

## Commercial Floriculture

Garden with blooming flowers is always a treat to eyes, mesmerizing as well as soothing to mind, a passion for many and if this passion becomes one's profession also, it's icing on the cake. In today's terms, floriculture is God send opportunity for young generation who are ready to invest their heart and soul in gardening. Its great initiative of Floriculture Department to train and guide local youth, distribute seeds and advise about seasonal flower cultivation for bumper yields to generate maximum profit. But this is one aspect of story, in fact half done. Proper planning has to be done, from flower yields to store, to explore markets to sell, to transport them to destination. Flowers cannot be stored for long time so cold storages are must if commercial floriculture has to really bloom. Floriculture Department must rollout a plan like Horticulture Planning and Marketing Department or collaborate with them to provide cold storages and facilitate the sale. GST registration of flower producers is also important to have organised, professional business model in place, important point is exporting the flowers from Jammu and Kashmir to other countries. Is there any Gol subsidy plan to transport these flowers by Air transport like apples, cherries and dry fruit of Kashmir? Geo tagging is another aspect which concerned departments should look into for any particular variety. Floriculture crop insurance must also be introduced. As and when there is a particular hamlet/village/town with sizeable open commercial gardens, Tourism Department must incorporate information on their websites to promote tourism as well as invitation to Bollywood. Honey-bee farming should immediately be promoted in such areas as additional income without any extra cost. Flower cutting is an art which no institute is teaching right now as such Skill Development Department must start a course for this at these particular cultivation areas. Webinars/interaction with those already in this business will be quite helpful along with guided tours of graduate interested youth to these commercial gardens. Success stories are always motivating factors as such Doodarshan, radio station and local electronics media play important role. #AmazingJammu is really an amazing platform to share photographs of these gardens, respective District Administrations are the nodal offices and best officials to share such success stories on their social media platforms. All Government functions, big or small, must use flowers of these gardens to create demand promoting self employment. Chamber of Commerce of both Jammu and Kashmir can be roped in for business, similarly all major clubs for their requirements and promotion. There are already marketing apps to cater to demand and supply chain, department must tap these to know the flowers in demand, what can be produced and promoted in our UT as per demand.

All these things are of utmost important for any business module to be successful as Indian Floriculture market is going to be a market of not millions but billions, a lifetime opportunity to follow passion, be with beautiful nature and earn handsome money also. Floriculture Department has initiated a well thought alternative agriculture option, its already giving very positive results but consistency and dedication has to be maintained unlike Tulip garden episodes specifically of Jammu region. We have best climate, locations, dedicated youth, with this intensity and far sightedness of administration youth of Jammu and Kashmir can do wonders with this amazing business venture also.

## Preserving Ladakh's Culture

Art, culture and language of any region are unique and play an important role in every sphere of life. Evolving a society is not one day or one year process but continuous process for which each generation past, present and future play their role. Even a thousand year old petroglyph is a source to get a peek into history of that place. Ladakh has such a vast preserved culture, so much so that these are projected as tourism now like Buddhist Monasteries. It's life time experience to visit, see and get connected with these. The more present generation is able to preserve, the more information about art, culture and language will be available to future generations. Preserving languages other than Hindi and English is an Herculean job, Jammu lost Takri, old Kashmiri got replaced with Persian dialect, both these examples of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State only, as such effort to have electronic Ladakhi dictionary with 25,000 words, 4500 articles and around 1000 local folk songs is commendable. The areas which experience winter of minus temperature are cut off from rest of world, but are ideal places for local art and culture to develop. It leads to innovation. Who can forget character of Rancho alias Phunsukh Wangduin Bollywood hit 3-Idiots, a reel life character based on real life hero Sonam Wangchuk from Ladakh, an alumni of NIT Srinagar and former board member of Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited. His school, as shown in movies, is a must visit place for all visitors, an example how to preserve your creation, not an overnight achievement but dedication, hard work and patience over a period of time.

