

Building Army Infra at Ladakh

Last two years have been crucial as well as most import from Indian point of view as 30 month long standoff between Indian Army and PLA of China continues unabated. More serious is the observation of Chief of Army that China is building express highway parallel to LAC up to Aksai Chin and Tibet meaning quick forward movement of Chinese troops all across border in no time. India is fast catching up with Chinese infra as in last two years it has built twenty thousand troops modular, temperature controlled, relocatable structures along with technical storage capacity for 450 tanks and howitzers at high altitudes. Several more projects are in pipeline to neutralise this asymmetric imbalance with China. More interesting is the testing of '3D printing' construction of permanent structures for defence which can withstand hits from tanks at short distances at IIT Gandhinagar. Capacity of military engineers have increased manifold with use of heavy excavators, spider excavators and crawler rock drill machines at higher altitudes. With all these equipment renewed focus is on more all weather tunnels for swift movement of men and machinery and for increasing capacity of ammunition dumps, fuel/food supplies and missile storages. Numerous road projects are also underway like all weather 365 days alternate connectivity to Ladakh through 298 km NHDL project which includes 4.1 km twin tube Shinkun La tunnel for which more than 65 % work has been completed. The work on upgrading Dabuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldi road is also underway. Construction of Advance Landing Grounds is also going on war footing along with construction of more helipads for making Ladakh areas all weather accessible. With more troops, drinking water capacity has to be augmented as such more ponds are being constructed. Gol is leaving nothing for speculation now, each and every requirement of armed forces is being taken care of in advance. India is prepared for any eventuality, all weather- all terrain, come what may.

Jammu security challenges

Recent efforts of the terrorists to conduct some big terrorist activity in and around Jammu is a serious matter. Time and again Jammu and Kashmir Police has foiled the nefarious designs of cross border handlers by timely detection of IEDs and diffusing them. Jammu railway station IED is not an isolated case but has been followed by a serious of attempts in and around Satwari area, attempt to plant IED near Phallian Mandal Police Station and now detection of drones within two kilometers of Jammu Airport. Jammu Airport is on terrorists radar for quite some time as earlier also drones had attempted to cause major damage but failed to do so. Makwal area under Satwari Police Station is suspected to be area from where airport attack drones were being handled remotely but handlers are still at large and now again appearance of drones near Jammu Airport shows the intent of terrorists. Jammu Airport handling more than fifty daily flights is on target of cross border enemies. Jammu has been lucky till now but it is time to secure Jammu Airport at any cost by using latest anti drone technology. Usually drones are not detected by normal radars but this time security establishments have been able to timely detect the drones and subsequent action by security forces thwarted the enemy attempt. Drones are now frequently being used to drop arms also as it is the safest method with least manual risk. Terrorists and their cross border handlers are rattled by latest all around pressure as such looking out for some major incident in and around Jammu to keep their cadre motivated. Consistent efforts of security agencies have stifled out the activities of terrorists but Jammu is on prime target. Recently Jammu and Kashmir Police has definitely tightened the security including in and around its own offices also. No entry without appointment, compulsory uniform for all staff members and no outside person movement inside premises are few recent security measures being put in place. Being alert and making security apparatus rise to the occasion are the only options. We cannot lower our safeguard and everyone including public have to respond to the situation.

Accidents on Batote-Kishtwar road

Satish Singh Manhas

Recently, a week ago a video went viral on social media in which a badly damaged Maruti vehicle alongwith dead body of a youth was being drawn out from river Chenab at Prem Nagar in erstwhile district Doda in which four young boys were crash drowned. The very next day another young boy lost his life on Bhaderwah-Chinta road. Hardly had peole come out of this trauma, when another tragedy struck near Doda in which three engineers and a driver lost their lives and again the reason was a road accident. More gruesome was the plunging of a Tata Sumo plying without a valid permit in Marwah area of district Kishtwar in which eight people including four women died on the spot. The UT in general and district Doda in particular suffered back to back 16/17 deaths in three days. A big shock and loss for the UT, families, friends, relatives in particular and the society as a whole in general. Initially and as a routine, many reasons were cited by individuals, agencies et al like rash driving, bad road conditions, lack of parapets, barricades, unmaintained machinery, lack of driving expertise etc but what actually was the reason can be anybody's guess! Hardly, any day passes when we don't see any death on this stretch of Jammu Paddar road popularly known as Jammu-Kishtwar national highway.

