

## STRENGTHENING EDUCATION SYSTEM

Right from the times immortal, education has always proved as a major supporter to lead the society towards development and progress in a significant way. It is a fact that during earlier years when education was not so prevalent and majority people were illiterate, the nation suffered numerous losses in every aspect. Even the British, which came to this wealthy nation for the purpose of trade and commerce, took benefit of the illiteracy and lack of unity among people and ruled the country for more than 200 years. So there is nothing wrong in saying that a proper and up to date education system is must for leading the nation towards the path of progress. There is no doubt that earlier Governments, from time to time, numerous innovative steps to strengthen the education system as per their policies and programmes but it is only the ruling dispensation, which paid a focused attention to the sector thereby bringing several reforms for making the system efficiently enough to meet the demands of the competitive world. Realizing the importance of quality education across the country, so that the youth, which has to lead the nation in future, can get intensive and up to date knowledge of every subject for competing at international level with the talented youth of other countries, the Government not only strengthened the existing system but also launched a totally different education policy, namely New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 for bringing in a major transformation in the sector. Although, due to COVID pandemic and consequent instructions imposed by the administration, the policy was not implemented immediately across the country but now as the COVID scenario has improved greatly, necessary directives have already been issued to all the concern authorities for successful implementation of NEP across the length and breadth of the country. Recently, while addressing students, during 5th convocation of Indian Institute of Management Jammu, President Ram Nath Kovind also stated that as the future of the nation depends on the education of youth, the NEP 2020 will help a lot in bringing necessary changes acquired as per emerging scenario. It is expected that the successful implementation of NEP will definitely help the country towards making it a global educational hub offering courses of all natures and subjects.



### 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 smothers 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

# Some good in smooth, swift & safe flow of traffic can be done without any additional costs on exchequer

Mehta too has advised civil & police Admn to devise traffic management plan after a scientific study in 2 weeks

■ DAYA SAGAR

The traffic during night/late evenings need be regulated for safe and smooth driving by MVD & Traffic Police so as to ensure that the vehicles using dazzling light for an observer approaching ahead of the vehicle /multiple lights are either made to use proper lights or made to go off road since such owners who do not use even dippers are increasing the possibilities of accidents, are making the travel time longer for others and particularly ‘harassing’ the senior citizens / elder drivers even when clear law exists for regulating such defaulters (Safety Standards No. 15.1 [Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 Notification S.O. No. 873 (E) dtd. 15.12.1997, item No. 20, of Ministry of Surface Transport ) like 4.3 Headlight - A lighting device providing an upper and/or a lower beam used for providing illumination forward of vehicle. 4.5 Meeting beam or lower beam or low beam - Beam illuminating only a specified limited part of the road, in order to reduce the dazzle for an observer approaching ahead of the vehicle. 5.2 The position of headlights on the vehicle shall be as per Rule No. 105 (3) of CMVR , The Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 106. Deflection of lights (1) No lamp showing a light to the front shall

be used on any motor vehicle including construction equipment vehicle (whether fitted with single or dual head lamp) unless such lamp is so constructed, fitted and maintained that the beam of light emitted therefrom- is permanently deflected downwards to such an extent that it is not capable of dazzling any person whose eye position is,- (A) at a distance of 8 metres from the front of lamp, 111. Prohibition of spot lights, etc. No spot light or search light shall be carried on the front of any vehicle except in exceptional circumstances with the prior approval of the registering authority.

Similarly in cities like Jammu one would hardly find people coming out happily from the government parking lots where some parking attendant may be found over charging / parking attendant may be hardly found in uniform with identity badge. May be in view of some parking lots being not that commuter friendly people avoid parking there and take risk of parking on road side.

Some Jammu city road are so often found used like self parking grounds by some ( somewhere on both sides of road ) for day/ night parking which gives bad look / environment to city as well as some time becomes rea-



### A Look through the Mist Part-II

son for quarrels amongst the locals / commuters. Not only that often unknown vehicles can be found parked in lanes of some Mohallas which create problems for locals there, local disputes occur and such parking areas could be used by terrorists/ law offenders too. Places were such practices have become a common note must be located and cleared.

The Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Home too while addressing a high level meeting over traffic management in the UT of J&K in Srinagar has been quoted as having said on 10th June that present traffic situation calls for more stringent enforcement at all levels, use of modern tools and technology for manning the roads and ensuring smooth flow of traffic on them. Good but the enforcement has to be done as a routine and regular manner. While enforcing rules / practices inconvenience should not be cause even to a one disciplined commuter / citizen. Yes advised by ACS Home enforcement of good practices has to be by and at all levels as a routine. May be times demand enforcement of rules / codes/civic practices with seriousness as a routine work instead seeing

solutions only in fear of law. Use of High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) on vehicles is in the greater interest of security of one and all. No vehicle owner should have any objection to that. But in case one using old plate has to run from place to place / wait for hours in open for depositing fee/ collecting plate/ getting plate fixed then simple ‘strict’ enforcement would not be fair. So the RTOs/ARTOs must see how the new plate can be fixed without much cost in time / convenience for which number of delivery points be increased or provision for taking time & date for fixation of plate can be given online. For new vehicles the dealers be made responsible for delivering vehicle fixed with HSRP only ( some registration exercise could be shared by RTO with dealers ) otherwise why should anyone having paid the charges but not issued plate be put to inconvenience.

