

There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education. The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning.

-Jiddu Krishnamurti

DRONE MENACE CONTINUES

A couple of days after the BSF detected the tunnel with an opening to the other side of the International Border, today a drone from the Pakistan side was spotted by the same border guarding force although a few kilometers away from the site where the tunnel was detected. These dangerous activities by Pakistan are the indication of a big ploy of the rogue nation to dent the interests of the country. Already army has confirmed that over 200 terrorists are waiting at the launch pads in PoK to crossover to this side to disturb peace and tranquility. It has become necessary for the Indian security forces to remain on toes as the threat is looming large from the Pakistani side. Pakistan is not mending its ways as one drone coming from Pakistan towards India was spotted in the Arnia area of R S Pura sub-division at 7:25 PM with a blinking light. Hardly had it crossed the IB, alert BSF troops fired 8 rounds at the drone, due to which it returned back immediately. Search is underway as such activities have become common sight these days along IB both in J&K and Punjab, as Pakistan extensively uses drones for smuggling narcotics, arm and ammunition, and also for reece purpose. The alert BSF troops deserve kudos for foiling the attempt of Pakistan to harm the interest of the country by using drones in R S Pura Sub division. Although the government is proactive in installing anti-drone mechanisms at the sensitive locations but keeping an eye along the entire border is not yet possible therefore alert troops have to play the vital role to check this menace. The government should ask the technical institutions of the country to carry out research and fabricate some equipment which are economical and efficient to tackle this problem because the technology currently available in the open market is quite expensive and not upto the mark. Till the time the government procures something which is failsafe, the troops have to fulfill the responsibility with great care as India cannot afford this menace for long.

ROBUST JMC

Jammu Municipal Corporation is a major organization bestowed with several significant responsibilities regarding upkeep and welfare of Jammu city, which it is performing to the best of its capacity. But, there are several issues being faced by the Corporation which create hurdles in its smooth working thereby ultimately creating numerous hardships for people. Time and again various initiatives have been taken to improve the working of the corporation but it is a fact that nothing significant has been changed on ground level. A major reason behind numerous problems of the corporation is that it is still working on the same old model, on which it started working decades back without any considerable change. It is a fact that years back, the corporation started working with only 23 wards spread over an area of 32 sq. km and is now looking after the area of 112 sq. km covering almost 75 wards. This shows the significant increase in the territorial limits of the City of Temples during the past several years but no major addition was made in the corporation like increasing manpower, infrastructure, equipment etc. At present, the corporation has a sanctioned strength of 2623 posts against which only 1540 regular employees are serving and 1741 workers have been outsourced along with 724 more on contractual basis. This arrangement is not only causing a huge financial burden on JMC but also affecting its working greatly. Now in a significant decision, the highest decision-making body of the Union Territory led by LG Manoj Sinha has approved the proposal of the Housing and Urban Development Department regarding reorganization of JMC. It is expected that with this decision regarding reorganization, the working of JMC would improve to a great extent as in the new proposal, there are provisions for dedicated wings to look after the matters related to administration, revenue, health & sanitation, solid waste management, building, accounts & planning, legal, veterinary, transport, informatics, engineering, floriculture and various others miscellaneous activities. Moreover, necessary provisions have also been made for generating revenue from various sources so that the corporation can work smoothly without any hurdle. It is hoped that, with implementation of the directives, very soon, a robust Jammu Municipal Corporation will be there in service of Jammuites.



OFF 'D' CUFF

Respect Nature from the Heart

For us, the relationship between God, Nature, and human beings is one of perpetual oneness. Our sages, Vedas, and Upanishads have taught us to see Mother Nature with reverence. In the ancient days, there was no need for any initiative to protect the environment since conserving nature was a part of worshipping God.

In fact, it was an integral part of life. Apart from worshipping God, people used to worship Nature as no different from God and when you see God in Nature, how can you pollute it! Such were the values of the ancient people and they must be reawakened in the modern world.

