

Redevelopment of Jammu, Udhampur, Budgam Rly Stns

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the redevelopment of the Jammu, Udhampur and Budgam Railway Stations in Jammu and Kashmir. A massive outlay has been assured for the redevelopment of 508 railway stations. The redevelopment plans for these stations are inspired by local historical and architectural landmarks, such as the Raghunath temple in Jammu. The redevelopment of these railway stations aims to combine modern facilities with the preservation of the country's heritage.

The current Jammu Railway Station was made operational in the mid-seventies, and subsequent modernizations, including track doubling and electrification, took place. This station holds great importance due to pilgrim traffic, especially for the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage. However, inadequate facilities like overcrowded waiting rooms, insufficient toilets, and missing amenities hinder the passenger experience. Meticulous planning and execution can contribute to an improved travel experience, boost local tourism, and serve broader strategic interests in the region.

Currently, the Jammu Railway Station serves more than half of the one crore pilgrims who visit the revered Shri Mata Vaishno Devi ji shrine. Despite the increasing number of pilgrims each year, the station's infrastructure and essential amenities have remained unchanged. With the recent announcement from Prime Minister Modi, the Jammu Station will also undergo a much-needed comprehensive upgrade rather than just a superficial makeover. This upgrade should encompass vital improvements such as the development of adequate parking facilities, efficient tourist information counters, and well-maintained lounges-amenities that are readily available at numerous other railway stations. There are plans to relocate the current oil dumping depot located adjacent to the Jammu Railway Station. Additionally, some platforms are currently reserved for goods trains, which are also planned to be shifted to Bari Brahmana. The aim is to create enough space at the Jammu Railway Station for further expansion and modernization.

The same is true of the Udhampur Railway Station, which has experienced reduced utilisation since the establishment of the Katra Railway Station. However, Udhampur holds strategic significance for being the headquarters of the Northern Command of the Indian Army. The proposed upgrade would undoubtedly enhance the experience of our dedicated army personnel, making it more convenient, hassle-free, and noteworthy. Considering Udhampur's substantial growth, a well-maintained railway station is crucial to cater to the increased demands of the region.

Similarly, Budgam stands as the primary railway station in the valley, but there are exciting prospects on the horizon. Plans are underway to establish a robust rail connection between Kashmir and the rest of the country, with expectations that this project will reach completion by the end of this year or the next. This development is set to transform the Jammu-Srinagar railway section into a vibrant hub, attracting tourists who seek to immerse themselves in the natural splendour of Jammu and Kashmir while also marvelling at remarkable engineering feats such as the Chenab's highest railway bridge and intricate tunnels.

Considering the impending advancements, it becomes imperative to enhance the existing railway stations along this route. By undertaking these much-needed upgrades, we can significantly enhance the comfort and convenience of the tourist experience. This elevated level of service is likely to create a positive ripple effect as delighted tourists share their remarkable encounters through word of mouth. This, in turn, has the potential to attract a higher influx of tourists to the captivating landscapes of Jammu and Kashmir.

In light of the increased spending capacity among our fellow countrymen, tourists are now more discerning when it comes to planning their travel experiences. They meticulously assess all facets of their journey, with a keen focus on the quality of the facilities provided. As such, the renovation and modernization of the existing railway stations hold the potential to leave an indelible mark on travellers, enhancing their overall perception of the region and compelling them to choose Jammu and Kashmir as their preferred destinations.

Justice for Judge Ganjoo

The State Investigation Agency (SIA) has issued a call for individuals with knowledge of the murder of Retired Session Judge Neelkanth Ganjoo, committed three decades ago. The SIA has urged anyone familiar with the facts or circumstances surrounding the case to come forward and share information that could be relevant to the investigation. Since the abrogation of Article 370, the Government has focused on establishing the rule of law in Jammu and Kashmir. This effort goes beyond eliminating current terrorists; there is a strong emphasis on bringing all those involved in perpetrating acts of terrorism to justice. The families of individuals who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty are still waiting for justice, even after three and a half decades. Unfortunately, many first-generation relatives have also passed away while waiting for justice, as there has been no progress.

It was the responsibility of the state to protect important figures like Judge Neel Kanth Ganjoo during the unfolding events of that period, in which it failed miserably. The brutal and cowardly killings of BJP Vice President Tika Lal Taploo in September 1989 and Justice Neel Kanth Ganjoo in November 1989, both carried out in broad daylight, became pivotal turning points that altered the course of Kashmir's history. The efforts now being made to address historical cases and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice underscore the Government's commitment to upholding the rule of law and ending the culture of impunity that has prevailed for too long. This shift sends a strong signal to terrorists that they will be held accountable for their actions, no matter how much time has passed. Notable figures such as Yasin Malik and Shabir Shah, among others, are currently facing court proceedings. This will surely bring solace to Kashmiri Pandits who were compelled to leave the valley due to such distressing circumstances. The Government's resolute determination is evident, and it leaves no doubt that every individual responsible for heinous acts of terrorism will face the full force of justice.

