

RECYCLING E-WASTE

In present world, there is hardly any sector which is not dependent on the information technology and using the latest equipment for easing the works and meeting several other requirements. Moreover, the electronic gadgets like computers, laptops, printers have become an integral part of any office, as almost all work is being done on these little inventions of science. Moreover, the telecom sector has witnessed a major a major boom in last few years and at present it would be almost impossible to find a person not using a smart-phone. These devices, where on one hand have eased our works in several ways, on the other hand result in creation of a huge e-waste, which is emerging as a major threat these days. The Government has taken a number of steps to formalise the e-waste recycling sector of country. The e-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 provide for compulsory registration of the recycling units and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued guidelines/Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for processing of e-waste. While replying to a question in Lok Sabha, the Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ashwini Kumar Choubey informed that CPCB and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) have been monitoring the units and necessary steps have been taken to mainstream and modernise the recycling industry with the help of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The e-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 also provide for recognition and registration, skill development, monitoring and ensuring safety and health, of workers involved in dismantling and recycling of e-waste.

Under the e-Waste Management Rules, provision for reduction of hazardous substances in manufacturing of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) has been provided. It mandates that every producer of EEE and their components shall ensure that their products do not contain lead, mercury and other hazardous substances beyond the maximum prescribed concentration.



OFF 'D' CUFF

Language And Culture

The 66-year-old Vairamuthu, with a literary innings of nearly 50 years, says he has been interested in the Tamil language from the age of 12 and he started writing *venpa*, classical poetry, at the age of 16. "Language is my life," he says, "my life is entwined with it."

My daylight working hours are devoted to song-writing, to lyrics. At night, I do literary work, he says. When does he sleep, then? He says he gets enough sleep in the afternoon when he takes a good nap and at night, clocking in an average of seven hours' sleep.

What time does he wake up in the morning? "I wake up at 4:45 am and then from 5:30 am to 6:30 am, I do yoga, for one full hour," says the popular writer and poet who has authored 37 books including novels, written over 6,500 lyrics (including *Chinna chinna asai* that features in the film *Rojja*) and essays. He has received several awards including the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, the Sahitya Akademi Award and several National Film Awards.

The trim and energetic Vairamuthu says he walks twice a week, on Saturdays and Sundays, for at least 45 minutes at a time. But regularly does one hour of yoga, every morning. And he never overeats. "When you sit down to eat, you need to remember three things: One half of your stomach can be filled with food, one quarter with fluids, and the last quarter is to be kept free, when you complete your meal." He goes on to say that when you travel, your suitcase and stomach should be half empty, because you never know what you may have to put into either.

Vairamuthu's latest book, titled *Tamizhatrupadai*, published in July 2019, has already sold more than 30,000 copies with five reprints. Its publication coinciding with the latest controversy over the antiquity of the Tamil language vis-à-vis Sanskrit, has generated huge interest in the subject. The book features 24 Tamil writers, poets and activists starting from Tholkappiyar, Kapilar, Avvaiyar, Thiruvalluvar and Caldwell to Subramania Bharati, Periyar, Annadurai, Karunanidhi, Kamnadasan and Abdul Rahman.

"Tamil is the oldest living language. There are others like Hebrew and Greek but they are not alive. Granted, Sanskrit is part of our culture. To understand south India and its culture, you need Tamil and you need Sanskrit, to understand north India. Creative mythology says Tamil and Sanskrit are ancient languages, like the two sides of Shiva's damru, the story goes that when Shiva struck one side of the damru, Tamil was born and when he struck the other side, Sanskrit was born."

-Narayani Ganesh

Why 'Modi' phenomenon works?