Loving Mother Nature Deeply

Value of respecting and protecting nature must come from the heart. It should be an act of unconditional love. When people will develop love & compassion towards rivers, trees, birds, vines, forests, animals, mountains, rivers, oceans, and all the rest of Nature, there will be a revival in the environmental health naturally.

In India, thankfully, we love nature as a friend and mother since ancient times. Earth is the mother and the sky is the father. We worship them. Our country inculcates the value of universal brotherhood in everyone. Lord Krishna has also given a message to befriend nature. We try to perform such deeds that can bring

Put a full stop to Mandir-Masjid issues

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

India is the land of Ram and Rahim, Gautam and Karim and there is no place for Hindu-Muslim tension and disturbances. Ours is a secular and plural country as we have embraced secularism as the state policy and our constitution guarantees religious freedom and freedom of worship and all citizens are free to practice, propagate and even to change his or her religion. There is religious freedom subject to public order. Even otherwise India being a very tolerant nation, its people are very tolerant as they are the inheritors of the great culture which is tolerant, all absorbing and assimilative and therefore India would have been following inter religious harmony even without having embraced and adopted secularism as a matter of state policy. Thus it is obvious that the people belonging to various faiths live like brothers in peace and tranquility. But it is very disturbing that the vested politicians and political parties play dirty politics over the religious sentiments of the people and divide people in the name of religion and faith. So unfortunately Mandir-Masjid issues are often raised to polarise the situations and sensitive religious issues and this should not be allowed to happen and disturb the communal harmony in the plural country where all the citizens have to live in peace to further the foundations of secularism. Therefore there is no justification to raise the Mandir-Masjid issues time and again as it has the potential of disturbing the inter faith harmony and as such non issues of Mandir-Masjid should not be raised to pollute the secular tenets of the country. Thus in no case Hindu-Muslim tensions and disturbances should be created and those stoking communal fires and issues should be dealt with sternly so that the forces hell bent to create communal disturbance and tensions will be discouraged as communal tensions and disturbances are alien to our grand and great culture and civilization and so all should live in harmony and peace and follow and practice their religion. Gullible people should not be carried away by the vested politicians game plan of creating communal disturbances on the non issues of Mandir-Masjid because in our secular democracy all the people belonging to different faiths should live in perfect inter religious harmony and peace because communal tensions and disturbances have no place in our secular and plural country. The political parties and the people should concentrate and raise the real and mundane issues of bread and butter and those issues which concern to people and desist from raking and raising futile Mandir-Masjid issues which should be consigned to the dustbin of history so that these are not raised again to pollute the inter religious harmony. It would be better and in the best interests of our developing economy to raise the issues confronting to people. So the issues of unemployment, inflation,

militancy, corruption and the like should be raised so that the government is forced to resolve these and other such issues in the interest of the people. Moreover the issues of electricity, pure drinking water, good schooling for children, good roads, better sanitation and health care should be the issues which should attract the attention of the political parties, politicians, government and last but not the least the people of this country. Therefore the powers that be should focus its attention on these problems and not allow the vested politicians to raise futile and non issues of Mandir-Masjid for their ulterior motives. The Mandir-Masjid issues cannot quench the thirst and fill the empty belly of the people and so the futile and non issues of Mandir-Masjid should not be raised as these issues have the potential to disturb the communal harmony in the multi religious society. Since ours is a multi religious, multi lingual and multi culture as well as the multi dimensional country and so there is no place for hate, hatred between the religious communities and also for raising the useless Mandir-Masjid issues. Therefore the political parties and the cunning politicians should not raise the non issues of Mandir-Masjid and these non issues are raised to divert the attention of the people from the more pressing issues confronting to them. Therefore the political parties and the government alike should attend to the real issues which should be addressed and resolved for the interest of the gullible masses and the people should not fall prey to the political and mischievous machinations of the political parties and as such should not allow themselves to be exploited by the cunning and vested politicians who only rake and raise non issues of Hindu-Muslim and thus mislead the people for their vote bank politics. In fact it is better that politicians, political parties, the government and the people should concentrate on the real issues and problems which matter most to the people and these problems should be resolved for the benefit of the masses instead of raising futile and non issues of Mandir-Masjid. This country and its people have experienced much controversy over Mandir-Masjid in 1990s and it has damaged the secular fabric of the country and our march towards development became the first casualty and this Hindu-Muslim controversy has done no good to the communal harmony and thank God that the Ram Janambooni Babri Masjid issue which was lingering from long time and disturbing the communal harmony has been resolved by the well intensions of the prime ministers and the court decision which was honoured by both the communities. Unfortunately these days the dispute of Ghanyapi Masjid near Kashi Vishwanath temple premises has become an eyesore of the cunning politicians and the non issue of the Mandir-Masjid issue has again reached centre stage and both the

