

## DEFENCE START-UPS

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) framework was launched by the Government with the aim to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace Sector by engaging Industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes and academia and promote self-reliance. Under iDEX framework so far, seven editions of Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC) have been launched. While replying to a query in Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of State for Defence, Ajay Bhatt informed that under iDEX route, the Government focuses on innovation and design & development and supports the start-ups and innovators for successful prototype development. A large number of start-ups have participated in various rounds of Defence India Start-up Challenge. So far, 136 start-ups have been engaged and 102 contracts have been signed for prototype development. Moreover, the Ministry has also accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for 14 iDEX products, paving the way for placement of orders on the iDEX winners. The Government has approved a central sector scheme for iDEX with budgetary support of Rs 498.78 crore for the five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26. The objective of the scheme is to provide financial support to nearly 300 Start-ups/MSMEs/individual innovators and about 20 Partner Incubators through Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO). The problem statements emanating from defence forces are launched under iDEX framework for development of technology and prototypes thus, addressing the real time problems of defence forces. The Government encourages the start-ups to contribute to the defence sector and develop aerospace setup in the country by providing substantial grants, easier and faster access to test facilities/infrastructure available with various Government agencies, co-creation and co-innovation using smooth operating procedures and minimal documentation, and facilitating procurement, thus making the entire regime conducive for them.

## INSPIRE YOUR CHILD

Today, worldwide, educational systems have become 100% informative; there is very little inspiration. Without inspiration, no human being rises beyond the limitations in which he lives. It's only when he's inspired that a human being wants to go beyond the limitations in which we're existing right now, and today education has become totally bereft of inspiration.

Very often, a teacher is not somebody worth looking up to, because when all that is given is information, you can as well get it from an audio, video, internet or wherever. You don't really have to listen to a teacher. A teacher is not the best means of transmission when it comes to pure information. A book is better, the internet is even better. Only if the teacher's role is to inspire people to learn, to create a thirst for knowledge and things like that, only then, a teacher's role has something to give. If the teacher is just trying to transmit information, the other means of transmission are more efficient.

Making the whole education system purely informational has caused enormous damage, and that time of life when you're youthful, when you're capable of many things, that span of life, tends to go waste, simply because the necessary inspiration is not there.

What does creating inspiration mean? Generally, most leaders in the world have always inspired people only by creating an external enemy. If you create an external enemy, you can inspire everybody on the street. Action, isn't it? But when you point out to people that the real enemy is within you — your limitations are your biggest enemies, whatever your limitations, your fear, your anxiety, your anger, your hatred, whatever the limitations from which one suffers — when you say the enemy is within you, then to inspire you, one needs much more commitment and dedication. But, dedication and commitment have become such scarce material. It's a lifelong thing. It's not that today you do something and everything is fixed. There is no such possibility. It's like nurturing a plant; it's like nurturing a tree. If you want it to bear fruit, you have to nurture it everyday. Everyday you have to water it, everyday you have to take care of it. If this dedication is shown by the adults, the grown-ups, you will see youth will do miraculous things. Only because such dedication is missing in the general population, youth seem to be disoriented, they don't know what to do, they do their own thing — short-

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term things, because everybody is working on short-term goals, youth also work on short-term goals. See, after all, every human being in the world is concerned about human well-being, isn't it? 'No, there is a criminal, no, there is a thief, no, there is somebody else.' See, they are also concerned about human well-being. It is just that their idea of human well-being is just this human being (points at himself). Yes? A criminal is also concerned about human well-being, but his idea of humanity is just himself. Somebody's idea of humanity is him and his family; somebody else's idea of humanity is him and his country; somebody else's includes the whole world.

Everybody is concerned about human well-being in different proportions. So one big thing that needs to happen with the youth and with everybody, is that their identification with humanity should not be limited to just themselves, and see that it includes a larger society and the larger world around them; this is missing in education today. Modern education is constantly training people only to think about themselves and nothing else but themselves. All the science that you see in the world — there is nothing wrong with the science itself — but the attitude, the way in which science is conducted is like, everything here is here only to be exploited for our well-being, isn't it so?

