

The Tribune

ESTABLISHED IN 1881

Conduct of elections

Good but not good enough

WHILE the Election Commission is entitled to pat itself on the back for the electoral exercise in five states, it would have been much better had the task at hand been finished in a less laid-back way, in a shorter time, with a little more objectivity and a tad greater assertion of its authority. At the end of it, sadly, the Election Commission's performance of its constitutional obligation does not measure up to the expectations built over the years. Questions have been raised over the needless stretching of the poll process in Uttar Pradesh to seven phases. This pointless dragging of the election, tiresome for politicians, voters, media as well as official machinery, forced a look back at the year 2002 when the UP poll was done with in just three phases with paraphernalia which now would have been considered inadequate and obsolete. Law and order also was not as tolerable as today. Even in 2014 the elections were held in the entire country in nine phases.

Being a serial complainant, AAP's questioning of the Election Commission's neutrality may be taken lightly, but apparently different yardsticks have been applied in tracking violations of the code of conduct. A case was registered against Rahul Gandhi, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat and a Congress candidate for holding a road show in Haridwar beyond the sanctioned time limit. Nothing wrong with that. Political leaders, however, have complained that the Election Commission did not show similar enthusiasm for rule enforcement when a Prime Minister road show was organised in Varanasi without its permission, when Narendra Modi made the kabristan-shamshan remark or when the government did not inform the EC of the budget date despite the model code of conduct being in force. An unusually indulgent Election Commission chose to overlook all that.

The Constitution grants the Election Commission special status, sufficient autonomy and powers so that it can discipline the rowdy crowd of politicians and law-breakers. One does not expect every Chief Election Commissioner to act or behave like T.N. Seshan but it is imperative the CEC's independence is not — and does not look — compromised. An Election Commission in awe of the ruling party dilutes its own constitutional position.

Extended maternity leave

Make the benefit available in unorganised sector too

ONLY 53 members took part in the debate preceding the amendment to the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, passed by the Lok Sabha on Thursday. Such indifference of our lawmakers towards women's issues is not uncommon. The new law, touted as progressive, that guarantees 26 weeks of paid maternity leave to women working in both public and private sectors, will eventually benefit only 10 per cent of the working women. As such India's record is dismal when it comes to women's participation in the workforce — 24.8 per cent in the rural sector and just 14.7 in urban areas — which is declining steadily due to persistence on the traditional gender norms despite a growing economy.

Some 85 per cent women work in the unorganised sector. In the present system, it is close to impossible for these women to enjoy these benefits. It is these women who need these benefits and protection the most. A high child mortality rate in India is closely associated with the over-worked, under-fed mother. The previous government had introduced the Indira Gandhi Matrivita Sahyog Yojana under the National Food Security Act, guaranteeing six weeks of maternity leave and a conditional cash transfer of Rs 6,000 to pregnant and lactating mothers. The project suffered due to delays. Till it does not reach the vast majority, any benefit provided for the workforce remains a cosmetic exercise.

Whether the larger maternity benefit reaches the 45 per cent female workforce in the organised sector that drop out mid-career due to family responsibilities would depend on the mindset of the employer. In a hire-and-fire job scenario, enabling laws may be viewed as a greater liability, further widening the gender disadvantage. The 25 per cent women workforce at the entry-level jobs gets reduced to 16 per cent at the mid-level and only 4 per cent make it to senior positions mainly because their biological clock clashes with career growth. Progressive laws are meant to bridge this disparity and should be implemented in the same spirit else a large workforce and its talent would go waste.