Hindu and Muslim community is staking claim of the ownership of the Ghanyapi Masjid. Hindus claim that the Masjid had been built after damaging the temple but the Muslims claim that it is the Masjid and so there is religious controversy on the Mandir-Masjid issue. This non-issue of Mandir-Masjid should not be allowed to disturb the communal harmony in the country. The people are required not to open the old cupboards and skeletons to foment the communal trouble in the plural country. In our secular country the temples and mosques stand side by side and it is the best example of secularism and inter-faith unity and no step should be taken to create communal trouble in the name of the religion. We should uphold the secularism and Hindu-Muslim unity and not allow ourselves to be swayed by the religious emotions on flimsy grounds. There are hundreds of places of the worship of the both communities side by side and nothing should be done to question the uniqueness of this nation where temples and mosques are standing side by side and no communal tension should be allowed on this great example of the inter faith harmony in the country. If we open the old skeletons it will not serve any useful purpose except to foment communal tension and so in all the cases of disputes the statusque should be maintained so that there is no communal tension and disturbance in the country. Thus the political parties, politicians, governments and the people should pay attention towards the pressing problems which need immediate solution instead of raking useless issues of Mandir and Masjid which will do no good to the people. Therefore it is better to allow the statusque on all the Mandir-Masjid disputes so that there is no communal tension in the country. The communal tensions and disturbances are an obstacle to our economic development and therefore it is in the interest of the country and communal harmony that the Hindu-Muslim issues should not be raised rather sincere efforts should be made to focus our attention towards the pressing problems which need immediate attention. So instead of raising futile issues of Mandir-Masjid and Hindu and Muslim we should not allow the cunning politicians to whip communal tensions in the name of religion and the politicians, government and above all the real masters of democracy-- the people should try sincerely to resolve the mundane issues confronting them. To conclude we can say that in this land of Ram and Rahim there is no place for communal tensions as these are alien to our grand culture and we should allow Ganga-Jamni culture to flourish and fructify and thus should we water the orchard of different faiths so that the doctrine of unity in diversity is protected and followed for the interest of the people belonging to different faiths.

(The author is a Columnist and Social Activist).

JUBILANT J&K J&K emerging as new top-most investment destination

Several policy interventions transitioning UT into industrially advanced region

Jammu and Kashmir is emerging as the top most new investment destination across the country both for National as well as International investors. The motto of Jammu & Kashmir Industrial Policy 2021-30, "Jammu and Kashmir- Tradition, Growth and Transformation", epitomizes the transition that J&K is undergoing. It symbolizes the thrust given to turn J&K into a lucrative investment destination, keeping in view the unique socio-economic and environmental underpinnings of this Himalayan region. The industrial landscape in the UT of J&K is dominated by MSMEs as it contributes about 8 per cent to GSDP and employs the largest number of people in services and manufacturing sectors. Around 25,000 MSMEs that are operational in the UT provide employment to around 90 per cent of industrial workforce in the UT.

