> "There is nothing impossible to they who will try"
> — Alexander the Great

QUALITIES OF LEADER

First of all, confidence is the most quality. A leader must have strong self-confidence. A person lacking in confidence can never be a good leader. A good leader must certainly inspire others. A leader must be a role model for his followers. Furthermore, he must motivate them whenever possible. Also, in difficult situations, a leader must not lose hope. Honesty is another notable quality of a leader. Honesty and Integrity are important to earn the love of followers. Above all, honesty is essential to win the trust of the people. Probably, every Leadership which loses trust is bound to fail. Good communication is a must for a good leader. This is because poor communication means the wrong message to followers. Another important quality is decision making. Above all, if a leader makes poor decisions then other qualities will not matter. Furthermore, good decision making ensures the success of the entire group. If the leader makes poor decisions, then the efforts of followers won't matter.

Is the future of AI destined for success or disaster?

■ SURJIT FLORA

It is important to consider that the world operates according to a specific structure, and it is crucial to avoid imposing our personal biases, as they may not always align with what is objectively true. If a specific trait is discovered to be associated with lower performance or any other outcome, then so be it. ML is indeed a highly unbiased form in this context. There seems to be a lack of understanding regarding the concepts of race and gender. These symbols may not hold much significance, as they merely calculate the connections they observe. It can be argued that this is one of the most impartial methods of hiring, unless specific rules or criteria are hardcoded. We shouldn't hard-code political prejudices into our systems. Leave them to find the world's truth, not what we want. The only prejudice is the one you wish existed (more "equality") but doesn't. The prejudice is yours, not the algorithms or data. Ignore them. Google is predominantly composed of individuals with questionable intentions, seeking to exert control over every aspect of your existence, reminiscent of a dystopian narrative. Google once had a written policy of avoiding unethical behavior. It has been removed quite times ago. The American left has shifted significantly towards a more extreme position, raising concerns about potential parallels with historical political movements. It revolves around government control and their desire to obtain as much as possible, regardless of the consequences. Google opposes free speech to control you. Google opposes firearms, so you can't fight. Google fosters the concept that only the left-wing of a large government can feel and protect you since everyone is racist and misogynistic. Where leftists established the laws, self-defense was outlawed. Everything they can make illegal. The future of humanity can be greatly influenced by AI in numerous ways. It has the potential to enhance efficiency, aid in problem-solving, and optimize decision-making processes. Artificial intelligence is not synonymous with true intelligence. And it's not "artificial consciousness". There is a common concern among many individuals regarding the potential for AI to unexpectedly become sentient, become displeased, and assume control of the planet. Or that AI will eventually replace human workers. This is highly likely to occur. However, without the "wake up" component. Nevertheless, it is crucial to take into account the ethical and societal consequences of the progress made in the field of artificial intelligence. The future impact of AI on humanity will be determined by the way it is developed, regulated, and incorporated into different areas of life. The concept of AI surpassing humans as the dominant species is widely discussed. As we delve deeper into the intricacies of AI, it becomes increasingly evident that it falls short in comparison to the effortless capabilities of humans. In my opinion, AI will primarily serve to support and enhance human capabilities in our everyday activities, rather than supplanting us. Allow me to explain... Humans have the remarkable ability to adapt. We are naturally equipped with a brain that has the remarkable ability to learn and adapt to new situations as we progress into adulthood. AI lacks comparable capabilities. Training an AI system requires a substantial amount of examples. Once trained, altering its path or thought process necessitates reprogramming it entirely. Even with extensive training and instruction in communicating human ideas to an AI, there is no absolute assurance that the software will interpret the information accurately. In his book "Mindful Universe," Steven Hawkins suggests that reality is a construct of our minds. According to him, our brains shape our perception of reality, making it feel real to us. Essentially, it is difficult to determine whether AI will comprehend our commands and requests without gaining a comprehensive understanding of the underlying system that enables it to comprehend human communication. Even with extensive expertise in artificial intelligence, there is still no guarantee that the system will fully understand and be able to execute our requests as commands or functions in an operating system or programming language. Because when you consider it - even among individuals with a shared understanding of morality, this is not always the situation. There are numerous ethical considerations involved in societal communication that are not solely determined by written laws, although written laws do contribute to the establishment of social norms. Last year, 'prompt' made the Oxford Word of the Year shortlist. This shows that generative AI is always in the news. The prophetic perspective is that AI will conquer the world. Will AI rule be a success or a disaster? Consider this question. ChatGPT demands stubbornness. Despite global discussions on tolerance and diversity, the future AI on the verge of replacing humans maintains its strict worldview. AI has a clear view of gender, nationality, and color, unlike the modern world. Rest of the World, a tech news site, reported that Midjourney, a popular image-generation AI application, has engaged in extensive racial stereotyping. "An Indian person" is usually a bearded elderly guy because of beard on their face. "A Mexican person" is frequently a sombrero-wearing dude. Many New Delhi streets are filthy and littered. Most impoverished people are black. Although skewed, these assertions represent scary insights from neural cues provided to Midjourney. Bias may have devastating repercussions. Given the hype, companies are using AI to automate recruiting, security, loan provisions, etc. An AI-powered recruiting tool can screen out competent candidates based on race or gender. Imagine no more-this has occurred. Amazon had to withdraw their AI-based recruiting system because it was biased against women. In 2022, US authorities mistakenly detained Robert Williams owing to prejudice in face recognition technology. These facial recognition technologies also misidentify black and Asian minorities, according to studies. In addition to recruiting, AI biases have affected wealth exchange. Algorithmic discrimination in Chicago denies minority neighborhoods financing. AI systems that automatically accept loans may exclude marginalized people due to past biases in the training material. ChatGPT responded to an impressively sharp request from an X (previously Twitter) user by saying smart scientists are "white" and "male.". Another study by the study by the University of Michigan found that Open AI's CLIP misrepresents low-income and non-Western lifestyles. Also found was geographical prejudice against African nations. Overall, the report card for AI is a bit mixed. However, it's worth noting that the field is relatively young, with only 60 years of history. Physics has made significant progress over the past 400 years, but there is still much to learn. One of the mysteries that continues to baffle scientists is the concept of "dark matter," which accounts for a large portion of the universe's mass.