The shortfalls / deficiencies like a few quoted here if managed with some more commitment would surely help in making roads free flowing without spending additional money by government.

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# Time ripe to disallow communal polarisation

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

The communal narrative that is being built in the country through the different Television channels and debates is creating the communal flare-up which is a very dangerous trend and it should not be allowed and should be halted as it is alien to our culture .The communal atmosphere which is being built through various issues is against our plural and secular ethos and as such has no place in our country .India is a multi religious , multi culture , multi lingual and multi dimensional country and communal tensions and flare ups are unacceptable and therefore should not take place at all .In our multi religious country and society the communal tensions and disturbances are not needed as it tarnishes our secular image in the comity of the nations and therefore these communal tensions and consequent disturbances are unacceptable .In different states of our country the Hindu-Muslim and Mandir-Masjid issues are unfortunately been raised and raked to foment communal trouble which should not be allowed as it amounts to assault on the secular fabric of the nation .The way communal tensions ,communal narrative and consequent communal disturbances are taking place in the country is against the secularism and our plural ethos and so these should not be allowed in the country .The communal atmosphere and tension in different parts of the country has the potential of disturbing the communal harmony and brotherhood and as such these should be given a go bye so that we are able to preserve the secular and plural fabric.

Unity in diversity is the unique feature of our multi religious country and we should maintain the characteristic of unity in diversity at all costs so that the diversity of this land called Bharat is maintained.

But the way communal tension and communal narrative as well as the consequent communal disturbance are engineered in various parts of the country is very dangerous as it hits at the very root of this great nation.

We should not allow these communal tensions and disturbances as these are against the pristine values of this glorious nation and are alien to our very ethos and culture. The ugly scenes of communal tensions and disturbances will create undesirable conditions of national disintegration and therefore before it is too late these communal disturbances should be halted in the interest of the country. It seems that under a well planned conspiracy the communal tensions and flare ups are engineered in various parts of the country to weaken the secular character of the country and therefore such communal tensions and the resultant communal disturbances cannot be allowed in the country which swears by the non violence and upholds the secular character of the country.

But the communal happenings in various parts of the country are shameful and against the very idea of India and therefore should not be allowed to pollute our multi religious society.

It is a matter of grave concern that on non issues and flimsy grounds the communal tension and

communal disturbances are being created to tarnish our secular image in the international arena and as such these communal tensions have no place in our multi religious society and therefore these should not be allowed to pollute our multi religious character.

Day in and day out the communal tensions and disturbances are being engineered in different parts of the country to hamper our march on the path of secularism and it is a big threat to our country and so this should be disallowed being alien to our very cultural ethos.

Under a well nit plan a conspiracy is being hatched to destroy our secular image and for this communal tensions and disturbances are being given birth throughout the length and breadth of this vast but unified country which is a big shame for the countrymen and we should not allow it for keeping the country united.

It is very unfortunate and shameful that on non issues the communal tensions and disturbances are being created to spoil our secular and plural image and we should unite to disallow this dangerous trend for the sake of the unity of the country.

The raising of the ugly head of the communal monster throughout the country is very condemnable and deplorable and it should not be allowed at any cost and we should unite to defeat the gait of communalism and consequent communal disturbances in various parts of the country which are alien to our very cultural legacy and heritage and so should be discouraged for the sale of the national unity.

It is so disturbing and sad that the country is heading towards disunity due to communal tension and consequent communal disturbances in various parts of the country and it is a sad commentary on the secular ethos of the nation and should be disallowed.

Lately a dangerous trend of the communal tensions and communal disturbances are taking birth in the country which is a shame for the countrymen and should not happen and tarnish our plural image in the comity of the nations.

It is very sad and unbecoming that on flimsy grounds and non issues communal tensions and disturbances are being engineered in various parts of the country which hints towards a situation of the civil war in the country and as such is very dangerous for the country and so it should be discouraged for the sake of the national cohesion and national unity.

It is the responsibility of the majority community to protect the interests and life and security of the minority community and the minority community should also respect the religious sentiments of the majority community.

But the Muslim minority of India is becoming intolerant as the fringe elements among this community are hell bent to create communal atmosphere in the country on various non issues concerning this community.

The minorities throughout the country are uniting to give a fight to the nationalism and Hindutva and this is very sad indeed and the minorities are creating law and order situation for the country. There is no minority complex in

the minority community but the sad fact is that the majority community feels the minority complex which is a unique phenomenon and this should be rectified for the sake of the welfare of the country .India is a largest democracy and here all its citizens have a right to protest for any wrongs done to it and religious freedom is guaranteed by our constitution and when the religious right is denied or when any controversial remark is unfortunately made by any person ,then the community affected has every right to protest.

