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Fortnightly Magazine

Editor

Prabhat Jha, MP

Executive Editor

Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi

Editorial Team

**Ram Prasad Tripathy
Vikash Anand**

Creative Editor

Vikas Saini

Subscription

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Contact

Phone : +91(11) 23381428

Fax : +91(11) 23387887

Subscription : +91(11) 23005798

e-mail

kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in

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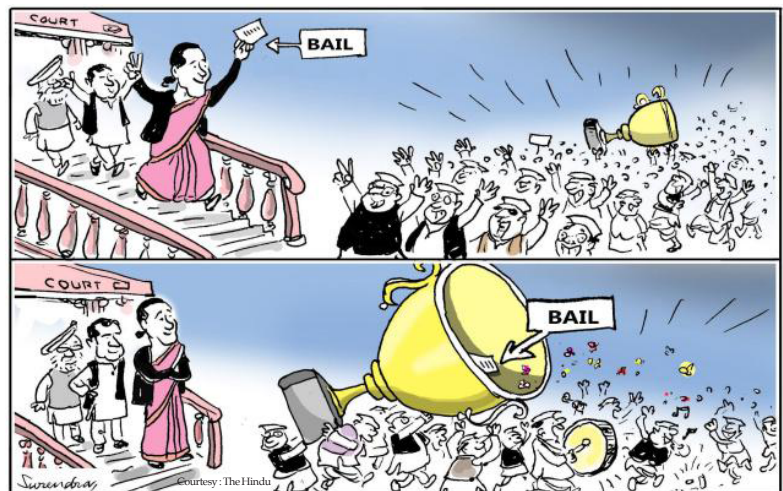
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One should understand that actions originate from the Vedic scriptures, the Vedic scriptures originate directly from the Supreme Lord; therefore the all prevailing Ultimate Truth is established eternally in performing sacrifice unto the Supreme Lord.
—(Bhagavadgita : Ch.-III, 15)

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"Sensitivity has to be a vital element of policing. Police forces should establish strong links with local communities & connect with people."

-Narendra Modi

"BJP government is not for luxury but for the welfare of backward, downtrodden and poor."

-Amit Shah

Makarsankranti / Pongal : January 15, 2015

Makar Sankranti is one of the most auspicious day for the Hindus worldwide, and is celebrated with great devotion. It is a major harvest festival celebrated in every part of India. On this day the sun ends its southward journey (Dakshinayana) at the Tropic of Capricorn, and starts moving northward (Uttarayaana) towards the Tropic of Cancer, in the month of Pausha on this day in mid-January. It falls around mid January every year according to the Solar Calendar.

Lakhs of people take dip in places like Ganga Sagar and Prayag and other holy places of the country. Makar Sankranti is celebrated with pomp in southern parts of the country as Pongal, and in Punjab it is celebrated as Lohri and Maghi. In Peethas of Lord Jagannath and Tara Tarini in Odisha this festival is observed as Makara/Nabanki and 'Uttarayana Yatra'.

In Uttar Pradesh, Makar Sankrant is called Khichiri. Taking a dip in the holy rivers on this day is regarded as most auspicious. A big one-month long Magha-Mela fair begins at Prayag (Allahabad) on this occasion. Apart from Triveni, ritual bathing also takes place at many holy places of the country. In Bengal every year a very big Mela is held on this occasion at Ganga Sagar where it is believed that Maharaja Bhagiratha, performed great penance to bring the Ganga down to the earth for the redemption of 60,000 sons of Maharaj Sagar, who were burnt to ashes at the Kail Muni Ashram, near the present day Ganga Sagar.

It was on this day that Bhagirath finally did Tarpan with the Ganges water for his unfortunate ancestors and thereby liberated them from the curse. In Gujarat on the Makar Sankrant there is a custom of giving gifts to relatives and kite flying. The Gujarati Pundits on this auspicious day grant scholarships to students for higher studies in astrology and philosophy. Kite flying has also been associated with this festival in a big way in Gujarat. ■





Congress cannot think beyond dynasty

Finally, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi had to appear in the court and take bail. It became clear that no one is above law and the courts cannot be intimidated by obstructing the parliament. As summons were issued in National Herald case by the court, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi tried to seek exemption from personal appearance from the High Court. The problem started when the High Court in a detailed 27-page order while rejecting the grant of exemption directed both of them to appear in the court. In a bizarre move the Congress chose to obstruct the functioning of the parliament calling it a political battle. Even in the face of negative public mood it continued to stall parliament on one pretext or the other. It led to blocking of several crucial bills which could have expedited the process of development in the country. Congress has pushed itself on the suicidal path by acting against the public mood and democratic ethics. Its hope to gain from negative politics stands no chance as people have always stood by positive politics in the country.

The statement of Rahul Gandhi that the PMO was behind High Court judgment further shows the utter contempt of Congress for democratic institutions. It is not only an attack on the PMO but also an assault on judiciary which is held in high esteem by the people of India. It bares the same mindset of the Congress which had no qualms in imposing emergency in the country and no regret for muzzling democratic voices. It is the mindset which considers 'dynasty' to be sacrosanct and ready to attack even the court to protect its interests. The nation has rarely seen Congressmen coming out on the street on any major national issue but if the 'dynasty' is in the dock then Congressmen are seen brazenly competing to prove their loyalty. The loyalty for 'dynasty' is above and over everything. The culture of sycophancy nurtured and nourished by the 'dynasty' has now become its weakest point. This is why the Congress is registering continuous decline and its support base now stands eroded to the irreparable extent. The manner in which the parliament was obstructed has further exposed the Congress which prefers to keep the 'dynastic interests' over and above the interests of the nation.

The National Herald case is in the court where the issue will be decided. Any sane person who knows the Indian constitution would say that the issue is outside the purview of the parliament. To block parliament on the issue is not only to question the integrity of the judiciary but an attempt to coerce it into submission. This is in a way denial of independence of the judiciary and openly raises fingers at its ability to deliver justice. Can judiciary be influenced? Can its judgment be twisted to serve someone's political interests? It is something which is beyond the imagination in the country. The Congress should desist from inflicting grave damage to higher institutions on which people have faith and this faith has been a crucial component in our democratic system. Such kind of short sighted politics may cause long term damage to our political system. Congress should rise above its petty interests and dynastic politics and think in the interest of broader issues at the national level.

The people have voted out Congress in such a way that it is now in no position to even disrupt the Lok Sabha but it is able to stall the functioning

of the Rajya Sabha. Congress has failed to learn any lessons from its drastically reduced strength in Lok Sabha and the days are not far away when it will get even reduced in the Rajya Sabha. Congress should know that people are watching it. Congress is not only stalling the parliament, it's creating obstructions in the path of development. It is stalling the progress of the nation. It cannot think beyond 'dynasty' and its interests. For Congressmen 'dynasty' cannot be questioned and their acts cannot be a subject of scrutiny. For them they are above law of the land and their appearance in the court is a 'merciful act' for which nation should be grateful to them. The nation should be grateful because they have 'respected' the law. Such kind of mindset is only expediting the downfall of the Congress and their act to stall parliament is the result of the same mindset. Nation is watching them and they will teach Congress lesson again in the days to come. ■

All the charges imposed on Arun Jaitley are baseless and beyond truth : Amit Shah

Statement of BJP National President

Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley is an honest and devoted leader and even opponents avoid to make allegation on his integrity. His public life is like an open book and it is dedicated to the country. DDCA dispute charges on him are baffling because he had no involvement in the day-to-day activities of DDCA otherwise also as SFIO stated in its report. All the charges imposed on Shri Jaitley are baseless and beyond truth.



