

UNIVERSAL SOLUTION

The science is acting in a very humble manner to combat the pandemic COVID-19 by giving room to innovation as the government is augmenting scientific temper to work in the direction of finding ultimate panacea against the lethal infection.

In this context, the good news which has come directly from Horse's mouth viz Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh is quite soothing for the people of the country as he has assured that sooner than later a newly developed disinfection technology is being installed to combat pandemic in railway coaches, AC buses, closed spaces etc.

Although the Union Minister has asserted that this technology is failsafe, people will have to follow the COVID Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) as it is not at all advisable to take any kind of risk when the threat is of deadly and merciless virus Corona.


It is pertinent to mention that this UV-C technology has been developed by the Ministry of Science & Technology through CSIR-CSIO (Central Scientific Instruments Organization) is totally effective for mitigation of airborne transmission of SARS-COV-2 and will also remain relevant in post-COVID era. The technology has been successfully tried in Railways, AC Buses and even the Parliament House and is now open for general roll-out for use by common masses.

The technology has been developed according to the requirements for deactivation of SARS COV-2 virus contained in an aerosol with necessary ventilation measures, necessary safety and user guidelines and tested Bio-safety standards etc.

UV-C deactivates viruses, bacteria, fungus and other bio - aerosols with appropriate dosages using 254nm UV light.

Besides the aforesaid locations and environments, the UV-C air duct disinfection system can be used in auditoriums, large conference rooms, class-rooms, malls etc. which provides a relatively safer environment for indoor activities in the current pandemic.

There is no doubt that the virus corona and its various variants are dangerous for humans but technology based on pure science has so much to offer that viruses like COVID-19 and many others can be wiped out with ease as the case of this new technology which has been already used in Parliament and in trains for quite some time now and is tested successfully to act as an effective remedy against COVID-19.



OFF 'D' CUFF

Interfaith Meets and Spirituality of Science

One of the most famous scientific conversations consists of a two-line exchange between Albert Einstein and Niels Bohr. Averse to the randomness of quantum mechanics, Einstein brushed it aside with a dismissive, "God doesn't play dice with the universe." To which his friend and colleague, Bohr, replied, "Please stop telling God what to do."

That two of the greatest scientists should cite God as an arbiter in a scientific dispute shouldn't cause any surprise to those who see no innate contradiction between the spirit of religion and that of science.

Indeed, far from being in an adversarial relationship the two chime elegantly together in perfect harmony. Both represent a common search for knowledge about the origin and nature of the cosmos, and our relationship with it.

Why then is it that they are often seen to be at loggerheads with each other, as in the case of the ongoing battle between Darwinian Evolutionists on the side of science and Creationists on that of religion?

The answer lies in the concept of dogma, an article of faith that is beyond any doubt or debate. In the predawn of history our forebears interpreted natural phenomena, the rising and setting of the sun, the waxing and waning of the moon, solar and lunar eclipses, by attributing them to supernatural entities, which had to be propitiated by worshipful ritual and the offering of sacrifices.

Such animistic rites helped humans to be in consonance with nature. These practices, and the mythologies which gave birth to them, were a metaphor for the universe, a form of poetry before the invention of the written word.

Such metaphoric interpretations, were a reflection of reality devised to help consciousness focus better on what was being reflected, but over time through repetitive tradition, the reflection came to be seen as the reality itself, the mirror was mistaken for the light, which does not generate, but only transmits. This was the seed from which dogma sprang.

Dogma smoothers the spiritual essence, of wonder and awe, which is at the heart of all true religion, and replaces it with mechanistic obedience. Dogma turns religion into religiosity.

It is dogma that comes into conflict with science, whose guiding principle is that truth is not a destination but a ceaseless quest.

Now in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, one of the biggest challenges civilization has ever faced, it is more imperative than ever that science and religion come together to shield from mortal harm both the body and the soul of humanity.

