

Modernizing Horticulture

Horticulture is a major industry in Kashmir region. So are handicrafts and tourism. These sectors contribute to the economic prosperity of the State. When we want these or any other industry to grow to the extent that they become essential to the economic growth of the State, then of course the question is of giving them full modern shape and using scientific methods of developing them productively. Essentially it is the apple industry that has enormous potential of growth owing to the climate and soil needed for the growth of this industry. Apple industry in the developed countries of the west and also in Australia or Japan and China has been modernized to maximum and Kashmir apple industry stands nowhere in comparison to them. For example, apple production per hectare of land in Australia is in the neighbourhood of 70 tons whereas in Kashmir it is 9.5 tons. This much may be said about the production rate. There are other important factors that, too, will have to be taken into account. Foremost is that of using scientific methods of saving the apple and apple tree from catching disease which destroys the crop and shortens the life of the fruit. It is not an encouraging story to say that despite having two agricultural universities in the State, the researchers have not been able to produce pest controlling chemicals that would effectively control the diseases like scab. Secondly, the researchers have not been able to produce solution to improving the quality of the apple in terms of colour, taste and size. Then is the question of gradation which is given full consideration in developed countries. The apples are to be graded according to size and colour and other properties.

The Chief Minister was reflecting on the horticulture production while laying foundation for controlled atmosphere storage in the industrial area of Lassipora. The purpose of cold storage is not only to preserve the fruit for longer time which in itself is of utmost importance. The purpose of cold storing the fruit is also to find suitable time for its marketing so that the growers are able to get reasonably good price for their commodity. There are certain occasions like festivals when there is much demand for the fruit in the market and consequently there is sharp rise in the market. At the same time there are other occasions when there is glut or surplus supply in the market and the price falls. These situations need to be controlled and that can happen only when cold storage facilities are available right at the origin or main supply depots. But the problem cannot be solved by having a couple of cold stores and dumping the fruit in them for use at proper time. The cold storing mechanism have to be available to almost all producers throughout the Valley which means that there should be district or even tehsil level cold storage system so that apple growers can keep the product safe in these stores and take it out for sale at proper time. This has to be an industry on a large scale and then alone can horticulture become a viable industry to lend full support to the economic growth of the State.

With the railway link between the Valley and the rest of the country being established in near future, horticulture industry in the State can envision great prosperity and a revolution of sorts. The problem of transportation will be overcome to a large extent which in turn will reduce dependence on cold stores for too long a time. It has also to be remembered that a cold store can function properly only when there is uninterrupted power supply to the plant. It means that unless power supply position improves, building a cold store does not serve the full purpose.

Quenching the thirst

Jammu region in general and its kandi area in particular have often been suffering owing to short supply of water. But owing to sustained efforts of the Government, the issue of supplying drinking water has been resolved to some extent. However, as the population is increasing at a fast rate and new colonies are coming up shortage of drinking water is becoming a serious issue. There are many new colonies that have been thirsty for want of adequate supply of drinking water.

Economic Reconstruction Agency (ERA) has undertaken the Jammu and Kashmir Urban Sector Development Investment Programme (JKUSDIP), financed by the ADB through multi-Tranche Financing Facility (MFF) for drilling of 19 new deep drill tube wells in the City of Temples under the estimated cost of Rs. 40.12 crore. Many areas that need improved water supply system in different parts of the city and its peripheral areas have been identified and the drilling work has already been started. The programme is comprehensive since the Minister has approached the concerned quarters for laying the pipelines in the identified areas if these are not having the facility. Obviously, the laying of the pipelines should start simultaneously and once the drilling is complete and water resource is tapped, flow of drinking water in the pipelines will begin. To make the scheme a success, Government must also take into consideration the construction of power sheds to lift the water and all other requirements in this connection.

However, what irks the public is that there is big deficit in the maintenance of important plants like water supply. More often than not an ordinary default takes weeks and months to rectify and water supply system cannot go on being dysfunctional for long time. The concerned officials should ensure that all the tube wells once complete and made functional should work properly and without interruption.