# Educational revamp in view of NEP 2020

Meenu Sadhotra

India has a long tradition of holistic and multi-disciplinary learning and has been renowned as a center of Educational excellence. Medicine, Mathematics and many subjects have progressed in India over a period of centuries. In ancient India, both formal and informal ways of education system existed. Education was largely imparted at home or in pathshalas. Temples were also the centres of learning and took interest in the promotion of knowledge. Teaching was largely oral and students remembered and thought upon what was taught in the class.

The Indian education system has gone through a number of transformations since the ancient times. The most significant transformation happened when the Britishers came to India. During the British administration, the independent or semi-independent princedoms and territories of India underwent tremendous changes. The purpose behind the British rulers educating the Indian populace was to build an educated group of laborers. Lord Macaulay laid the foundation of modern education system in the year 1835, proposed to educate Indians in terms of both culture and intellect. With the spread of imperialism and colonialism, foreign powers took an interest in India and thus introduced new means of transport and communication which further enhanced their educational goals in India.

Though the British rulers spread the light of education in India for the sake of their own interest, but the Indians were greatly benefited by this. British colonial rule brought with it the concept of a modern state, a modern economy and a modern education system. With the establishment of Colleges and Universities in various cities of India where Indian students started studying various modern subjects. The education system was first developed in the three presidencies (Bombay, Calcutta and Madras).

Education for all and industrial development was seen as crucial tools to unite a country divided on the basis of wealth, caste and religion, and formed the cornerstones of the anti-imperial struggle. Following Independence, school curricula were thus imbued with the twin themes of inclusiveness and national pride. Subsidized quality higher education through institutions such as the IITs and IIMs formed a major contribution to a self-

reliant and modern Indian state, and they now rank amongst the best higher education institutions in the world.

The Kothari Commission was set up in 1964 to formulate a coherent education policy for India. According to the commission, education was intended to increase productivity, develop social and national unity, consolidate democracy, modernize the country and develop social, moral and spiritual values. To achieve this, the main pillar of Indian education policy was to be free and compulsory education for all children up to the age of 14.

Other features included the development of languages (Hindi, Sanskrit, regional languages and the three-language formula) equality of educational opportunities (regional, tribal and gender imbalances to be addressed) and the development and prioritization of scientific education and research. The commission also emphasized the need to eradicate illiteracy and provide adult education.

National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education in 1995 provided a cooked meal every day for children in Classes 1-5 of all government, government-aided and local body schools. District Primary Education Programme in 1993 focused on decentralized planning and management, improved teaching and learning materials, and school effectiveness. The movement to Educate All in 2000 aimed to achieve universal primary education by 2010 through microplanning and school-mapping exercises, bridging gender and social gaps. Fundamental Right in Article 21A, involved the provision of free and compulsory education, declared to be a basic right for children aged between 6 and 14 years.

The NEP 2020 replaces the National Policy on Education of 1986. In January 2015, a committee under former Cabinet Secretary T. S. R. Subramanian started the consultation process for the New Education Policy. The New Education Policy aims to facilitate an inclusive, participatory and holistic approach, which takes into consideration field experiences, empirical research, stakeholder feedback, as well as lessons learned from best practices. It is a progressive shift towards a more scientific approach to education. The prescribed structure will help to cater the ability of the child stages of cognitive development as well as social and physical awareness.

The education policy should maintain a symbiotic relationship between the different regions of the country through the study of different languages. The quality of education provided in the country shall be such that it not only delivers basic literacy and numeracy but also creates an analytical environment in the country.

The New Education Policy represents aspirations to become a knowledge powerhouse of the world inculcating the best of the global educational experiments. The Education policy is a step in the right direction given it is implemented throughout the long period, it targets.

The impetus of previous policies on education was largely on issues of access and equity. Implementation of the unfinished agenda of the National Policy on Education, revised in 1992, NPE 1986, was the objective. The final policy of 1986/92 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 which laid down the legal grounds for obtaining universal primary education has been in the cold storage for a long time.

The NEP 2020 is a pedestal to balance the growing domestic and international manpower needs of the Indian economy. The 1986 NPE aimed to provide traditional educational opportunities to different social groups and to include disadvantaged groups. NEP 2020 emphasizes the economic value created by education and training, greater emphasis on learning based on work, increased transmission of technical skills to middle school and high school students at different levels.