It is with this in view that leaders representing a multiplicity of faiths have issued a statement on the necessity of recognizing the synergy between religion and science. Describing religion as "the most powerful means of mobilizing the human conscience to serve the common good", the statement has categorically denounced the "fanaticism, superstition and contempt for science that are being expressed in the name of religion".

Even as science strives to find a way to stem the fatal tide of the pandemic, salve has also to be sought for the grievous wounds of the spirit.

The essential unity of science and religion has perhaps never been better expressed than by astrophysicist Stephen Hawking, who described his lifework as an attempt to "know the mind of God".

Jug Suraiya

Modi-son of Punjab, Punjabis & Punjabiat



■ TARUN CHUGH

Punjab, the sword and the broad basket of India has given many politicians and leaders including a Prime Minister and President to India. Whereas the reign of the President, Giani Zail Singh saw the infamous attack on the Golden Temple under the regime of the Congress-Government in 1984; the reign of Manmohan Singh who served the office of Prime Minister two times did not see any special favour to Punjab though he being a hardcore Punjabi. His tenure was tenure of Centre-Punjab tiff, tensions and conflict. However, since 2014 a visible change can be seen towards Punjab and Punjabis-be it in the policies of the Centre or the personal touch for the sentiments of Punjabis or healing the long term pains and issues of Punjabis.

It is said that the state-policy is influenced much by the personal approach and perception of the person who is at the helm of the affairs. Narendra Modi has a special love, affection and tilt towards Punjab, Punjabis and Punjabiat. He has always praised the contribution made by the Punjabis in nation making particularly its valiant Sikh-community. In his encouraging speech in the Parliament, he has eulogised that India can never repay debts of the Sikhs and the sacrifice made by this community in its history and every Indian is proud of the Sikhs (February 8, 2021). His love and special relationship with Punjabis and Sikhs was born and evolved when he was the party Incharge of the affairs of Punjab, where he worked at close quarters with Sikh leaders and stalwarts like Prakash Singh Badal and many others. How much love and respect he has for Punjab and Sikhs can be gauged from the fact that he has hailed this stalwart leader of Punjab as Nelson Mandela of India? Who could forget the picture of Narendra Modi publically touching feet of Prakash Singh Badal out of his utter respect to his age and contribution to society and Nation making before swearing in of NDA Government.

This respect and love is not only reflected in the actions, speeches and narratives of the Prime Minister but also in the policies followed by Modi-Government with respect to Punjabis and particularly Sikhs. The long standing demand of Punjabis was justice to the Sikhs who were massacred in 1984 in various parts of India fol-

lowing a State sponsored party led Sikh-killings. The epi-centre of this massacre was Delhi where Congress leaders led the mob and killed our innocent Punjabi brethren in one of the most shameful and cowardly attack on Punjabis since 1947. Modi-Government formed a SIT (Special Investigative Team) to bring to justice the perpetrators of this heinous crime and with regular and responsible follow up of legal process. The main accused who was one of the kingpin of the massacre and the key leader of Congress, Sajjan Kumar is behind the bar and there are many more others to follow. A justice is delivered after 35 years that too when the whole entrenched system was there to protect the accused. What the 8 successive governments could not and the sufferer had lost all hopes; justice was not only seen to be delivered but was actually delivered. Also, compensation for the aggrieved families was sanctioned only after the personal monitoring of Narendra Modi under his government. Close to 50,000 Punjabis particularly Sikhs who were living the life of wanderers and without any state-hood following political asylum during the black-days were given passport by his Government. Even the dreaded black-list created by the earlier regimes to witch-haunt youth, was done away with bringing the blacklisted Punjabis in the mainstream.

Narendra Modi has a special respect for the Sikh Gurus and Sikh Panth. One of the historic-step towards Punjabi and Punjabiat was opening of Kartarpur Corridor by the personal efforts of Narendra Modi. Not only Kartarpur Corridor was opened but the whole project of Kartarpur-Corridor was given a world-class outlook. How Punjabis could forget the image of Narendra