Thought for the Day

We do not see things as they are, we see things as we are. — Anaïs Nin

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tough decisions needed

Punjab's economic and social growth trajectory has suffered a steep decline over the last two decades, primarily due to lack of political vision, scourge of militancy and faulty policy-making and its shoddy implementation ('To turn the graph, bitter pill must', March 10). Populist and vote bank politics, substantial tax evasion, mammoth government machinery and rampant corruption have contributed to a burgeoning debt burden on the state exchequer. Inadequate public investment in various sectors has led to mass unemployment, illegal migration, drug addiction and farmer and labour suicides. Rather than focusing on short-term political gains in the future, the new state dispensation is required to be efficient, transparent, accountable and citizen-friendly. The new government should take tough, prudent policy decisions to stem the pervasive rot in agriculture, industry and the service sector. Restoration of the fiscal health of the state will ensure its overall development and well-being of its people.

DS KANG, HOSHARPUR

Be a watchdog

The day of reckoning for Punjab has arrived and if exit poll pundits are correct, the state is going to be governed by the Congress or the AAP. The SAD-BJP combine, which ruled the state for 10 years, is likely to bite the dust. It is time for people to make the new ruling dispensation accountable to the electorate from the beginning. They should read the party manifesto minutely and monitor the promises made therein. It is the duty of every voter to question his/her representative about pending works. The public has to work like a watchdog and not let the leaders sleep over the promises they made for votes.

SHEMSHER B SINGH, AMRITSAR

Patit row

Apropos 'Sirsra dera row: Patit leaders may be let off' (March 10), ground is being prepared to let off Akali leaders accused of hobnobbing with Dera Sacha Sauda in the run-up to the state Assembly elections. The SAD has been feeding the Panthic opium to the masses since its inception and asking for

Indians' killing in US

Cause for deep concern

S NIHAL SINGH

A STRING of shootings in the US targeting Indians or persons of Indian origin in recent weeks is an ominous development. It exemplifies some of the circumstances that won Mr Donald Trump the presidential election.

In essence, the revolt against the elite by white blue-collar workers made redundant by technology has ballooned into a wider movement that has distinct shades of racism and a growing fear among whites they will become minorities in their own country, thanks to the waves of immigrants from Asia and Africa. The US has its own black population and although Mr Barack Obama's two-term presidency was the first black man to hold the post was a water mark for American democracy, ironically it led to greater fears among whites of the shape of things to come.

The anti-migrant atmosphere is different from the mood created by the notorious bombing of New York Towers on 9/11 in which Sikhs were made the target of attacks assuming that they were Muslims from the Middle East. The present is a darker mood encompassing grievances of white men of limited education with a broader sweep of prejudices against people they believe largely belong to a self-serving elite.

In historical terms, the US has had periods of isolation and moods of emphasising self-interest above everything else — Mr Trump's motto of 'America First'. But the American post-World War II consensus of a liberal society helping West Europe stand up in its enlightened self-interest had become the face of Uncle Sam. True, US interventions in the Middle East to further its strategic interests were largely disastrous, with consequences the West and the world are living with today. But the picture of America was otherwise largely benign.

No longer. Today the question boils down to how far and how long this process of turning American values on their head will last. Trade and



UNREST GROWS: Will the world have to reset its view of the US?

immigration are two areas President Trump is emphasising. In relation to the first, he has already nixed the Pacific partnership proposal painfully built by the Obama administration and is seeking to renegotiate other agreements. As for the latter, he has issued a new executive order affecting six of the seven largely Muslim countries he had targeted falling foul of the law and has hinted at a new point system for immigrants.

Mr Viktor Orban of Hungary has pleaded for an 'illiberal democracy',

reached new levels. The widow of Srinivas Kuchibhotla, the Indian engineer shot by a white in Kansas after telling him to go home, asked a very pertinent question, 'Do we belong here?' Many old-time residents will be rethinking their future in the US and the number of Indian students enrolling in American universities will come down, many of the aspiring students already having second thoughts.

In racial terms, there is less to fear in polyglot hubs like New York and Washington. The danger lies disproportion-

Indeed, the racial divide in America is deepening and the somewhat exaggerated fear of whites becoming a minority at some point in the future is likely to become a warning signal

but the US is far from reaching that goal even if Mr Trump were so inclined. American democratic institutions are sturdy and the courts will guard the citizens' rights and liberty. But the present phase has certainly placed liberal America on the defensive as Mr Trump continues to pull populist strings to bring to the fore the dark side of America.

