard and experienced the onion tears and have also heard about it and also we also know the onionisation of politics. But tomato tears is a new addition to the tears syndrome. It is very unfortunate and sad that the prices of some vegetables are skyrocketing and soaring very high and at the top of the list are tomato prices which have increased beyond imagination and such rise in the price of tomato is unprecedented and it is a matter of grave and great concern for the average Indian consumer and consumers of the Jammu and Kashmir is no exception as they too are facing the higher prices of tomato and are experiencing the pinch of raising prices of tomatoes and the people find it not within their budgets to buy tomatoes for their use as vegetable. The steeply rising prices of tomatoes have brought tears in the eyes of the poor and average consumers who find it difficult to purchase tomatoes at the prevailing higher prices and these rising prices of tomatoes, ginger and other vegetables has become a headache for the people. It is very surprising that tomatoes are selling at the rate of rupees 80 to 140 per kilogram and more and it has affected the budget of an average consumer. The brunt of rising prices of tomatoes and other vegetables is borne by the common people. The main reason of the rising prices of tomatoes in the Indian

market is the climate change and global warming and this has badly affected the production of tomatoes with the result there is short supply of tomatoes in the market and this has resulted in the unprecedented increase in the prices if the tomatoes and consumers are facing much difficulty in purchasing tomatoes.

It is very surprising that tomatoes are being sold in market at the same price as that of apple. Parting more money for buying tomatoes is a very painful but the consumers have to buy the tomatoes irrespective of their prices because tomatoes is staple vegetable generally consumed by a large number of the people. Tomato tears can only be wiped with research and development -R&D.

National Research Foundation must propel R&D to make climate smart techniques to address crop failures which led to price rise of agricultural products. Nowadays tomatoes are trending at Rs 100 to Rs 160 per Kg, ginger and garlic touching Rs 150 -200 per kg. Steep rise in prices of tomatoes and other vegetables punched in the pocket of an average household and tell a bigger story of climate shocks. Even as India is the world's second largest producer of tomatoes and other vegetables but wholesome agriculture is facing a wide spectrum of challenges, such as stagnation in crop yields, declining soil organic matter, multi-nutrient deficiencies, shrinking arable land, water availability

, cold supply chain and overall climate change is one of the biggest challenges.

Farm output is vulnerable to changes in the climate as higher temperatures tend to reduce crop yields an increase pest infections. Rainfed agriculture is primarily impacted due to variability in the number of rainy days.

To address climate change, recently union government gave nod to set up a National Research Foundation -NRF, an apex body to promote fund and mentor research to match up to global standards. The fine print of the NRF bill is likely to be introduced in the monsoon session of the parliament starting July 20th. Thus there is need to expend funds upon research and development to arrest the trend of steeply increasing prices of tomatoes and other vegetables. So what is needed most is to allow augmentation of the agricultural products including tomatoes by attacking climate change which is not in the control of men. So there is immediate need for spending money on research and development on climate change so that people get tomatoes at reasonable rates. But spending money on research and development and using it as a means and measure of arresting the trend of soaring prices of tomatoes is a long time measure and thus it will bring results in long run and therefore there is immediate need that governmental machinery should step in and control rising prices of tomatoes and other

vegetables so that steeply rising prices of tomatoes and other vegetables are put under control and thus effected as a short run measure.

Therefore the government of the day should step in and arrest the growing trend of rising prices of farm products especially tomatoes to give some relief to the common and poor consumers and thus through short run measure the government should try to combat the steeply rising prices of farm products including tomatoes and other vegetable prices. So government should exert its good offices to control the rising prices of tomatoes and other vegetables to give some relief to the consuming public. But it being a short term measure, there is need to increase research and development and try to ease the effects of climate change and global warming and this long term measure is an effective way to control the rising prices of tomatoes and other vegetable prices so that consumers are saved from being hit by rising prices otherwise tomatoes will continue to bring tears in the eyes of the consumers. There is need to wipe out the tomato tears and bring the soaring prices of tomatoes under control so that consumers will heave a sigh of relief. Thus tomatoes tears and rising prices of tomatoes should be controlled to give some relief to the public so that they will not have to part with extra money to buy tomatoes.

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