A Tribute to Dr Radhakrishnan

Ajit Singh Nagra

*Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime
And departing leave behind us
Foot prints on the sands of time. 'Long fellow*

In the hoary past, our India has remained a cradle of illustrious teachers, intellectual giants, literary savants and inspiring educationists who enlightened the world with their purity of knowledge spiritual awakening and ethical values to foster the feelings of universal love, amity and fraternity to remove the insurmountable barriers of narrow minded considerations and ignorance to knit the world together like one family. Lord Buddha Lord Mahavira, Saint Kabir and Guru Nanak Dev Ji dispelled ignorance from our minds and gave the message of love and unity to harbing spiritual sunshine for all.

In our modern times Raja Ram Mohan Ray, Swami Vivekananda and Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan have rendered yeoman's service to the nation by glorifying her name all over world by highlighting our religion, culture and society. Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was a priceless jewel and born educationist who rose from the humble position of a college teacher and adorned the prestigious chair of the President of the country by sheer dint of his diligence and intelligence, capability and calibre without an iota of greed and pride.

This illustrious son of mother India was born on 5 Sept 1888 at a small place Tiruttani in chittoor district of Madras presidency forty miles to the north west of Madras (now Chennai) in Telegu Smarta Brahmi family.

He was the second son of Servepalli Veera Swamiji and sitamma in a family of five boys and two girls. His ancestors had moved there 150 years ago from

the Andhra fishing village of Servepalli about 200 miles further north.

Upon passing the entrance examination of Madras University, he entered Madras Christian college in 1904. He received BA in 1907 and MA degrees in 1909 from the university of Madras. In 1917 he was appointed professor of Philosophy in the University of Mysore.

In 1921, he was appointed to King George V Chair of mental and moral science in the university of Calcutta. In 1926, he was invited to Oxford University to work as a visiting professor and remained professor of Eastern religious and ethics at the University of Oxford (1936-52) and Vice Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University (1939-48)

TEACHER'S DAY SPECIAL

India from 1953 to 1962 he was chancellor of the University of Delhi. He led the Indian delegation to the United Nations' UNESCO 1946-52 and was elected Chairman of UNESCO's Executive Board (1948-49) from 1949 to 1952 he served as Indian ambassador to the Soviet Union.

He distinguished himself as a very clear exponent and expositor of abstruse problems of philosophy and published the monumental Indian philosophy covering all schools of Indian philosophy and thought Nayaya (Gantama) Sankhya (Kapila) Yoga (Pitanjali) Vedanta (Ved Vyas) Vaiseska (Kanada) and Mimamsa (Jaimini).

The western scholars were deeply thrilled by his vast scholarship and clear exposition in fluent and flawless English. He solved many knotty problems in Indian philosophy and had the ability to arouse the heart and enlighten the mind.

In 1939 Pt Madan Mohan Maulviya approached Dr Radhakrishnan to accept Vice Chancellorship of the Banaras Hindu University, he declined to accept any pecuniary offer and

consented to work only in honorary capacity. Has lecturers on Lord Buddha were adjudged as a lecture on a master mind by a master mind. In 1940, he was the First Indian to achieve the distinction of being elected as Fellow of British Royal Academy.

In 1952, Dr Radhakrishnan was destined to be the first Vice President of the country and occupied the prestigious post of the President of India during 1962-67 and supplanted Dr Rajendra Prasad.

But the riches and the Kaleidoscopic changes of life could not shorn him of simplicity, humility and magnanimity he retired from politics in 1967 after the completion of his term and devoted his time and energy to complete his work which

included Indian philosophy 2 volumes (1923-27) The philosophy of upanishads (1924) An idealist view of life (1932) Eastern Religion and Western thought (1939). In his lecturers and books he tried to interpret Indian thought and philosophy for westerners who had poor opinion about our society and religion and disparaged our faith.