Now we destroy wantonly and then we talk about protecting the environment, then doing something else; all patch-up jobs, because the whole process of science is only about how to use everything for your comfort, for your benefit. So, initially, you use the planet, then the trees and plants, then the animals, then of course the human beings also. You use everybody for your comfort and well-being. That attitude has been deeply set with the process of modern education. So, as we are investing our time, resources and energies in transmitting informative knowledge, we have to invest a certain amount of time, energy and resources to inspire people — the inspirational dimension of education which is right now not there. Many years ago, this country, during the freedom struggle, inspired its population. Suddenly people were willing to come out and throw their lives on the street for the nation. In 50 years, we did not do any work about inspiring people and suddenly we are such a disgruntled and disoriented population.

-Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev

## Need to control burgeoning population

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

Population explosion hogged the news headlines due to the plain speaking of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Population as the human resource is an asset for any country but it becomes a big and dangerous liability for a country when it exceeds its limits and it is truer for India. The uncontrolled population is a ticking bomb and it can explode any time if it is not controlled and it can lead to very dangerous consequences if left uncontrolled. Therefore the right and sincere steps should be taken to control the ever growing population in India. The population of India is continuing to increase at the very fast rate and the country may surpass the population of China if not controlled. Our population at present is more than 140 crore and we add more and more numbers to it every day. Right from the day of freedom of the country and even before the freedom, the population of India has been increasing at a fast rate and threatening the development of the country. All the fruits of planned economic development stand nullified and consumed by the growing number of the population. The natural and productive resources of the country are limited and the growing population eats up these scarce resources and thus keeps the country underdeveloped. Every year we are adding the population of Australia to our population and we are growing a big number of babies and all the economic, social and technological and scientific development of the country is put at naught due to the increasing number of babies which we add every day to the stock of population. The ever increasing population is becoming an obstacle and hindrance in the overall development of the country and all our efforts of progress and development vanish in the thin air because of the increasing population. The increasing population is a drain on the state exchequer and the financial resources get retarded because of the increasing population. The schooling of the growing number of the children, the health services, water for drinking and other purposes, roads and buildings, housing and electricity and above all the balanced food is not made available to the growing population and it retards our march towards economic, social, scientific and overall development. Therefore if we have to grow and develop and be counted a developing economy, we have to control the increasing population so that the country is developed to its

fullest. Thus there is great and urgent need to control the population so that the fruits of the development reach to the last man in the queue and for this it is necessary to control the increasing population. On 11th July, the world including India has celebrated the world population day and on this day different programs were held across the country to celebrate this day. We have resolved to control the increasing population so that the growing population will not create obstacles to the country's development. Shortages of various items and crisis take place in the country thanks to the faster increase in our population. The power crisis, water crisis, food shortages, fuel crisis, health crisis etc are the fallouts of the increasing population. We fail to provide world class education and schooling to our children, the best health and hygiene services, good transport and road, good housing, etc to the people because of the increasing population. Our scarce natural and national resources do not increase in accordance with the increasing population, with the result these scarce resources are drained and cannot match ever increasing demand due to fast increasing population. Thus we fail to provide the scarce resources to the economy for its development because the growing population acts as a break and obstacle to development, with the result we are still a developing economy and cannot claim to be a developed country and economy. The growing unemployment problem, the problem of inflation and rising prices, poor and unbalanced diet and lower standard of living are the consequences and offshoots of increasing population. All our individual and collective efforts of national development pale into insignificance due to the increasing population. The problem of increasing population is in news these days because of the comment of UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath who has said that the population of a certain community is increasing very fast and posing a threat of demographic change in the state and he demands that a policy and law for the control of the increasing population. He has further said that the increasing population fuels the anarchy in the country and therefore it is necessary to control the increasing population in the interest of the country. But it is most unfortunate that every time population control is made a subject of Hindu-Muslim tussle and so this time as well the subject of population control is seen through the prism of the religion. The