Although accidents as a routine are not a new occurrence in our country as on a national level, we lose around 1.5 lakh of lives, highest in the world, especially youth, teenagers etc every year to accidents. This is a big number but a fact and in Jammu and Kashmir especially district Doda has a good number in the national register. By addressing all these issues, many precious lives can be saved. But all this requires a multifarious approach from the Government, individuals, families and the society as a whole. But as an immediate remedial measure, the Government can initiate preventive measures like erecting barricades, parapets, steel frames etc. It can establish driving schools and without training and supervision for at least six months none should be allowed to drive especially on this dangerous stretch of Jammu- Kishtwar-

Marwah-Paddar national highway. Being a hilly road need high parapets, strong steel/iron barricades is a must but alas! none exists. This needs a serious thought as well as a concrete action without any delay before more precious lives are wasted to these cruel accidents.

Moreover, the ARTOs in this erstwhile district Doda including Ramban, Kishtwar etc can be directed not to issue any driving licence if the driver has not training from a Government recognised driving school and a six months driving practice under an expert supervision.



The sole responsibility of the Government is to install proper parapeting, erecting the barricades which can prevent the accidents to some extent and can minimise the losses. Such losses be that of men or machinery has a great bearing on our national GDP which many from amongst us may not be knowing but accidents in addition to taking away our precious lives causes a 3.2 percent loss to our GDP as well. Vehicles costing lakhs are reduced to rubbles in seconds, insurance companies required to compensate for the loss of men and machinery, Government has to compensate in many cases, families running from pillar

to post spending lakhs in settling claims etc causing huge financial, moral and social damages. Accidents have such an overall cruel effect. This may sound philosophical to a few but it is a fact. So an approach at all levels is required so that the losses are minimised. At the individual and family level, the parents must ensure if their wards are properly trained only then they must be allowed to drive a vehicle. Another remedial aspect is wearing a seat belt front or rear as it has a bearing on saving lives in hilly areas. Fingers crossed. But having airbags in cars, front as well as rear etc can

enments, individual families and immediate measures, midterm and long term, are required so that we may see a reduction in deaths by 50 percent till 2024 as the Government also foresees. But the most crucial question, is, are we moving in that direction? Now time has come where showing sympathy won't do, synergy may help rescue us all. Another area which needs a consideration is the companies executing expansion work are required to be directed strictly to allow a safe alternate passage for commuters as in many stretches the mud and sliding zones are not properly taken care of leading to accidents. Now the time has come which requires no condolences, no compensation, only care, caution, precaution and only timely action can help prevent such tragedies.

Now last but not the least a time tested fact about the hilly areas which everybody may corroborate who had the experience of travelling on Doda-Kishtwar road during the eighties, nineties and are even continuing today. They all may recall that (Malhori Pass) Malhori landslide was a headache for the Governments, the commuters, the pliers and everybody during the eighties, nineties and even till mid 2000 as this 300 meters long portion of the road used to slide down for all 12 months unstopable be any season rain, snow or even sun rise and clear weather for days and even months together. The landslides used to be a permanent headache and a 24*7 bulldozer used to be on an alert. But once a temple was constructed way back thereafter no land slide was witnessed and everybody heaved a sigh of relief. So there might have been some curse from some devi devta or some sin committed in the past which annoyed our devi devtas and we are paying for that. Many may not agree. But that is their choice. So if any such initiative can be made collectively by the public apologising to their respective gods, deities, devi devtas, I hope some blessings may be showered and our future generations may be saved from the cruel jaw of death. Since "society is supreme" is a universal fact, let's all think about how to get rid of this curse. Collectively we all can have some effective remedy.

India surpassing China in total population

Dr Gyan Pathak

India celebrated 14 November as Children's Day, and exactly five months after on 14 April, 2023 would surpass China crowning itself the world's most populated country. The world has already celebrated the arrival of 8 billionth baby on Earth, as it signified a milestone for humanity in terms of achievement in human health with the increased expectancy of life at birth.

14 April 2023 would thus not only be a milestone, both for India and China, it may also mark the beginning of unprecedented multiple crises on account of new known and unknown challenges of the future on account of its adverse impact on living conditions. There are already numerous unresolved crises including food and energy security, climate change, and growing domestic and international conflicts exacerbating the crises. Moreover, global population would continue to rise, and within 15 years, another one billion will be added to become 9 billion.

India and China, both would have over 1.4 billion population each by 14 April 2023. It is only theoretical argument that more population means more hands to work, and both the countries would potentially garner the so called population dividend. However, in practice, both the countries will not be in position to provide work for its growing people, which would further put burden on the responsibility to feed their people, especially those who will have no job and means of livelihood.

COVID-19 pandemic has already indicated that providing access to health would be another major challenge coupled with the food crisis. India will have to face greater challenge on this account since the pandemic have increased the ever increasing inequality among the haves and have-nots, pushing millions of people below poverty line. It has changed the world of work in which the economic growth is creating too little new jobs to offset the unprecedented level of growth in population. Without complete coverage of the entire population under social security, majority of the population cannot feed themselves. Even during the pandemic India needed to provide foodgrains to 800 million of people out of about 1390 million population.

