Earthquake-Nature's Great Destruction

he name 'earthquake' is enough. The idea of 'Earth's vibrations' not only creates vibrations in the mind and brain of human beings, but also keeps them shaken. Whenever nature has shown this form of itself, the helplessness of human has kneeled down. All human progress pales in comparison to this form of nature. This is a terrible form of nature's great destruction which no one wants to imagine. If this belief is also taken to mean that it is very important to maintain peace on earth to reduce or nullify nature's fury, then there is no harm in it. Change is the law of nature. It will be better if we take it with healthy thinking. Earthquake lasts only a few seconds or minutes, but in such a short time huge destruction takes place. Heavy earthquakes cause cracks in the earth and hot lava and toxic air come out from them. Big buildings collapse in no time. Sometimes big buildings get trapped inside the earth. Thousands of people die or get injured under the debris. Lakhs of people become destitute and homeless. Sometimes green villages and beautiful cities turn into ruins. Severe earthquakes have occurred in Kutch (Gujarat), Latur (Maharashtra). Keeping in view the damage (loss) caused by the earthquake, now our government has taken special steps in this direction and there is a plan to construct such a building which will cause minimum damage in case of an earthquake. Earthquakes are more destructive than other disasters. Since it also destroys the transport and communication system, it is difficult to reach relief to the people. Earthquakes cannot be stopped. Therefore, the alternative for this is to be prepared to deal with this disaster and reduce the damage caused by it. Preparation of vulnerability map of earthquake prone areas in the country and dissemination of information about potential risk to people and educating them about reducing its effects. Improvement in house type and building design in earthquake prone areas. High rise buildings, big industrial establishments and not promoting urbanization in such

Caring for the elderly senior citizens

G. L KHAJURIA

he Webster's Encyclopedic Dictionary defines a senior citizen (US) an elderly person over 65 of age who is retired and living on pension. In indian contest, the law in shrines a senior citizen any person, a citizen of India who has attained the age of 60 years or above. As per the population data of 2011 census there are around 104 million elderly persons aging 60 years and above. Out of this enormous numbers males count for 51 million and 53

As per united nation organization (UNO) population fund and help India report, it suggests that the number of elderly person is expected to go upto 173 million ending year 2026. From year 1961 to 2011 (50 years span), the increased percentage has jumped from 5.6% to 8.6% which is astonishing and alarming too. The elderly report 2016 reveals that 715 of the population reside in rural areas whereas 29% inhabit in the urban areas. In rural areas 66% elderly are men and around 11% women working within 60 to 65 years age group.

The reports further reveal that 76% persons are quoted married while 22% are widowed or divorced per elderly in India ending year 2016. With the pasing years viz a viz inadequate caring the elderly persons are prone to multihued diseases e.g Blood Pressure, Diabetes, Mentle ailments owing to anxiety and depression leading to the eventualities of dealth. At this crucial dilemma, more intensive caring is warranted for the elderly persons which, if so facto is not so. The scenario is painful and dismaying.

All through toiling life span, elderly persons scarify every bit for their siblings which ultimately go on diminishing and flicking and they have to the dead end of the tunnel. They have to face a multitude of challenges despite the fact that their siblings are well established and can look after them. The agony and pain they suffer stings them beyond imagination. This sad state of utter neglect follows their all hopes and aspirations and tears rolled in isolation and they have to solely solace themselves.

As per the policy of government ed to the senior citizens are elders. These include physical, mental and physiological cares elevating from emotion stress else they are prone to anxiety, depression and age old ailments of multihued manifestations. But ironically, these grey citizens are facing a plethora of physiological and emotional distress, isolation and dependency thereby worsening the age old agonizing dilemma.

