

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 ease 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.

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".

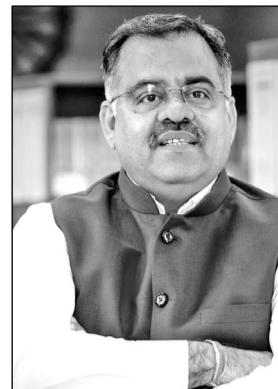
Jug Suraiya

The harder the struggle, the more glorious the triumph.
Self-realisation demands very great struggle.

-Swami Sivananda

EDITORIAL

Modi-son of Punjab, Punjabis & Punjabis



■ TARUN CHUGH

Punjab, the sword and the bread 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 Punjab.

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 Punjabis. 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-hunt 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 Punjabis 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 Modi taking Langar with other dignitaries on occasion of opening ceremony of Kartarpur Sahib. The 550th birth-anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev was celebrated as an international-event wherein it was celebrated in all the offices of Government of India, in whole of the world. Also, Narendra Modi introduced commemorative coin of Rs 350 to mark 350th birth anniversary of 10th Guru Gobind Singh at his birthplace at Patna.

Recently, paying rich tributes to the tenth Sikh Guru on the occasion of Parkash Purab of Guru Gobind Singh and fitting tribute to the courage of the Sahibzades and their quest for justice, December 26 is marked as 'Veer Baal Diwas' which will be celebrated as such henceforth by this Punjabi at heart, Narendra Modi. We must not forget the humility with which he withdrew the Farm Laws and the occasion, on which he withdrew, clearly speak of the love he has for Punjabis and Sikhs. Probably, we have a Prime Minister who is the most Punjabi at his heart!

(The author is BJP National General Secretary.)

Is dialogue with Pakistan feasible?

■ OKMAR DATTA TRAY

The India and Pakistan has been and continues to be at perpetual enmity with each other. There have been three full-fledge wars and Kargil incursion between the two countries and Kashmir has been a bone of contention between them as Kashmir issue is a festering wound and should be resolved in the interest of the two countries. Kashmir issue is not a law and order problem but it is a political issue and it should be resolved for the lasting peace in the Indian subcontinent. Enmity between the two neighbouring countries is not in the interest of either country and therefore sincere efforts should be made for ensuring peace between them. For peace and tranquility in the two countries dialogue and talks is the only way. Thus dialogue should be initiated between the two countries. Both India and Pakistan are nuclear countries and so war is no answer to the outstanding issues between them and so talks are the only means to settle the issues confronting them. Thus amicable and friendly relations are needed to strengthen the bonds of mutual friendship so that the two nations live in peace. Moreover normally is mandatory for development because both the countries suffer underdevelopment and therefore the attention of both the countries should be focused upon development and there can be no development so long as the two countries are at logger heads. So the process of dialogue should be initiated between the two countries. Cross border terrorism and proxy war should form the part of agenda for talks when held. It is so good that Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan has asserted to have good relations with India and this assertion he made the other day while laying down the first national security policy for his country. The new national security policy of Pakistan is more a diplomatic and economic than geostrategic. But it underlines to have good relations with all neighbours including India. However so far as Kashmir issue is concerned it makes no deviation from its past vision and it says that Kashmir issue continues to be a core issue in the bilateral ties with India. It is a matter of some satisfaction that the security policy document proposes to have no war with India for next hundred years and therefore no hostility for 100 years is somewhat encouraging. The document also emphasizes the option of free borders with India without exchanging the territories. The new security policy document favours trade and commerce ties with India. To have talks is important than to have no talks with Pakistan as we can talk to have talks between the two countries. Since Pakistan is involved in exporting terrorism to Jammu and Kashmir and is busy in aiding and, abetting terror and so it should stop to aid and abet terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir for having a meaningful dialogue with India. It is the consistent policy of the India that for a purposeful dialogue Pakistan should stop to aid and export terrorism in Kashmir. Thus if Pakistan really is interested in dialogue with India to settle all outstanding issues with India, it should stop to export terror to India and also dismantle terror training camps on its soil. But then the fact is that there is no alternative to talks and dialogue between the two neighbours and so they should make sincere efforts for holding of the stalled dialogue to further friendship and solve and settle the bilateral issues between them to satisfaction of both the countries. Pakistan should realize the gravity of the situation and stop to aid and export terror to India so that a meaningful and purposeful dialogue is initiated at the earliest to resolve all the contentious issues for a lasting peace in the Indian subcontinent and the South Asia. The document of new national security policy seeks peace with India but Kashmir at the core of ties with India and thus it is crystal clear