Meri Maati Mera Desh

A tribute to our beloved land and valiant martyrs

Dr Ashaq Hussain

As the sun sets on the horizon wide, I find solace in my country's pride.

Meri maati mera desh, an eternal bond that I cherish and bless. Mera desh; India, a land of diverse cultures, traditions, and heritage, has always been an epitome of unity in diversity. From the snow-capped mountains of the Himalayas to the sandy shores of the Indian Ocean, this vast sub-continent is home to a plethora of unique landscapes and enchanting vistas traversing diverse cultures, traditions, regions, religions and history. As I ponder upon the beauty and richness of my country, I feel an overwhelming sense of pride and attachment towards it. This profound sentiment can be best described as "Meri Maati-Mera Desh" which translates to "My Land, My Country" - a heartfelt connection between me and my homeland. The phrase is aimed at transforming India into a thriving and inclusive nation, where every citizen enjoys prosperity, harmony, and equal opportunities. Thus the "Meri Maati-Mera Desh" encompasses much more than just the physical territory and signifies the emotional bond I share with India - a bond that is deeply ingrained in my heart and soul.

India's soil has witnessed the rise and fall of many civilizations, each leaving its imprint on the country's identity. From the ancient Indus Valley Civilization to the glorious Mughal era, from the struggles of the freedom movement to present India we see today, every inch of this land has a story to tell and every inch of this sacred land is

infused with the blood, sweat, and sacrifices of countless brave hearts who laid down their lives for the country. Thus, our country is more than just a piece of land; it is a living entity that breathes with its people, cultures, traditions, and history.

"Sarfaroshi ki tamanna ab hamare dil mein hai, Dekhna hai zor kitna baazu-e-qaatil mein hai.

These immortal lines penned by Bismil Azimabadi resonate in the hearts of every Indian, symbolizing the unwavering determination of the freedom fighters who fought for India's independence from colonial rule. But the spirit of sacrifice and valour of our martyrs goes beyond the pages of history. In every generation, there have been men and women who have fearlessly stood up against oppression, injustice, and external threats, safeguarding the sovereignty and integrity of our nation. From the valiant soldiers who defend our borders, braving extreme weather conditions and hostile enemies, to the brave police and security personnel who protect us on the home front, the sacrifices made by these heroes often go unnoticed amidst the daily routines of our lives. It is imper-

ative that we, as citizens of this great nation, pause and reflect on the debt of gratitude we owe to them.

In the land of my birth, my cherished nation, Where dreams take flight and hopes find elation

Meri Maati, mera desh is a tapestry divine Where unity weaves hearts in perfect design

This is this phrase "Meri Maati-Mera Desh" which encapsulates the profound connection Indians share with their motherland. This sacred bond is nurtured not only through the triumphs and celebrations but also in the tears shed for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Every drop of blood shed by our martyrs becomes a sacred thread that binds us all together, transcending regional, religious, and linguistic barriers. From the battlefield of Kurukshetra in ancient times to the frozen heights of Kargil and beyond, our nation's history is replete with stories of valor, sacrifice, and heroism. The brave soldiers of our armed forces have faced adversity with unwavering determination and an unyielding sense of duty. Their actions inspire awe and respect in the hearts of every Indian, reminding us that the freedom we enjoy today came at a great cost. It is their sacrifice that has allowed us to stand tall as a sovereign nation and

March forward towards progress and prosperity. We must preserve their memory and acknowledge their sacrifices to instill a sense of duty and responsibility in the coming generations.

In short to conclude, "Meri Maati Mera Desh" therefore is not just a phrase; it is a feeling that resonates in the hearts of every Indian. Meri Maati - Mera Desh symbolizes the sacred bond between the Indian people and their homeland. Our martyrs have shown us the true meaning of patriotism and dedication to duty. They have taught us that love for one's country goes beyond words; it is a commitment that knows no bounds. As we honor our martyrs, we must also remember that our actions as responsible citizens contribute to the strength and progress of our nation. Each one of us has a role to play in building a prosperous and united India, where the ideals cherished by our martyrs are upheld. Thus, the essence of "Meri Maati Mera Desh" lies in its people, the hardworking farmers, skilled artisans, dedicated soldiers, brilliant scientists, and countless unsung heroes who are and have contributed to the growth and development of our country. As a responsible citizen, it is our duty to work towards building a better future for "Meri Maati." Thus, it is our duty to cherish and protect our land, to uphold the values of democracy and secularism that make our nation unique. Let us stand together as a nation, cherishing the sacrifices of our brave soldiers, and working towards creating a future that would make them as well as the nation proud so that Meri Maati - Mera Desh shall forever be a beacon of hope, courage, and unity for generations to come.