Can America become an illiberal society? Racial profiling seems to be seeping into wider American consciousness while Islamophobia has

ately in Middle America swayed by old and new prejudices. The average American is largely illiterate in international affairs, for him or her, there is no difference between an Indian and a Syrian. They are both non-Europeans of a darker shade and, in his or her view, profess the Islamic faith.

The question Indian residents in America and their loved ones at home will be asking themselves is: how long will this illiberal trend last? Judging by Mr Trump's support base and his compulsion to satisfy its craving, there is

The name of the rose

RATNA RAMAN

A ROSE by any other name, would smell as sweet,' declared Shakespeare's Juliet. Illustrating the intrinsic worthiness of Romeo, who belonged to a family feuding with Juliet's clan, the metaphor serves to highlight the arbitrary nature of language, because the rose could have been named differently.

Juliet's 'prescience' (foreknowledge) is admirable because fragrances distilled from rose petals are now bought by innumerable perfumeries and sold under different brands all over the world.

Gertrude Stein's observation that 'a rose is a rose is a rose' emphasises that the rose has an unmistakable identity and evokes a certain set of associations that have now become specific to it as a universally familiar flower. Despite such classification, complexities abound. Red roses rep-



resent love while white roses represent innocence. Juliet compares Romeo to a rose while Elton John's song eulogises the late princess Diana as the English Rose. Roses, however, weren't always English in origin. History tells us that along with tulips, they arrived in England as gifts from the Ottoman Empire and were subsequently appropriated.

The attention that roses command often leads us to ignore other flowers. Thomas Gray observed: 'Full many a flower is born to blush unseen and waste its sweetness on the desert air.' New Delhi's colourful roundabouts and parks ensure that thousands of flowers bloom in spring, acknowledg-

ing Wordsworth's claim that 'the meanest flower that blows, can give rise to thoughts' and feelings of an intense nature.

Flowers abound en route to the airport, in pots, on terraces and lawns in public spaces and in private homes and on trees and shrubs. With many names and multiple colours, flowers represent beauty and distinct possibilities for pollination, honey, decoration, adornment, adoration, mourning and celebration. Children, youth, beauty and evanescence are all associated with flowers. The word 'bloom' functions as both verb and noun, pretty much like the word 'rose' (past tense of rise).

A late bloomer is applied not merely to flowering plants that take long to bloom. It also refers to delayed achievement of potential in the case of young people. 'Blooming' (adverb), often used interchangeably with blossoming, refers to the opening up of buds into flowers. A

little prospect of seeing better times soon. A video of Chinese students complaining of racial discrimination in the US has gone viral. Indeed, the racial divide in America is deepening and the somewhat exaggerated fear of whites becoming a minority in the country at some point in the future is likely to become a warning signal.

There is little that India can do to alleviate the situation. It has made a plea for retaining the H-1B visa plan in computer-related work dominated by Indians, to little effect. For Mr Trump seeking more jobs for his countrymen and women is a campaign promise and a crowd-pleasing gesture. Inevitably, the army of Indian computer workers in the US will thin, many opting to return home or seek other pastures.

However, the wider questions thrown up by Mr Trump's policies are of greater import. Will the world have to reset its view of the US? Some of the more extravagant sweeps in the foreign policy field in particular the US President has withdrawn, among them are questioning the One China policy, viewing NATO as obsolete and withdrawing the American nuclear umbrella in favour of Japan and South Korea going nuclear. Indeed, his senior cabinet ministers' first job has been to undertake fence-mending exercises to reassure allies that they still counted.

There are no such compulsions in modifying Mr Trump's rhetoric on the darker urges of sections of the American people which has also seen signs of anti-Semitism, Israel otherwise being the most American-coddled nation in the world. As right-wing populism has made strides in Britain and other European countries and is now having a revival in America, the space for non-whites will progressively diminish.