that there is no change in the earlier policy of Pakistan so far as the Kashmir issue is concerned. The document underlines that Pakistan is willing to have neighbourly relations with all neighbours including India and Pakistan national security advisor says that the doors of Pakistan are open for talks. It is a matter of some satisfaction that Pakistan likes neighborly relations with India and India has also expressed to have good relations with Pakistan but the onus of having dialogue lies on Pakistan as it has to stop aiding and exporting terrorism to Jammu and Kashmir if it is really interested in talks with India. As is the past experience there is a big difference between the talks and deeds of Pakistan as every time Pakistan has ditched India and it is because of this that the relations have nosedived between the two countries. The relations came to a grinding halt due to the Pathankote Air force attack, Uri attack and then Pulwama attack and relations are thus relations strained between the two neighbours. But both the countries suffer due to the strained relations and coldness between them. Now, if some thaw is there in building the good neighbourly relations between the two countries it should be welcomed by the two sides. The new security policy focuses on economy and not on Kashmir. It is a welcome development and the two countries should now focus on meaningful talks to have good neighbourly relations between them. There is great need to forget the past and start a new chapter of peace, reconciliation and development. Thus, both the countries should take the initiative and start the stalled dialogue so that the two countries will live in peace and prosperity will rule supreme in the two nations. Since there is no alternative to dialogue and therefore the two nations should sink the differences and start a fresh dialogue to resolve all the outstanding issues confronting the two nations. As neither India nor Pakistan will secede an inch of the land of Jammu and Kashmir which is under their occupation and so talks should be held to further this position of the countries concerned. Therefore well meaning talks should be held to develop the bonds of friendship in trade, business and commerce and this friendship will ultimately pave the way for the resolution of the contentious issues confronting the two countries. Thus, without wasting time and energy, the parties to the issue should come to a negotiating table for the resolution of the bilateral issues to the satisfaction of the stakeholders. So talks should be held between India and Pakistan in a cordial and amicable manner so that the two countries will remain in friendly relations with each other. Imran Khan talks about improving ties with India. He said that through good relations India would gain access to central Asia through Pakistan and New Delhi would gain access to two huge markets and thus the two countries should sink their differences and initiate the stalled dialogue for the lasting peace and development and in this lies the good of the two neighbours. India has already told Pakistan that it wants normal relations with Pakistan in an environment free from terror, hostility and violence. But Pakistan should address the basic and core issue of terrorism emanating from its soil for the resumption of the stalled dialogue process. There is difference between the words and deeds of Pakistani establishment but the words should match the deeds of Pakistan if it wants friendly and normal relations with India. Thus, the dialogue should be initiated between India and Pakistan to resolve all contentious issues but for this the onus of creating good conditions for the resumption of the dialogue lies on Pakistan.

(The author is a retired Education Officer and Columnist.)

YOUR COLUMN

Factors impacting children

Dear Editor,

Many people and factors contribute significantly in shaping personality of a person. Like his genes, parents, other family members, school, friends, those people around him with whom he has to sit up. Apart from this, there are many other reasons which decide character of a person. But, have you ever thought that your mood as people are seeing today or you are feeling yourself, it was always like this? For example, if you are shy today, were you always like this or are you now?

