

CYBER SURAKSHIT BHARAT

It has been observed that these days, the graph of cyber crimes is witnessing a upward trend with several cases being reported on almost daily basis across the nation. At such an hour, where stern measures are required to be taken by the Police and other agencies, it is also necessary that necessary awareness is imparted to people, especially illiterate persons and those residing in rural belts, as it has been witnessed that cyber criminal usually target those people who are not much aware of the information technology and its misuses. Taking benefit of their ignorance and illiteracy, these people cheat them easily and thereafter escape scot-free without coming in the clutches of law. As such, an initiative namely Cyber Surakshit Bharat was conceptualised with the mission to spread awareness about cyber-crime and build capacities of Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and frontline IT officials, across all government departments, for ensuring adequate safety measures to combat the growing menace, and for organizations to defend their digital infrastructures and become future-ready in tackling cyber-attacks. Operating on the principles of awareness, education and enablement, the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), under its Capacity Building scheme, organised 30th CISO Deep-Dive training programme. Held at the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), New Delhi, the intensive 5-day training programme was designed for designated CISOs from Central and State/UT Governments, subordinate agencies/PSUs, including public sector banks and insurance companies, technical wings of police and security forces, CTOs and members of technical/PMU teams; as well as officers responsible to observe security of IT systems in their respective organisations. The deep-dive training specifically aimed at educating and enabling CISOs to understand cyber-attacks comprehensively and thoroughly, get necessary exposure in latest technologies of safeguard, and translate the benefits of a resilient e-infrastructure to individual organizations and citizens at large. The training also focused on providing a holistic view of legal provisions, enabling CISOs to formulate policies in the domain of cyber security and build concrete cyber crisis management plans. The inaugural session of the programme was attended by eminent digitaries like Abhishek Singh, P&CEO, NeGD, S.N. Tripathi, DG, IIPA etc. Stressing upon the importance of cyber security in the present scenario of growing cyber-attacks, Tripathi encouraged CISO officers to think innovatively and futuristicly while supporting cyber security endeavours of their organisations. In his address, Abhishek Singh insisted on the need of robust cyber security conduct at an individual level, and requested all CISO participants for use of properly licensed software. He also reminded them of various GOI initiatives in the said domain, particularly highlighting the very responsive National Critical Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) to address potential cyber threats on critical infrastructure. The training programme brought together an array of subject matter experts from the industry, the academia and the government to speak on key domain issues of cyber security, such as, Governance Risk and Compliance, Emerging Cyber Security Trends, Landscape of Cyber Security Products in India, Network Security, Cyber Crisis Workplace Plan, Application and Data Security, Cloud Security, Mobile Security, Cryptography, Cyber Security Testing and Audit, Cyber Security related Provisions of IT Act and ISMS Standards including ISO 27001. An interactive presentation session by towards the programme's culmination by participants enabled learnings from one another. Launched in 2018, the CISO training is the first-of-its-kind of partnership between the Government and industry consortium under Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. Since June 2018, these programmes have capacitated 1,224 senior officials to secure digital infrastructure and systems of their respective organizations.



The Power of Your Attitude

In order to live a happy and healthy life, we need to discover the vital truth of two words. Attitude and Gratitude.

There is nothing as powerful as attitude. Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference. Attitude will make or break a person. Never underestimate the importance of cultivating a positive attitude. Also never underestimate the importance of also maintaining a positive attitude. A positive attitude keeps your energy levels high, your soul alive, and allows you to burn brightly instead of burning out. Therefore, if you want things to be different in your life... the number one thing you need to change is not your job, circumstances, environment, relationships, or income... it's YOU. You must first change your attitude.

In his book Attitude 101, John Maxwell says this concerning attitude: I am convince that life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it. Leadership has less to do with position than it does with disposition. The disposition of a leader is important because it will influence the way the followers think and feel. Great leaders understand that the right attitude will set the right atmosphere, which enables the right responses from others.

Attitude is always a choice. Gratitude starts with awareness and attentiveness. You may not be able to control circumstances, but you can control how you react to those circumstances. Knowing that God is in control should make a difference in one's attitude. Do you

Bishop Lalachan Abraham

Elementary Education in India: A Close Look

■ ER PRABHAT KISHORE

Education plays a vital role in the development of a country. It is used to mitigate most of challenges faced in life. The knowledge that is attained through education helps open doors to a lot of opportunities for better prospects in career growth. Elementary education is the foundation of advanced learning. Keeping this in view, during the decade 1991-2000 centrally sponsored District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) was launched for Universalisation of Primary Education (UPE), whereas during 2001-2010 Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was launched for Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE). It was given legal status on 1st April 2010 when Right of Children to free & compulsory education Act 2009 was implemented throughout the country. In 2018-19, Samagra Shiksha has been launched to cover the children from Pre-Nursery to Class- XII for Universalisation of Education upto Secondary level. National Education Policy 2020 outlines the vision of India's new education system.