If more Indians are not packing up just yet, they are anxiously watching the trends. President Trump's belated reaction to the Kansas killing was one marker. It is proper for the US State Department to condemn the Kansas and other killings but it has failed the Indian community's foreboding.

votes in the name of religion. Many times, it has tricked gullible people by spreading the falsehood that the Panth is in danger unless they vote for the SAD. Whose agenda are they now advancing by choosing their leaders and giving tickets to patit leaders? Akal Takht seems to be making the task of the SAD easier by offering an escape route to those who are supposed to be Panthic and can afford to be patit Sikhs as well. Why did Akal Takht summon the head of the dera, a non-Sikh, earlier in a blasphemous act against the Sikh Guru? It's a marriage of convenience.

COL BS BHULLAR (RETD), AMRITSAR

AAP budget

Refer to the editorial 'AAP ke liye' (March 10), though the AAP could not implement several of its earlier poll promises like employment generation, free WIFI and provision of CCTVs to keep Delhi safe, it still has kept the hopes of the common citizens alive. The message through the budget is clear that the common man must have access to affordable system of quality education, health,

water, transport, etc. The focus on these basics is undoubtedly the basis of all-round development but continuous populist approach of any government results in exhausted state exchequer and vicious debt traps. The financial resources of a government must be replenished by way of revision of taxes or levying of new taxes. Since the AAP is focusing on its expansion in other states too, this budget can be interpreted as showcasing of its general manifesto to gain political mileage. For now, one hopes that it succeeds in implementing its proposals, free from the LG effect.

VIJAY KUMAR, CHAMBA

Respect women

Women are the real architects of society, but as our world becomes more unpredictable and chaotic, women rights are being restricted. Women are routinely intimidated and harassed in cyberspace, as also in real life. Despite some improvements, the gender gap on the economic front is widening. Gender equality has a transformational effect on communities, economies and soci-

eties. It's up to a woman if she wishes to be career-driven, competing with men at workplace, or to stay at home. It's time men start respecting a woman's choice.

BHAVIKA JAIN, BY MAIL

Sensitise men

Insipid of the Women's Day hype, a woman is looked down upon by many. A 13-year-old of Pokhariya village in Bhagalpur had to lose an eye for resisting rape by a 22-year-old. Women empowerment is highly talked about, but we fail to inculcate in men respect for women. Even if the rape accused is arrested and punished, it will not bring back the victim's vision. So, men should be educated to treat woman equally rather than something to take out their sexual frustration on.

SUJAY DEY, KHARAR

Quota illogical

The reasons which support the reservation system are mere excuses. We are rationalising the irrational. There is no justification in taking a student who got 43 marks and rejecting one

with 108 marks. This caste discrimination has now shifted to other castes. We should increase the sex ratio, but it does not mean we should kill boys. To abolish caste discrimination, moral values should be instilled. Reservation is not a solution. It is like smoking, we know it is bad, but still enjoying it. It also reveals the weakness of PM Modi. He too does not have the courage to lose this huge vote bank.

ANIKET THAKUR, HIMACHAL

Bus manners

I am a school student and would like to draw the attention of the readers to basic manners while boarding a crowded bus. People push one another in a scramble for seats, lean on windows, talk loudly on their cellphones and play loud music, which disturbs fellow passengers. To board a bus, people should stand in a queue, and allow the handicapped and the elderly to get in first. We should take care of these little things which will go a long way in preventing accidents and keeping tempers under control.

MOHNISH BANSAL, BARNALA

AGENDA FOR PUNJAB-6

Need to drive down roads less taken

MANOJ KUMAR TEOTIA

THE potentially positive role of urbanisation has been overshadowed in Punjab because of deterioration in the physical environment and quality of life in urban areas. The state has been facing many challenges in this sector, such as unplanned and rapid urbanisation, growth of slums, housing shortage/homelessness, poverty, inequality, unemployment, migration, informalisation, poor access to basic services, segregation of the urban poor and poor quality of local governance.