Compare to last century, there had been a steady rise in the population of elderly people owing to age longevity, decreased death rate and above all advancement in the field of medicines that way there had been an increase in the life expectancy. As per UN population report, number of elderly person above 60 years. In India will increase from 100 hundred million at present to more than 325 million ending year 2050. It has also pointed out that elderly person over 80 years of age shall be seven fold and India shall be second most age old country in the world. The figure reflect a gloomy scenario in the sense that 50 to 55 million people sleep as hungry stomach every night and around 10-15 million people in India are blind and out of those 80% are elderly. Moreover elderly population of 60 years and above account for 7.5%-8% in Jammu and

In the Changing social milieu, the younger generation is subject to search avenues for economic dependence for the elderly/senior citizen when all doors seem to be shut owing due to inadequate Job Avenue despite having their higher qualification and claim both in the professional training and allied expertise. With mounting urbanization coupled with modernization in unison are abysmally eating human values in more than one way leave aside caring for the elderly are the senior citizens.

Right from the day a child is born, the parents leave no stone unturned for the well beings and the best for their upbringings he or she should be left behind insofar as educational and extracurricular activities are concerned. And for such conscientious parents the hopes and aspirations do not make a stop. They put in the best of their efforts to make their famed brain to foreign drain; we call this as brain drain thus depriving their motherland and landing on foreign soil for better pay and perks with indelible stamp of being exported. The irony behind is that those who did all their dints in encountering all oddities and squabbles are their elderly parents or to say senior citizens. The so departed souls forget their culture, traditions and other rituals to the extent of their centuries old ethics and

Does our education system inculcate this sort of way out of demeaning of demeanor? Why those who fed and cared for are being fended and left in lurch at the mercy of god. This is much more of irony of any kind. The teacher and the taught should reciprocally interact so that out progeny picks up the thread for caring their oldies and for all in respecting and caring for senior citizens.

(The author is deputy conservator of forests).

Tributes to Shri Madan Das Devi Ji

few days ago, when we lost Shri Madan Das Devi Ji, lakhs of Karyakartas, including myself, were saddened beyond words. It's a challenging reality to grapple with - the idea that a personality as impactful as Madan Das Ji is no longer among us. Yet, we are consoled by the knowledge that his influence will live on. His teachings and principles will continue to serve as a beacon of inspiration and guidance in the journev ahead.

I had the privilege of working closely with Madan Das Ji over the years. I saw, at very close quarters, his simplicity and soft-spoken nature. He was the quintessential organizational man, and I, too, spent a substantial time working in the organization. So, it is natural that aspects relating to organizational development and growth of Karvakartas featured regularly in our conversations. During one such conversation, I asked him where he originally belonged. He told me that while he is from a village near Solapur, Maharashtra, his ancestors were from Gujarat. But he was not aware of the exact place they were from. I told him that I had a teacher with the surname Devi and that teacher belonged to Visnagar. Later on, he even visited Visnagar and Vadnagar. Our conversations also took

Among the many specialties of Madan Das Ji, one of them was his ability to go beyond words and understand the emotions behind those words. Soft-spoken and always smiling, he could also summarize hours-long discussions in just a few sentences.

Madan Das Ji's life journey illustrates the wonders that can be achieved when the self is put on the back burner and the collective is given prominence. A Chartered Accountant by training, he could have led a comfortable



life, but his calling lay elsewhere - in shaping minds and working towards India's develop-

Madan Das Ji had unwavering faith in the vonth of India. He could connect with youngsters across the length and breadth of India. No wonder, he immersed himself in strengthening the Akhil Bharativa Vidvarthi Parishad. One of his key influences in this journey was Yashwantrao Kelkar Ji. He was deeply inspired by him and would often talk about him. Madan Das Ji always emphasized involving more girl students in the working of the ABVP and empowering them with a platform to contribute to social welfare. He often said that when girl students are involved in any collective effort, that effort will always be more sensitive. For Madan Das Ji, affection for students was above everything else. He would be among students all the time but, like a lotus in the water, he would never involve himself in university politics.

I can think of several leaders who owe their rise in public life to the mentoring received from Madan Das Ji during their younger days. But it was never in his nature to make tall claims about it.