Consequently, defending Shri Arun Jaitley BJP National President Shri Amit Shah said on 21 December 2015, it is a conspiracy to discredit Shri Jaitley.

He said, AAP has constituted an inquiry panel on alleged DDCA controversy and called a special session of the Assembly

on the same issue. How DDCA comes in the purview of investigation, it is a legal matter. The entire process adopted by AAP is an exercise to deflect attention from the criminal defamation suit filed on AAP leaders by Shri Jaitley .

Shri Shah said Bharatiya Janata Party is unitedly standing by Shri Jaitley and the party will not allow any plot framed by AAP in terms to get succeeded to defame his personality. People of this country are fully aware of his transparent and authentic life.

Shri Shah said Shri Arun Jaitley has lived his entire public life with high standards and principles. AAP was daydreaming if it thought that its actions will harm the image of Shri Jaitley. AAP is trying to divert the issue and it will disadvantage AAP only. ■

Arun Jaitley will come out with flying colors : Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi supported Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley and said he will come out of all the charges with flying colours. "Arun Jaitley will come out with flying colours in the same manner as Shri L.K. Advani did in the hawala case... the Congress is raking up manufactured allegations to defame the (BJP-led) government," Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu quoted Modi as saying at a BJP parliamentary party meeting. "They tried the same with Sushma-ji, Vasundhara-ji and Shivraj-ji... they (the Congress) only want to defame the government," Shri Modi was quoted as saying. ■

Vikas Sankalp Samaroh on completion of two Year of BJP Govt in Rajasthan

Rajasthan on the path of development : Amit Shah

From Our Correspondent

Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Amit Shah lauded Smt. Vasundhara Raje led BJP government in Rajasthan for its achievements in the last two-year period in office. The

unlike the previous Congress regime.”

Shri Shah applauding the efforts of Raje government said that governance here was exemplary and Smt. Raje had successfully taken the flagship

Congress’s claims that there was no development in the state are baseless. “The work done in Rajasthan in the past two years and the number of projects announced or commissioner from the state



BJP government in the State is truly characterizes the BJP motto of ‘Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas’,” Shri Shah said addressing a large public rally organized to celebrate the Vasundhara Raje-led State government’s completion of two years in office on 13 December, 2015, in Jaipur.

Shri Amit Shah said Rajasthan is on the path of development, thanks to the support from the Centre. Taking a dig at the previous Congress regime under Ashok Gehlot, he said, “In the past two years there have been no corruption cases or scandals under the BJP rule in Rajasthan

programmes of Narendra Modi government to the villages. “Be it Make in India, Skill India, Digital India, Swachh Bharat or any other; Chief Minister Smt. Raje has taken these initiatives to the villages and has led by example”.

Shri Shah pointed out that BJP under Smt. Raje had formed the government earlier too but the situation was different then. “This time around, it is the BJP which is in power both in the state and the centre. Smt. Raje has been quite successful in drawing a maximum benefit from this,” he said. He claimed that the

today, are more than what the Congress did in the 60 years it was in power,” said Shri Shah.

Shri Shah said, Rajasthan government is ready all the time, on every front, for the growth and welfare of oppressed people, backwards and poor of the society. He said that ‘Apna Jila, Apni Sarkar’ is a unique experiment of current Vasundhara Raje BJP government which ensures the government to reach out to the mass. He said that the current BJP government has set an unprecedented example by building more than 22 million

toilets in two years. He said, celebrating 'Panchayat Divas' encourages local governing body and strengthens it. He said, Rajasthan government have taken a new step towards improving health services in the state by the foundation of seven new medical

"Today no one would dare behead Indian soldiers along the Indo-Pak border thanks to Narendra Modi government's zero tolerance towards terrorism and border security". "Earlier, farmers would get compensation only if the damage was 50 per cent and more. But the Modi

through 'Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojna', whether it be a concept of providing water for irrigation to every farmer of the country with a cost of 75 thousand crores rupees, whether it be a matter of providing 24-hours electricity in villages under 'Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Rural Electrification' scheme. He said that Rajasthan government has worked in quite commendable manner by implementing all these plans successfully in the state.

Addressing on the occasion Rajasthan Chief Minister Smt. Vasundhara Raje said, "It was a difficult task to revive Rajasthan from the financial difficulty that the precious Congress regime had put the State into.



colleges together which is quite welcome.

Shri Shah said that the repeated public verdicts, which favour BJP in the state, show that the organization and government are fit, active and walking together on the path to development. "I congratulate both Smt. Raje and state president Shri Ashok Parnami for the good work in the state. I am sure together this Team Rajasthan will take the state to a new height," he said.

"If the government continues to run this way, the Congress will never be able to return to power in the state," he added.

Shri Shah further said,

government has brought it down to 33 per cent, which has resulted in 70 per cent farmers getting the benefit of compensation," he said.

He said that the central government has decided to offer Soil Health Card to every farmer by 2019 so that farmers could perform their farming activity easily. He said, all the plans and schemes initiated by Shri Narendra Modi-led central government have been made for poor and farmers whether it be about providing loans to courage self-employment under 'Mudra Bank' scheme without guarantee and at very low rate, whether it be a matter of connecting people with banks

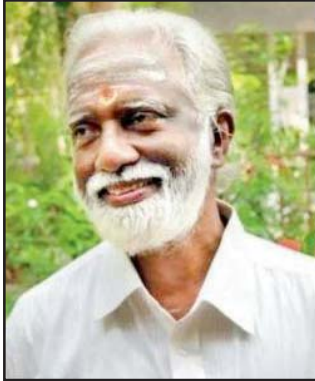
Rajasthan was going through great financial difficulty when the BJP came to power here."

On the occasion Chief Minister Smt. Raje announced several welfare and development schemes worth Rs 9,000 crore. She unveiled a new scheme for entrepreneurship development and self-employment for unemployed youths, women, people from the SC and ST categories and the differently-abled. The Bhamashah Employment Generation Scheme will enable people from these categories to avail bank loans on low interest rates in order to set up small enterprises of their own. ■

Kummanam Rajasekharan appointed as new Kerala BJP President

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah has appointed BJP State General Secretary Shri Kummanam Rajasekharan as the new State President of Kerala on 18 December, 2015.

The 63 year old senior journalist turned Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Pracharak Shri Rajasekharan born in Aymanem



village of Kerala and after his graduation took up journalism as his profession and two years later, he took up a full-time job with the Food Corporation of India.

He left it after a decade and entered the political arena when he was the Hindu Munnani candidate in the 1987 assembly polls. He was runners-up from an assembly constituency in the capital city, Thiruvananthapuram and since then he has been a full-time RSS Pracharak.

Shri Rajasekharan assumed charge at the state party headquarters in Thiruvananthapuram on the same day evening, soon after arriving from Delhi.

