

## CONTROL POPULATION

Increasing population is also a serious problem of India. This has made the country's development works dwarf, livelihood extremely difficult and life-style boisterous and ugly. As a result, today 60 percent of the people of India are forced to live below the poverty line.

Vote-bank policy was at work behind the show of strength in the 1999 Lok Sabha by the so-called secular parties on the expulsion of Bangladeshi citizens from India. Fearlessly from above, if they produce more children, then the population of India will definitely increase. The most harmful side of the increasing population is the adverse effect on development works. Whatever development work the government does on the basis of the current census, it gets lost in the increasing population till its prosperity.

Unless the Central and State Governments take up a population control program with a strong will, give up minority favoritism and forcefully deport illegal citizens to the countries of which they are citizens, population control in India will be a star in the sky. It will prove to be broken, that means the problem of increasing population in India will never end.

## Why UP is key to India's big economic leap

■ VIVEK SHUKLA

Visit any city of Uttar Pradesh day or night, you would notice a marked difference from what it was around one decade ago. From Noida to Agra and Kanpur to Banaras, you would find glittering markets, malls and business activities everywhere. Talk to anyone in UP, he would surely say that now UP is on the move and law and order situation is perfectly fine. Welcome to new UP which is attracting tourists and investors in hordes. Further, economic activities are going on thick and fast.

The state chief minister Yogi Adityanath is spot on when he says that his state has moved out of the BIMARU category and is on its way to becoming a 'saksham' state. Yogi's remarks came recently after the NITI Aayog said India witnessed 13.5 crore people moving out of multi-dimensional poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21.

The districts with maximum reduction in poverty in the state are Maharajanj (29.64%), Gonda (29.55%), Balrampur (27.9%), Kaushambi (25.75%), Lakhimpur Kheri (25.33%), Shravasti (24.42%), Jaunpur (26.65%), Basti (23.36%), Ghazipur (22.83%), Kushinagar (22.28%), and Chitrakoot (21.40%). Those who know UP would tell you that these districts were really in a bad shape as there were economic activities there till couple of years ago. Therefore, the heartwarming news that is coming from the state where both Lord Ram and Lord Krishan were born is really augurs well for the state and the country.

The BIMARU (sick in Hindi) acronym has often been used to refer to Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, usually to imply that these states lagged in terms of economic growth, health care, education, and other indices. Growth in Uttar Pradesh, with its large population and low per-capita income, is vitally important to India reaching its USD 10 trillion goal and transforming itself. With the new delimitation underway, the state will be more politically important than today. Transforming UP to play this larger role in India's economic path requires a new trajectory of growth focusing on multiple layers within its society and dynamic political leadership. India can succeed as a major political power if Uttar Pradesh leads the way. UP needs specialized industries like electronics component design, defence parts manufacturing and pharmaceuticals with a significant R&D and IP production component for higher value.

Citing the Niti Aayog report, the Adityanath-led government on claimed that Uttar Pradesh recorded the maximum drop in the number of poor among all the states and union territories (UTs) from 2015-2016 to 2019-2021. National Multidimensional Poverty Index has revealed that of the 13.5 crore people overcoming multidimensional poverty during this period, UP alone had 3.43 crore people who got out poverty. This is a staggering number.

Having taken estimates from 36 states, union territories and 707 administrative districts, the report pointed out the sharpest reduction in multidimensional poverty in Uttar Pradesh. States like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan follow UP in terms of the number of poor.

The finding also revealed that number of poor decreased rapidly in the villages across the state, the government claimed, adding that positive results have also been seen on the parameters related to health, education and standard of living of the poor in UP. Echoing the findings of NITI Aayog report, Manish Mittal, an Agra based entrapurner and Rotary club head, says that the mood in entire UP is upbeat as the state is making rapid progress in all the fields." Trust me, our business is doing well and we are poised to take a big leap in terms of economic growth. There is work for everyone if he is willing to work." Niti Aayog report says, the number of poor deprived of nutrition came down to 18.45% in 2019-21 from 30.40% in 2015-16. The mortality rate of children and adolescents also improved, falling from 3.81% in 2015-16 to 2.20% in 2019-21, it said.

Even maternal health improved significantly in the state as maternal mortality rate decreased from 25.20% in 2015-16 to 15.97% in 2019-21. Also, the percentage of poor with no access to cooking fuel was 17.95% in 2019-21 against 34.24% in 2015-16. Moreover, people deprived of drinking water in 2019-21 was 0.93% against 2.09% in 2015-16.