The previous policy focused on understanding the world and people's lives. The current policy is quite focused on the development of the nation by creating citizens with knowledge, skills, and personal growth. In particular, the goal of education, defined in NEP 2020, is to promote the fullest human potential, to develop a fair and equitable society, and to promote the development of the nation, favours critical thinking, debate, and analysis studies with the aim of enriching the talent and human resources community of India. Third, the difference lies in understanding your learning goals.

This National Education Policy envisions an education ecosystem rooted in Indian ethics that contributes to the transformation of India by providing high-quality education to all, skill India, entrepreneurship, India to become world power,

research orientation, startups and many more.

The Only Way is The Way Forward. NEP 2020 envisages a thorough inspection and regeneration of the higher education system to overcome these challenges and thereby provide high-quality higher education with equity and inclusion. The policy view includes the following major changes to the current system:

Step forward towards a higher education system consisting of larger, multi-disciplinary graduate education multilingual universities, and colleges in each district or at least one and also providing a medium of instruction or program in local languages.

The establishment of a National Research Foundation to identify outstanding peer-reviewed research and initiate seed research in universities and colleges. Governance of Board Education through a highly qualified independent board. Confer with academic and administrative autonomy. Identify fund raisers or sponsor for Scholarships to the deprived and underprivileged by universities; Cultivate a mind set for Online learning and open distance learning.

The main goal of this policy on higher education is to transform higher education institutions into larger external universities, colleges, to create vibrant communities of scholars and peers, break down harmful silos, turn students into artistic, creative, and analytical subjects as well as disciplines across disciplines including sports, cross-disciplinary research, by resource efficiency.

India urgently needs to bring back this great Indian tradition and it is already transforming other countries educationally and economically. To revive the ancient tradition of Indian universities on the lines of Takshila, Nalanda, Vallavi, and Vikramshila, where thousands of students from India and around the world studied in a vibrant multi-departmental environment.

Teachers dedication, performance, social mobility, experimental learning, innovative learning will be the prime and of course will be the epicentre for successful implementation.

With the introduction of the new NEP 2020, the Indian education system is expected to move closer to international standards. The time for the Vishwa Guru has arrived. NEP 2020 could be the next best thing that happened to India.

(The author who is Asst Prof GDCW Kathua is presently, NEP Cell Member, Higher Education Deptt, Civil Sectt, Jammu)

## Jaishankar's 'what works to my advantage' doctrine

Sushil Kuttu

In today's divided world, an independent foreign policy can be possible only when pressure from the US and EU can be countered with the "what works to my advantage" doctrine, which is why Russian President Vladimir Putin couldn't stop himself from praising Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for not falling prey to US diplomatic coercion, and instead carrying on life with Russia as if there was no Russia-Ukraine war!

That said, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar should be credited for pressing home with the "what works to my advantage" doctrine, which convinced Russia that what works to India's advantage also works to Russia's advantage under the current transformed world order. Never has Russia and India been so closely tied to each other than at the present time.

Jaishankar should also be credited for keeping the USA at arm's length while at the same time keeping in close touch with it. In recent weeks, President Joe Biden has not been happy with India's choice of decisions. Biden understood well that, contrary to expectations, US pressure was-

n't working on India, and India wasn't treading cautiously when it came to Russia.

Modi had one arm extended toward Russia, and the other reaching out to the United States. Not mid-distance, or equidistance, but rather "my distance". And, as if to underline to the United States that two can play the "works to my advantage" game, Russia became the biggest exporter of crude oil to India, replacing Iraq. Of course, this has led to trade imbalance but Russian oil is proving good for India.

EAM Jaishankar met Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Moscow and both pledged to increase trade and expand economic cooperation. India's EAM told the Russia Foreign Minister that it was time to end Russia's war with Ukraine as developing countries like India were suffering.

But to the dispassionate observer it sounded half-hearted, India's bid to play peacemaker. That said, does Prime Minister Narendra Modi have leverage over President Vladimir Putin to press home with a perceived advantage? Maybe yes, most probably not! Putin is not the sort who is swayed by friendly overtures.