Dr Radhakrishnan passed away on 16 April 1975 in his house at Madras and he received the Templeton Award in Religion post humously for his outstanding contribution and profound erudition of the subject.

Our teaching community should make this great man as our role dole and we should devote atleast two or three hours daily for self study by devouring the master pieces of renowned authors to replenish our store house of knowledge with literary ambrosia and intellectual nourishment.

It is a matter of deep concern that some black sheep in the teaching community have tarnished its image, sullied its reputation and desecrated its sancti-

ty by stooping low to lick the dust of money and material by indulging into culpable sins, incorrigible activities asinine mistakes and egregious blunders. The educational institutions have turned into business houses. Where atmosphere is both politicized and communalized resulting into erosion of moral values, spiritual cataclysm and general turpitude.

On this occasion of the Teacher's Day, Best teacher awards are given to the outstanding teachers for their best contribution in the field to ameliorate the educational system but sometimes the recipients of these awards are not prudently selected and it causes ill will and resentment among those teachers who deserve but are denied on political grounds and casteism. The crafty manipulators who shirk their duty and plays second fiddle to the immediate boss and serve him with object servitude as a factotum or masseuse to champoo their feet like a chiropodist.

But a good teacher needs no award and the respect that he earns in his life time by gaining popularity among the students and the society and the inner consolation that he feels after performing his duty is the real fruit that he can relish. The work of the ideal teacher remain engraved on the slate of the minds of his shidents and these memories do not fade away.

A teacher should possess ample knowledge pure thoughts and spotless character to carve his niche in the house of reputation Education should be given the priority to purge the society of its abominable evils.

The selection committee should work sincerely to filter out the deserving teachers, and weed out the nefarious elements by churning properly to remove cream from the offal so that grievances are minimised.

(The author is a former Principal)

Role of a modern teacher

Ashok Sharma

Teaching is a noble profession and a nation's future is shaped in the classroom. The man shapes it is the teacher. Since times immemorial, teachers have been held in high esteem and given a place of respect next to one's mother and father. A good teacher exerts a profound influence on his students who take him to be his role model and guide. That is why a good teacher is said to be worth a thousand preachers. With the unprecedented expansion of education new breakthroughs in the methodology in the recent times, the role of teacher has also changed. He is no longer expected to use traditional methods of teaching in the classroom and teach only 3R's to the students. He has the onerous task of moulding his students into useful and patriotic citizens of tomorrow by adopting latest teaching techniques and focussing on the holistic development of the students. For achieving this noble objective, it is imperative that a modern teacher is well qualified and highly motivated. He should have a strong passion about teaching and working with students. A good teacher is one who has a sound knowledge of his subject as also of educational psychology to teach his students according to their aptitudes, interests and age groups and enable them to explore their talents and abilities and use them to the optimum level. A great teacher equips himself with effective discipline skills and strives hard to promote positive behaviour and passion for learning in his students. He is always sympathetic with his students and encourages them to make proper use of time and energy and explore new things. A good teacher should always be well dressed and well groomed to be able to command a pleasing personality. He strives hard to develop the qualities of leadership, dignity for labour, scientific temper in the students and promote creative writing and healthy conversational skills. He teaches his students in such a manner that they consider learning as a pleasurable and enjoyable experience and develop intellectual curiosity and knack for learning.

There is no doubt that in the wake of materialism and degeneration of values, respect for teachers has lessened but teachers having unassailable command on their subject, positive attitude and pleasant disposition are deeply revered and such teachers will continue to be respected in the times to come. The 'TeachersDay' celebrated in the honour of legendary teacher and philosopher president of India, Dr S. Radhakrishnan affords an opportunity to all the teachers to introspect whether they are fulfilling their roles properly to the high expectations of the society which expects them to mould their students into ethically strong, mentally alert, physically fit, emotionally stable, intellectually enlightened and morally upright citizens and thus enable them to lead a useful, productive and harmonious life. It is hoped that they shall not be found wanting in their noble and glorious role.