He succeeds Shri V Muraleedharan, who had two terms as the President of the party unit in Kerala. BJP National President Shri Amit Shah has also appointed former BJP State President Shri V Muraleedharan as convener of Kerala State Election Management Committee. ■

Dilip Ghosh takes over as new BJP President of West Bengal

Months ahead of State Assembly polls next year, Shri Dilip Ghosh on 12 December, 2015 took over as the new BJP State President of West Bengal.

Noteworthy, BJP National President Shri Amit Shah has appointed Shri Ghosh as the new State President on 11 December, 2015.

Shri Ghosh is an old RSS Swayamsevak and was a state BJP General Secretary.

Handing over the charge to Shri Ghosh, the party's



outgoing State President, Shri Rahul Sinha, expressed the hope that the party would be able to bring in a change under the leadership of the new state President.

Three former BJP State Presidents Shri Sukumar Banerjee, Shri Asim Ghosh and Shri Satyabrata Mukherjee were present in the formal hand-over of charge.

After taking over the charge Shri Ghosh said, "My first priority is to consolidate party's organizational structure to fight against the Trinamool Congress, Congress and CPI(M). We will work together to strengthen the party and present before our political opponents a solid block."

Shri Ghosh is confident that all protest-programmes against Saradha scam and other chit funds related issues would continue all over the state.

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah also appointed the former state President Shri Rahul Sinha as BJP National Secretary.

On the occasion Shri Sinha said we are all with the new president of West Bengal and will ensure that the party will come to power in the upcoming assembly elections. ■

Progress of "Make In India" Campaign

The Make in India initiative was launched globally in September, 2014 by the Government of India to focus on invigorating the country's manufacturing sector. A number of initiatives have been taken by the Government of India since the launch of Make in India campaign last year. The make in India initiative is based on the following four pillars, under which various initiatives have been taken, are:

New Processes, Ease of Doing Business, New Infrastructure, Industrial Corridors, Industrial Clusters, Smart Cities, New Sectors, New Mindset.

The Make in India initiative of the Government has made a tremendous impact on the investment climate of the country, as shown by significant growth of overall Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

'Make in India' initiative aims at developing India as a global hub for manufacturing, innovation and design for both domestic and foreign markets. Government has made efforts to simplify the regulatory requirements for import and export which includes:

- Making available importer-exporter code online through e-biz portal.
- Reducing number of documents required from seven to three for exports and ten to three for imports.
- Establishment of Customs Clearance Facilitation Committees in every port to ensure expeditious clearance of goods.
- Integration of customs online Single window clearance system with Food Safety & Standards Authority of India and Plant Quarantine thorough message exchange for faster clearance of food and plant products. ■

FDI goes up by 35% in last 17 months on Make in India push

Make in India initiative has made an incredible impact on investment climate in India. The department of industrial policy and promotion (DIPP) on December 17 said that following the initiative, foreign direct investment has surged by about 35 per cent in the last 17 months compared to the same period a year ago.

The government has been successful in getting substantial investments in areas including electronics, automotive, food processing, textiles and garments, renewable energy and construction. The department is also taking measures to hold road shows for pushing domestic companies to manufacture in the country. However, the key challenge is to make India the easiest and simplest place to do business, a goal which the government is determined to achieve.

Detailing the progress made in the Smart City initiative, the department disclosed that engineering, and procurement and construction contracts worth Rs 3,000 crore have been awarded for the upcoming cities of Dholera in Gujarat, Shendra in Maharashtra and Vikram Udyogpuri in Maghya Pradesh, where work has started. The department is all set to launch a Make in India week in Mumbai next year where over 1,000 companies and delegates are expected to participate from over 60 countries.

Modi govt. awards national highway projects worth over Rs 1 lakh crore in last 18 months

As many as 599 highways projects have been sanctioned and about 12,903 km of national highways have been awarded entailing estimated expenditure of Rs 1.08 lakh crore under the present government.

Replying to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Road Transport and Highways Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari said "During the present government, 599 new projects were sanctioned and about 12,903 km length of national highways were awarded for which likely expenditure will be to the tune of Rs 1,08,483 crore".

Regular meetings of infrastructure committee, he said, are being conducted for clearing bottlenecks related to land acquisition, utility shifting, non-availability of soil/ aggregate, environment/forest/wild life clearances and others.

"Apart from this, regular review meetings are held

Government's Achievements

with project developers, state governments and contractors in head quarter by the implementing agencies to make the construction of projects hassle free," Shri Gadkari said.

In another reply to the House, the minister said that the pace of construction and repair of highways is more than 16 km per day which is comparable with the past.

"At present, about 1,050 numbers of development projects are on-going for improvement/construction covering a length of 31,944 km of various National Highways in the country out of 98,973 km of total length of National Highways in the country," he said.

The remaining length of National Highways, he added, are being repaired and maintained in the traffic worthy condition subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority.

PSLV Successfully Launches Six Satellites from Singapore

In its thirty second flight conducted from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), SHAR, Sriharikota on December 16, ISRO's Polar



Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C29 successfully launched six satellites from Singapore, including the 400 kg TeLEOS-1, the primary satellite. The other five satellites were co. passenger payloads. PSLV-C29 launched all the six payloads into an orbit of 549 km height inclined at an angle of 15 deg to the equator.

The six

satellites carried by PSLV-C29 today together weighed about 624 kg at lift-off. These six satellites were launched as part of the agreement entered into between ST Electronics (Satcom & Sensor Systems), Singapore and Antrix Corporation Limited, the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), a government of India Company under the Department of Space (DOS).

This is the eleventh flight of PSLV in 'core-alone' configuration (without the use of solid strap-on motors). PSLV has successfully launched 57 satellites for customers from abroad including the six Singapore satellites launched today.

After a 59 hour smooth count down, the 227.6 ton PSLV-C29 lifted off from the First Launch Pad (FLP) at SDSC SHAR at 1800 hrs (6:00 pm) IST with the ignition of its first stage. The important flight events included the separation of the first stage, ignition of the second stage, separation of the payload fairing at about 117 km altitude, second stage separation, third stage ignition and separation, fourth stage ignition and cut-off.

Once the intended orbit was achieved, TeLEOS-1 was deployed at about 18 min 12 seconds after lift-off. This was followed by the deployment of other five satellites, viz., Kent Ridge-1, VELOX-C1, VELOX-II, Galassia and Athenoxat-1 in quick succession in the subsequent three minutes.

India positioned itself as a leader in Renewable Energy

Climate justice has won at Paris Climate Change talks, says PM

The twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) took place from 30 November to 11 December 2015, in Paris, France. The Indian leadership has done well in defending development priorities of developing countries. One of the major points of discord was the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR). *Common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR),*

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principle of international environmental law establishing that all states are responsible for addressing global environmental destruction yet not equally responsible. The principle balances, on the one hand, the need for all states to take responsibility for global environmental problems and, on the other hand, the need to recognize the wide differences in levels of economic development between states. These differences in turn are linked to the states' contributions to, as well as their abilities to address, these problems. CBDR was formalized in international law at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro

Western countries led by United States of America were continuously opposing the demand of CBDR by developing countries led by India. Lastly the issue had become India versus America. India wanted to get include CBDR principle in environment governance of world. In the Paris talks on climate change, Modi government diplomatic acumen became able to get the agreement to retain the principle of CBDR in the key elements of technology transfer, finance, adaptation and capacity building. Simultaneously India has placed itself as a leader in the renewable energy space by spearheading the creation of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and organized India's pavilion to showcase India commitment to climate change.