Many researches prove that many of our childhood habits stay with us till we grow up. The best experience in the field was in 1950 in America. Stella Chase and Alexander Thomas couple did research on about 133 children. From the time these children were born till age of 30 years, their behaviour, habits and gestures were monitored. Along with this, questions were also answered from his parents. In the result of this research, these psychologists decided that nine types of health can be seen in newborn children. How do children keep their mood? How do they play? What are their movements? The answers to these questions could be found in these nine types of mood. Then on the basis of their age

they were divided into three parts. 'Easy children' that is children who were easy to handle and 'Difficult Children' means those who were a big challenge to handle while 'slow to warm-up children' are those who react very slowly to something and take time to learn. In this research conducted in America, it was found that three-year-old children who were called difficult children, they remained the same till the early stages of growing up. There was no change in the nature and personality of these children.

Psychologists who tracked young children's moods and characters until adulthood found that childhood habits did not predict personality as they grew older. There is definitely some relation between two. The characters and moods of children which psychologists had initially, was divided into nine parts. In his later experiences, he was left with only three. The first category is 'Effortful Control' which means self-control in the child. That is, if the child gets greedy after seeing a toy then he can stop himself. The second category is 'negative effectiveness'. The feeling of fear and despair increases in such children. The third category is 'extraversion'. Children falling in this category are friendly. Easily mingle with anyone. The results of a research conducted in Russia this year have come out. In this, the parents of 45 children rated the mood of their babies from a few months old to about seven months old. After eight years, the nature of these children was again investigated. It was found that children who laughed more at the age of a few months were more emotionally

KPs' commitment to return to homeland with dignity

■ RAVINDER JALALI

On 19th Jan 2022 Kashmiri Pandits enter 32nd year of exile. It was on this day in 1990 when KPs were forced to leave their homes and hearths under several threats from terrorists. Kashmiri Pandits was a microscopic minuscule minority in a Muslim majority Kashmir valley. They have distinct culture, race and language which finds its traces to more than 5000 years back. Most of the Kashmiri Muslims are converts and therefore resemble KPs in their traditions and language. Many of the Kashmiri Muslims have still Kashmiri Pandit's caste/ title suffixed to their names. Though there are some similarities but there is much dissimilarity as well. The KPs have become the first victims of terrorism as a result of which they had to flee the place of their abode. They are a part of the Vedic heartland of India and have lived in Kashmir from times immemorial. In fact, they are the original inhabitants of the valley of Kashmir, now reduced to an ethnic minority. While resisting the orchestrated moves fostered by Muslim communists inside the state and their mentors in Pakistan to Islamise State and snatch it from the Union of India, the KPs became the victims of communal hatred and faced hostility and ridicule. On 4th January, 1990, a local Urdu newspaper publishes a press release issued by Hizbul Mujahideen, to wage jihad for J&K's secession from India and accession to Pakistan, asking all Hindus to pack up and leave. In the following days, there is near chaos in the Kashmir valley with Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah and his NC government abdicating all responsibilities of the State. Masked men run amok, waving Kalashnikovs, shooting to kill and shouting anti-India slogans.

Reports of killing of Hindus, invariably Kashmiri Pandits, begin to trickle in; there were explosions; inflammatory speeches were made from the pulpits of mosques, using public address systems meant for calling the faithful to prayers. A terrifying fear psychosis began to take grip of Kashmiri Pandits. Walls are plastered with posters and handbills, summarily ordering all Kashmiris to strictly follow the Islamic dress code, prohibiting the sale and consumption of alcoholic drinks and imposing a ban on video-parlours and cinemas. The masked men with Kalashnikovs force people to re-set their watches and clocks to Pakistan Standard Time. Notices are pasted on doors of many Pandit houses, peremptorily asking the occupants to leave Kashmir within 24 hours or face death and worse. Some are more lucid, 'Be one with us, run, or die!'