With improved coverage the number of schools imparting elementary education increased manifold. From 8,53,601 schools in 2002-03, the number has increased to 14,49,078 in 2015-16. Of the total 85.38 per cent schools are located in the rural areas. During same period, the number of primary schools increased from 6,01,866 to 8,40,546. On an average, number of primary schools per thousand child population (6 to 11 years) is 9, whereas number of upper primary schools per thousand child population (11 to 14 year) is 8. Density of Primary schools per 10 Sq KM is 3.69, whereas in case of upper primary school it is 1.85. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, a large number of schools have been opened and upgraded. The ratio for the year 2015-16 is one upper primary school for every set of 1.99 primary schools. It is noticed that in about 17 states the ratio of primary to upper primary school is better than the national average. Despite significant improvement in the ratio, there are few states, such as Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Goa, Assam, Manipur and West Bengal, where the ratio still needs to be improved significantly.

Nearly 4.59 per cent schools of the country are private aided whereas 18.50 per cent are private unaided. The percentage of govern-

ment and government aided schools is as high as 74.32, which shows that eight out of every ten schools imparting elementary education in the country are funded by the government. As many as 1,62,237 new primary and 78,903 new upper primary schools have been opened since 2002-03, majority of which are located in rural areas and 99 per cent of these have been provided a school building. Schools imparting elementary education across 680 districts had an average of 5.1 classrooms. However, a significant difference is noticed in average number in government (4.2 classrooms) and private managed (7.8 classrooms) schools. About 82 per cent classrooms in primary schools are in good condition and remaining 18 per cent need either minor or major repairs. In 125 districts of the country student classroom ratio is above 30. On an average about 27 students are sitting in one classroom in elementary schools, but there is an alarming situation in Bihar where SCR is 51. In the country, percentage of primary schools with SCR greater than 30 was 25.74 whereas upper primary school with SCR greater than 35 is 28.01.

Availability of basic facilities in schools may not only attract more children but also help in improving retention rate. Of the total schools about 96.76 per cent have drinking water facilities, 97.07 percent boy's toilets, 97.58 percent separate toilets for girls and nearly 64.89 percent schools have boundary walls. Computer education facility is available in 25.97 percent schools in the country. Ramps have been provided in 61.83 percent schools to attract physically challenged children. Providing nutritious food to all children under the mid day meal schemes is one of the ambitious programme of the government. For this purpose, kitchen shed have been constructed in nearly 80.02 percent schools. The percentage of primary schools having attached pre-primary section is only 10.72 per cent. But most of such schools are in urban areas. Nearly 61.67 percent of the schools have been electrified, but Bihar have alarming situation in this sector where just 36.74 percent have electric facility.

The commencement of various educational schemes by central as well as state governments has improved the scenario to a great extent. The enrolment in primary schools increased from 101.16 million in 2002-03 to 129.122784 million in 2015-16, whereas in

upper primary school, the enrolment increased upto 67.593727 million. There has been consistent improvement both in Gender Parity Index (Percentage of enrolled girls compared to enrolled boys) and girls' enrolment. The average of 680 districts indicates a GPI of 0.93 in primary classes and 0.95 in upper primary classes. In year 2015-16, the shares of girls' enrolment in primary and upper primary classes were 48.21 per cent & 48.63 per cent respectively. The percentage of girls' enrolment in government managed schools was found to be higher than in private managed schools.