On the gain, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said "Climate justice has won at Paris Climate Change Conference." The Prime Minister said that the deliberations at COP 21 and Paris Agreement has demonstrated the collective wisdom of world leaders to mitigate climate change.

Sharing his sentiments in a series of tweets the Prime Minister observed that the outcome of Paris Agreement has no winners or losers.

"Deliberations at COP21 and Paris Agreement demonstrate the collective wisdom

of world leaders to mitigate climate change. Climate change remains a challenge but Paris Agreement demonstrates how every nation rose to the challenge, working towards a solution.

Outcome of Paris Agreement has no winners or losers. Climate justice has won and we are all working towards a greener future," the Prime Minister tweeted.

PM inaugurates electric bus service for MPs



Prime Minister shri Narendra Modi on 21 December, 2015 inaugurated an electric bus service for parliamentarians aimed at promoting environment-friendly initiatives in the country's public transport system. "The world has been discussing issues concerning the environment for a long time, but the ill-effects of pollution have been felt only of late," he said after launching the 'Go Green' bus service in the Parliament House complex here. He presented the bus keys to Lok Sabha Speaker Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, who was the first to enter the bus after the inauguration of the service.

Speaking on the occasion, Road Transport Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari said similar buses will be introduced in the public transport sector across the country.

Shri Gadkari said each electric bus will help save Rs.8 lakh per year since its running cost will be lesser compared with conventional buses. ■

Fundamentals of Democracy

Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya

GOVERNMENT BY DEBATE

DEMOCRACY has been defined as government by debate. The tradition of debate is old in our country. But such a debate can be fruitful only when each party carefully listens to what the other has to say and has the desire to accept the truth in it. If instead of trying to understand the other person's point of view we insist upon our own point of view such a debate must remain fruitless. When Voltaire said, "I do not agree with what you say, but I shall defend to death your right to say it," he was only accepting the fruitless part of the debate. Bharatiya culture goes beyond this and looks at debate as a means for the realization of truth. We believe that truth is not one-sided, and that its various facets can be seen, examined and experienced from various angles. Hence he who has the capacity to have a comprehensive view of the unity underlying all such diversities is a seer.

DEMOCRACY WITHOUT SANSKARAS

There is no conflict between the individual and society; If it is present, it is an aberration. It is not necessary to curb the freedom of the individual

in the interest of society. In fact unbridled liberty does not lead to the development of the individual, it leads to his ruin. Complete identification of the individual with society is itself a state of complete development for the individual. The individual is the medium and

the measure of the completeness of society. The freedom of the individual and the interest of society are not contradictory. Democracy is but an instrument for the fulfilment of the duty of the people. The effectiveness of the instrument depends upon the feeling for the nation in the life of the people, consciousness of responsibility, and discipline. If these Sanskaras are absent in the citizen, democracy degenerates into an instrument of individual, class and party interest.

CENTRALISATION OF POWER

The centralization of political, economic and social powers in one individual or institution is a hindrance in the way of democracy. Generally when power in a certain field gets concentrated in one individual that individual tries directly or indirectly to concentrate in his hands power in other fields also. It is thus that the dictatorial



The freedom of the individual and the interest of society are not contradictory. Democracy is but an instrument for the fulfilment of the duty of the people. The effectiveness of the instrument depends upon the feeling for the nation in the life of the people, consciousness of responsibility, and discipline. If these Sanskaras are absent in the citizen, democracy degenerates into an instrument of individual, class and party interest.

governments of the Communists and the Khilafat were set up. Even when human life is integral and its various fields complementary to each other the units representing these various fields should remain separate. Normally speaking the various units of the administration should concern themselves with administration and should not enter the field of economics. A capitalist economy first acquires power in the economic field and then enters the political field, while socialism concentrates power over all means of production in the hands of the State. Both these systems are against the democratic rights of the individual and their proper development. Hence along with centralization we shall have to think of division of powers.

DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM

DURING Pandit Nehru's time India also raised the slogan of democratic socialism. We did not succeed in this because today the democracy and the socialism that we had been trying for are basically resting on a Western foundation and are therefore incomplete.

A capitalist economy first acquires power in the economic field and then enters the political field, while socialism concentrates power over all means of production in the hands of the State. Both these systems are against the democratic rights of the individual and their proper development. Hence along with centralization we shall have to think of division of powers.

These two thoughts express different aspects of life and the truths related to them. Their synthesis is possible, but only when our point of view is synthesizing. It would not be proper to press our entire life into the institutions and traditions of democracy as developed in the West, or into the ready-made moulds of socialism propounded by Marx and practised by Lenin, Stalin etc. The life of this

country is higher than both these ideas. Instead of foisting Western politics on India we will have to develop our own political philosophy. While doing this we can benefit from the thinking done in the West. But we must neither be overwhelmed by it nor must we consider it the eternal truth.

DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL PARTIES

The definition of Swaraj includes three main things. The first is that the Government should be in the hands of those who are a part of the nation. The second special point is that the Government should be conducted in the Interest of the nation, which means its policies should be oriented towards national interest. And the third point is that such a Government should have its own strength to achieve the good of the nation. In other words it is wrong to even think of Swaraj without self-reliance. Even when the Government is in the hands of the nationals Swaraj would become meaningless if the Government comes under pressure or becomes a follower of some other nation. If the State is not self-reliant in respect of defence, free in respect of its policies and self-contained in respect of economic planning it could be pressurized into working against the interest of the nation. Such a dependent State leads to ruination. ■

(Excerpts from the book - "Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya A Profile" edited by Sudhakar Raje.)

The definition of Swaraj includes three main things. The first is that the Government should be in the hands of those who are a part of the nation. The second special point is that the Government should be conducted in the Interest of the nation, which means its policies should be oriented towards national interest. And the third point is that such a Government should have its own strength to achieve the good of the nation.

BJP President inaugurates Gopinath-Gadh in Beed, Maharashtra

BJP govt will continue to work for the sustained welfare of oppressed, poor, backwards, Dalits and farmers : Amit Shah

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah on 12 December, 2015 inaugurated G o p i n a t h - G a d h commemorating the birth anniversary of Late Shri Gopinath Munde and addressed a huge public gathering on this occasion in Beed District, Maharashtra. Addressing the birth anniversary programme, he said that I came here to pay my tribute to Shri Gopinath Munde on the behalf of crores of BJP workers.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Shah said, "The glory days of BJP and its government in Maharashtra today are due to the foundation of organizational structure of the Party laid by Shri Gopinath Ji in his short span of life and the way he worked to ensure the party's spread among the poor and downtrodden.