In this backdrop, Jammu and Industrial Policy 2021-30 is a welcome change over the previous industrial policies of 1998, 2004 and 2016. With an outlay of Rs 28,400 crore, 'New Central Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu and Kashmir' notified by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India (GOI), in 2021, is expected to provide impetus to J&K's transition into an industrially advanced region.

J&K Private Industrial Estate Development Policy, 2021-30 has also been notified recently. Progressive reforms like GST linked incentive; Capital Interest subvention and Working Capital Interest Incentive have also been implemented. These policy interventions have started bearing fruits as investment proposals more than worth 50,000 crore have been received. These investments are expected to generate employment potential of 2.33 lakh.

To further improve the industrial ecosystem in the UT of J&K, Single Window Approach has been streamlined with a view to improve Ease of Doing Business. Aimed at Minimising Regulatory Compliance Burden (MRCB), 130 services of J&K departments have been made online. With fast-paced urbanisation witnessed in J&K over the past few decades, there has been a spurt in the demand for housing and commercial units. The regressive limitations before the repealing of Article 370 posed several impediments in the full development of real estate sector in J&K. To resolve this predicament, first ever J&K Real Estate Summit 2021 was held in which 250 top developers from across the country participated.

Moreover, GOI's Model Tenancy Act has been adopted by the Government of J&K and portals for Real Estate Regulatory Authority and auction of the assets, allotment

of dwelling units/plots of the J&K Housing Board, Jammu Development Authority, Srinagar Development Authority have been launched. In addition, MoU has been signed between Government of J&K and National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) for skilling 10,000 persons per year in seven trades in real estate under NULM (National Urban Livelihoods Mission) in Jammu & Kashmir. The policy changes introduced in J&K were showcased to the potential investors at world stage during the visit of Lieutenant Governor of J&K to Dubai Expo- 2020. The Lieutenant Governor also inaugurated Jammu and Kashmir Promotion Week at the Lu-Lu Hypermarket, Dubai in which goods like GI tagged Saffron, famous varieties of apples, Kashmiri art and crafts, among others were showcased. MoU with Government of Dubai and other Global investors was also signed during this visit. The road to industrial empowerment and comprehensive progress across several indicators in J&K is expected to present many challenges. However, with the overhaul of laws and rules, institutional support and competitive ecosystem being developed in J&K, it is expected that the bottlenecks will be resolved. J&K, in stark contrast with the economic isolation of the past, is very well poised to emerge as a regional and national investment cluster.

Kejriwal creating rift between Gujarat & Maharashtra

■ R K SINHA

Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal has a lot to learn about Maharashtra- Gujarat close relationship.

IIT doesn't teach these issues, then how could he know such commons things of political history, during his recent Gujarat tour, taunting over Bharatiya Janta Party, said that 'Gujarat BJP President is a Marathi.

Doesn't BJP get a suitable Gujarati for its state President seat? People say that, he is not just the President; instead he runs the Gujarat government from backdoor.

He is indeed the real CM. It is a humiliation of the people of Gujarat'. He was pointing to the head of Gujarat unit of BJP C R Patil. Kejriwal could have even a little knowledge of collective history of Maharashtra and Gujarat, he would have abstain himself from such comments.

He himself being a Haryanvi shamelessly commented such words even after he is holding the office of CM of Delhi. Isn't it also an insult to the Pandits, Thakurs, Jats, Gujjars, Mathurs and Shrivastavas of ancient Delhi?

Kejriwal should understand the fact that Maharashtra and Gujarat came on Indian map on 1st May 1960 on language basis.

Formerly both were part of Bombay province. Both these states set an example for other states who continue to have disputes. Gujarati and Marathi from beginning, lived with mutual harmony and brotherhood, both in Maharashtra and Gujarat. Both these state are supplementary to each other.

Gujarati desperately aspired to become businessmen; Marathi more or less confined themselves to the service sector. Both respected spaces of each other and forbid themselves from encroaching others territory.

Marathi people are greatly interested in arts, culture and music etc. whereas Gujarati society showed true and good business qualities. Both have mutual understanding for each other.