The share of SC& ST enrolment with respect to total enrolment works out to be 19.94 & 10.64 percent at primary level and 19.49 & 9.81 per cent at upper primary level. At all levels, government schools are the main providers of educational needs of both SC & ST children. The share of OBC enrolment in the primary and upper primary classes was 45.05 and 45.15 percent respectively. The percentage of Muslim enrolment at primary & upper primary level is reported to be 14.43 and 12.60 percent in which girls share is 49.05 and 51.35 percent respectively. The enrolment of Muslim children (13.80 percent) is satisfactory in respect of their population (14.20 percent). A lot of emphasis is given to include and integrate children with special needs (CWSN) into the education system. The percentage enrolment of such children is 1.18 and 1.13 percent at primary and upper primary level. One of the essential requirements to achieve UEE is to retain students in the education system. This is also reflected in the retention rate at primary level which is estimated to be 84.21 percent and drop-out rate has come to just 4.13 percent. The transition from primary to upper primary level has improved significantly to 90.14 percent. Availability of teachers in schools is an important variable for quality education. In the country, 8076756 teachers are engaged in schools imparting elementary education, out of which 4674275 are posted in government schools. 8.48 percent teachers are engaged in aided schools whereas 30.79 percent are in unaided schools. The all India average reveals that on an average there are 5.6 teachers in a school that imparts elementary education compared to an average of 3.1 teachers per primary school. About 47.99 percent of the total teachers are female, which shows somewhat satisfactory gender share.

Urban areas have higher percentage of female teachers compared to rural areas. Still there are 9.67 per cent single teacher schools in the country. There has been consistent improvement in pupil-teacher ratio (PTR). The PTR is 23:1 and 17:1 at primary and upper primary level as against national norms of 30:1 and 35:1. In 137 districts of the country PTR is above 30. The concentration is mostly in Bihar, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh. In only 2 states namely Bihar (36) and Uttar Pradesh PTR at primary level is above 30. At primary level percentage of schools having PTR above is 25.93, whereas at upper primary level percentage of schools having PTR above 35 is 13.46. There is an alarming situation in 4 states namely Bihar (65.92), Delhi (42.92), Jharkhand (41.23) and Uttar Pradesh (57.70), where percentage of schools having PTR is above 35. In Bihar not only is pupil-teacher ratio (36) high but also the student classroom ratio (51). The number of teachers is better in private schools compared to government schools. Of the total teachers 13.18 percent are contractual teachers. About 82.41 per cent of the regular teachers are professionally trained, whereas only 67.02 per cent of the contract teachers are professionally trained. The percentage of teacher aged above 55 years is just 6.16 per cent in all types of schools. Majority of the teachers of SC & ST community are in government schools. In elementary schools, there are 999335 teachers of SC community and 683268 teachers of ST community, which constitutes about 12.37 per cent and 8.46 per cent of the total working teachers. About 2875608 (35.60 per cent) teachers are from OBC community. After implementation of RTE, changes in various norms of SSA have been done. Emphasis on construction of school building and recruitment of qualified teachers has been given and more funds have been ensured for that. After attaining the goal of enrolment & retention set up under DPEP & SSA, now prime focus is on quality education upto secondary level under 'Samagra Shiksha'. Based on NEP 2020 recommendations, modifications in programmatic and financial norms of Samagra Shiksha have been done. It is hoped that in coming years, significant improvement will be noticed in the field of elementary & secondary education in the country.

(The author is a technocrat & academician).

Celebrate a World of Flavours

■ DR BANARSI LAL

Every year the first week of September (1-7 September) is commemorated as the National Nutrition Week (NNW) across India. The objective of celebration of this week is to create awareness among the general public about the importance of healthy eating practices and proper nutrition for upholding a healthy lifestyle. Various programmes are organized by the different organizations to create awareness on balanced nutrition. The theme of 2021 National Nutrition Week was 'Feeding Smart Right from Start' and the theme of this year (2022) National Nutrition Week is 'Celebrate a World of Flavours'. The main aim is to make people have sufficient nutrition while enjoying the different flavors of Indian cuisine. It can help to prevent various chronic diseases and improve the quality of life for people with diabetes and other non-communicable diseases. It is important for the individuals to remain fit and healthy by eating nutritious food and maintaining healthy lifestyles. Different diet pattern should be accorded to the different age groups of people. Throughout the week the public is informed about the basic phenomenon of balanced diet. A balanced diet full of essential nutrients is must for a healthy life.

In the closing chapter of 1 Thessalonians, Apostle Paul is giving three briefs "standing orders" or three perpetual practices to ensure spiritual vitality and devotion. "Rejoice always! Pray constantly. Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

In fact, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 implies that our trust in God is directly linked to our attitude. To Paul, prayer was even the realization of God's presence.

One of the most difficult disciplines in life is the discipline of thankfulness—taking time to count your blessings and adjust your attitude of gratitude. Bible says in Proverbs 17:22 "A cheerful heart is a good medicine".