Nowadays, the concepts of people management, talent management, and skill management are extremely popular. Madan Das Ji was an expert at understanding people and mapping their talents onto organizational goals. He was special because he understood people's capabilities and assigned work based on that. He never agreed with the premise that people must be moulded as per his requirements. That is why if any young Karyakarta had a new idea, Madan Das Ji was the obvious sounding board. That is also why a lot of people who worked with him were self-motivated to leave a mark based on their own respective strengths. Therefore, organizations grew massively under his leadership and yet remained cohesive and effective even

as they became bigger in scale and scope

Needless to say, Madan Das Ji had a packed travel schedule. Beyond his duties, he was selective when it came to meeting people and was always well-prepared for a meeting. But his programmes were always simple and not heavy, never a burden on any Karyakarta. This trait remained integral to him until the very end. He braved long illnesses, but when I would ask him about it, he would talk about it only after multiple enquiries. He would remain happy despite the physical pain. Even in illness, he used to continuously think about what he could do for the country and society.

Madan Das Ji had a brilliant academic

record and this also shaped his meticulous way of working. A voracious reader, whenever he read something good, he would send it to the concerned person working in that domain. I have been fortunate to receive such things very often. He was also blessed with a sound understanding of economics and policy matters. He envisioned an India where no person was dependent on others and where each individual could stand on their own feet, empowered by opportunities for self-improvement and growth. Madan Das Ji envisioned an India where self-reliance was not just a goal but a lived reality for every citizen, with a society rooted in the principles of mutual respect, empowerment, and shared prosperity. Now, as India becomes more and more self-reliant in various domains, nobody would

be happier than him. Today, when our democracy is vibrant, youth is confident, society is forward-looking, and the nation is brimming with hope and optimism, it is important to remember people like Shri Madan Das Devi Ji, who dedicated their entire lives to service and towards put-

ting the nation on such an upward trajectory. (The writer is Prime Minister of India).

Contract Farming - Profitable Option both for Small /Marginal Farmers and Buyers

DR. RAMA KANT SHARMA & C.M. SHARMA

ontract farming arrangement is a commitment by a farmer or a group of farmers to grow and deliver to the buyer agreed quantities of a commodity at, a predetermined price. The buyer (trader or a corporate), as always, has the additional options of either buying the commodity from the market or growing it himself on own or leased land. Therefore, at its simplest, contract farming is the creation of an additional linking mechanism through another channel of disposal of the crop. It is thus a part of the overall supply chain, which acts parallel to the stan-

Contract farming involves agricultural production being carried out on the basis of an agreement between the buver and farm producers. The farmer undertakes to supply agreed quantities of a crop or livestock product, based on the quality standards and delivery requirements of the purchaser. In return, the buyer, usually a company, agrees to buy the product, often at a price that is established in advance. The company often also agrees to support the farmer through, e.g., supplying inputs, assisting with land preparation, providing production advice and transporting produce to its premises

Contract farming thus can be defined as agricultural production carried out according to an agreement between a buyer and farmers, which establishes conditions for the production and marketing of a farm product or products. Typically, the farmer agrees to provide agreed quantities of a specific agricultural product. These should meet the quality standards of the purchaser and be supplied at the time determined by the purchaser. In turn, the buyer commits to purchase the product and, in some cases, to support production through, for example, the supply of farm inputs, land preparation and the provision of technical

Key benefits of Contract farming

Contract fanning has been used for agricultural production for decades but its popularity appears to have been increasing in recent years. The use of contracts has become attractive to many farmers because the arrangement can offer both an assured market and access to production support. Contract farming is also of interest to buyers, who seek supplies of products for sale further along the value chain or for processing. Processors constitute the main users of contracts, as the guaranteed supply enables them to maximise utilization of their processing capacity.