Ultimately, AI has the potential to assist physicists in overcoming their challenges, once they enhance their problem-solving abilities. However, is it possible for us to develop an automated version of Stephen Hawking? It will take some time. The team at Allen Institute for AI is facing challenges in getting machines to successfully pass question answer tests designed for preschool level. We still have a lot of progress to make.

(The writer is a veteran journalist and freelance writer).

Congress Manifesto, Old Wine in New (Rattled) Bottles

■ ER P.L KHUSHU

A divided congress has again not come up to the expectations of the people of India through its new election manifesto which is always a pointer in regard to the expected development of the country once a political party seeks to come to power to rule the country with a popular mandate of the people as a whole. But a popular mandate from the people of the country is possible only on overall performance of a political party, along with its pledge to ensure welfare and wellbeing of the electorate with positive hopes of new avenues of development in all the facets of development needed for the country as a whole on scientific patterns of growth and expansion.

In broader capping the dilemma of the Congress party is not that of winning the elections to rule, but to contest the elections itself. Congress is short of durable and prudent faces for the elections to contest. The veterans of this party have since been shown the door by the dynastic rulers of this party. The dynasty rulers of this party have so far been helplessly trying to make the present congress party a dynasty affair, hoping to get this country ruled by its off shoot prince. But the prince is not able to come to the expectations of a prudent and an experienced leader with national image and recognition. This is ultimately heading almost to the extinction of this age old national political party which has its base in the birth of this independent India.