(The author is Associate Professor Chemistry at Govt Degree College Chattru, Kishtwar)

Smart Electricity Meter - A Boon or A Bane

Jagmohan Sharma

These days smart meters have become a contentious talking point in J&K. Several political parties, social groups and individuals are seen protesting against installation of the meters. You find such protests on streets, digital media and in news papers where the consumers have one or the other form of complaint against the meters. These complaints are generally unverified and unsubstantiated, but more often than not pretty vocal & generally uninformed.

The intent through this write up is to make the electricity consumers aware of the smart meters & why they are important.

Jammu & Kashmir has a unique distinction of being a UT which has AT&C losses more than 60%. AT&C losses broadly define the aggregate transmission and commercial losses of a power utility. This is largest loss for any State/UT of India.

Financially speaking, during the year 2022/23, J&K purchased electricity from the generators to the tune of Rs. 8689 crores while as the collection from the consumers was around Rs.3608 crores, resulting in a financial gap of Rs. 4852 crores. (JPDCCL contributed revenue of Rs. 2059 cr. while as KPDCCL contributed Rs. 1548 cr.)

Energy consumption in Jammu province was 8460 million units while as the consumption in Kashmir was 11746 million units. The consumption is rising at the rate of 10% per year.

The UT of J&K had to take a loan of Rs. 31,000 crores upto 31st March 2023 from financial institutions to make payments to the generating companies over the last few years and this amount is regularly on the rise.

Thus, on one hand there is an effort on part of the power utilities (JPDCCL, KPDCCL, JKPCCL & JKPTCL) to provide "adequate power supply" to the consumers while, on the other, they lose heavily on the sale of every unit of electricity! Electricity, obviously, is a commodity; a very valuable and essential commodity indeed, without which the modern day life is nothing but hell.

Thus the health of this vital sector is very important for all of us, irrespective of our position in the society.

Dr Rashid Anjum

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly reshaping various industries, and the field of orthopaedics is no exception. With its ability to process vast amounts of data and perform complex algorithms, AI is revolutionising the way orthopaedic healthcare is delivered, providing advanced solutions for diagnosis, treatment planning, and postoperative care. By harnessing the power of AI, orthopaedic specialists are enhancing patient outcomes, streamlining processes, and pushing the boundaries of medical innovation.

Diagnosis and Imaging: One of the primary applications of AI in orthopaedics lies in diagnostics. Accurate and timely diagnosis is critical in determining the appropriate treatment path for patients. AI-powered imaging analysis systems can analyse X-rays, MRIs, and CT scans, quickly detecting fractures, bone tumours, joint degeneration, and other musculoskeletal abnormalities. These intelligent systems, using deep learning algorithms, can learn from vast databases of medical images, enabling them to identify subtle patterns and anomalies that might elude the human eye. By providing more precise and reliable diagnoses, AI reduces the chances of misinterpretation and assists orthopaedic specialists in making well-informed treatment decisions.

Surgical planning & Intervention:

Orthopaedics and Artificial Intelligence

AI is also playing a vital role in surgical planning and guidance. Orthopaedic procedures, such as joint replacements and spinal surgeries, demand precise measurements and meticulous planning. AI algorithms can process patient-specific data, including medical images and preoperative assessments, to create personalised surgical plans. This includes predicting the success rates of different interventions, selecting optimal implant sizes, and determining rehabilitation protocols, resulting in enhanced treatment outcomes and patient satisfaction. By simulating the procedure in a virtual environment, surgeons can better understand the patient's anatomy, identify potential challenges, and optimise their approach before entering the operating room. During surgeries, AI-assisted robotic systems can enhance surgical precision and accuracy, minimising the risk of human error and reducing invasiveness. These advancements not only improve patient safety but also contribute to faster recovery times and better long-term outcomes. AI technologies have the potential to revolutionise orthopaedic surgery by aiding in preoperative planning, intraoperative guidance, and postoperative assessment. Virtual reality and augmented reality

techniques enable surgeons to visualise complex anatomical structures and plan precise surgical approaches. AI-driven robotic systems can assist surgeons during procedures, enhancing accuracy and minimising invasiveness. Furthermore, AI algorithms can analyse surgical data and provide real-time feedback, improving surgical decision-making and patient safety.