Who's afraid of food security ?

Amulya Ganguli

The BJP's eagerness for an early general election is born of the fear that the Congress may have found a brahmastra (ultimate weapon) in the food security law. The BJP wants, therefore, to bring the election forward so that it can use the current popular disenchantment with the ruling party over inflation, scams and a stalled economy to pip the Congress at the post.

However, since the Congress, too, is aware of its 'ethical and governance deficits', as finance minister P Chidambaram acknowledged not long ago, it has fallen back on the populist measures favoured by Sonia Gandhi to revive its prospects. Before the food security and land acquisition bills were introduced in Parliament, the Congress was steadily falling behind the BJP in the opinion polls in terms of the number of Lok Sabha seats. It will be interesting to see how it now fares.

In the meantime, the BJP's nervousness is obvious. There are two reasons for it. One is that it cannot criticize the two new laws so sharply since it supported both of them. The other is that the welfare measures will be in contrast to its poster-boy, Narendra Modi's development agenda. Unlike Chhattisgarh chief minister Raman Singh's provisions for supplying cheap grains to the underprivileged, which rival the food security law, Modi's image is that of a pro-business, and not pro-poor, leader.

Not surprisingly, Gujarat is a model for the Jagdish Bhagwati school of economists, who argue that growth is a more effective panacea for eliminating poverty than a top-down, government-sponsored helpline for those below the poverty line. While an intellectual battle between the two models, represented by Bhagwati and Amartya Sen, can be a riveting affair on television and the 'pink' newspapers, the belief among politicians across the board is that it is the second version which has greater credence among a wide section of the people while the first one is backed mainly by the middle class.

The reason why Modi is believed to have acquired a strong base among the latter, and is a favourite of the corporate sector, is because of this preference for his economic tactics with a pronounced bias in favour of the private sector. It is understandable, therefore, why Modi wanted to delay the adoption of the food law by calling for a meeting of chief ministers on it, and especially on its supposedly anti-federal aspects since the legislation empowers the centre to direct the states on its implementation. The BJP, however, for once decided to ignore its poster-boy's arguments since it realised that such filibustering will show up the party not only as habitual obstructionist, but also anti-poor. Since it is politically fatal in India to be seen in such a light, the BJP muted its "nays" against the bill, thereby enabling its passage. Except for former finance minister Yashwant Sinha, who called the measure fiscally disastrous, the BJP refrained from stressing this aspect of the law lest it be seen as right-of-centre. It was left, therefore, to the pro-market economists to emphasize the negative features of both the food and land acquisition laws while the political class displayed a rare unity, born mainly of cynical calculations aimed at showing how their hearts bled for the poor.

In the case of the Congress, the cynicism relates to the fact that even the distinguished economists in its ranks have chosen to ignore the fears of the economy sinking under the burden of the huge subsidies which the food law entails, and also because the industrialists are likely to shy away from investing because of the difficulties of obtaining land under the new land acquisition law, under which it may take as long as five years to acquire a plot.

If Sonia Gandhi has nevertheless decided to push through the two measures, the probable explanation is that she has chosen to live in the present without any thought for the future. Her aim is to win the next general election on the basis of populism in accordance with the belief in the left-of-centre National Advisory Council (NAC) headed by her that it was the rural employment programme which was primarily responsible for the Congress's 2009 victory and not the nuclear deal or the high growth rates of the time.

Sonia Gandhi's calculation apparently is that by the time the ill-effects of the two laws are felt by the economy, the government will be well ensconced in power. Her admission that resources will have to be found for the food law shows that she is not unaware of the profligate nature of the initiative. There is little doubt that she has imbibed all the lessons in amoral realpolitik, which she learnt as a young daughter-in-law in Indira Gandhi's household. Their basis was to pose as a champion of the poor, engaged in doling out goodies in a paternalistic exercise characteristic of a benevolent feudal family.