"He said that the achievement, Shri Gopinathji got as Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister of Maharashtra is incomparable. Shri Shah said that as Home Minister of Maharashtra, he washed out the infamies of notoriety of the state of being criminal elements dominating states. He said, when BJP came into power in the Centre in the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Shri Gopinath Mundeji was

assigned the rural development portfolio to uplift the life of the poor, the labourers, Dalits, the farmers and backwards due to his efficiency to serve them.

The BJP National President said, every worker of the Party is committed to fulfill the dreams and ideas of Shri

Munde, who died in a car crash in Delhi in June last year. "Shri Munde must be happy up there, knowing that his daughters are carrying forward his legacy," Shri Fadnavis said. A national rural development institute is also being set up in the late leader's memory, Shri Fadnavis said.



Gopinath Mundeji by realizing his principles and moving on the path shown by him.

He said that I pay again my courteous tribute to Shri Gopinath Ji and reassure people that our government will continue to work for the sustained welfare for oppressed, the poor, backwards, Dalits and farmers.

Speaking on the occasion, Maharashtra CM Shri Fadnavis said his government has launched an accident insurance scheme named after Shri

Noteworthy, the senior BJP leader was holding the portfolio of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj in the Narendra Modi Cabinet when he died.

Shri Gopinath Munde's daughter Smt. Pankaja on the occasion said her father rose from being a sugarcane cutter's son to become the Deputy Chief Minister of the State (in Shiv Sena-BJP led Government in 1995-99) and his contribution for the development is immense. ■

Legacy of JP

— P. Parameswaran

Lok Nayak Jay Prakash Narayan is considered a towering figure in Indian political history who has inspired generations through his political commitment and steely resolve in bringing an end to the emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi on the country. He is remembered as a fearless freedom fighter, torch bearer of socialism and a Gandhian to the core. We are reproducing the final part of the article attempting to understand his political journey and his legacy from renowned journal Manthan published in December 1979 for our esteemed readers:

JP's Total Revolution did not yield the desired results. In spite of his failing health, JP toured the entire country, patiently explaining his concept. It gave rise to a countrywide mass movement, which raised high hopes and expectations. Naturally, it shook the powers that be and to sustain themselves, they took recourse to the imposition of Emergency. This led the country in an entirely unexpected direction. With the installation of the Janata Government at the Centre and many States, and the decline in JP's health, the movement of Total Revolution came to a halt. More tragic developments followed; the Janata Government instead of functioning as an instrument for the desired transformation, turned out to be a battling ground for power seekers. Hopes were totally belied.

Has JP's vision of Total Revolution, then, totally failed? Or, has it anything to offer to the nation for the future?

Given proper understanding and goodwill, JP's concept of Total Revolution and Pandit Deendayalji's philosophy of Integral Humanism can supplement each other. To the superficial eye, the two are irreconcilable and

He wanted the super structure to be transformed by eradicating all the evils that have cropped up from time to time but never advocated the abolition of our cultural values. It is true that JP did not speak with his accent on culture, as Deendayalji did, but he was so utterly Gandhian that he cannot do without moral, ethical and spiritual values. Integral Humanism is essentially a restatement of the eternal Bharatiya values to suit the modern requirements. But it is untrue if any one suggests that its stress is solely on the cultural content.

contradictory, but this is more apparent than real. The word 'Total Revolution', would appear to justify the use of violence and also demand a complete rupture with the past — with all its values and ideals. But this is not true. JP never conceived the use of violence; in fact he was at considerable pains to explain that "it has to be peacefully brought about without impairing the democratic structure of society and affecting the democratic way of life of the people." JP did not imply by the word, 'Total Revolution', destruction of the fundamental values of our social structure. What he meant was the all-round transformation of the society, in every sphere of life, but it did not amount to a break with the past and a fresh start. Unlike the communists, JP was a believer in the moral and spiritual values cherished by India. He wanted the super structure to be transformed by eradicating all the evils that have cropped up from time to time but never advocated the abolition of our cultural values. It is

true that JP did not speak with his accent on culture, as Deendayalji did, but he was so utterly Gandhian that he cannot do without moral, ethical and spiritual values. Integral Humanism is essentially a restatement of the eternal Bharatiya values to suit the modern requirements. But it is untrue if any one suggests that its stress is solely on the cultural content. Consistent with our

like un-touchability, which lead men to treat other human beings as lower than themselves, we shall have to end such evils." imbued with the sense of urgency which JP tried to impart, Integral Humanism will be a most effective philosophy to guide the much needed social transformation.

In the matter of the concept of Man as an integral being, consisting, broadly

permanent inevitable conflict among the multi-dimensional personality of an individual and different institutions of the society."

A valid question may here be raised whether Deendayalji would have approved of JP's method of mass struggle as a means of bringing about social change. While it is wellknown that Deendayalji was all for people's agitations to remedy specific grievances, and he himself led many such agitations, it may be doubted whether he would have approved of a countrywide mass struggle for an allround transformation of the society. Mass agitations like 'mischief' when afoot have a way of getting out of control and 'taking what course thou wilt' rather than the desired one. Left to himself, he would have been more cautious and would have preferred a mass movement well manageable under the firm guidance of well-organised and disciplined activists, but that does not mean he would have waited indefinitely. It is almost certain that had he been alive, he would have joined hands with JP and strengthened the movement he launched.

Whatever it is, the unfulfilled missions of JP and Deendayalji would be better served by their respective votaries coming nearer, understanding each other better and playing a truly complementary role. ■

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cultural values it too stresses the need to build up a social structure just, modern and well-integrated. Herein lies the complementary role of Total Revolution and Integral Humanism.

JP tried to impart a sense of urgency to the question of allround transformation. Integral Humanism will gain by incorporating this sense of urgency. The crying maladies of the society call for urgent remedies. Deendayalji was an advocate of change, and not a traditionalist. Status quoism was against his grain. He had un-equivocally stated; "we shall remove those traditions which obstruct this process (of national unity and development). If today the society is gripped with evils

speaking, of material and spiritual dimensions, both JP and Deendayalji are at one. Of course, Deendayalji elaborated the concept and placed it on a sound philosophical footing in accordance with the Vedantic thought. Their concept of the mutuality of interest and harmony of relationship between the individual and the society, was unexceptionally identical. JP's statement "willing submission to social restraint for the sake of the well-being of the whole society, enriches both the individual and the society of which one is a member," sounds almost like an echo of what Deendayalji had stated earlier, "we do not accept the view that there is any

India and Japan pledge for special strategic and global partnership

From Our Correspondent

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe three-day - visit from December 11 to 13 to India culminated into fruitful outcomes. Both leaders pledged for special strategic and global partnership working together for peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region and the world. Some important outcomes of the bilateral meet are as follow:

- India and Japan will work to strengthen regional economic and security forums and coordinate their actions to tackle global challenges including the reform of the United Nations, climate change as well as terrorism.
- With the view to realise the objectives of India and Japan Vision 2025, the two leaders decided to develop a comprehensive and concrete medium and long-term action plan.
- The two Prime Ministers welcomed the conclusion of the agreement concerning the transfer of the Defence Equipment and Technology and the agreement concerning Security Measures for the Protection of Classified Military Information, which further strengthens

the foundation of deep strategic ties.