■ ARVIND GUPTA

Who should be a leader and what should be the characteristics of a leader? Right from the Academicians to Philosophers to Intellectuals to Writers to Individuals to leaders themselves has defined a Leader in their own way & manner. But whatever may be the definition best suited for an individual to be a leader of all times is seen and found in Bhairu Narendran Damodar Das Modi, popularly addressed as Modi. Modi is name which you can hate for the reasons best known to you but you can't ignore him. For a common Indian he is not just their leader and Prime Minister, they look up to him as their Dharam Guru, who can sail our country once again as Vishw Guru. Since his emergence on the national level in 2014 as our Pradhan Mantri, the view point of common Indian has changed on looking the things happening worldwide. Everyone, even including those who for their political reservations can't admit it in public, look at him to lead the whole world post COVID.

Modi is a man with a purpose, who has a unique sense of understanding the pulse of every Indian.

Whether he is in election campaign mood, or addressing the nation from the ramparts of Lal Qila or floor of Parliament, the words he speak become slogan which turns out to be the flagship program of the government to be completed as a mission. On October 7, 2021, Modi completed 20 continuous years as the head of democratically

elected government, with twelve and a half years as Chief Minister of Gujarat and eight years & running as Prime Minister of India. As Prime Minister, Modi dedicated his first eight years in office, to country's balanced development, social justice and social security, which saw launch and successful implementation of several schemes providing direct benefit to beneficiaries' cross-sections of the society.

To commemorate the achievements of twenty years of Modi, the path of his dreams meeting delivery is very well pen-downed by the personalities who have excelled in different walks of life, in the recently realised book 'Modi@20 Dreams Meet Delivery' but in this write-up we will focus on some of Modi's flagship schemes and how they have changed India, from the view point of common Indian.

Jan Dhan Yojana: The first flagship scheme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), was announced by Prime Minister Modi in his first Independence Day speech in 2014 from the ramparts of Lal Qila and finally launched on 28th of August 2014.

The primary objective of the scheme has been to ensure the coverage of unbanked society to provide the financial products and services at an affordable cost. Till July 27, 2022, the number of accounts opened under PMJDY stand at 46.11 crore, with a deposit of Rs. 171616.70 crore. The number of RuPay debit cards issued to beneficiaries stood at 31.90 crore. The benefits under PMJDY included scholarships,

subsidies and pensions to beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). During COVID, the PMJDY accounts made it convenient to disburse the relief among hundreds of beneficiaries. Swachh Bharat Mission: The other most ambitious and flagship scheme of Modi 'Swachh Bharat Mission' was launched on 2nd October 2014, to eliminate open defecation from across India. Under the scheme more than 11.5 crore toilets have been built by the government. In the Union Budget 2022-23, the government allocated Rs 7192 crore for the Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural), while Rs 141678 crore will be spent during 2021-26 for Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban).

Insurance & Pension Scheme: Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) offering life insurance cover of Rs 2 Lakh and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) offering accidental death or total permanent disability cover of Rs 2 Lakh and permanent partial disability cover of Rs.1 Lakh, was launched in 2015. Settlement of claim is a little bit of time consuming activity but still as informed by the government on the floor of the Parliament that 512915 claims for Rs.10258 crore and 92266 claims for Rs 1797 crore were disbursed under PMJJBY and PMSBY, respectively as of October 27, 2021.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY) is another flagship program of Modi government to make low income group people self-dependent in their old age, by

providing a guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs.1000, Rs.2000, Rs.3000, Rs.4000, Rs.5000 at the age of 60 years based on the pension amount chosen.

Mudra Yojana: On April 8th, 2015, the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) was launched to provide loans of up to Rs.10 Lakh to small entrepreneurs.

The loans are given by Banks, Non-banking finance companies (NBFs) and microfinance institutions.

On April 8th 2022, exactly after seven years of its successful launch, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told that more than 34.42 Crore beneficiaries have received Rs.18.60 Lakh Crore under the scheme. More than 68 per cent of the loans have been sanctioned to women and 22 per cent of the loans have been given to first time entrepreneurs. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana: 'Housing for all by 2022' under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) was launched in June 2015 by Prime Minister Modi. For the successful completion of this scheme, in the budget of 2022, Finance Minister announced allocation of Rs.48000 Crore for 80 Lakh houses. Meanwhile, the Economy Survey 2022 highlighted that 33.99 and 14.56 Lakh houses were completed in 2020-21 and 26.20 and 4.49 Lakh houses as on December 2021, under the PMAY-Gramin and PMAY-Urban programmes respectively.