This way both collectively continued to prosper. When you walk on Ghatkopar, Andheri and Mulund areas of Mumbai, you will get vibes of Surat, Bhavnagar and Ahmedabad of Gujarat. Here most of the dwellers are Gujarati.

Mumbai based Gujarati, with their proficient entrepreneurship capabilities prospered in this metropolis.

They continued to flourish their business after 1960 also like before. Gujarati have major stake in grains, clothes, paper and metal market of Mumbai. 90 per cent of Diamond merchants are Gujarati.

Mumbai stock exchange cannot be even imagined without Gujarati brokers. In Mumbai, we cannot differentiate Marathi and Gujarati people.

Both are souls of Mumbai. Mumbai, the money capital of India has dozens of colleges, schools, Dharmshalas, Gaushalas, cultural institutions etc of native Gujaratis. Gujarati of Mumbai are Gujarati by emotions only.

They have diffused in the atmosphere of Mumbai similarly as sugar dissolves in milk.

Almost 35 lakh Gujarati lives in Mumbai. Dhirubhai Ambani, Gautam Adani, Ajim Premji, Ratan Tata, Aadi Godrej, Sameer Somaya like people who secured places on international level also came to Mumbai from Gujarat and thrived.

Almost all the Gujarati living in Maharashtra speaks at least three languages Gujarati, Marathi and Hindi.

If we talk about the Marathi society in Gujarat, they have also secured a different place for themselves. Marathi tongued people are considerate in numbers in Gujarat's Surat, Badodra, Ahmedabad, Nawsari and others. C. R. Patil, the leader on whom Arvind Kejriwal has attacked is the Member of Lok Sabha from Navsari constituency.

He is widely accepted leader of Gujarat. "Big hearted Gujaratis are a major factor behind close relationship of Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Gujarati have never discriminated Marathi people as outsiders.

Welcomed everyone. Similarly they didn't treat me as an outsider. Now I have also become Gujarati, and speaks Gujarati," said CR Patil proudly.

Even Parsis landed first in Navsari in India, means they are also Gujarati.

It is also true that rich Parsis like Wadia, Tata, Godrej are natively Gujaratis.

They speak Gujarati in their homes. In Gujarat, Surat has the maximum number of Marathis. They have completely become Gujarati in all respect.

But, they still converse in Marathi in their homes. Countering the comments of Arvind Kejriwal, C. R. Patil stated that Kejriwal is a threat to national security. He has active connections with Khalistanis and Naxals. He is a scholar of lies.

Who will tell Kejriwal that Maharashtra and Gujarat will continue to have mutual friendship and cooperation? Both these societies enjoy mutual respect because none of them have haughtiness or ego. Both have assimilated the festivals of one another.

Gujaratis celebrate Ganeshotsav with the same joy and enthusiasm as the Marathi celebrates Navratr.

That's why despite two states separation, both the states and societies haven't seen distances. It is highly unfortunate that CM of a state trying to create rift between two old and prosperous states. He must keep in mind that Gujarat and Maharashtra are major industrial hubs.

Their economic progress has boosted and provided strength to the economy of India.

Grabbing the opportunity of economic liberalization of 90s both these states strengthen their GDP and at present Maharashtra is the leading state of country in terms of GDP.

Even if the GDP of Gujarat is slightly less than Maharashtra, it is overpowering Maharashtra in terms of growth rate. Everyone knows that Maharashtra and Gujarat were part of same Bombay province. But even after separation both these states haven't faced any dispute on any issue. Chinese saying that neighbors cannot coexist in atmosphere of peace and harmony is proved wrong by these two Indian states. But this is never the case in Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Arvind Kejriwal is a political person and he should do politics in manner. Nation also wants this. Instead he, for his political gains, is trying to create a rift between two states.

He must abstain himself from these cheap ideas else mandate will teach him the lesson.

(The author is an Editor, Columnist and Former MP).