Providing estimates for the 36 states and Union Territories and 707 administrative districts, the report said the fastest reduction in the proportion of multi-dimensional poor was observed in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Rajasthan. It goes without saying that the able leadership of Yogi Adityanath has done yeoman service for the state that was previously known for backwardness.

Well, the world today recognises that Uttar Pradesh is not a poor and ailing state, but a state where 5.5 crore people have risen above the poverty line during the last six years. This is no mean a small feat. Sadly, we had seen the previous governments of Congress, SP and BSP could not remove poverty but gave empty slogans to the state. The SP's slogans became symbols of corruption in the clutches of casteism and anarchy, while the BSP's 'elephant' (election symbol) devoured the entire state, leaving Uttar Pradesh far behind other states in the race for development. Work of development and public welfare seen in Uttar Pradesh in the last six years could have been done earlier also but the previous governments lacked willpower. They exploited farmers, and traders, did injustice to the youth and endangered the safety of women. Finally, Yogi Adityanath aims to place the state's economy on a sustainable path to reach \$1 trillion in five years, is an opportunity to change the state's prospects and those of its residents for the better. Economic growth has proven itself to be by far the most powerful and sustainable driver of poverty reduction and improvement in living standards across the world, including in India, and Mission 1. Trillion has the potential to transform UP. Remember, If India has to grow fast, UP has to take the lead.



■ DR JITENDRA SINGH

The world today is suddenly taken aback by India's amazing scientific potential and prowess which was dormant and unnoticed, but waiting to happen whenever provided with an enabling milieu and a supportive leadership.

It was precisely at that destined moment of history that Narendra Modi arrived as the Prime Minister of India and the rest is history. From gifting first-ever DNA COVID vaccine to the world to bringing home the Chandrayaan evidence of the presence of water on the surface of Moon.....it is the evidence based imprint of Modi's India which has universally established India as a nation to reckon with.

India in last 9 years has come up with a record number of national policies related to Science, Technology and Innovation (STI). Some of the key policies include; Indian Space Policy (2023), National Geospatial Policy (2022); National Education Policy (NEP) (2020); National Policy on Electronics (NPE) (2019); National Policy on Information and Communication Technology in School Education (2019); National Innovation and StartUp Policy for Students and Faculty (2019); National Health Policy (2017); Intellectual Property Rights Policy (2016), etc.

Similarly, Government also launched National Quantum Mission (2023), One Health Mission (2023), National Deep Ocean Mission (2021), etc.

As per SERB data, averaged over last 10 years, nearly 65% of total research funds are being given to National institutions of importance like IISc, IITs, IISERs, etc and only 11% funds are provided to State universities, where number of researchers is much

larger than IITs. This is because the present system of research funding is competitive grant driven. Similarly, the research infrastructure in most of State universities is much poorer compared to national academic and R&D labs.

The Academia-Industry partnership and international collaboration in our universities have been rather inadequate.

It was the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to establish a truly transformational Anusandhan National Research Foundation, which will not only address some of the big challenges of present R&D ecosystem but provide a long term R&D vision to the country and position India as a global R&D leader in next 5 years.

The Anusandhan NRF (ANRF) will provide high level strategic direction for research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the fields of natural sciences including mathematical sciences, engineering and technology, environmental and earth sciences, health and agriculture. It will also encourage scientific and technological interfaces of humanities and social sciences to promote, monitor and provide support as required for such research and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. ANRF will seed, grow and promote R&D and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India's universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories. The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India will be the administrative Department of ANRF which will be governed by a Governing Board consisting of eminent researchers and professionals across disciplines with Prime Minister as the ex-officio President of the Board and the Union Minister of Science & Technology & Union Minister of Education as the ex-officio Vice-Presidents. NRF's functioning will be governed by an Executive Council chaired by the Principal

Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.

ANRF will forge collaborations among the industry, academia, and government departments and research institutions, and create an interface mechanism for participation and contribution of industries and State governments in addition to the scientific and line ministries. It will focus on creating a policy framework and putting in place regulatory processes that can encourage collaboration and increased spending by the industry on R&D.

ANRF will be established at a total estimated cost of Rs. 50,000 crores during five years (2023-28). Rs 50,000 Cr of ANRF funding will have three components - SERB Fund of Rs 4000 Cr; ANRF Fund of Rs 10,000 or out of which 10% fund (Rs 1000 Cr) will be earmarked for innovation fund. Innovation fund will be utilised for R&D in partnership with private Sector and Rs 36,000 Cr fund which will be contributed by industry, philanthropist organizations, international institutions, etc.

