

India's many bright sides

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Re: The dark side of India, letters, May 4.

Those critical of Indian society fail to consider the rough neighbourhood that India resides in. India's human rights record and free society represent a startling contrast to the oppressive nature of her neighbours, Islamic Pakistan and communist China. And when compared to the rest of the developing world -- which is dominated by dictatorships and theocracies -- the Indian model is clearly superior.

Thomas Mueller claims in his letter that human rights abuses by security forces in Kashmir are fuelling the conflict there. Most neutral observers agree that terrorist forces from Islamic Pakistan are the real culprits in this conflict.

Deepinder Gill, however, is correct in quoting the Indian politician Ali Jinnah's view that Hindus and Muslims belong to conflicting civilizations. The concept of partition was that Muslims would all reside in Pakistan, while Hindus and Sikhs lived in India. The continuing presence and rapid growth of 150 million Muslims in India, combined with Islamic-majority Pakistan's constant meddling, ensures the destabilization and endangerment of the Indian miracle.

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