Major share of the blame for this may be laid on the lack of a state-level policy to address the growing concerns relating to rapid and unplanned urbanisation and haphazard growth of urban areas, because of which the urban environment, particularly in large cities, is deteriorating very rapidly.

Preparation of a 'state-level urbanisation strategy/urban development policy' is, thus, the need of the hour to promote equitable urbanisation and growth in the state. The formulation of such a policy may keep the following concerns in mind:

RESTRUCTURE PLANNING

Planning is an important issue largely ignored in urban areas of Punjab. Ward committees and district planning committees must be engaged effectively for participatory planning at the local, city/village and district levels. There is plurality of urban

development agencies and multiplicity of urban laws/legal frameworks dictating the process of urban planning, development and management. There is thus need for rationalisation and restructuring of the planning agencies and existing legal frameworks, and merger of development authorities or improvement trusts with the urban local bodies (ULBs).

There also has to be a greater role for elected representatives and the ULBs in the planning process. Preparation and implementation of better master/zonal plans by a dedicated nodal agency, creation of legal frameworks for preparing regional plans, and engaging of land owners for adequate supply of land for development, land pooling and land distribution will be required. The FAR (floor area ratio) has to be rationalised, PPP models developed, potential of TDR (Transfer of Development Rights) exploited, and development charges rationalised to make developed land affordable.

There is a need to open more planning institutions and also promote use of information technology to improve the planning process through fast clearance of applications, improved operational efficiency in preparing better long and short-term plans for making cities sustainable, liveable, humane and productive.

STRENGTHEN LOCAL BODIES

Since Punjab is a laggard in terms of devolutions and democratic decentralisation, particularly in the context of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA), the strengthening of ULBs is must to cope with the growing issues of urbanisation, governance, development, poverty, etc. It is desirable to transfer funds, functions and functionalities

to ULBs in accordance with the 74th CAA. Their capacity building should be a major component of the urbanisation strategy. The creation of an enabling legal, financial and regulatory framework for ULBs is also crucial to manage urbanisation sustainably. Greater autonomy to ULBs is needed to mobilise own resources and resources from the capital market to enable them to tackle the growing challenges.

DEVELOP MEDIUM TOWNS

Increased focus is required on small and medium towns, which are spread evenly in almost all districts and have the potential to emerge as centres of economic growth and employment. The development of infrastructure and municipal services in such towns can check migration to larger urban areas. This will also help in decentralisation of economic growth and employment opportunities and in promoting planned and even urbanisation and development with better availability of serviced sites for housing, commercial and industrial uses. This also requires an adequate and efficient transport system connecting large and small towns/villages. Then efforts may be made to provide affordable housing to the people in peripheral towns. This could also help in providing cheaper settlements for urban poor.

DECONCENTRATE

There is a need to evolve policies that divert the trends in urbanisation from areas having higher concentration of population to areas with nominal levels of urbanisation. The Ferozepur-Sangrur-Bathinda triangle can be developed as an alternative to the ribbon growth pattern of the GT Road. The construction of road and rail corridors can help. Bringing more industries with some special packages can also attract people to this region. Four less urbanised districts of Moga, Faridkot, Muktsar and Mansa can be connected to this triangle to promote balanced growth of urbanisation. This may demand shift of existing

larger industries, establishment of new industrial areas, construction of new road/rail corridors to less urbanised areas by giving some tax benefits.

This will help in balanced urbanisation. New towns may be provided better housing and infrastructure facilities to attract industries, commercial establishments and migrants. Region specific growth corridors will enhance linkages among the urban and rural areas.