India's population growth has always been much more than the projection. In 2000, the country was projected to surpass China's population by 2045, but by 2017 it was projected to become world's most populous country by 2027. However, only after 5 years the latest UN projection of 2022, said that India would surpass China's population to wear the crown of the most populated country in the world. No resource in the country is growing at this rate, and hence we are heading towards a multiple crises.

A Stanford study has indicated that by 2100, India's population would shrink by 41 crore. However, it would not even be a good thing to happen, because when population growth becomes negative, knowledge and living standards stagnate for the population that gradually

vanishes. The study emphasised that it would of course be a harmful outcome. India's population density is estimated to fall significantly by that time, which would fall from the present 476 person per sq km to 335.

The population growth in India and China must be understood by Indian planners in its correct perspective and ramifications, since the largest populated tag for both the country significantly differ, and hence the crises. For example, China is presently the world's largest populated country, but its population density is only 148 persons per sq km. Despite India being the second largest at present, its population density is 476 person per sq km which is over 3.2 times per sq km. It means the total natural resources available to Indians is only 1/3rd of that of Chinese. It must also be noted that China's economy even at present is nearly six time larger and India's.

Thus, Indians have or will have much more on stake than of the Chinese people, and therefore India needs to be preparing for any eventuality. India's population will be increasing even after it surpasses China on 14 April 2023. By 2025, its population density would increase from the present 476 to 486 by 2025, and then 514 by 2050. It means India would have less and less per capita resources until 2050 after which the population would start declining, as against the global population density of only 62.4 by 2025 and 68.5 by 2050.

India would therefore be in a difficult position on account of growing population until 2050, and new challenges would emerge thereafter when the

population starts declining. India thus needs to plan in advance to face the challenges - both is short and long term.

The very year 2023, when India would become the most populous country, the world is heading towards a "dire global food shortage" from this year's "crisis of affordability" as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned G20 leaders recently. The world is on its way to "a raging food catastrophe" he has warned.

The warning should be taken seriously by India since it houses the largest number of poor in the world, a major contributor in South Asia having about half of the world's poor. Russia-Ukraine wars has exacerbated the conditions of the poor due to disruption on food, fertilizer, and energy supply. If India is to feed its people and take care of its other requirements, it must focus on these three at present.

Climate crisis has also increased the incidents of droughts, floods, and other natural and man-made disasters. The increasing pressure on population on resources will have other consequences too, such as conflicts among people, that may trigger law and order problems. Ensuring equitable access to resources and services, such as health services, transport, energy etc would put a greater challenge.

All these means that India needs a paradigm shift in its present planning structure and implementation of pro-people policies, rather continuing the profit oriented mindset of the Narendra Modi government. (IPA)

Capability Building for Continuous Innovation

Prof D Mukhopadhyay

India is reasoned to emerge as one of the economic superpowers across the globe by the end of current decade. Any national society normally goes by the trend (s) based on the outcome of the empirical researches, scientific arguments and facts and figure for arriving at a logical conclusion of a socio economic problem. India occupied the fifth position in the rank list of the global economies and she is recognized to be an emerging economy after adopting the open market policy since early 1990s. The stalwarts are of the opinion that India is attributed with higher degree of potential magnitude to become the third largest world economy by 2031-32 if she is able to maintain continuity of the present volume of economic activities through channelizing tangibles and intangible resources towards generation of employment and income. The author of this writes up subscribes to the views of the researchers as India is observed to be blessed with a sound political system with a stable federal government which already achieved several socio economic developmental milestones in spite of adverse catastrophic impact of the pandemic eclipsed situations. It needs no mention that import of oil and gas tells perennially upon the for ex health besides importing certain other engineering goods and technical know how. India does have oil reserve beneath the earth but cost of production is likely to be more than cost of import and the decision to buy and not to produce based on the cardinal principles of cost and management accounting seems to be apt one. Moreover, there is no immediately available substitute of the source inputs for generating energy. Under the given situation, India needs to invest more and more on capability building for continuous innovation in art and science of doing things hassle free and at low-cost production. Prime Minister of India adopted a maxim-'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' implying 'self-dependent India' and innovation is crucial to continuing success of the nation in time bound manner. International diplomacy is being observed to have been pressurizing India for compromising with national interest at the behest of other counterparts at global level in the wake of Russian-Ukraine Military conflict. India has been importing oil and gas from Russia to a greater extent in the same manner as other countries importing gas, oil, other technology and technical knowhow