The election manifesto of the congress party is more linked to the criticism and hate for the present ruling political party the NDA, rather than carrying any hope and sign of positive eagerness to rule this country again for the overall welfare of the people of the country with a compassionate secular idealism. There is nothing marked or eventful to a common eye which may call this manifesto as a ray of better hope for the people of India, as compared to the present gigantic development of India and its people on all the fronts of development and plans of inertia.

Congress and its dynastic preemptors are forgetting that, India's economy achieved a historic milestone recently, when its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) crossed the $4 trillion-mark in nominal terms for the first time ever, according to several media reports. This shows that India has achieved a strong mile stone by crossing $4 trillion-mark in DGP, making it a strong moment for India's presence in the global presence apart from gaining an international pride. Such a situation for India has a direct link with the traumatic leadership of our Prime Minister Modi, who has taken India to unprecedented heights. It is said and speculated that it will take just two years more for India to become the third largest economy in the world. India's economy boasts diversity and swift growth, fuelled by key sectors such as information technology, services, agriculture, and manufacturing. The nation capitalizes on its broad domestic market, a youthful and technologically adept labor force and an expanding middle class. Modi is probably the first Indian prime minister to carve the technology so much for his welfare programmes for India. His government's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) has revolutionized India's economy by facilitating digital payments even in villages.

Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) was another revolutionary scheme that the Modi government utilized for financial inclusion of India's masses. In the 1980s, then PM Rajiv Gandhi had said that out of every rupee sent by the Centre government, only 15 paise reaches the poor. The DBT has changed that. With the help of the (Jan Dhan + Aadhar + Mobile) trinity, the Modi government achieved the feat of transferring subsidies directly to the people through their bank accounts. Direct transfer of subsidies reduced leakages and delays while bringing transparency and accountability to the process, thus saving the 85 paise that used to go missing from a rupee. Financial inclusion not only helped with disbursal of benefits, but also increased India's market size and financial inclusion. India saved $27 billion in key central government schemes through DBT as it is swift and has eliminated corruption, as per the government reports. This nearly almost a decade-long period of Modi governments rule has changed India's economy in definite ways, when Modi and his government took decision after decision that made deep, lasting impacts on the economy of this country. India's technology - based governance, adopted by Modi and his government, is now admired the world over. India has developed a world-class digital public infrastructure to support its sustainable development goals and with its journey upwards in this regard, making it lessons for other countries embarking on their own digital transformation. "International Monetary Fund has said in a working paper recently, that the digitalization in India, has supported formalization of India's economy and Aadhaar has helped in the direct transfer of payments to beneficiaries while reducing leakages". " India's growth continues to be resilient despite some signs of moderation in growth, says the World Bank in its latest India Development Update, the World Bank India's biannual flagship publication". "The Update notes that although significant challenges remain in the global environment, India was one of the fastest growing economies in the world. The overall growth remains robust and is estimated to be 6.9 percent for the full year with real GDP growing 7.7 percent year-on-year during the first three quarters of fiscal year 2022/23. There were some signs of moderation in the second half of FY 22/23. Growth was underpinned by strong investment activity bolstered by the government's apex push and buoyant private consumption, particularly among higher income earners. Inflation remained high, averaging around 6.7 percent in FY22/23, but the current-account deficit narrowed in Q3, on the back of strong growth in service exports and easing global commodity prices. This is a micro description of the development of India's growth, when there are so many other sectors, when a sky rise developments have taken place.

There were other multiple reforms taken recourse to by the Modi government for the welfare of the people of India. NDA Government embarking on ushering in game-changing reforms through the use of Jan Dhan, Aadhar and Mobile (JAM), a unique combination of three to implement direct transfer of benefits. This innovative methodology has been able to allow transfer of benefits in a leakage-proof, well-targeted and cashless manner. There have been cut in subsidy leakages but not in subsidy themselves. Swachh Bharat mission was launched, for a clean India which was thought to be the best tribute India could pay to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150 birth anniversary in 2019. Swachh Bharat Mission was launched throughout length and breadth of the country as a national movement. While leading the mass movement for cleanliness, the Prime Minister exhorted people to fulfill Mahatma Gandhi's dream of a clean and hygienic India. NDA Government gave massive push to education & skill development Various unique measures were taken to augment the quality and reach of education. A fully IT based Financial Aid Authority to administer & monitor all education loans and scholarships through Pradhan Mantri Vidyalakshmi Karyakram, was introduced for this purpose .