In the instant case of the showing of any dishonour to the Prophet Mohammad by the now dismissed BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma and Naveen Jindal which is very unfortunate ,the Muslims have a right to peaceful protest as the religious sentiments of the minority community are involved.

They are welcome to have the peaceful protest but they have no right to take law in to their hands and create a law and order situation in the country.

The Muslim community is within their right to protest but creating serious law and order situation is not acceptable.

India goes by and is governed by the constitution and not by the Sharia law and so the Muslims should not demand what is not possible in India.

The BJP has expelled both the persons who are involved in the blasphemous comment in a T.V channel debate and the Muslim community should appreciate this action of the BJP and not ask for anything which is impossible.

The FIR has been filed against the duo and the law of the land will take its course on this issue.

But the way protests throughout the country are taking place and way law is being taken into its hands by the Muslim community is unacceptable.

The minority community is creating communal trouble through its protests and this cannot be allowed in the country.

No one or community will be allowed to vitiate the communal atmosphere in the country and the rule of the law will be supreme .Those protesting should know that they are the citizens of a secular democracy and are governed by the laws of the land and they should desist to take the law into their hands.

The majority community and the government also disapproves what has been said by the two BJP office bearers and they had been expelled from the party by the BJP and the case against them have been filed in the police as the FIR has been filed against them.

The Muslims should also appreciate the action taken by the BJP against its office bearers and they should trust the law of the land and the duo will face the judiciary in this case.

Anyway no one should be allowed to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere in the country and the communal tension and disturbance has no place in the plural country .We should protect the Ganga-Jamnni Tehsil in the country at all costs and respect the sentiments of the Muslims.

(The author is a columnist and social activist).

## PROGRESSING J&K

### AZAN initiative fulfilling its goal of ensuring enhanced, modernized land records management

Govt sets deadline of August 15 for issuing revenue passbooks to J&K people

Jammu and Kashmir government has embarked on an unprecedented development trajectory with launch of several transformational initiatives in all sectors in the Union Territory.

Launch of an ambitious scheme "Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani" (AZAN) by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, was one such landmark achievement of the UT administration to extend modern management system of land records besides enhancing transparency in the system.

The AZAN initiative is successfully fulfilling its objective of ensuring a transparent, enhanced and modernized land records management system to J&K people who can now access their land records online without any hardship.

"Earlier, I had to wander from pillar to post to obtain even a single copy of my land records which was a quite cumbersome and hard task but with launch of AZAN now I can check any of my land records even while sitting at my home. Earlier, there was no such mechanism available for citizens to view or monitor the status of our revenue records online, he said while lauding the step as historic. I also extend my gratitude to J&K government for initiating the process of issuing trilingual land passbooks as a measure to fill the information vacuum and promote people's ease of access to revenue records in Jammu and Srinagar districts" extolled Jehangir Ahmed of Bachpora.

AZAN: Land Records Information System was launched on October 22, 2021 by the LG under which the public users can now search and view copies of the Scanned data online on CIS Portal- <http://landrecords.jk.gov.in/>. In the words of LG, the initiative will facilitate easy online access to the Land Records System, thereby reducing manipulation of the Land Records and improving the efficiency of Revenue offices substantially.

This initiative is a part of the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) which was formally launched in the UT in April-2016.

The first of its kind land passbook is being issued to legal owners of land in Jammu and Kashmir in Urdu, English, and Hindi languages. As a reform to further boost transparency in public dealings of the Revenue Department, a mechanism of issuing revenue passbooks to the people containing information on all their legal land possessions has been evolved and a deadline of 15th August 2022 has been set by the government for completion of the process.

As part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', various Information Education and Communication (IEC) activities to sensitize the common masses about "Apni Zameen Apni Nigrani" Land Record Information System (LRIS) are in full swing across J&K.

During the IEC activities, hands-on-training is being given to women Self Help Group members regarding use of mobile phones to view land records on mobiles. The officers create a network of trainers at Panchayat level to further help people to access their land records.

Land Records Information System" (LRIS) is web based multi-tiered, scalable, reliable, and secure network enterprise application. The LRIS is Integrated, Geographical Information System (GIS) based decision support system to cater 24/7 services to JakLRMA agency user, state public user, special agency external user for analysis, evaluation and information of revenue records and its ancillary details like Records of Rights, Jamabandi, Girdawari, Mutation and many more.

As per NLRMP guideline, the department of Revenue and Financial Commissioner Revenue, have created a Project Management Unit in the UT to address the land records Modernization programme and subsequent management of records. The PMU has been registered as a Society and named as Jammu & Kashmir Land Records Management Agency (JaKLRMA). The administrative and functional structure of the society is very comprehensive with inclusion of all covering departments, agencies and office within the UT. The Society is chaired by the Chief Secretary with Financial Commissioner Revenue as the chief executive.

As part of the program implementation in UT, 7.70 crore pages of revenue record and 55216 Musavi (maps) have been scanned besides establishment of 3895 Ground Control Points and development of Web-based Enterprise Geo-Information System (GIS).