If she succeeds in enabling the Congress to pull ahead of the BJP, she and the crypto-communists of the NAC will rule the roost in the near future at the expense of accomplished right-wing economists. (IPA)

Reducing Deficit

Create world class brands

Dhurjati Mukherjee

It is amply clear now that one of the most critical problems presently hindering India's growth prospects is the unsustainable current account deficit. The large deficit undoubtedly indicates that apart from oil imports, the country is yet to attain international competitiveness in several segments of the economy.

The deficit zoomed to 4.8 per cent of the GDP in March this year, way above what the Reserve Bank of India believed the economy can sustain. The country now has the second highest deficit in the world, after the US. Worse, the UPA Government's bid to woo the foreign investors has failed to make a mark. They have been reluctant to invest in projects or in the country's low-yield capital markets, sparking worries in the Finance Ministry on how it will finance the growing deficit. It may give ample assurances but there is little hope that nothing will change till mid-2014.

In the last fiscal, the Government somehow managed without dipping into its foreign exchange reserves to fund the \$ 88.2 billion current account deficit. As present, it cannot curb oil imports as it did in 1991 because this would be an obstacle to growth which has already slumped to below 5.5 per cent in 2012-13 from the record levels of 9 per cent achieved between 2009 and 2011. This apart, it's a different story whether the Government will heed to the Petroleum Minister M Veerappa Moily's advice to rethink importing cheaper crude from Iran, which is facing UN sanctions. According to his calculations, the country could save nearly \$ 8.5 billion, i.e. Rs 57000-odd crore.

Financing the deficit by attracting more debt-creating capital inflows will only imply growing external indebtedness. Thus, the problem needs to be tackled through a different strategy. Since 2009, Indian subsidiaries had to make increased payments to their overseas parent for the use of brand names established several decades ago. According to a report of the ET Intelligence Group, royalty payments of Indian subsidiaries of MNCs trebled over the past five years. A similar analysis by the Business Standard found that 75 BSE 5000 companies paid royalty equivalent to 32 per cent of their net profit in the year 2011-12 and this has increased in 2012-13.

The fascination for MNC brands among the middle and upper sections of society such as soaps, shampoos, clothes, footwear, electronics etc has grown over the years, resulting in a sizeable outflow. The false notion of such brands being of superior quality has not been dispelled. Moreover, a majority have no inkling that every purchase made by them has a send value out of the country to the foreign owners.

Perhaps it is in this context that ITC chairman YC Deveshwar at the 102nd Annual General Meeting of the Company held recently, suggested to "align national and corporate energies to create world class Indian brands". He emphasized the need for domestic enterprises to build globally competitive brands that can compete with the best in the world on equal terms.

Though creating world class brands in this era of technological competitiveness is easier said than done, it would not be difficult in at least certain household

items. Thus, Deveshwar urged that the mission to create such brands in India must assume the fervour of a national movement. According to him, "such world class Indian brands will help create, capture and retain larger value for the economy", thereby becoming a force for inclusive and sustainable growth.

The observations of the ITC chief are indeed very significant at this juncture and the suggestion for generating a national fervour echoes the swadeshi movement initiated by the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi. The realization that the same products of Indian brands have almost the same quality and are largely less costly needs to be popularized so that the craze for foreign brands is reduced. There is also an urgent need for the Centre and States to formulate a well-thought out strategy so that people are induced to go in for Indian brands rather than those belonging to the MNCs.

Success stories of consumer brands such as Bajaj, Reliance, Amul, Godrej, Hero, Mahindra and Airtel clearly reveal that India has the capacity of creating world class brands. There cannot be any two opinions. The new experiments with Akash tablet, designed by IIT, Bombay and Centre for Development of Advanced computing is also expected to make a dent in the Asian markets. Apart from outstanding entrepreneurial talent, the country has sufficiently high quality R&D, which needs to be further nurtured along with differentiated product development capacity.