Putin and his foreign minister are permanent fixtures on the world stage because they were the

original inventors of the doctrine of "only if it works to my advantage". Lavrov has been Russia's Foreign Minister since 2004. That said, Jaishankar is no spring chicken. He has been long enough on the world's foreign policy circuit to carry the torch for India as good as anybody else.

Food and energy security are India's priorities. For Putin, it's Russia and Ukraine. Putin wants the West and NATO out of Russia's hair and, ultimately, Ukraine is his decision. The Russian President is not the one who bends to pressure. Without doubt Modi knows this.

In September this year, at the Shanghai Cooperation Council meet in Samarkand, Modi told Putin that this was not an "era for wars" and the BJP put Modi on par with Putin. Others said Modi carried equal influence with both Russia and Ukraine and, therefore, was the best placed to mediate a Russia-Ukraine truce.

Of course, people keep massaging Modi's ego and much was made of Modi's Samarkand comment. It is another matter that India has been the recipient of the best of both worlds ever since Putin invaded Ukraine, and the world went hunting for a peacemaker.

India's trade ties with Russia is now tied to

the Russia-Ukraine War, especially India's oil purchases, which bothers the USA. India has a 22% share of total crude imports from Russia. The trade imbalance bothers India but the "works to my advantage" doctrine has prevailed.

The "significant growth" in bilateral trade and the \$30 billion target set by the two countries distinguishes the ties. Currently, trade stands at \$17 billion. It may sound cynical, but the Russia-Ukraine war has actually helped India and Russia come closer still, and focus on areas of "natural convergence of interests".

Both India and Russia are major G20 economies. And better counsel says India should not be overzealous to play peacemaker under pressure because doing so wouldn't "work to my advantage", especially with a war on, and the global markets under pressure.

That is the cynic talking; also the warmonger. There are enough of them around including scavengers, hyenas who profit from war. India should be guided by scientific temper, logic and reasoning and huge doses of humanism. That said, what happens to "Mission PoK" if, according to Modi's advice to Putin, it was not an "era for wars"? (IPA)

## Accession @75 : Time to Proclaim unity and sovereignty of India!

Prof. Rasal Singh

A basic tenet of history writing remains that it should be based on facts and empirical evidence. India's "Eminent (Leftist) Historians" are aware of this and have, hence, unleashed their devious agenda toward historical analysis and have distorted almost all historical discussions in the public sphere. Nowhere does this manifest more than in the case of Jammu-Kashmir. It is noteworthy that in relation to the accession of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu-Kashmir to the Indian Union, the level of orchestrated distortion of facts and historical evidence by the so-called historians and left-liberal intellectuals has created serious myths about JK's accession to India. As a result of this conspiracy, the crown of India, Jammu-Kashmir has become a headache for the people of India. On October 26, 2022, the princely state of Jammu-Kashmir completed 75 years of its accession to the Indian dominion. It was on this day that the erstwhile princely state was merged with the Indian Union. Commemorating its 75th Anniversary, it is imperative to expose these fallacies of history and understand the nationalist narrative rather than the colonial and leftist narratives taught by the Macaulay-Marx's sons till date. Further, it is important to have a hard look at the facts rather than believing in false emotive stories based on misinformation and outright lies, propagated to mislead the people of Jammu-Kashmir and the Nation at large. Atone for this historical sin will be possible only by bringing the truth to light.

The oft-repeated assertion that Maharaja Hari Singh delayed accession of JK to India is as flawed as it's ill-designed and ill-motivated to exonerate the then Prime Minister Nehru of the follies he committed during that time. It is often said that Maharaja was toying with the idea of an independent Kashmir free from both Indian and Pakistan dominion. While the historical facts clearly pointed out that according to the Indian Independence Act, 1947, the Kings and Nawabs of all the princely states just had two options - either they could include their princely state in the Indian dominion, or they could join the Pakistani dominion. Also, Hari Singh offered accession to PM Nehru as early as in July 1947 - a fact which Nehru candidly acknowledged on July 24, 1952, in Lok Sabha. Hari Singh was a true patriot, his love for India became evident in the Round Table Conference held in London in 1931. In that very conference, as a representative of all the princely states, he strongly advocated the independence and unity of India. As a result of his nationalist speech against the British and in favour of India, he came under the target of the British. Contrary to an overbearing despot, Hari Singh was a liberal, modern, and a progressive ruler. Setting up of praja sabha, schools, colleges, bank, police, medical facilities, and the entry of dalits into temples during his rule are clear proofs of the benign changes he brought in. Thus, he was always under the British scanner