Muslim community opposes the population control and they say that birth of children is related with the God and it is he, who makes arrangement for eating and living of the growing population. The Muslim community, by and large, is critical of the population control because they say that population is the gift of god and he alone makes all arrangements for the feeding and upkeep of the population and therefore it should not be interfered with. There is urgent need for the control of the increasing population so that the country will march on the path of development and the people will have healthy life. The population control and population policy should not be politicized and it should not be seen as a Hindu-Muslim subject. It is very disturbing that the population control is being politicized by the political strata and political parties because in the country everything and each thing is politicized and in the same manner increasing population and its control is politicized. The politicians should desist from politicking in the name of population control and let and allow the government to control the increasing population. There is need for a population policy and under this policy there should be the norm of one child and all those couples who give birth to only one child should be rewarded and encouraged and those who give birth to two or more children should be debarred from contesting any election from the local bodies to the parliament. The government should take necessary steps to control the increasing population so that it will not increase at a fast rate and does not become an impediment to national development. The family welfare and control should be exercised under the directions of the family welfare department and it should be entrusted with the duty of family welfare and family control so that there is break on the growing number of babies in the interest of the nation. The population control should not be made a subject and debate of Hindu-Muslim issue because it has to do nothing with the religion. All those who believe in the nation's development should rise above Hindu-Muslim angle and not view the population control as Hindu-Muslim issue but let the government to control the increasing population in the national interest. A coherent population policy is the need of the hour and so government should frame a new population policy so that the control of increasing population becomes possible. The political parties and the politicians

should not see the increasing population and its control as a religious issue but a national issue which concerns all of us. There is urgent and great need for the law on population control in the country. The government should hold deliberations with all the political parties about population control and table a bill in the upcoming monsoon session of the parliament and make consensus in this regard and ensure the passing of the population control act. Thus both the population policy and the population control act in the light of the population policy should be framed and the population control act should be passed in the parliament so that the population of the country is controlled in the interest of the nation. The population control Act is the prime and basic need of the country and therefore the law to control population should be passed in the parliament so that the monster of population is controlled. No forceful way should be used to control the increasing population. We have seen and experienced it during the rule of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi that force was used to control the increasing population as during those days people were by force sterilized and this back fired. There is need for voluntary family welfare and planning. No force should be used to control the population. The population control law should be passed in the parliament with the consensus and support of all the political parties so that there is least opposition to the population control law. Population education and awareness about the benefits of population control should be given to the people through population education. The population education should be taught as a subject of study in schools, colleges and universities to impart information and awareness about the benefits of small families to the young students so that at later date they will come forward to voluntarily undergo population control. The population education is very important to impress the young couples to voluntarily accept and exercise family welfare and family control. To conclude it can be said that the increasing population is a hydra headed giant and it should be tamed to control population. All of us should cooperate with the government in the national task of controlling of the growing population so that India as well will become a developed nation in the days to come.

(The author is a Columnist and Social-Activist.)

## Reinventing relationship with elephants

■ VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

World Elephant Day is observed to bring the world together to help elephants. Elephants are among the most intelligent of the creatures with which we share the planet, with complex consciousnesses that are capable of strong emotions. Across Africa they have inspired respect from the people that share the landscape with them, giving them a strong cultural significance. India is one of the seventeen mega diverse countries of the world. Elephants have enjoyed a special place in India's culture and tradition. They were used as a means of transport for the royalties and to fight battles, as has been captured by various frescoes. Most important, however, is the status of the elephant as a deity in the form of Lord Ganesha. For over 70 per cent of the population, elephants hold religious importance. It is disappointing to learn that today only about 27,000 wild elephants remain in India, as opposed to a million a decade ago as indicated by research. Human-elephant conflict is a major conservation concern in elephant range countries. A variety of management strategies have been developed and are practiced at different scales for preventing and mitigating human-elephant conflict. The elephant popu-

lation has been declining for decades. This is due to several factors, such as habitat loss, human conflict, and hunting. Elephants are considered to be the most intelligent of all animals after humans. They are very social creatures that live in herds led by a 'matriarch'. The leading female of the herd is called the 'matriarch'. They help maintain the health of forests by distributing seeds by roaming over great distances.