- The two Prime Ministers welcomed Japan's participation in the India-US Malabar Exercises on a regular basis, as it would help create stronger capabilities to deal with maritime challenges in the Indo-Pacific region, including through enhanced disaster response and mitigation capacity.
- They reaffirmed their desire to further develop dialogue and exchanges between the two countries in the security and defence fields, including through the full utilisation of '2+2 Dialogue', Defence Policy Dialogue, Military-to-Military Talks and Coast Guard to Coast Guard cooperation. The two Prime Ministers appreciated the decision to begin Air Force-to-Air Force staff Talks.
- Seeking the synergy between India's "Act East" policy and Japan's "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure", the two Prime Ministers decided to develop and strengthen reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructures

that augment connectivity within India and between India and other countries in the region.

- The two Prime Ministers noted that India's railways modernisation and expansion plans open up commercial opportunities for Japanese companies in high speed rail, station re-development and rolling stock manufacturing. They welcomed the signing of memoranda on technological cooperation, and R&D collaboration in the railways sector.
- The two Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation on introduction of Japan's High Speed Railways (HSR) technologies (the Shinkansen system) to Mumbai-Ahmedabad route. Prime Minister Modi appreciated Japan's consideration of providing highly concessional yen loan for the HSR on Mumbai-Ahmedabad route.
- The two Prime Ministers stressed the need for further actions for investing in the future. Prime Minister Abe commended Prime

Minister Modi's strong initiatives such as "Make in India," "Digital India," "Skill India," "Clean India" and "Smart City".

- The two Prime Ministers welcomed the steady progress to realise 3.5 trillion yen of public and private financing to India in five years under the

projects both in Chennai and Ahmedabad.

- Prime Minister Abe expressed Japan's intention to provide ODA loans for the improvement of road network connectivity in northeastern states of India, the peripheral ring road surrounding

India and Japan sign MoU on cooperation and assistance in the Mumbai – Ahmedabad High Speed Train

India and Japan have signed an MoU on 12th December, 2015 on cooperation and assistance in the Mumbai – Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project (referred by many as Bullet Train project). Japan has offered an assistance of over Rs.79,000 crore for the project. The loan is for a period of 50 years with a moratorium of 15 years, at an interest rate of 0.1 per cent. The project is a 508 Kilometer railway line costing a total of Rs. 97,636 crore, to be implemented in a period of seven years. It has been agreed that Shinkansen Technology will be adopted for the project. The cooperation of Japan will be fixed on transfer of technology and "Make in India". Japan will assist India in training of personnel for HSR.

"Japan-India Investment Promotion Partnership" announced during the last annual summit meeting.

- They also welcomed the progress in the flagship projects such as the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC), and reaffirmed the determination to expedite the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) projects.
- Prime Minister Modi welcomed the Japanese ODA loans of about 100 billion yen for the metro

Bengaluru, and the horticulture irrigation in Jharkhand.

- The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed the intention to develop "Japan Industrial Townships (JITs)," with investment incentive for companies that would not be lower than under the prevailing policy framework such as Special Economic Zone (SEZ), and National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ).
- In view of critical importance of the sea

lanes of communications in the South China Sea for regional energy security and trade and commerce which underpins continued peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific, the two Prime Ministers noting the developments in the South China Sea called upon all States to avoid unilateral actions that could lead to tensions in the region. They were of the view that full and effective implementation of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea and early conclusion of the negotiations to establish a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea by consensus will contribute to peace and stability of the region.

- The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their intention to work together for the early realization of U.N. reforms, particularly the Security Council reform, to better reflect the realities of the international community in the 21st century.
- Recognising India as the largest democracy and a fast growing large economy in the Asia-Pacific region, the Japanese side conveyed its support to India's membership of the APEC as a positive contribution to the economic integration in the region. ■

KALA UTSAV 2015 : An effervescence of latent talents of school students

By Amba Charan Vashishth

The Kala Utsav 2015 held in the National Bal Bhawan in New Delhi from December 8 to 10 turned out to be a national assembly of art and culture representing school children from every corner of the country. It was a display of a rainbow of the unity of India in all its bright colours of art

Consequently, an overwhelming majority of the items presented in the Utsav hovered around this theme. The four-day programme concluded with a tumultuous finale on December 11 in Siri Fort Auditorium when the results of the competition were announced and prizes awarded. A galaxy of eminent

was that the girls and boys and, more so, the specially-abled students were provided with an opportunity to take part and compete with their abled fellows on a platform of equality.

A Bihar girl was the smallest child with a height of just 2.5 feet taking part in drama competition. Her performance was so superbly lifelike that she left everybody in the theatre in tears.

A girl with 80 percent disability was in the Chandigarh contingent which took part in a theatrical competition.

The presentations were so ecstatic that the audience tapped to the rhythm of dances, swayed with the rendition of native music, exhilarated with their theatrical performances and exuberated with the imagery in their paintings.

While inaugurating the Kala Utsav 2015 Mrs. Irani called upon the students to participate with the spirit of competition but go back to their homes with the spirit of cooperation and coexistence. You must avail yourself of this unique opportunity to interact with your fellow participants from other States, exchange your notes and experiences.



and culture by over 1500 students drawn from all the 36 States and Union Territories of the country. A brainchild of the Union Human Resource Development Minister Mrs. Smriti Zubin Irani, Kala Utsav received the patronage and unstinted support of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he inaugurated the Kala Utsav website on September 4. He then gave the “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” theme to the Utsav.

dignitaries in their respective fields acted as judges for the keenly contested competitions in various fields.

The teams to represent a State at the national level were shortlisted/selected through a prolonged contest within the State among school children on evaluation of e-projects submitted by the States to the Centre. The emphasis was on reviving the age-old arts on the verge of extinction and oblivion.

Another striking feature

Mrs. Irani also interacted with the students to find that every State of the country was well represented in the Utsav. She particularly applauded the Tamil Nadu team which could still make it to the national capital despite the devastating floods that had ravaged the State these days.

The Minister expressed her happiness that the students were experiencing no

Noble prize winner scientist Dr. C. V. Raman went a step further. He felt that "Science is the most creative form of Art".

The participating students, divided in groups, also had the honour to call on the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Vice-President Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, and Speaker Lok Sabha, Shrimati Sumitra

Kala Utsav a grand success. She said the Prime Minister had dedicated 'Kala Utsav' to the nation for promoting national integration and preserving our cultural heritage by associating the students of country with Kala Utsav to realise the vision of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'.

She said Kala Utsav was the pride of our nation and had provided an opportunity to the students from all over the country to come together to celebrate the journey of our rich heritage, our civilization. She was confident that India can gain supremacy in the field of culture as it had done in science and technology.

Mrs. Irani both announced the verdict of the judges in each category for 'Kala Utsav-2015' - Visual arts, Music, Theatre and dance. She also awarded the national prizes.

Each student who took part in the programmes was issued a certificate of participation.

The excellent performance put in by participants in their respective fields in this novel and innovative programme of Kala Utsav-2015 has elevated it to the level of a national programme of children. As announced by the government, it is most likely to be an annual affair. In the course of time, no wonder, if it evolves itself into a Rashtriya Bal Kala Utsav on annual basis like other national awards in other fields. ■

The three-day competition from December 8 to 10 culminated in a finale on December 11 at the Siri Fort Auditorium with the award of prizes in the august presence of the Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi, Padma Vibhshan decorated writer Ruskin Bond and famous danseuse Padmashri Sonal Manshingh.

hurdle in communicating with their friends from other States despite their mother tongue being different.