Ujjwala Yojana: In 2016, another flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

was launched to assure free LPG connections to millions of households to get an access to cooking gas cylinders without having to pay a deposit to fuel retailers.

Such is the success of the scheme that more than 80 million Indian women were made to lead healthy lives and to get rid of smoky Chullahas from their kitchens.

Ayushman Bharat: On September 23, 2018, in Ranchi Jharkhand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the biggest government sponsored healthcare scheme in the world under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) Ayushman Bharat. The aim is to provide a health cover of Rs.5 Lakh per family every year to more than 10.74 Crore poor and vulnerable families.

In March 2022, the government told Parliament that no beneficiary of the scheme has been denied treatment due to lack of funds.

Kisan Samman Nidhi: In the Union Budget of February 2019, the Modi led government announced Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme for the farmers. It assures financial benefit of Rs.6000 per year to the eligible farmer families, payable in three equal installments of Rs.2000 each.

The total amount provided under DBT has touched about Rs.1.80 Lakh crore.

The brand 'Modi' is the world outlook of a New India, because Modi is a leader with difference who has a solution for every problem, who reads the heartbeat and resolves with brains.

Showing respect to National Flag

■ VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

In India, during Independence Day & Republic day there is a new trend of selling flags made of paper and plastic, which is not fare. Ahead of Independence Day, the Centre has urged all citizens not to use national flag made up of plastic and asked states and Union Territories to ensure strict compliance of the flag code. Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already called for wide publicity and sensitisation of Central and state departments as well as the public to strictly use 'paper flags' instead of plastic flags and ensure that national flags are disposed in ways that are consistent with the 'dignity of the flag'. Millions of patriots have laid their lives to achieve freedom and our National Flag is a symbol of their great sacrifice. Every true Indian knows the importance of this flag and would make sure that it continues to sway freely always. Our national flag is courage and inspiration for us. It makes us remember about the sacrifices of our great Indian freedom fighters. It makes us remember that how tough that moment was for them. Getting freedom was not so easy. We should always respect our flag and never let it go down for our motherland. Many sacrificed their life to save the honour of the Flag by not allowing it to fall down on the ground. Unfortunately people have forgotten to maintain the honour of the Nation. Abuse of national flags takes place on Independence Day and Republic Day, due to use of plastic flags. National flag is used by people in every corner, every crossroad, every shop, and every vehicle. Some proudly places by pinning up on the clothes. Some eleven set on vehicles but it is painful to see our national flag in Garbage next day. Many unceremoniously dump the national flag to the dustbin while some thrown it on the road or in gutter. The feelings of patriotism and loyalty to a country are entrenched in the minds of individuals, right from the time they start going to school. While each child enjoys carrying a paper flag on

the independence and republic day, parents must be very watchful in ensuring that the flag is treated with respect.

The plastic or paper flags that are held in the hand on the 'Independence Day' and 'Republic Day' with great honour and love during the flag hoisting ceremony are seen lying on the streets, drains, filthy places in the afternoon of the same Day itself.

Is this not an insult to the bold patriots who suffered bullets of the British and the Portuguese on their chest to save the honour of Flag? Flag Code of India 2002, Section II, Point 2.2 (xiii) says that when the Flag is in a damaged or soiled condition, it shall be destroyed as a whole in private, preferably by respectful burning or by any other method consistent with the dignity of the Flag. The Flag Code of India, 2002 containing the provisions of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 governing the guidelines for display of the national flag of India clearly mentions that whoever in any public place shows disrespect to or brings into contempt the national flag shall be punished according to the law. According to Section 2 of 'The Prevention of insults to National Honour Act, 1971' - Whoever in any public place or in any other place within public view burns, mutilates, defaces, defiles, disfigures, destroys, tramples upon or otherwise shows disrespect to or brings into contempt (whether by words, either spoken or written, or by acts) the Indian National Flag or any part thereof, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

There have been complaints that after Republic Day and Independence Day, flags made of plastic are often found lying on roads and gutters. It is observed that paper and plastic national flags are found strewn all over roads and even in gutters right from 26th January and it takes time to dispose of plastic flags.