Need for Contract Farming in J&K

- ▶ Overcome inadequate linkages with markets. ▶ Presence of fragmented land holdings.
- ▶ Lack of capital, poor infrastructure, inadequate information dissemination, etc.
- ▶ Loss/wastage of large quantities of fruits and vegeta-
- ▶ Agri-based and food industry's inability to acquire
- timely and adequate good quality agricultural produce.
- ▶ Changes in consumption habits. ▶ Increasing number of fast-food outlets.
- ▶ The growing role played by supermarkets.
- ▶ Continued expansion of world trade in fresh and processed products.
- Major Issues/ Challenges being faced by Private Companies/Firms in Contract Farming
- ▶ Highly restrictive and regulated agricultural market-

- ▶ Monopoly of the State Governments to set up of mar-
- ▶ Mandi revenues not deployed for infrastructure devel-
- ▶ Price setting not transparent both producers and consumers are often cheated.
- ▶ Processing industries cannot buy directly from the
- ▶ Non-existence of scientific and modern warehousing mechanism and infrastructure.
- ▶ Lack of established 'Warehouse Receipt' system. ▶ Farmers under pressure to sell produce immediately
- ▶ Lack of proper retail supply chain. ▶ No linkages between spot & future markets.
- ▶ Lack of modern transportation and packaging facili-
- ▶ Lack of agro processing industry and related infra-
- ▶ Inadequate R&D infrastructure and initiatives. ▶ Inadequate facilities for grading, sorting and evalua-
- tion of the produce Application Areas for Contract Farming In Jammu and

The following are the prime candidates, each of which is marked by an absence or an underdevelopment of compet-

- ▶ Seed multiplication for temperate areas;
- ▶ Organic foods, vegetables, fruits, and exotic
- ▶ Off season vegetable cultivation
- ▶ Aromatics, herbal and medicinal plants; ▶ The same consideration rules out commodities for
- established mass markets, such as cereals, common fruits and vegetables, Millets etc, as candidates for contract cul-SOME CONTRACT FARMING MODELS IN J&K

Jammu Oriental Fresh (JOF) Actech Agro

Jammu Oriental Fresh (JOF) is a Company of the farmer, for the farmers & by the farmers. Promoted under National Vegetable Initiative of SFAC (Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium) & facilitated by Actech Agro. JOF has over 3000 vegetable farmers in 7 districts of Jammu Province as its members & 4000 Ha of land base. Our Farmers have adopted organic farming in over 1000 Ha of land.JOF aims at bringing benefits of latest technology innovations to its member farmer thereby promoting sustainable & natural ways of farming. JOF also works towards creating post-harvest management & Marketing infrastructure to increase crop shelf life. JOF's marketing initiative brings farmers produce directly to consumers bypassing the chain of intermediaries. This results in lower price to consumer & higher revenue to the growers. JOF will soon introduce a variety of Fresh & Organic vegetables to the consumers of Jammu City. Promoted under National Vegetable Initiative of SFAC (Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium) & Fasciated by Actech Agro Pvt. Ltd. JOF marketing initiative brings farmers produce directly to consumers by passing the chain of intermediaries. This results in lower price to consumer & higher revenue to the growers. JOF will soon introduce a variety of Fresh & Organic vegetables to the

consumers of Jammu City.

- Actech Support JOF in following areas:-
- ▶ Organic Certification ▶ IT Infrastructure
- ▶ Weather information Services
- ▶ Call Centre Operation ▶ High Quality Seed
- ▶ Poly-house design & installation
- ▶ Biogas & vermin-compost
- ▶ Marketing Support Sarveshwer model

In Jammu & Kashmir State Sarveshwer contract farming is on growth phase. The concept of contract farming first started with the crop "Basmati-370" which is known as fragrance of Jammu and Sarveshwer company first launch its project in Suchetgarh Village, situated on Zero-line border of R.S. Pura Block. Achieving success in R.S. Pura the company started its other projects with the same concept in other parts of Jammu region like Akhnoor, Bishnah etc. Now, the trend is gaining ground in many districts like Bhaderwah, Srinagar, Rajouri etc. where they have started contract of several crops like Rajmah, Walnuts and Anardana etc. respectively and are trying to cover more crops under contract. Till date they are working with full passion. According to Sarveshwer Company till date more than 10,000 farmers are working under contract and they are earning benefits out of it and more than 12,000 hectare of land is under contract. The contract farming works on several models like Bi-Pirate. Tri-Pirate and Qui-Piarte, but in Jammu the contract farming works on Bi-Pirate model. According to this model there is involvement of farmers and company and besides that com pany does provide certain incentives to farmers like pesticides, insecticides, and the facility of packaging and loading to the farmers. These incentives have solved certain problems of farmers which they used to face like the problem of marketing etc. Under contract farming, there is a good scope for Basmati rice, which is grown on over 35,000 hectares of land in the state and has a production of over 88,000 metric tonnes, besides rajmash, pulses, saffron, peas and potato which are cultivated in temperate areas during the Kharif