from Russia. To be more precise and specific, many European Union Member Countries including Germany whose energy consumption depends on the continuity in the flow of Russian supply. India has categorically been maintaining her stand that She as a sovereign Nation has every right to protect her national interest, moreover, India never supports any kind of war or even war like situations at any point of time and on the contrary, India has been recommending since the post-partitioned era, pre-partition and more so in the annals of immemorial ancient India that the dialogue and discussion is rightful way to resolve any bilateral or multilateral conflicts besides mentioning time and again that war is not desirable at any cost and by any means. It implies that India as a peace-loving nation has already emerged to be an independent nation expressing keen capability to work in the best interest of nation and well as in restoring global-peace across. Many instances substantiate that India is self-reliant and self-sufficient nation subject to the need of having extensive research and development leading to innovation and disruptive technology. Innovation is the answer to the agriculture problem, innovation is the answer to flood control and prevention, it is the answer to the problems of health and sanitation and economically less employment.

It is heartening to note that India's gross expenditure on research and development is one of the lowest in the world with just \$43 per capita, according to NITI Aayog's India Innovation Index 2021 which represents just 0.7% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The Ministry of Science and Technology has been allocated Rs. 14, 217 crores in the Federal Budget 2022-23 and its budget allocation are attributed with a glaring extent of 3.9% decrease from the immediately previous Fiscal Year. Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology and Department of Scientific and Industrial Research the Ministry of Science and Technology are under the control of the Ministry of Science and Technology. Social Sciences including Economics, Commerce, Management, Law and Humanities are hardly in the priority of preference and a small fraction of an INR is allocated for these disciplines. The 21st century is the era of knowledge driven society. Education sector in general and research and development, creativity and innovation in particular are

the independent variables whereas economic growth and development is the function of innovation.

India has persistently been suffering from low efficiency leading to low productivity, hence low economic performance. Innovation is capability builder for long term economic growth, hence social development through promoting higher standard of living. It comes up with new ideas and technologies that increases productivity and generate greater value with the same input. The global economy is under constant change and an individual nation is to gear up its national policies, procedures and processes to leverage benefits from the changed economic order by technology driven innovation. If India aggressively focuses on achieving the target for being placed as the third largest world economy, she has to do a lot of exercise in terms of achieving significant milestones in research and development, creativity and innovation for which education sector should be recognized as the most prioritized sector besides defence and strategy, healthcare delivery and Infrastructure and telecommunication sector. Both the provincial governments and the federal government need to implement the adopted policies, devise new result fetching mechanism, absorb new pro-productivity knowhow and 360-degree disruptive innovation. Education sector needs more attention of the policy makers. Humanities and social science sector require priority to attract the talented scholars as innovation is hardly possible without the foundation humanities and social sciences. Judicial and justice delivery system is perhaps the most neglected area and it is the need of the hour to make the justice delivery system overhauled and brought to be management and technology driven administration. The younger citizens, learners and the student community at large needs to be exposed to the doctrine that a Degree from a University is unlikely to assist them in improving their standard of living unless the degree holders are imbued with skill and knowledge in the concerned fields. India is required to revamp her knowledge cultivation and dissemination process. The head of the Institutions should also be subject to annual appraisal in the same way as the researchers and faculty members and administration personnel. The positions of head of the insti-

tutions are tenure based which varies in between 3 to 5 years and there are ample of evidences that contributions in terms of institutional building, teaching and learning, research and development and innovation are quite insignificant and either no accountability or anopaque accountability mechanism in place as far as the duties of the head of the institutions are concerned and this should be revisited and reviewed. The primitive civilization could never traverse to the age of Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Blockchain Technology and even Crypto currency if compass, printing press internal combustion engine, telephone, penicillin and contraceptives were not made captive by innovation by the researchers and innovators.

Israel a small country in terms of geographical land mass but in terms of technology and innovation is one of the super powers in the world and behind Israel's success is the education policy which is totally research and innovation based. By and large, course curricula of Israel include major emphasis on Economics and Business Studies (Economics and Accountancy and other Elements), Science and Mathematics, Languages such as Hebrew, English and Arabic are essential part of education and pedagogical system from early childhood education to highest level of tertiary education. Capability building is the function of cost competitiveness, impact analysis, quality revolution, linkage of technology with strategy for doable multitasking inputs deployment, speed of delivery, adaptability of change and innovation is again the function of capability building both at micro and macro level and innovation through capability building is enabler to make India navigate at the desired destination in 2031-32 and it is unlikely to generate desired outcome unless the concerted efforts, aggressive innovation oriented education and research based pedagogical simulation is practiced by both the Federal and Provincial Governments as these attributes are sine qua non for making India the third largest world economy by 2031-32. It may not sound irrational to argue that the experts and researchers concluded that India is likely to emerge as the third largest economic power house based on the hypothesis that capability building for continuous innovation is significantly correlated to economic development of a nation.

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(The views expressed by the authors are their personal)

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