The government has already passed orders banning the manufacture, sale,

distribution and display of plastic national flags. According to our Flag Code, The National Flag of India shall be made of hand spun and hand woven wool/cotton/silk Khadi bunting. Necessary action as per Mumbai High Court's orders should be taken for prevention of insult of national flags. All heads of departments and other officials should take care to ensure that the national flag is used only in a manner consistent with the provisions of the flag code. Our National flag is used in festoons. After all the celebrations, people just leave them there. The flags fall to the ground and are stepped on. Plastic flags are preferred by many political parties for the election campaign. The Model Code of Conduct bans the display of any banners or flags in public places. The flags are not only environmentally unfriendly, but also physically hazardous as the loose ends of the twine they are attached to, fluttering from lampposts and buildings, pose a danger to two-wheeler riders and pedestrians. The burning of non-biodegradable waste, including plastic flags, releases dioxins into the atmosphere.

We must uphold its dignity even if it is at the cost of our lives. Showing respect for National Flag is a symbol for the moral values of the citizens of the country. Don't we think like the national anthem and pledge are printed in school textbooks, a message about national flags can also be printed, our national flag should not be used as a festoon, rosette or bunting or in any manner for decoration. It should be hoisted on important national, cultural and sports events.

The paper flags should not be thrown on the ground or discarded after the event and should be disposed of in privacy with the dignity of the flag. Efforts should be made to educate, and spread awareness to the people of the country through advertising, in print and electronic media, so that the proper usage and dignity of national flag should not suffer in any manner.

Enchanting Manimahesh Yatra

■ G L KHAJARIA

The lure of mountains has always attracted man since time immemorial. In our country, Himalayas have always been associated with Bhagwan Shiv and his divine consort Parvati. No wonder then therefore that Himalayas are replete with places associated with Gods and Goddesses. Manimahesh Yatra is as such as arduous but enchanting pilgrimage to the abode of lord of mountains. Nestled in Himalayas, Manimahesh has always attracted to pilgrims for ages around the world. The sanctum sanctorum lake of Manimahesh is situated at an elevation of 13,500 ft from Mean Sea Level (MSL). Doubtlessly, a piece of heaven in greater Himalayan range, the lake is of far greater size than Kailashkund atop Bhadarwah, the abode of Shri Vasuki Nag Devata of immersive importance.

There are twin routes of Yatra to the sanctum sanctorum lake of Manimahesh. One is on foot from Bhadarwah town itself which is arduous one and takes pretty long time to transverse. And the second one is motorable covering around (499 Km) via Jammu Bhadarwah Jammu (200 Km), Jammu-Pathankote (100 Km), Pathankote to Chamba (HP) (120 Km), Chamba -Bharmour (65 Km) and Bharmour -Hadsar (14 Km). After Hadsar, there is a foot-track of around 15 Km to the last reach of the sacred lake of Manimahesh.

The lake is of immense importance and is believed to be second to Lake Mansarovar in Hindu religious significance. The natural beauty of the lake has an enchanting attraction. The wafting clouds in their milky outlook kiss the azure skies and the sacred and most magnanimous reflections of the lake haunt the souls, minds and hearts of all in their entirety, least leaving any shadow of ambiguity.

'Manimahesh Lake' is an immensely spiritual splendor sanctorum surrounded by cliff, peaks and pinnacles reflecting over the most sacred and revered Shiva's Lakeover centuries past.