Benefits small farmers from Contract Farming in J&K

Small farmers are generally capital starved and cannot make major investment in land improvement and modern inputs. The Contract farming can fill up this gap by providing the farmers with quality inputs, technical guidance and management skills. Although the company deals only with the contract crop, the farmers' overall management skill may improve, thereby helping him to raise the yields of both contract and non-contract crops. From the standpoint of corporate bodies, farming reduces the supply risk, while the farmers enter into contractual arrangements with companies in order to minimize price risks. The company and the farmers enter into contracts to supply or purchase a specified quantum of the commodity at agreed prices. The agreed contract may be either formal or informal and may cover supply of inputs and marketing of output. By entering into contract, the company reduces the risk of non-availability of raw material and the farmer reduces the risk of market demand and prices of his produce. The inputs and services supplied by firms may include seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, credit, farm machinery, technical advice, extension etc., or may involve only the supply of hybrid seeds and marketing of produce.

(The writers are Retd. Dy. Directors Agriculture).

GYANVAPI **SURVEY**

■ K.V. SEETHARAMAIAH

he Allahabad High Court has rightly allowed the Gyanvapi survey by Archelogical Survey of India (ASI) to know if the present-day mosque was built over a pre-existing temple. Many historical wrongs have occured during the Mughals rule. Though the Britishers ruled India for about 200 years, no case of Church built on temples has come out. The post-independent India has probably not witnessed the mosques built on temples. But most of the mosques built on temples pertain to the Mughal era. The intention of the Mughals was probably more to establish the supremacy of mosques over temples. Destruction of temples to build mosques was to annihilate the traces of Hinduism. Had there been no

evil intention to displace the temples, the mosques could have been built in the areas where there existed no temples. mosques were built on temples, the Mughals failed to eradicate the clues that indicated the existence of temples beneath the mosques. Places of Worship Act 1991 was enacted during the Narasihma Rao government to protect the interest of Muslims and to avert the possibility of the Hindu outfits laying claim over the alreay built mosques on temples in the coming years. A bench of Chief Justice Pritinker Diwaker has felt the need for scientific survey in the interest of justice. The survey only can reveal whether there existed temple underneath the mosque. It may be illogical to stake claim over Gyanyapi mosque considering the Places of

Worship Act. To bring legitimacy for staking claim, Places of Worship Act must be Even the holy Quran does not accept the destruction of one place of worship to build another. The masjid committee which manages the affairs of the Gyanvapi mosque has moved the Supreme Court with no success to stay the ASI survey. The Supreme Court has cautioned that it should be "non-invasive survey" without any excavation or causing damage to the structure of the mosque. This implies that the ASI is at liberty to take the photos or videos to prove anything that says that it was a temple before the masjid came up. If the existence of temple is proved, then the case may arise for excavation to take out th artefacts, if any, buried under the structure.

The masiid committee has no reason to stall the survey. Survey is conducted only to know the historical truth about the existence of temple under mosque. If the committee is confident that no wrong was done in the past, it has no reason to obstruct the survey. If there is no clue to suggest that the mosque was built after demolishing or destroying the temple, the status quo would be maintained forever. Ayodhya, Kashi and Mathura are most sacred places of Hindus. The UP Chief Minister Yogi Adithyanath has made a plea to Muslims for solutions from their side only. Dispute arises if it is called mosque. according to Yogi Adithyanath. The problem should be solved when it is small. The outcome of the survey is very important at this juncture.