January 19 is being observed as Holocaust Day every year by our community. State Government has ceased to exist and has gone into hiding. Curfew was imposed as a first measure to restore some semblance of law and order. But it failed to have a deterrent effect. Throughout the day, JKLF and Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists use public address systems at mosques to exhort people to defy curfew and take to the streets. Masked men, firing from their Kalashnikovs, march up and down, terrorising Pandits who, by then, have locked themselves in their homes. As evening falls, the exhortations become louder and shriller. Three taped slogans were repeatedly played the whole night from mosques: 'Kashmir Mei Agar Rehna Hai, Allah-O-Akbar Kehna Hai' (If you want to stay in Kashmir, you have to say Allah-O-Akbar); 'Yahan Kya Challega, Nizam-e-Mustafa' (What do we want here? Rule of Shariah); 'Asi Gachhi Pakistan, Batao Roas Te Bataon San' (We want Pakistan along with Hindu women but without their men). Whatever be the variations in the circumstances of the KPs' history, be their fate might have brought to them in the past, these all becomes insignificant in comparison to what has happened to them in 1989 and 1990 and thereafter. The tragedy is compounded by fact that one of the intelligent subtle and proud community of the country is being virtually reduced to extinction in free and secular India and this has not happened under the tyrannical rule of ruthless rulers of Mughal and Afghan Governors but under the leaders who are considered secular and liberal. Now we have to ensure that there is no more any further exodus after it and let it be the last and final. The return of KPs is not a matter of survival but is of their living with honour. Everybody survives even creatures but the question is of the living and that too with honour and dignity. KPs have survived for the last 32 years despite all the hardships and impediments and will continue to survive further but the question is whether they will be allowed to live without fear and a sword hanging over them. I don't see any problem in homeland for KPs. Those who oppose for the fear of it becoming an Israel and changing the demography of the Kashmir valley are deliberately misleading the people. How KPs can be relocated to their original places when these don't exist. The misfortune of our country is that we have leaders who have no regard for facts or truth and whose superficiality is matched only by their unprincipled policies. Poisonous seeds were persistently planted in the Kashmir psyche. And these were liberally fertilised. Those of whose obligation it was to stop these plantations and their fertilization were nurturing and encouraging. When the PM of a country and CM publicly announced that Pandits will be rehabilitated in concentration in Kashmir, hell broke out in the valley. Even the former Chief M Minister Mufti Mohd Syeed opposed it saying, on the floor of the house, that we will not allow such Israel type of colonies in valley. How just less than two percent of KPs of total valley population, will become Israel? This has exposed the tall claim of all valley based political leaders, their parties and the separatists claiming of communal harmony in Kashmir. Against the backdrop, there is no alternative but to have a Homeland for KPs, where they can live with honour and dignity, and without Damocles sword hanging at all times. Those who oppose the separate homeland for KPs will be committing the sin of letting down the India in Kashmir.

(The author is a Social Activist and Political Analyst).

stable even at age of eight years. However, even in this experience, there was not much similarity between the nature of newborn children and their later behavior. For example, if a child was a happy-go-lucky child in his childhood, then he did not retain this quality every time when he grew up. While some of the mood remained intact and later became a part of that child's personality. In European country of the Czech Republic, in the year 2007, research was done to find a relationship between the behavior of children and the character of a human. For this, psychologists did research on children of twelve to thirty months. These children were tested again at the age of 40. Many aspects of the personality of all this came to the fore. People who were more active and talkative in childhood were found to be more confident as they grew up. One thing is clear from all these experiences.

By looking at the nature of a few months old children, we can guess how his personality will be in the future. It is not necessary that this will happen every time, but the foundation of our character is laid in the initial months of our life. In such a situation, if parents find some deficiency in the behavior of their children, then they can teach their newborn children only a few things and lay the foundation for their good character. This can be done with children from newborn to three years of age. During this time, the seeds of his mood and good character can be sown in his heart and mind.

Vijay Garg.