The Minister looked as excited in mingling with the students as were the participants. She got herself photographed with the contestants from every State and Union Territory with students and their wards taking selfies with her.

The Utsav was in conformity importance of arts and crafts in our society and cultural traditions. "Literature, music and the arts," said Poet Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, "all are necessary for the development and flowering of a student to form an integrated total personality".

Mahajan.

The Utsav provided a rare opportunity for national integration to the young students in the formative stage of their life surpassing the barriers of language, caste and region.

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In her valedictory speech Smt. Smriti Irani thanked the Prime Minister for the moral support extended to make the

Why the Congress is wrong

By Arun Jaitley

The Congress Party, for the past few days, has disrupted both houses of Parliament. Its Goebbelsian propaganda is that the party's leadership is a victim of political vendetta. What then are the facts?

A company was created for the purpose of starting a newspaper 'National Herald'. The company got allocation of prime land in several parts of the country. The land was meant to be used for the newspaper business. Today, there is no newspaper. There is only land and built up structures which are being commercially exploited.

A political party is entitled to collect funds for its political activities. For that purpose, it gets an exemption from payment of income tax. Rupees ninety crores from amongst the funds collected by the Congress Party are given to the newspaper company. Prima facie, it can be said that there a breach of the provisions of the Income Tax Act in as much as an exempted income is used for a non-exempt purpose.

The rupees ninety crore debt is then assigned to a Section 25 company for a paltry amount of rupees 50 lakhs. Tax exempted money effectively gets transferred to a real estate company. The real estate company now acquires 99% of the share-holding of the former newspaper company. Effectively, the Section 25 company substantially controlled by the leaders of the Congress Party now owns all the properties acquired for a newspaper publication, and for virtually no consideration, the

India has never accepted the dictat that the queen is not answerable to the law. Why should the Congress Party and its leaders not contest the notice before the Court? The Government cannot help them in the matter, nor can the Parliament. Why then disturb the Parliament and prevent the legislative activity from continuing?

Section 25 company owns all the assets. This profit will become huge taxable income in its hands.

Since 2012, as a private citizen, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, alleges a breach of trust. It is the duty of every citizen to report an offence when it comes to his notice. Any citizen can set the process of criminal law into motion. A Trial Court issues summons on Dr. Swamy's complaint. The accused leaders of the Congress Party move the Delhi High Court for quashing, which grants them an interim protection. Eventually, the Delhi High Court dismisses the petition of the accused. The accused now have two alternatives. They can either challenge the order in the Supreme Court or appear before the trial court and contest the case on merits.

The facts are clear. By a series of financial transactions, the leaders of the Congress Party created 'Chakravyuh' for themselves. They have to find their own exit route out of the 'Chakravyuh'. They have acquired properties worth a huge amount without spending any-

thing. They have used tax exempted income for a non-exempted purpose. They have transferred the income of a political party to a real estate company. They have created huge taxable income in favour of the real estate company. The Government, so far, has not taken any punitive action. The Enforcement Directorate has not issued any notice to them. The Income Tax authorities will follow their own procedure. The Criminal Court, meanwhile, has taken cognizance of the offence. The High Court has agreed with the Trial Court. The battle has to be fought legally. But the results of legal battles are always uncertain. The Congress is, therefore, crying foul and calling it political vendetta. Is that a charge against the Courts? The Government has passed no order in relation to the disputed transactions. There is equality before the law. No one is above the law. India has never accepted the dictat that the queen is not answerable to the law. Why should the Congress Party and its leaders not contest the notice before the Court? The Government cannot help them in the matter, nor can the Parliament. Why then disturb the Parliament and prevent the legislative activity from continuing? The answer to the Congress Party's leadership landing up in a 'Chakravyuh' is to fight their battle legally and not disrupt Parliament. By disrupting democracy the financial web created by the Congress leaders cannot be undone. ■

(The writer is Union Minister of Finance and I&B)

“Operation Smile-II” is to rescue & rehabilitate missing children

The Government of India has requested the States/UTs to start “Operation Smile-II” from 1st January, 2016 to 31st January, 2016 to be rolled out throughout the country as a follow up of the earlier campaign to rescue/rehabilitate the missing children. In this regard, the Union Home Secretary, Shri Rajiv Mehrishi has written a letter to the Chief Secretaries of all states and Union Territories for whole hearted participation in ‘Operation Smile-II’ in their respective State/UT.

Earlier all States/UTs were advised to take up a one month campaign titled ‘Operation Smile’ in the month of January, 2015 to rescue/rehabilitate the missing children. Similarly, another dedicated campaign titled ‘Operation Muskaan’ was launched in the month of July, 2015 throughout the country.

The States have so far reported that 9146 children under Operation ‘Smile’ and 19742 children under Operation “Muskaan” were rescued/rehabilitated. A large number of missing children have been reunited with their families which is a remarkable achievement made by the field offices. In order to motivate the

policemen to take up such causes with sincerity and empathy, 44 Police Officers from different States/UTs who had played a commendable role during Operation “Smile” in January 2015 were recognized and rewarded by the Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh during the National Conference on Anti Human Trafficking held in New Delhi on 7th October, 2015.

Various activities are being undertaken with respect to the rolling out of “Operation Smile-II”. During this operation, all children residing in shelter homes, platforms, bus stands, roads, religious places, etc. are to be screened by trained police personnel. Before 1st January, 2016, the Police Personnel from each state are to be properly trained in methodology to extract information from such children tactfully without their getting intimidated, as well as in various provisions of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) JJ Act, Protection of Child Right Act, relevant sections of Cr.PC & IPC and Advisories issued by MHA etc. To know the magnitude of the problem, data with full details of number of cases of missing

children will be maintained and shared at intra-State and Inter-state level. Information about Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) would be prepared and shared among all rescue teams and stakeholders.

During the operation, the particulars of such identified children will be uploaded on the ‘Missing child’ portal of the Ministry of Women and Child Development by the respective State Police. Rehabilitation measures whenever needed are to be taken up in coordination with the other line Departments like Department of Women & Child Development, Police, Labour, etc so that scope of re-victimization is eliminated. It has also been emphasized that public awareness should be increased by way of national campaign, advertisement on national media, etc.

The States/UTs have been advised to extend all possible cooperation during inter-state rescue operations, to ensure proper provision of availability of food, clothes, medical-aid, professional translators, psychiatrists and shelter homes for rehabilitation/reintegration well before the rescue operation and to ensure that such operations are conducted in strict compliance of the existing legal provisions. ■

The limits of negativism

By M Venkaiah Naidu

At a time when India is making rapid economic strides and regaining its rightful place in the comity of nations after a decade of decadence, the political detractors of the BJP-led NDA, unable to countenance the growing appreciation of its policies and programmes, have launched a campaign to defame and discredit the government. This increasing intolerance towards a government that assumed power with a majority mandate stems from the insecurity complex of a shrinking Congress and confused Left. In the process, they are trying to obfuscate the truth, rake up divisive and extraneous issues, whip up an atmosphere of fear, and derail the development agenda.