Postoperative care: Postoperative care is another area where AI is making significant strides in orthopaedics. AI-powered monitoring systems can track patient progress, analyse data in real-time, and identify potential complications. By continuously monitoring vital signs, mobility patterns, and rehabilitation progress, AI algorithms can alert healthcare providers to any deviations from the expected recovery trajectory, allowing for early intervention and personalised care adjustments. Moreover, AI-powered wearable devices, such as smart orthopaedic braces, can provide real-time feedback, monitor movement patterns, and facilitate rehabilitation exercises, enabling patients to actively participate in their recovery process.

Rehabilitation and Prosthetics: AI plays a significant role in enhancing rehabilitation protocols and the development of advanced prosthetic devices. By

analysing patient movement patterns and sensor data, AI can assist in creating personalised rehabilitation plans, tracking progress, and optimising therapy outcomes. Additionally, AI-powered prosthetic limbs can adapt to user preferences, allowing for natural movements and improved functionality.

Data Analytics and Predictive Models: The vast amount of data generated in orthopaedics can be effectively utilised through AI-driven data analytics and predictive models. By analysing aggregated patient data, AI algorithms can identify patterns, risk factors, and treatment outcomes, facilitating evidence-based decision-making. Predictive models can also assist in forecasting patient recovery trajectories, optimising resource allocation, and improving patient management.

Challenges and Future Directions: While AI offers significant potential in orthopaedics, several challenges need to be addressed. Data privacy, ethical considerations, algorithm interpretability, and regulatory frameworks are crucial aspects that require attention. Additionally, continued research, validation studies, and collaboration between clinicians and AI experts are essential to ensure the robustness and generalisability of AI applications in orthopaedics.

While AI brings numerous benefits to orthopaedics, it is essential to address potential challenges and ethical considerations. Ensuring patient privacy, data security, and maintaining a balance between human expertise and AI assistance are crucial aspects that must be carefully managed. Striking a synergy between AI technologies and healthcare professionals' knowledge and experience will lead to the most effective and responsible use of AI in orthopaedic practice.

As artificial intelligence continues to evolve, its applications in orthopaedics hold immense promise for the future. By harnessing the analytical capabilities of AI, orthopaedic specialists can enhance diagnosis accuracy, optimise surgical procedures, and improve postoperative care. These advancements translate into better patient outcomes, reduced healthcare costs, and increased accessibility to orthopaedic care. With ongoing research, collaboration, and ethical considerations, AI-driven innovations will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in transforming the field of orthopaedics, paving the way for a more efficient and personalised approach to musculoskeletal health. As AI continues to advance, it is crucial for orthopaedic professionals to embrace and harness its potential for the benefit of patients worldwide.

(The Author is Associate Professor Orthopaedics, AIIMS Vijaypur, Jammu.)

Compliment to mother tongue

Sir,

This has reference to the article 'Ignore Dogri at your peril' published in Daily Excelsior.

Thanks for sharing your thoughts and passion about Dogri language and I know this emotional outburst is just because of your rural background.<

Dogri lives in the villages and continues to thrive. It is urban centers and areas closer which are to be blamed and I find you have not spared them. Other culprits are peo-

ple like me who had to leave home and too many Dogras had to do it and take the families along which get used to Hindi and English which infiltrate in our larger family at home. What is remedy for its reviving in urban areas and how to teach it to outsider employees in Jammu I think is a challenge to be taken head on. How to do, may you will soon share your views in next article.

Above all a big compliment for the concern of our mother tongue.

Col JP Singh
Jammu

Sir,

What a great write-up. Language and Culture (more than religion) has a vast impact on our lives and keep us glued together. This may be so true for Dogras. Dogri is the ancient thread that holds all dogras (Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Gujjar & Bakarwals) together as a group with a distinct identity to land and culture (Duggar Desh). It is an additional identity and an important layer in maintaining national integration.

I am proud of Dogri as my mother-tongue next to my pride for my biological mother. We should be assertive and not give in to competition to Punjabi as the dominant street language in Jammu city. That comes from self-pride (in contrast to arrogance) in one's identity and sense of belonging. One strategy is to continue speaking in Dogri while other participants prefer Punjabi or

Hindustani. The same strategy can be applied to our young children. During conversations with young children (both parents should answer only in their mother tongue. This will force children to apply their brains to learn their mother tongue without much effort. Mother tongue is the base on which one can learn other languages.

Learning any language is an asset (not a burden) and in particular, it expands the development of the young brain. Highest developed parts of the brain deal with Language and Mathematics. A multi-linguistic person has higher intelligence. During the first decade of life and especially age 0-4, a child's brain can effortlessly and simultaneously learn multiple languages (listening and speech). The formal learning of a language follows in school.

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