Probably Congress is trying to turn a Nelson's Eye to all such herculean achievements of Modi and his team, while feeling frustrated about their future under such circumstances before the electorate. Congress feels that they will be rejected by the people of India in the coming national elections and shall have to rest in oblivion, for their earlier damages to the national polity and economic growth of India.

Congress party made all the efforts to make a parallel body to combat Modi in the formation of I.N.D.I. Alliance, which is looking like a fragmented body and can be compared through its nomenclature as a lead to broken I.N.D.IA, that is India with dots and doubts. This I.N.D.I. Alliance has fallen under its own weight due to constant infighting between its forged partners. They could not forge a unified front against Modi and NDA, as most of its constituents are dynasty based political parties, aspiring to continue with their aspirations to rule with alleged ulterior motives of selfish interests. Most of its allies have already abandoned it. Congress has been caught between the devil and the deep sea with this alliance.

Dreaming to come to power to rule the country again by the congress party appears a myth now, when it is almost asking for the Moon by the congress party, due to various misconceived factors which has left the congress party in shambles for its own sins of the past, by ruling this country on dynastic and caste basis. The basic cause for the unfortunate extinction of the congress party from the national scenario is its dynastic base, when the dynastic bent of mind to get this country ruled through the dynasty only has made this political party worst than a small regional party. It is pitiable to visualize that this grand old political party of Nehru and Patel is now gasping for its political survival on the election front by seeking shelter for its seat sharing to contest the elections with various small and insignificant political parties. Looking to the results there of this political party is at places now at the tail end of its level of political stature with some other political parties which have even refused to accommodate it on its terms of reference. Congress party has already eaten a humble pie at all such places and occasions, when it has brazenly compromised its principles and even the dictates of its political manifestoes for its survival and existence.

Under utter frustration Congress manifesto features Rahul Gandhi's so called "Naya-Patra" which is considered by most of the people of India, as a holiday itinerary of the congress party to appease the dynastic crowns by the sycophants who are presently the policy planners for this party to its doom. Once observed keenly the Congress has come up with a manifesto to mislead the voters. It is an irony that Congress is seeking the people's mandate with the promise to do wonders if voted to power.

Some people are taking a jibe at Congress for naming its manifesto "Nyay Patra", saying the name itself suggests that the party had done injustice to the country during its 50-60 years of rule. The Congress did not fulfill any of the promises made in its earlier manifestos for Assembly and Lok Sabha elections". Congress has to first remove the "Anaya" in its own party. Stalwarts of this party have been disowned and made ineffective for dynastic interests, which is very much suicidal for this party at this stage of political scenario of this country.

Who does not know what legacy of economic distress was left over by the UPA government after losing the elections in 2014, which has been made over by the NDA government under the leadership of Modi so far.

The other unfortunate issue, which congress is now embarking upon, is the caste culture. Of late, Congress is now making it a slogan to ask for caste census of sorts to woo the voters. Raising the slogan of "Jitni abadi, utna haq", one of the present prominent congress leaders, has said that the rights of the people should be proportionate to their numbers and sought a similar caste census at the national level. Other opposition parties have also demanded such a census in other states too at the national level. The BJP has joined the issue with PM Modi criticizing the caste census as a ploy to divide Hindus. Questioning Congress on rights allocation based on population, Modi asked if the political parties want to decrease the rights of religious minorities. But for Modi, poor people are the biggest "abadi" (population), of the country and they have the first right over resources. Welfare of the poor is my aim," he said.