Elephants have been a part of human society for thousands of years. Humans have been both aiding and hurting elephants for centuries. In many stories, humans and elephants live in harmony as friends. Humans have always taken advantage of the incredible strength and endurance of elephants. Elephants are necessary for the survival of forest ecosystems, and indeed many creatures. Asian elephant numbers have dropped by at least 50 per cent over the last three generations, and they're still in decline today. With only 40,000-50,000 left in the wild, the species is classified as endangered. An elephant is killed every 15 minutes and now some believe that in 12 years the elephant population will be extinct. Poachers kill about 20,000 elephants every single year for their tusks, which are then traded illegally in the international market

to eventually end up as ivory trinkets. This trade is mostly driven by demand for ivory in parts of Asia. The poaching trade began in earnest in 1971, when a severe drought killed 9,000 elephants in a Kenyan game reserve. Neighbours of the park moved in to collect ivory. In recent years, the number of elephant killings due to poaching has decreased, largely due to the worldwide ban (since 1990) on the trade of ivory. However, the illegal trade continues, and as long as it does, poachers will be a part of it. Today, witnessing a herd of elephants is becoming increasingly uncommon; as more and more elephants die prematurely every year. The illegal trade in ivory is one of the greatest threats to elephants today. Elephants are long-lived animals, and their survival depends upon regular migration over large distances to search for food, water, and social and reproductive partners. Too many elephants are getting killed in conflicts with humans! We simply cannot allow them to disappear from the face of this earth. Without the proper conservation of elephant survival we will see a drastic shift in the environment. Today as our physical world is changing fast, it is important to take a moment to reflect on and reinvent our relationship with elephants.

## Fragrance of Freedom

■ VIJAY GARG

There is perhaps no need to mention the importance of freedom separately, because there have been so many ups and downs in its hunger all over the world. Its form has also changed according to the times and contexts. But what is the prevalent 'freedom' we talk about in today's era, and what is its meaning? Where does it begin, whose freedom? According to my opinion, it is necessary to know first that freedom is not a limited thing in a person. By connecting person to person, a strand of flowers is formed. Our freedom is tied to someone else's freedom. If we are free to speak, write and act according to our wishes, then the person in front should also be free. Only then will the concept of freedom blossom in its pure form. Exploitation, oppression, dishonesty etc. hurt the concept of freedom, because it gives birth to inequality, the biggest enemy of freedom. The question is where freedom begins, from Parliament, from the Constitution or from within ourselves. The constitution is saying that we are citizens of a free country. But, if you are free, how much? Total or a little? Or someone has taken away your freedom! Extremist, patient, lenient and intransigent man corrupts the spirit of freedom by encroaching not only in his own life but also in the lives of others. Such people break the rules or symbols of freedom from their extremism while walking on the road. Driving in the wrong lane on the road makes freedom a wrong turn. Unnecessarily honking horns keep you sleepy about the concept of freedom. Their work is most important. Secondly, to be able to do their work on time. If we are also among these people, then the free winds of freedom cannot pass through these narrow paths of our thinking. If you want to realize the true meaning of freedom in your personal life, then one has to make one's personality complete. A personality, in which there is a combination of understanding and human consciousness, sociability, compassion and above all love. Real freedom teaches us to love each other. Now one of us may wonder what the relationship between freedom and love is relation. As a citizen of a free country, you should be aware of not only your rights but also your duties. You don't want on the road, let the law run. The system should work and in a densely populated country like India, patience, restraint and a little understanding also prevail. Big old people and school children are standing on the other side of the road so what does our freedom say? Will continue to gallop while sitting on the car or stop the car and allow them to cross the road. Will give time. Or our free thought also says that get out of the car and go hold that old woman's hand and make her cross the road. We must have often seen in many videos of social media that when a squirrel or duck is crossing the road with its family, the vehicles on foreign roads stop behind several meters. Why? Sitting in an expensive car, man often stops looking at humans too and who are these people who are stopping to see squirrels and ducks. These are the same people who know that only man has the exclusive right to freedom. Freedom is the fragrance that spreads in the air, from which the greatness rises every day. Our freedom is also in allowing the squirrels to cross the road safely. It is also in keeping the plants on the roadside safe. Freedom is also in that sisters and daughters who came out of the house at night should be comfortable and safe. Elders living in the house can sleep peacefully at night. Loudspeaker should not infringe on anyone's freedom. Don't let the smell of our house reach someone else's nose. Fly my kite with a string of responsibility and don't slit anyone else's throat. So the meaning of saying that freedom is somewhere born under self control. Independence does not mean putting firecrackers on the tails of dogs on night of Diwali. Nor does freedom lie in shouting ho-ho while flying kites all day long on 15th August and cutting feathers of voiceless birds with a Manja. Freedom is a responsibility. There is a call to keep your behavior restrained. He inspires change in the society through his conduct. Indeed, freedom is a beautiful idea. Just like a flower. If this idea is not polished after washing it, then it becomes filthy and withers.

