

'Peace in mind, peace in heart'

I still remember the day in 1969 when I stepped in this enchanting city. I was a small town boy from Saurashtra and carried with me a flare of an accent which made me a laughing stock for some time. Studies were always a ladder hard to climb.

But the love for process, system and organisation always made my zeal to do something for this beautiful Banyan City stronger day by day. What amazed me the most about Vadodara was the rich culture, the value for sports, education system, cosmopolitan culture and various verticals in industry. I believe that it is an achievement for Vadodara that a process which drives the system prevails since the visionary Gaekwadi rule.

Be it educational programmes, religious ceremonies or positive initiatives by politicians and bureaucrats, the city has always come together to support these. Willingly taking initiatives, even for events like industrial exhibitions, marathons or any NGO events, the citizens of Banyan City are always enthusiastically ready with a broad smile. The city stays together and grows together.

Be it traffic related issues, social responsibility or calamities at city, state or even national level, I have seen Vadodara standing up and sprinting to be the first to support.

The city is centrally located with good connectivity. It has the highest number of public sector units in Gujarat. It has numerous Guinness and Limca Book of World Records in its kitty. The city and the municipal corporation have earned awards at state and national levels. It is considered Asia's 'electrical hub' with multinationals selecting Vadodara as their prime destination. In the city which boasts the iconic Maharaja Sayajirao University, we

have prominent Padmashree and Padmavibhushan dignitaries too.

I firmly believe that in the developing cities of India, Vadodara plays a very critical role. And in economic growth and development in emerging trends would be sufficed by Vadodara.

Even the second innings of life for the retired people is thoroughly cherished in this city. And while talking about safety, the city caters footfall of more than 40,000 to 50,000 girls during Navratri. It is known for 'no late night fears for women'.

There are always some missing links and challenge in some sectors, but the city learns to improvise. The city has learned to prosper. This city has overwhelmingly supported seven mega industrial

exhibitions which registered more than five lakh footfalls in the five-day event. Even the eighth exhibition is set to be a grand success. This reflects the support which the city shows to such initiatives.

'Peace in Mind and Peace in Heart' is why I love Vadodara.

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