HOUSING THE POOR

Land in urban areas is skewed in favour of the rich. The percentage of slums to total urban population is high in Punjab (14.06%). The social composition of slums indicates that the proportion of SCs in slums is very high in Punjab (39.8%) compared to other states. Urban housing shortage is to the tune of 5.38 per cent with an estimated shortage of about 1.12 lakh houses. The housing problem is visible in homelessness (18,374 persons), single-room dwellings (25.3%), two-room dwellings (29.2%), semi-permanent (5.3%), temporary (1.8%), non-serviceable housing (0.7%) and rented houses (10.6%), etc.

Land, housing, slum development and poverty alleviation should be important components of the urbanisation strategy. The productivity of cities can only be strengthened by providing adequate infrastructure, housing and services to its workforce. The provision of proper living space will help check temporary and illegal structures on private and public lands. There is an urgent need to mitigate the negative impact of urbanisation. Area-specific economic framework may be evolved to promote equitable growth of urban areas.

The linking of rural and urban development strategies is crucial for sustainable development growth of the rural-urban continuum and checking uncontrolled migration of rural poor towards urban areas. Convergence of inter-sectoral schemes and policies is also crucial to develop harmony between different departments for better management.

Social development in urban areas should be an important agenda. The higher percentage of SCs in slums and among those without homes, with low literacy and low skills, is a serious concern and needs urgent policies for inclusive urban growth.

CENTRAL FUNDING

The major objectives of central initiatives such as the Smart Cities Mission, PMAY, HRIDAY, RURBAN Mission, NULM, etc, are: focused attention to integrated development; planned development of identified cities, including peri-urban areas, out-growths, urban corridors for dispersed urbanisation; adequate investment to meet deficiencies in the infrastructure and services; providing basic services to urban poor; urban renewal; and adequate livelihoods to address social, physical and economic vulnerabilities. The state government, with the help of professional urban experts, may chalk out 'city development plans' and a 'detailed project report' for all towns for accessing funds for integrated development of these urban centres.

PERIPHERY DEVELOPMENT

The government may evolve new schemes to plan growth of peripheral areas effectively, which is currently haphazard. Development of neglected peripheries will help to enhance the image of urban centres and quality of life.

AMENITIES IN RURAL AREAS

In the India Vision 2020 document, former President Abdul Kalam had propagated PURA (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas) to bridge the rural-urban divide through enhanced connectivity, i.e., physical, economic, knowledge, societal and electronic. The current regime has started the RURBAN Mission with almost similar objectives. Proper understanding and implementation of this mission and development of infrastructure and services as suggested will result in decentralised and uniform growth in Punjab. There is also a need to identify some rural corridors that may be developed as focal points for basic requirements of rural populations in neighboring villages. People will then not need to migrate to larger urban areas.

BACKWARD DISTRICTS

The urbanisation strategy may emphasise on backward districts (under the Backward Regions Grant Fund) and border towns. Another corridor like the GT Road or new rail networks like Chandigarh-Ludhiana may help to bring those districts on the development map. Special packages for infrastructure, housing, services, and special industrial and economic zones may be provided to the towns in backward and border districts.

ROAD AND RAIL CORRIDORS

Since the GT Road has attracted a large concentration of urban centres, it may work out to develop a similar corridor in the least urbanised regions of the state. This is required to decongest the cities located on the GT road. Since there seem to be close links between higher urbanisation along the GT Road/rail lines and industrialisation, it may be worth establishing similar links in less urbanised districts.

URBANISATION COMMISSION

A state-level urbanisation commission may be set up to periodically review the progress of the urbanisation strategy and implementation of the urban development policy to promote equitable urbanisation an economic growth in the state.

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URBANISATION

Shifting focus from the high-density to less-urbanised districts can benefit both. While neglected districts will benefit from better planning, it will also help relieve pressure on denser areas. The greater benefit, however, will be a more inclusive growth.