Research shows that being thankful is actually good for your health. Robert Emmons, professor of psychology at the University of California in Davis, says, "Clinical trials indicate that the practice of gratitude can have dramatic and lasting effects in a person's life: It can lower blood pressure, improve immune function and facilitate more efficient sleep." The University of California San Diego's School of Medicine linked gratefulness with better heart health, specifically less inflammation and healthier heart rhythms. Paul Mills, another researcher, found that thankful people "showed a better well-being, a less depressed mood, less fatigue, and better sleep."

YOUR COLUMN
Transfer, suspension or attachment no punishment for erring officials

Dear Editor,

Though there are sufficient laws in the country, to punish the irresponsible, corrupt, careless and the traitor government officials, but due to the partisan and biased attitude of interested officials in the higher hierarchy and the powerful politicians, even the grievous and un pardonable mistakes of the erring officials are either overlooked or never implemented and enforced stringently. The carelessness of the law enforcing officers and those of their task masters are becoming headlines of the print and the elec-

tronics media these days. It is seen how the corrupt, careless and the officials involved in scams, tax evasions, money laundering, amassing huge assets both movable and immovable, siphoning out the money from the national exchequer escape scot free by greasing the palms of the persons sitting in the parlors of power. These days lynching, targeted killing, day light cold blood murders, live burning slitting the throats arson and violence have become the order of the day. Many political murders sacrilegious crimes seditious actions of the miscreants are not given that attention which is demanded of the situation. Not registering FIRs by the police, not providing securities to those who are on the radar of the criminals is also considered among the heinous crimes against the humanity. Many die due the breakout of the fire in the in the public places, hospitals, and the local localities where lot of both human and live stock are charred alive. But it

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PROGRESSING J&K

Extension of Central Laws established equitable system of justice across J&K

With the extension of 890 central laws, repeal of 205 state laws and modification of 129 laws after the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, a system of equitable justice has been established across Jammu and Kashmir for all sections of people. The implementation of several path-breaking central legislations after the revocation of Article 370, like the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2007, the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1954, among others, is bringing a new era of progress and development in Jammu and Kashmir. Under the guidance of the Prime Minister, Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a new dawn. Tribals are getting land rights, thousands of government jobs have been provided within record time with complete transparency and major steps have been taken to ensure the empowerment of women, marginalised as well as weaker groups. In a major relief to socially and educationally backward classes, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has enhanced their income ceiling from Rs 4.50 lakh to Rs 8 lakh allowing them to avail benefits of reservation according to provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004. The rights of weaker sections like Scheduled Tribes, other traditional forest dwellers, Scheduled Castes and Safai Karamcharis' are now ensured by the application of relevant Acts. Rights of children and senior citizens are now being ensured. In order to create a just and equitable society, reservation rules have been amended to extend benefits of reservation to left out categories like Pahari speaking people and economically weaker sections. Similarly, implementation of 73rd and 74th Constitution amendments have given a new lease of life to grass-root democracy in J&K. Even though the three-tier system was implemented late in the UT, Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as a great and effective example in this system. The step towards institutionalization of the offices of DDCs and BDCs, at a cost of Rs. 44.92 cr strengthened and accentuated the efficiency of the Panchayati Raj system, making it the engine of community development in future. For effective implementation of developmental plans and policies at the grassroots level, ample resources have been kept at the disposal of PRIs. After 2019, when the budget of Jammu and Kashmir was presented in the Parliament of the country, the goal of strengthening good governance and grass root democracy is placed at the top of the list of priorities. Eleven Land Laws that existed in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir were old, regressive, intrinsically contradictory and outdated laws with a set of modern, progressive and people friendly provisions. The new land laws will not only afford protection to over 90 per cent of land in J&K but will also help revamp the agriculture sector foster, rapid industrialization, aid economic growth and create jobs in J&K. The repealed laws were made to serve the old agrarian based economy and were required to be modified for modern economic needs. Besides, they were beset with ambiguities, contradictions and redundancies and in many cases, were clearly regressive.

is a tragedy that neither the higher officers nor the political parties in power ever dare to take the cognizance of such crimes taking place due to the dereliction of the duties on the part of those responsible for that. Instead of taking them to task, save their own skin and wiping tears of the victims, the erring officers are either transferred, suspended or attached in the higher offices under their patronage and safe custody. These are in no way considered as the punishment for these careless and corrupt officers. According to the quantum of their mistakes they must be either dismissed from their services or put behind the bars and looted money is confiscated. Unless the punitive measures are adapted no authority what so ever can put reins in the thick skinned officers.

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