The Central Government currently provides Rs 800 Cr fund per year to SERB with little or no contributions from private sector. In the proposed ANRF, the government contribution is proposed to be increased from Rs 800 Cr to Rs 2800 Cr per year (~ 3.5 times). The private sector contributions in the proposed ANRF are being introduced to the tune of Rs 36,000 Cr for 5 years (~Rs 7200 Cr per year).

The ANRF will prove to be one of India's most transformational steps towards achieving India's global R&D leadership and making India Atmanirbhar in Technology in the years to come.

(The Author is Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry Science & Technology, Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space).

## Millets: Ancient Grains for a Healthy Society

■ DR. BANARSI LAL

The United Nations General Assembly has declared the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets with the support from more than 70 countries across the world. The celebration of International Year of Millets is a matter of pride for India and in particular for the farming community. It will help in creating awareness across the globe about the important role of millets and their benefits as the smart super food. India is the largest producer of millets in the world and can be considered as the hub of millets with the production of more than 170 lakh tonnes which is about 20 per cent of global production and 80 per cent Asia's production. India's average yield of millets (1239 kg/ha) is also higher than global yield of 1229 kg/ha. Millets are grown in about 131 countries across the globe. Millets are the traditional food for about 60 Crore people in Asia and Africa. The International Year of Millets stands to provide a unique opportunity to increase global production, consumption, efficient processing etc. There is need to highlight the benefits of promoting the sustainable cultivation and consumption of millets. Food is still a concern for the planet. Climate change can also impact food availability. At such a time, global movement related to millets is an important step as they are very easy to grow, drought and climate resistant. They are good for the producers, consumers and environment. They are good source of balanced nutrition. They need less water and compatible with the natural ways of farming. They can be grown in arid conditions with the minimal inputs and maintenance. They are disease and insect-pest resistant. They are resistant to climate shocks than other cereals. Major millets grown in India are-Pearl millet (Bajra)-61 %,Sorghum(Jowar)-27 % and Finger Millet(Mandua/Ragi)-10 %. Millets are the part of our traditions and cultures and their relevance are cited in the Vedas and Puranas. There is need of new innovations, research and start-ups in millets.

Millets are the group of small-seeded annual grasses that are grown as grain crops primarily on marginal land in temperate, sub-tropical and tropical regions. They are one of the ancient foods dating back to the Indus Valley Civilization around

3000BC.Millets are categorised in three categories 1.Major millets: Sorghum(Jowar),Pearl Millet(Ragi/Mandua),2.Minor Millets: Kangani(Kakum),Kodo Millet(Cheena),Barnyard Millet(Sawa/Sanwa/Jhangora) and Little Millet(Kutki),3.Pseudo Millets: Buckwheat(Kuttan) and Amaranthus(Chaulai).Top millets producing states in India are Rajasthan, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. Millets have been the part of the Indian diet for many years. Prior to Green Revolution they have been used as the staple diet in most of the households. They have been ingrained in our food system, culture and traditions. They are also observed in the various Indian texts and in various Indian practices. Our elders always highlight the millets in the older times. Millets are also used during the fasting days. Millets possess several morphological, physiological & biological characters and thus can be grown even in dry areas. They can be grown even in the worst lands. Millets are considered as the superfood and there is need to popularize 'Shree Anna', the mother of all grains to mitigate the malnutrition. Millets are high in protein, dietary fibre and antioxidants. They are gluten free and contain low glycemic index (GI) which is good to manage diabetes. Millets are capable of mitigating both the climatic disorders and ailments associated with the sedentary life. They are known as the storehouse of nutrition as they are good sources of calcium, zinc, copper, vitamin, iron, antioxidants, phytochemicals etc. The income of small and marginal farmers can be augmented through the millets as millets are climate friendly and can be grown with less water and other resources. Farmers should grow millets to mitigate the challenges of nutritional security and they can generate more farm returns by growing them. There is need to work towards increasing the share of nutri-cereals in the national food baskets. Emphasis should be given on the value addition in millets for more farm returns and farmers need to be guided on the marketing potential and branding of millets. There is need on the area expansion in millets. There is a significant need to work on awareness and consumption of millets across the globe. Mission mode campaigns on millets are required to encourage the