Congress is spreading another venomous lie across the country saying that once Modi comes back to power with a 400 majority, he will have the constitution amended. Why should Modi amend the constitution and what for? They are deliberately ignoring the sanctity of our constitution which is always subject to the strict eye of the independent legal supremacy of our country.

The right course for the Congress party is to set right its own house in order before coming with election manifestoes for contesting the elections to come to power and rule the country. Why should Modi amend the constitution and what for. They are deliberately

It could be said that the recent election manifesto of the congress party is like "Old wine in new bottles", but the new bottles are rattled, which fighting and striking against each other . So this election manifesto of the congress party is like "Old Wine in New Ratteled Bottles".

(The author is a chartered consultant civil engineer, passionately attached and devoted to his mother land - Jammu & Kashmir).

Deities for commercial ads. -a slur on Hindu society

■ J.R ARYAN

Hindu religion is very vast, precise, bold, broad and clear. It lends itself for open discussion, as Hindu mythology has a spiritual as well as a scientific base. It is always ready to answer any question and predude any doubt in anyone's mind by providing substance of reason, thought through scientific and spiritual analysis. It does accept any question from any one to equip him with the right answer. Even criticism which it accepts gladly gets totally subdued and even vanished when the critics find answers based on reason, truth and genuineness.

But today when we look at our Hindu society, the so called advanced society, we feel ourselves out of countenance, as it has embraced the culture of ultra modernity having lent itself completely to materialistic and glamorous world full of deviations and distractions leading us away from our cultural heritage and values. Shocked and upset we stand to know as to how the present Hindu society having given itself to the so called modern and glamorous world to claim itself as ultramodern society, has kept its eyes shut on one most unfortunate and sordid aspect which is damaging our religious character, cultural behavior and outlook.

Are we so much lost in the din of the present hustle and bustle of the materialistic and glamorous society that we have become dumb and deaf and even blind to see that the present big business houses have not spared even our deities (Gods & Godesses) from being made as the cheap means of commercial ads for the better sale of their goods through print and electronic media by labeling the goods and commodities after the names of various deities and pasting and printing the sacred photographs and pictures on the packets of cosmetics, crackers, Beedi pkts, Note Books, Diaries, Pan Massalas and in the advertisement columns of various newspapers. We find Ganesh Beedies, Sarsoti Oil, Laxmi Dhoop Packets and so many other commodity packets with names and photos of the deities on the cover of the packets being sold in the market one day while the same photos and empty packet covers are seen lying scattered on the streets and dirty lanes and in drains under the feet of passers-by, the next day or a few days after. Is it not a slur on our society and desecration to our deities?

Even on various calendars printed by the businessmen for publicity of their shopping centers and goods, we find photographs of our Avtars, Prophets and deities. As the time goes on page by page of the calendar is removed and thrown out or torn to pieces to find a place in a dust bin or a side drain. The photographs and pictures of the deities should be allowed at the Pooja places alone, be it a temple within a house or outside at a proper location. There should be a complete ban to display any photo, picture of any deity anywhere other than the specific places of worship. Only on a particular occasion of religious ceremony, the sacred photographs and pictures be allowed to be displayed. There should be a blanket ban on the commercial ads depicting deities and their pictures and photographs in any manner for their sale proceeds or publicity. This is a great sin hurting sentiments of the people.

Our Hindu society has falsely advanced so much that it feels itself having left its cultural heritage very far behind so much so that today our electronic media does not have even the least hesitation to reflect (display) on T.V. Screen our ancient religious Yodhas like Arjuna getting allured by the sight and the smell and quality of present cosmetics forgetting to shoot the arrow in the Soyambra. Is it not a mockery of Hindu culture? Are the ancient religious personalities to be depicted as comedians on the screen. This is really disheartening. Will the press or the electronic media even dare to project the deities or prophets of other religions for commercial ads? No, never at all and nor should they. Let our Hindu society learn a lesson from Islamic and Sikh religion who really mean and give tremendous respect to their religion, prophets and Gur or deities. Let all of us have regard for our and other religions and the deities, Avtars, Gurus and prophets as also for the various cultures. Let us not wander in the hollow and emply wilderness of glamour and materialism of today which is bound to deviate us from our ideals and values.