It is just like bejeweled crown amidst the greater Himalayas, an adobe of 'Shiv Shakti' the supreme, which gets every human wonderstruck, enthralled and enchanted by his benevolence. Manimahesh beckons us to come and partake divine nectar in the form of serene and crystal-clear water of Kailash Kund. The peak of Manimahesh presents itself a huge Shiv-Lingam whose reflection is reflected in the placid-waters of Kailash Kund.

The Yarta is of a symbol of devotion and faith that makes pilgrims to travel over high valleys and mountains to have a Darshan of Manimahesh.

(The author is former Deputy Conservator of Forests, J&K).

PROGRESSING J&K

Govt establishing State-of-Art sports infra in J&K

Sports sector across J&K witnessing rapid development under new Sports Policy, facilities being extended to Panchayat levels

Jammu and Kashmir Government is establishing state-of-art sports facilities across Jammu and Kashmir with aim of taking sports to Panchayat level for budding sportspersons of the UT. Various steps have been taken by the LG's administration to create world-class sports infrastructure in J&K. Recently, sports policy has been introduced to make J&K a powerhouse in sports. Every kind of support is being extended to the local sportspersons who strive hard to make UT and the nation proud in different sports disciplines. The sports activities are being conducted throughout the year while infrastructure work is being executed on massive scale. The focus is not merely on activities like Cricket and Football but equal importance is being given to games like Volleyball, Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Water and Winter Sports which were ignored in the past.

Sports budget for Jammu and Kashmir is higher than biggest several states of the country and infrastructure is being augmented to highest level and J&K government is keen to provide platform to the youth. Recently, Bakshi stadium which was in dilapidated condition due to poor policies of earlier regimes was dedicated to public after being upgraded and revamped at a cost of Rs. 59 crores. "Bakshi Stadium has been a central place of youth for decades, nurturing many dreams and making local sportspersons famous all over the country. This Stadium infused the passion of sports into the lives of millions of people and the legacy has been passed to the new generation", LG Manoj Sinha said. There were clear directions from the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi to develop MA Stadium in Jammu as per ICC Standards and Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar as per FIFA Standards. Sports sector in the UT is witnessing rapid development. World class facilities and coaching is being extended to the youth at grass root level to showcase their talent in various sports disciplines. The officials are redoubling their efforts to make J&K sporting hub of the country.

Recently Manoj Sinha inaugurated sports infrastructure projects worth Rs 18.10 cr and dedicated the new sports facilities to the local youth. The projects inaugurated include Synthetic Football Turf at Khel Gaon Nagrota worth Rs 5 cr; Mini Stadium at Bhour Camp, Chatha costing Rs 1 cr and Playground at Purmandal at a cost of Rs 2 cr. The Mini Stadium at Bhour Camp will benefit 5000 youth by accommodating games like Cricket, Volleyball, Kabaddi etc. Funded under CAPEX, JKIDFC, Khelo India, and PMDP, the inauguration and foundation laying of these projects marks the beginning of next phase of modernization of sports infra in J&K. Moving ahead towards developing state-of-the-art sports infrastructure in the UT, the government is creating modern facilities and developing sports culture even in remote areas for talented sportspersons of the UT.

LG administration is working with a mission to take sports to Panchayat level and provide opportunities to the youth living in far-flung areas. With better training and modern infrastructure, our youths now represent the country in international events. The Government is providing sports infrastructure and facilities to the young budding sportspersons of the UT. Now, it is the responsibility of the coaches and officials to hone the talent and improve J&K's medal tally in national and international level competitions. Government of India has been liberal in providing funds for Education and Sports in Jammu and Kashmir. The combined budget of education and sports of Jammu and Kashmir is Rs 2386 crore, which is way more than various bigger States and UTs across country. In last few months, J&K Sports Council has emerged as a powerful vehicle for identification of platforms for young talent. Time-bound targets are being fixed for the coaches in different disciplines of various games. Government has asked Sports Council to work strategically, identify such places where youth are performing well and develop them as a Special Sports Hub. The Sports Council can also work with other departments such as Rural Development, Police, and Higher Education Department for professional services and technical know-how in the form of convergence in the field of sports.