people. Startups, hotels, chefs etc. can also play the role to promote the millets. After the announcement of International Year of Millets 2023 many people are coming forward to join the millets movement. To strengthen this movement production of millets also needs to be increased. Presently we have limited production of millets because they are grown in certain pockets of the country. Value addition in millets is also very limited which also needs to be increased. The supply of minor millets is erratic thereby discouraging in value addition and consumption. Production and processing of millets need to be encouraged in different states and Union Territories of the country. This will help to keep balance between production and consumption of millets. This will also help to check the prices of millets. The health-packed millets hold special significance in today's times when people are gravitating to healthier options. Millets growers should be encouraged by linking them to the markets. It has observed through studies that consumption of millets reduces hyperlipidemia and hence hypertension and raises the level of HDL-C(good cholesterol) which is helpful to manage the risk of atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases. Millets are also helpful to reduce anaemia caused due to iron deficiency. Millets will now re-enter the food platters both nationally and internationally. But behavioural change requires time. It has taken many years to forget eating millets so it will take some time to bring back the habit of eating the millets. For that purpose concerted and sincere efforts are needed by all the concerned actors in the system. Creating awareness among the producers and consumers and enabling environment for the millets industry and start-ups are the key to the future of millets. Already number of steps are taken by the government in this direction. There is need to establish Centres of Excellence on millets across the nation and link industries with these centres. In Anagwadvi Centres also millets need to be incorporated to increase the nutritional value of food for the children. We need to grab the opportunity to increase the production, processing and promote the consumption of millets. Consistent research and development programmes for enhancing the production and processing of millets are needed.

(The writer is Sr. Scientist & Head, KVK, Reasi, SKUAST-J).

## Modi erasing symbols and signs of British Slavery

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

We may have difference of opinion with the PM Narendra Modi 's government ,his ideology and his style of functioning ,but we must admit that he is the top executive of the country who is trying a lot and doing much for erasing the British signs and slavery from India .It is a bitter truth and hard fact that we are still being ruled by the British laws of pre-independence era and there is no independence so far as the governance and providing justice to our citizens is concerned .We may be much forward and developed but our minds are still slaves of the British and this is a great tragedy .People of this country called Bharat should be linked with its roots and cultural legacy and should call a goodbye to the colonial laws and the centre government with Modi at its head is making serious efforts to clean the country from colonial legislations and laws .Modi deserves praise and commendation for making genuine efforts to do away with the British laws which unfortunately still are in vogue in India even after 75 years of freedom from British yoke. Modi should and cannot be criticized for trying to erase the symbols and signs of foreign slavery and thus connecting the people with their rich roots .It is not that the PM is doing this noble work in haste ,but it is the result of deliberate discussions from last several years and the centre government of Modi is doing this herculean task of cleansing the countries legal system and judiciary from the British laws .It is a fact that there can be no real freedom ,unless and until we are freed from the laws of pre-independence era of Britishers. Therefore what Modi government is doing in this behalf is really praise worthy and all the political parties and general

people need to cooperate with the centre government initiatives of purging our legislative and judicial system from foreign laws which are more than 150 years old .The country has to change with the changing times and we cannot be immune to change but welcome change and so it is in the fitness of things to purge the country from the symbols and signs of slavery ,otherwise there is no meaning and sense in having political freedom where we still have British laws like IPC ,Evidence act and other laws which have the bad odor of foreign slavery and the government should make efforts to erase the symbols and signs of British slavery in India and then and then only we can boast to have attained freedom from the British otherwise not .In a landmark overhaul of colonial era criminal laws ,centre government introduced three bills in lower house to replace IPC ,CrPC and Indian Evidence Act ,proposing among other things repeal of sedition law and introducing a new provision with a wider definition of the offence .In the proposed bills the terrorism is for the first time defined .It is so good that India's government proposed legislation in parliament that seeks to replace a British colonial era sedition law with its own version .The government also submitted a bill that it said would better protect women and children by providing greater punishment for sexual crimes .

Modi has said that our government has junked 2,000 British era laws and this is very important for shackling slavery and its symbols and this is also needed to Indianising the civil and criminal justice system .Modi government scrapped 2,000 British era laws which were a sign and symbol of slavery .The colonial laws used to punish Indians