Let the Govt. of India and the State Governments impose complete ban on use of name of deities and their photographs and pictures in commercial ads or display of, their picture/photos in any form anywhere other than the specific places of worship. Let a law be enacted to prevent the menace and save the sanctity of Avtars, deities and religion.

Let a better sense prevail in our Hindu Society to see that our religious and cultural values are preserved and don't become a victim at the hands of the so called ultra modernity of the present day culture of glamour and materialism.

(The writer is retired Ex-Engineer)

A stage is all you need to tell a story

■ KASHISH SAXENA

Amidst the scenic beauty and geopolitical complexities of Jammu and Kashmir lies a thriving theatre scene, between applauded gatherings to spider webbed empty stages, Jammu and Kashmir is struggling to find an audience that not only enjoys theatrical performances but promotes it to another level. Parent to a centuries old theatre form called Bhand Pather Jammu and Kashmir has a lot to offer into the region's socio-cultural fabric. Through a data-driven perspective, one can dig into the complexity of theatre in Jammu and Kashmir while learning about its history, current issues, and audience expectations.

The history of theatre in Jammu and Kashmir stretches back to the 1930s, with a peak in popularity lasting into the 1950s. However, contemporary theatre groups face myriad challenges in sustaining this legacy. A decline in paid shows, limited active theatre groups throughout the year, and a lack of revolutionary passion for theatre, exacerbated by the influence of social media on audience engagement is evident in the current time.

Understanding audience perspectives is pivotal in shaping the future of theatre in Jammu and Kashmir. A survey analysis revealed a mixed landscape of awareness and engagement. While 61.9% of respondents are aware of theatre performances in the region, only 40% attend them. However, among those who attend, there's a balanced distribution between occasional and frequent attendees, indicating a potential audience base for regular performances. Diverse expectations from theatre culture emerged, including emphasis on historical, religious, and social issues, preservation of folk culture, and motivating youth towards righteous paths.

In a newspaper coverage analysis of the content related to theatre in Jammu and Kashmir that provided insights into the nature and frequency of theatre-related coverage in The Daily Excelsior throughout 2023, play performances dominated the discourse, indicating a concerted effort to promote theatrical productions. Coverage of street plays, workshops, festivals, and general theatre information underscored a holistic approach to theatre journalism. Monthly distribution revealed peaks in March and November, possibly coinciding with heightened cultural activities. The quarterly overview suggested sustained engagement throughout the year. While challenges like funding constraints and declining audience interest loom large, there's optimism in grassroots efforts and community engagement initiatives. To revitalize the theatre ecosystem, concerted action is needed. Theatre groups must innovate in content and engagement strategies to resonate with modern audiences. Government assistance should be supplemented by private efforts and community-based solutions. Collaboration among theatrical practitioners, media outlets, and educational institutions may promote a culture of appreciation and involvement. Developing talent and supporting cultural diversity is critical. Embracing local customs and storytelling styles may add to the theatrical tapestry, making it more inclusive and representational of the region's culture.

Theatre may cross regional boundaries and reach new audiences by utilising technology, social media, and conventional mediums. Theatre in Jammu and Kashmir is at a crossroads, dealing with obstacles while harbouring enormous promise. Through data-driven insights and concerted action, stakeholders can pave the way for a healthy and resilient theatre ecosystem that will enrich the region's cultural environment for future generations. Consider this as a call for help or an invitation to be a part of such beautiful artform's revival in its homeland, the land of immense beauty and culture, the land which has seen a lot and a stage is all it needs to tell a story.

(The author is student of P. G. Diploma in Digital Media at IIIMC Jammu)