because of the many democratic and progressive acts he achieved in the princely state of Jammu-Kashmir.

Similarly, it is necessary to burst the myth of another promulgated fallacy of the accession period: The invasion of Jammu-Kashmir on October 22, 1947, has been written and read as a tribal attack till date, while the reality is that 'Operation Gulmarg' was planned and carried out by the Pakistani army in the guise of tribal raiders. The Pakistanis and the British clearly knew that Maharaja Hari Singh would ultimately accede his princely state to India at any cost. The attack was orchestrated to dethrone Hari Singh and make Kashmir a part of Pakistan. It was because of Kashmir's pivotal geo-strategic location and the wealth of natural and water resources it possessed that the masters of the British Indian Empire and Pakistani administration wanted the state to be part of the newly carved nation of Pakistan. Likewise, post the Second World War, under the policies of 'The Great Game', which flourished in the shadow of the Cold War, America and Britain did not want India to emerge as a strong nation, so a ploy of strengthening Pakistan, to curb India's rise was hatched. The then Major General of the Pakistan Army, Akbar Khan in his book 'Raiders in Kashmir' and Humayun Mirza in his book 'From Plassey to Pakistan' leaves no doubt about how Pakistan planned the invasion and was directly involved in it. Akbar Khan through his book no longer keeps it a secret that in the beginning of August-September 1947 he was asked to prepare a plan to capture Kashmir. Serving at the time as director of weapons and equipment (DW&E) in GHQ, he was aware of the quantum of weapons and ammunition required for the military invasion and secretly diverted them to Kashmir. Subsequently, a plan was sketched which was adopted after due deliberations at a conference in Lahore by the political establishment of Pakistan. He, then along with his comrades Lt Col Masood, Zaman Kiani, Khurshid Anwar, and Air Commodore Janjua, executed the plan on October 22, 1947. In fact, historical facts also point out that it was the then Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, who caused the delay that allowed Pakistan to launch the brutal attack on Jammu-Kashmir through its regular soldiers as well as the tribal militia. The stumbling block for accession was Nehru's insistence on installing his friend Sheikh Abdullah at the helm of Jammu-Kashmir administration which wasn't acceptable to Maharaja Hari Singh. It was the same Sheikh Abdullah who spearheaded a movement against the Maharaja through the Reading Room Party. The Party was communal to the pulp, blood, and bone as it was biased against the Kashmiri Pandits and sowed the seeds of communalism in JK since 1931. Abdullah himself was aspiring of becoming a Wazir-e-Azam. Later, his progressively increasing Islamism and call for complete independence/ Freedom for Kashmir eventually led Nehru to abandon his pol-

icy of 'friendship and Muslim appeasement' and imprison him, but by then irreparable damage had already been done.