for ordinary issues and on flimsy grounds .Modi also said sending someone to jail over small issues reflects slave mindset and he has launched a campaign to get rid of such thinking .Modi further said, "We changed the laws and revamped the system, which helped us considerably improve our rankings ."Modi government has not stopped and is continuously scrapping colonial era laws for the benefit of the countrymen and all the political parties need to cooperate with the centre government in abolishing of such laws .Amit shah made it clear that sedition law will be repealed and introduced three bills to replace IPC ,Cr PC and Indian Evidence Act in Lok Sabha .Union home minister Amit Shah introduced three bills in the Lok Sabha as a substitute for the Indian Penal Code,the Code of Criminal Procedure ,and the Indian Evidence Act -laws that originated during the British era. Amit Shah said provision of sedition offences will be completely repealed in the new bill replacing the IPC.I can assure the house that these bills will transform our criminal justice system .The new bills such as Bharatiya Naya Sanhita,2023,the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha,2023,and the Bharitya Sakshya bill,2023 will be referred to a parliamentary penal for through examination .In the new laws there will be maximum capital punishment for crimes such as mob lynching and rape of minors .There will be provision to provide first time community service as one of the punishments for petty offences. There will be provision to try absconding criminals such as Dawood Ibrahim in absentia .The bill also lists new offences such as acts of secession ,armed rebellion ,subversive activities ,separatist activities or endangering the sover-

eignty or unity and integrity of India .

Through the substitution of the three laws it will aim to prioritize the protection of rights for the citizens of India .Shah said that from 1860 to 2023 ,the country's criminal justice system functioned as per the laws made by the British .With these three laws there will be a major change in the criminal justice system in the country .Shah further said the intention is to shift from punishment to the provision of justice .Punishment will be administered to foster a sense of deterrence against criminal activities .It is excellent and really great that something worthy is done which should be appreciated .More than century old laws are replaced is a right thing and it will provide real justice to the countrymen .It is so good that the centre government is making serious efforts to replace the colonial era laws to erase the symbols and signs of slavery .Modi-Amit Shah duo are replacing the British era laws and there is urgent need for making the old laws in tune with the changing times and circumstances and the colonial laws have become redundant as they are incapable to be used in the current times and so these laws need a drastic change to make them worthy of application in the present times .So Modi government is doing a commendable job of erasing the symbols and signs of slavery and making laws to be used as per the present requirements as the old laws are a sign of slavery .Replacement of the old laws with the new ones should not be politicized but instead all the political parties should cooperate with the centre government to erase the signs of slavery and Modi government deserves a pat at its back for doing such a wonderful and challenging job.

## YOUR COLUMN

### Importance of Teaching Children to Respect Elders

Dear Editor;

When you give respect to someone it means you have already taken the first step towards getting a place in their heart. Being disciplined and respecting elders in our life or self-discipline gives us confidence in terms of inner strength as it needs a lot of self-control and patience. If you want success and achieve prosperity you have to adapt this quality, it just needs to be committed and self-controlled. If you are studying in a school you can easily adapt these qualities, because schools teach us not only fundamental subjects but lots of good qualities in a wonderful manner. Like other important skills respecting others is also very crucial to grow with positive thinking. You can simply respect your elders by listening to what they are saying. When you listen to someone, it makes them feel special, and obeying someone makes you so responsible. If you

give respect to someone they think they are an important person in your life. Respecting elders means you cannot ignore or cut their voices. Whenever they are speaking to someone or discussing anything, don't interrupt. Maybe you are having more knowledge about that particular topic, but let them speak first and listen then put your points when they complete it. It will make the conversation more easy and understandable. Don't call them by their name-call them respectfully. Call them by relation or anything nice and respectful. If you have an elder brother or sister, call them 'Big B' or simple 'brother' or sis or di. One of the other effective methods to respect someone is by politely talking to them. Try to talk to them in a lower tone with a smile on your face. Greet them daily. Always wish them 'good morning', 'good night', etc. These are general manners and antiques. Always ask them how they are feeling or what they need. If you know they are following any medication, help them to take their medication on time, or you can remind them to do so. Another way to respect your elder is to be a helping hand for them. Help them in their daily routine work. You can ask your father or mother if they want anything or any kind of help. Sometimes go into the kitchen and help your mom. As a child, You

should always follow the instructions given by them. Respecting others makes you more confident and positive in your life. Another way to show respect is to ask for help if they want anything or they. They will be happy about helping you. It will make them happy and feel important. Respecting your elders has so many advantages and good things. Especially your grandparents, your dadi dada or nana grandparents will always be with you. If you don't respect them, they will still love you and be with you. But when you respect them and love them truly, they will be with you even more reliable. They will always help you with protecting your secret from your parents. Once you will start that kind of bonding. It will help you in your teenage and after that to grow as a successful and well behaved.

A school is a perfect place to learn these good habits because in a school we make kids follow the instructions, they follow a timetable for study other activities and lunch, etc. they obey all the rule regulations. Schools give a healthy environment to learn and grow beautifully. This is the way we can improve our kids, and make them learn some good habits while enjoying our childhood to lead a healthy and happy life.

Ragini Sharma, Greater Kailash.