At the same time, a change in outlook is also required among the neo-rich and the upper sections of society and a realization that the outflow of funds needs to be checked to help the country

out of its fiscal mess. Deveshwar's call for a national movement, i.e. putting more reliance on swadeshi products, is a timely call, which has to be seriously considered at this critical juncture. It also needs to be pointed out that most of Indian brands are highly improved and, in some cases, even better than MNC brands.

In the coming years, some Indian companies with their international levels of R&D are destined to come up in a big way in some very important sectors. Encouragement and support from the Government would be necessary in this regard - the first being that all purchases should be of brands only of Indian companies. If the Government transacts business only with the State-owned banks, this purchase decision should not be difficult to take.

In certain sectors, export incentives would have to be considered to allow Indian brands to make inroads into foreign territory. R&D support from Government laboratories could also be extended at minimum cost to improve quality, wherever necessary. Thus, through a concerted strategy there could be no reason for not meeting the challenge of making India globally competitive.

If a plan is evolved in this regard, the twin objectives of reducing the current account deficit as also giving primacy and promoting Indian brands would be achieved. The swadeshi spirit would have to be inculcated in each and every household to ensure that Indian brands flourish though simultaneously emphasis would need to be given on the quality aspect as well. A beginning must be made, at the earliest. --- INFA

Jammu women

Sir,

This has reference to the Sunday Magazine article 'Jammu women Today' DE Sept 1.

Winds of change are slowly sweeping the social milieu of Jammu due to a number of factors which include education and influence of media.

Though there may be a segment of women who still may be having traces of unprogressive thinking lingering in their minds but modern Jammu woman is educated, enlightened and knows her role in society.

However, women who live in remote areas where education and media has a limited access, women are still rooted in what the author of the write up says regressive thinking. These women will not be liberated unless education and media make a considerable impact. These women who contribute much to the economy of their households, do not have yet much say in decision making process. They are not yet exposed to influence of various women groups who work for welfare of women. They are not yet aware of their rights guaranteed under constitution.

Unless and until these women are educated, they will remain nurturing the regressive thinking and would remain dependent on their men.

Yours etc....
Aarti Mahajan
Jammu

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Sir,

One way women can reduce their dependency on men is by empowering them. In this context Self Help Groups (SHGs) can play an important role in shaping their lives. SHG is a tool which is one of the most important tools to overcome exploitation and create confidence for self reliance amongst women, who are invisible for their social circles. The fundamental principle that governs the members of SHGs is 'one for all and all for one.' A woman's capability for leadership is obviously nurtured through her dealings with many and different household members under her command and control. Thus formation of SHGs is one of the most important tools of women empowerment.

Besides, there are many schemes launched by the Government(s)-State and Centre for welfare of women. These schemes will give them confidence to live a dignified life, and once they are financially secure they will reduce their dependence on their men and chart their ways as per their desire.

Yours etc....
Neha Sharma
Gandhi Nagar

Readers Write

Schools san blackboards

Sir,

Refer article '25% schools without blackboard' DE Sept 1. It is unbelievable that a school can function without a blackboard. It is one of the basic requirements for a school to function. Now when private schools are providing the facility of smart classes, some Government schools do not have the facility of blackboards.

The author has rightly said that the greatest harm to the cause of school education is being inflicted by none other than so called educationists or learned planners of the country.

The planners usually fail to implement schemes they frame. In J&K Sarva Shiksha Abhyan (SSA) has not achieved much objectives despite having large sums of money at their disposal. It was reported that the Department could not utilise the money it was allotted. Unless there is accountability, no system works perfectly.

Yours etc.....
Ajit Singh
Udhampur

Child labour

Sir,

The problem of child labour continues to pose a challenge to the country despite many initiative taken by Governments in this regard. It is a human rights issue. It is a social stigma that should be eradicated by harnessing all means available to us. Sociologists economists and civil society members can play an active role towards achieving this objective.

Yours etc.....
Touseef Iqbal Butt
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