## YOUR COLUMN

## Exploitation of PM package employees

Dear Editor,

Entire country is celebrating 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' to mark the 75th birth anniversary of India's Independence and subsequently 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign is gaining momentum day by day to promote awareness among people about the National Flag. On the one side the nation is gearing up to celebrate the 75th Independence day while on the other side Kashmiri Pandit PM package employees - the victims of genocide are agitating and protesting for the last 91 days in support of their relocation demand. To be more precise, these patriotic sons of soil are struggling for their survival and are begging to the government to ensure their 'Right to Life'. They are demanding their immediate relocation to Jammu province as they feel total threatened and insecure in Kashmir after the gruesome killing of one of their colleague at Chadoora Budgam on May, 12 this year. But the indifferent centre government seems to be less interested in resolving the sad plight of KP package employees. It has been highly observed that present Union government and previous successive regimes in J&K have only exploited need, urges and helplessness of Kashmiri Pandit package employees. Initially, the economic package for Kashmiri migrants came-up with no agreement/ bond but very cleverly the then tyrannical J&K government amended this PM's job package with the authoritarian package bond thereby exploiting the package employees to the hilt. In addition to this, the

sufferings and woes of PM package employees have always been overlooked and disregarded by the previous successive regimes in J&K and still the BJP centre government is busy in showcasing the false normalcy image of new Kashmir. However, the fact of the matter is that the BJP's balloon of normalcy has completely punctured in Kashmir as is evident from the fact that from the last 19 months attacks on Hindu minorities and other non-locals are happening day in and day out. Thousands of Kashmiri Pandit package employees have already fled to Jammu in wake of selective and targeted killings of Hindu minorities. The BJP centre government has only exploited the pain of Kashmiri Pandits without actually having done anything for them materially. It has become a practice for BJP to use KPs for only garnering votes in other states but on ground zero the Kashmiri Pandits in general and package employees in particular are being used as laboratory objects for experimentation purpose. After abolishing Article 370, nothing much has changed in J&K with regard to the security scenario. Moreover, the terrorists have changed their modus operandi and thus are they selectively killing Hindu minorities and other non-locals in Kashmir.

If the centre government is really serious in safeguarding the interests of Kashmiri Pandit package employees, then the government must take immediate corrective measures in this regard and order the temporary adjustment/attachment of all package employees to Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner's Migrant office Jammu till normalcy limps back to Kashmir.

Vivek Koul,  
Gole Gujral, Jammu.