During her invasion of 1947, the Pakistani army carried out brutal massacres in areas like Poonch, Rajouri, Mirpur, and Muzaffarabad. This invasion killed innocent Kashmiri men and women. It plundered and looted Kashmiri resources. The militia unleashed a reign of terror and unprovoked aggression against the people of Jammu-Kashmir. The scale of horror and destruction they had left in Kashmir was unimaginable. Lakhs of people were forced to leave their homes and be displaced. Thousands of mothers and sisters were outraged. Lakhs of houses were destroyed. The residents were forced to stumble every step. They were doomed to live in camps at different places in the country. The day of infamy, October 22, thus remains etched in the memories of Kashmiris who have lived in the shadow of Pakistani terror ever since. The successive governments of Jammu-Kashmir have often neglected them. Though today their children want to return home. They want rights, respect, and security. But they have not yet been heard of about addressing their concerns. Who is responsible for this historic crime? The Pakistani army invaded and inhabited millions of square kilometers of India's land and has occupied it till date. Many places of worship and pilgrimage centres of our faith are still under their possession. Whose responsibility, is it? The residents of Pakistan Occupied Jammu-Kashmir and China Occupied Jammu-Kashmir are still being discriminated and oppressed. They do not even have basic amenities like education, health, food, and employment. They are pleading for Indian citizenship. They are voicing the inclusion of the whole of Jammu-Kashmir in India as mentioned in the Instrument of Accession (IOA). That is perhaps why they are being harassed. Who is responsible for their suppression and oppression? How and by when will their torment and suffering end? On the completion of 75 years of the accession, these questions should be asked, and answers should be sought.

On August 5, 2019, the present central government declared the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of India, completing the process of integration of Jammu-Kashmir by abolishing the transitional and temporary constitutional provisions like Article 370 and 35A. New Industrial Policy, Press Policy, Film Policy, Language Policy, and Education Policy have been implemented in Jammu-Kashmir. In the last three years, many positive changes have taken place in J&K. Democracy at grassroots level has been strengthened and power has been decentralized by introducing three-tier Panchayati Raj system. Regional discrimination and imbalance has been addressed by delimitation of the Legislative Assembly. Justice has been assured to the deprived sections and areas, through the reservation policy. Transparency and accountability in

administration has been ensured by making more than 225 citizen services online. Terrorists and separatists have been cracked down heavily. Jammu-Kashmir is becoming a tourist hotspot instead of a terrorist trouble spot due to the pinning down of hawala funding of separatist and terrorist organizations like Hurriyat Conference. Today, instead of stones and guns, the local youth have books, pens, mobiles, and laptops. The terrorists and their masters are being crushed. Their associates are being identified, sacked and strict action has been taken against them under the provisions of Indian Penal Code. Organizations like Anti-Corruption Bureau and CAG are at the forefront of the fight against corruption. The multi-pronged assault by the Government cracking down terror network infuriated the gukpar gang and the terrorist operating in the valley. Indulgence in making gibberish statements and target killing of innocent civilians is their ultimate attempt to make their presence felt. This is perhaps the last flutter before the lamp finally extinguishes. The local society is also standing with/ supporting the security forces against these cowardice acts. Recently, Kashmiris in large numbers came out to protest the killing of a Kashmiri Pandit, Puran Krishan Bhatt in Shopian, wherein candle marches and peace rallies were staged, slogans of Hindustan Zindabad were raised by waving the tricolor. Protesters gathered outside the Mirwaiz Umar Farooq-led Hurriyat's office in Rajbagh and staged a sit-in. They daubed "India" on the main gate of the Hurriyat's central building and tore down the separatist amalgam's signboard. The gates of the Hurriyat office were shut down and a banner of 'How long until last?' was put up on the wall. This is the hallmark of the change taking place in Kashmir. Pakistan on the other hand is exposing itself as an advocate of terror and unrest by raising a discordant rant about Kashmir at international forums.

Following the increasing terrorist violence and Pakistan's attempts to highlight the Kashmir dispute, both houses of the Indian Parliament unanimously passed a resolution on 22 February 1994. The resolution not only reiterated that Jammu-Kashmir was an integral part of India (as mentioned in the Instrument of Accession) and it shall remain so forever, but also asked Pakistan to "vacate the areas of the Indian State of Jammu & Kashmir, which they have occupied through aggression" and warned Pakistan that "all attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of India will be met resolutely." This is the collective and organized aspiration of a committed nation and is yet to be achieved. To make this resolution possible, the people of India will have to make a collective concoction of their courage, unity, and determination. We should not give our future generation militancy, hartals, clashes, and situation of chaos as gift, rather we should give them a future with opportunity, progress, peace, prosperity, and stability.

(The author is Dean, Students' Welfare, Central University of Jammu.)

(The views expressed by the authors are their personal)

feedbackexcelsior@gmail.com