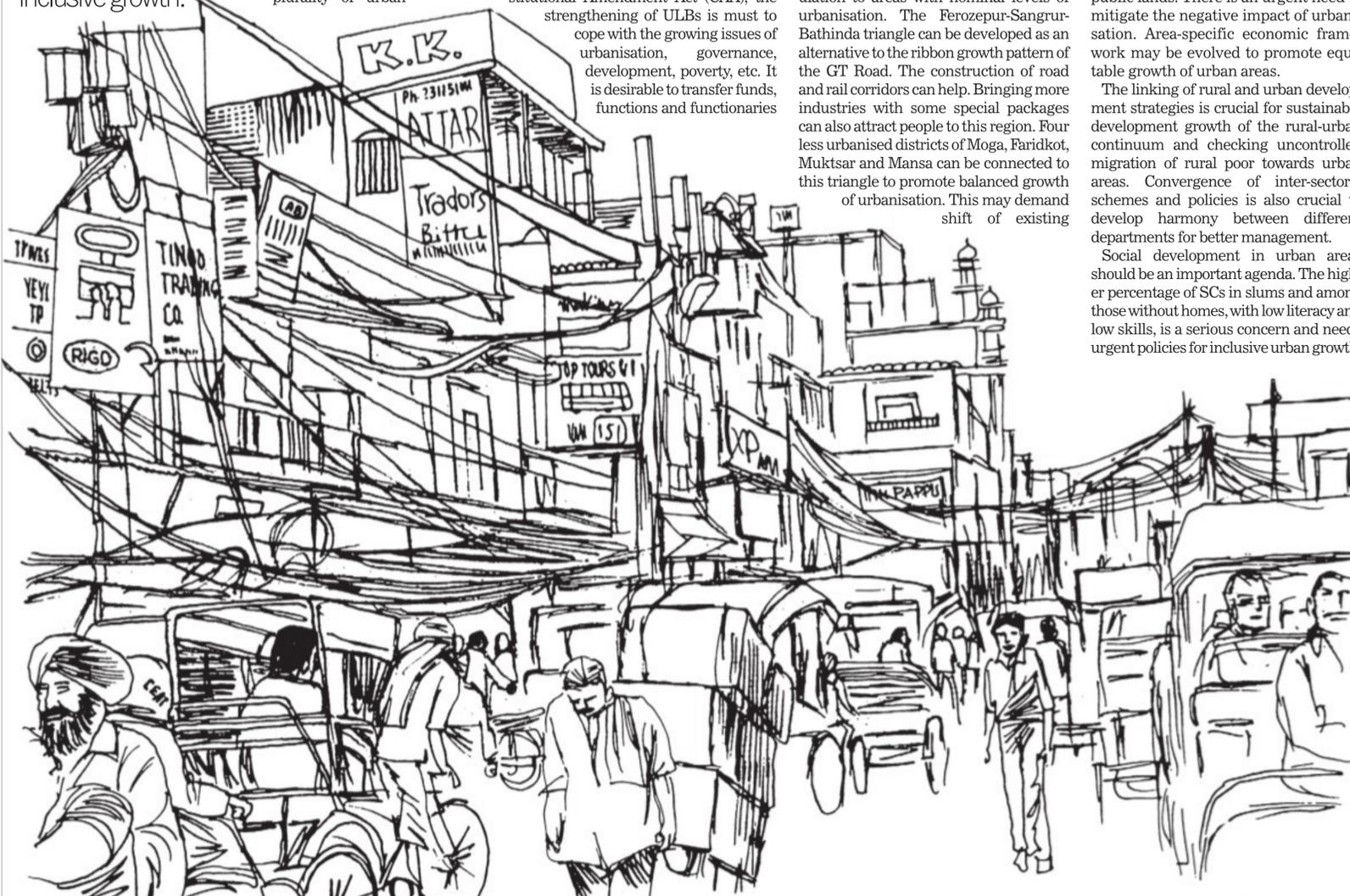


ILLUSTRATION: SANDEEP JOSHI

ON THIS DAY... 100 YEARS AGO

The Tribune.
 LAHORE, SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 1917

United States and India.
 THE *Bengalee* announces that Sir Rabindranath Tagore was recently presented with the Yale Bicentennial Medal at New Haven by the President of that well-known University who also made a speech admiring India's antiquity and its ancient learning. The University was found in 1770 by the benefaction of the Boston man of that name who was also Governor of Madras. The University President said: "To your country our scholars are indebted for a large source of their inspiration. For three-quarters of a century the classics of India have been taught in these halls and the Sanskrit students of W.D. Whitney are one of the brightest ornaments in Yale's scholastic crown. To your country we owe our local habitation and our name. Two centuries ago the Collegiate Schools of the Colony of Connection was firmly established in New Haven by the gifts of Governor Yale of Fort St. George; and the fortune which enabled him to make these gifts was acquired, perhaps not scrupulously, in the Indian peninsula."

Cinderella of the Punjab Colonies.
 WHILE reviewing the report of the Punjab Canal Colonies for the year ending September 1916, His Honour the Lieutenant Governor points out the unfavourable condition of the Upper Chenab Canal Colonies which he calls the "Cinderella of the Punjab Colonies." For large tracts of land do not receive canal water as was expected once and consequently they are less attractive to agriculturists. Many of the grantees have suffered and require to be shown special consideration. The present report, it would appear, is pessimistic as to the chances of success in colonising tracts where water supply is inadequate unless more water is made available through well irrigation.

QUICK CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8		9				
10				11	12	
13		14		15		16
17			18	19	20	
21	22					23
24					25	

- ACROSS**
 1 Principal (5)
 4 Level of society (7)
 8 Play a part (3)
 9 Accidental omission (9)
 10 Playhouse (7)
 11 Trust (5)
 13 Violent rush to attack (6)
 15 Vehicle used on snow (6)
 18 The devil (5)
 19 Make plans in
- DOWN**
 1 Utterly disorganised (7)
 2 Previously (2,3,4)
 3 Treat with contempt (5)
 4 Scandinavian country (6)
- ACROSS**
 advance (7)
 21 Lackey (9)
 23 Understand (3)
 24 Official punishment (7)
 25 Preliminary sketch (5)
- DOWN**
 2 Tranquil (7)
 6 Type of label (3)
 7 Sporting contest (5)
 12 Southeast Asian republic (9)
 14 Widespread (7)
 16 Basic feature (7)
 17 Small hole (6)
 18 Business depression (5)
 20 Inflexible (5)
 22 Put on (3)

SU DO KU

V. EASY

	5			4	2	8	
1		3	7		9	4	
	2		8			5	
4	7		1	8		2	
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	6			5	9	4	7
6					2		1
2		1			8	4	3
	3	5	9				7

Yesterday's solution

8	9	1	4	6	5	2	3	
7	4	5	8	2	3	1	6	9
6	2	3	1	9	7	5	8	4
4	6	8	3	1	2	9	7	5
3	1	7	6	5	9	2	4	8
2	5	9	7	8	4	3	1	6
1	3	2	9	4	6	8	5	7
9	8	6	5	7	1	4	3	2
5	7	4	2	3	8	6	9	1

FORECAST

SUNSET: 18:28 HRS
SUNRISE: 06:36 HRS

CITY	MAX	MIN
Chandigarh	19	10
New Delhi	25	13
PUNJAB		
Amritsar	18	10
Bathinda	22	10
Jalandhar	18	10
Ludhiana	18	10
Patiala	19	10
HARYANA		
Ambala	22	10
Bhiwani	24	11
Hisar	23	11
Karnal	23	11
Sirsa	23	10
HIMACHAL PRADESH		
Dharamsala	17	07
Manali	05	-02
Nahan	19	05
Shimla	10	-01
Solan	14	03
JAMMU & KASHMIR		
Jammu	20	09
Leh	02	-05
Srinagar	05	-01
UTTARAKHAND		
Dehradun	21	10
Mussoorie	13	04
Nainital	13	04

TEMPERATURE IN °C