Even as world powers are acknowledging India's resurgence under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP's political opponents are trying to hijack the national political discourse, when the need of the hour is to have an all-round consensus on important issues. But why are the political opponents at home getting into a frenzy over non-issues? Is it because they will become politically less relevant with the passage of time, as the government is trying to fulfil the objectives

enshrined in the Constitution. Had these parties been serious about India's progress, debates in Parliament and outside would have been more constructive and meaningful.

Let us pause and look at the significance of a special sitting of Parliament to celebrate the Constitution and

challenges before us. Babasaheb was a towering national leader, with great qualities of heart and head. He looked at the inequities in Hindu society as civilisational lacunae, and dedicated his life to eradicating them. Ambedkar was a great social warrior. He carved a niche for himself on the basis of his

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commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of B.R. Ambedkar. The idea was to revisit Constituent Assembly debates, historic speeches made by great sons of the country, and peep into their vision for India. But I was disappointed that during the debate, we tried to score brownie points over each other instead of pondering on the challenges facing the country.

The time has come to assess the extent to which the aspirations and expectations of the people have been fulfilled, while looking at the

brilliant capabilities and intellect, and braved the odds and insults of the time. Yet there was no hatred or animosity in his political thinking. His fight was against the dichotomies, contradictions and evils of society, and not against Hindu society and civilisation itself. For Ambedkar, nationalism was not the mere transfer of power from the British, but meant the reconstruction of the nation. His core project was nation-building. India owes to him the position it has attained today. For instance, it was

Ambedkar who initially envisioned fiscal federalism in the constitutional scheme. The division of revenue between the Centre and states was categorically dealt with in his comprehensive work on the financial autonomy of the provinces.

While favouring a federal form of government with an independent judiciary, Ambedkar believed in uniformity in fundamental laws, civil and criminal. He resigned from the Union

While the provision of positive discrimination for SCs, STs, OBCs and women in the Constitution has led to a reservation policy in education and employment, which has no doubt had a positive impact on their socio-economic condition, the gap between them and the rest of society persists. While Ambedkar's message, work and life are a guide for those at the helm, they also hold up a mirror to us, pointing out the distance still to be

It is sad that instead of strengthening democratic institutions, earlier regimes weakened them and tried to make them subservient to achieve political objectives. On the other hand, Modi, with his typical missionary zeal, is seeking to transform the country by improving the lot of every section – sabka saath, sabka vikas – especially the socially and economically vulnerable.

The time has come for those manufacturing dissent and indulging in a disinformation campaign to realise that such tactics won't pay, and might boomerang sooner than later. The best example of this was the recent incident in Bangalore, when students overwhelmingly expressed support for Swachh Bharat and Make in India, stumping the Congress leader.

People have become politically aware and conscious of their rights. They abhor the wilful disruption of Parliament on flimsy pretexts. Is it so difficult to respect the overwhelming mandate of the people? The biggest irony is that people who subverted and sabotaged democracy, crippled fundamental rights, imposed censorship, put lakhs of people, opposition leaders and workers behind bars, amended the Constitution to suit individual whims and fancies, and superseded judges to create a pliant, committed judiciary, are now preaching sermons.

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cabinet when he realised that the Hindu Code Bill would not be passed. He was also not in favour of judges selecting judges and had said that "to allow the chief justice practically a veto upon the appointment of judges is really to transfer the authority to the chief justice which we are not prepared to vest in the president or the government of the day."

Ambedkar's fundamental concern was to liberate untouchables, the depressed classes, vulnerable women and minorities from the clutches of social oppression.

travelled to achieve the dreams of the founding fathers.

Even after 68 years of Independence, our country is grappling with evils like illiteracy (26 per cent), poverty (22 per cent), female foeticide, dowry, untouchability, atrocities on women, caste and communal politics, money power in politics, growing opportunism and defections, regional and economic disparities, the clamour for special status for states and the inclusion of more castes into the SC, ST and OBC categories.

On the Congress's charge that the NDA was not recognising the contributions of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, I would like to set the record straight and declare in unambiguous terms that we respect Nehruji and never intended to ignore his contributions. At the same time, I would like to know from Congress leaders why their governments did not accord due respect and recognition to the monumental contributions made by great men like Ambedkar, Subhas Chandra Bose, Rajendra Prasad and Sardar Patel. Saddened by the neglect of such stalwarts, we are now correcting historical wrongs and giving due recognition to them. Yet the Congress seems to be terribly upset by this and grudged the Ambedkar celebrations. No party or family can appropriate the country's freedom movement. It was a people's movement, an unprecedented struggle of the masses. The Congress is simply unable to digest this fact.

Is it asking for too much from the opposition parties to support well-meaning, development-oriented schemes in the interests of the people? People are in no mood to accept negativism or the politics of confrontation. They want collaborative politics that will make their lives better and their futures brighter.

The time has come for all people to strive together to ensure the enactment of a common civil code, stopping conversions through fraudulent means, implementing sarva shiksha, empowering women and reservations, bridging the yawning urban-rural divide, reducing economic disparities, making agriculture remunerative, stopping the playing of caste and religious politics, curbing the criminalisation of politics, eradicating corruption, curbing fundamentalism, shedding pseudo-secularism, curbing terror, disapproving of asking people on foreign soil to overthrow a democratically elected PM and petitioning authorities in the UN, US and UK on domestic issues. ■

(The writer is Union minister for urban development, housing and urban poverty alleviation, and parliamentary affairs.)

New Beginning made by India and Pakistan : Sushma Swaraj

Former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee used to say that we can change friends but not neighbours. Modi government also believes in this realist approach once said by its predecessor.

India and Pakistan both have headed towards to begin a comprehensive bilateral dialogue to address all outstanding issues through peaceful means.

After returning from her recent Pakistan -visit external affairs minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj said "A new beginning has been made by India and Pakistan as the two countries have agreed on a new bilateral comprehensive dialogue to address all outstanding issues through peaceful means."

The ice melt between India and Pakistan when Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a brief meeting with his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif at a climate change conference in Paris on 1 December.

The meeting paved the way for further dialogue between the two countries. After a long time first formal talks took place between the national security advisers of India and Pakistan on December 6 in Bangkok before foreign minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj travelled to Islamabad for the Heart of Asia summit. After meeting of the National Security Advisers (NSA) of the two countries in Bangkok a statement was issued that they had talked about terrorism, Kashmir, peace and security.

This paved the way for Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj's visit to Pakistan on December 9 to attend a security conference on Afghanistan.

To a question in Rajya Sabha on whether India has raised the issue of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir in international fora, Smt. Swaraj replied in affirmative and said government's principled and consistent position on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir has been that the entire state is an integral part of India.

"A new beginning has been made in the form of the agreement of the two countries on a new bilateral comprehensive dialogue to address all outstanding issues between them through peaceful means," she said. ■

Bill for robust & transparent system for coal mines auctioning passed *Potential Revenue Generation of over Rs 3.44 Lakh Crore Estimated During Life Time of Mines to the Coal Producing States*

The year 2015 will be written in golden letters in the annals of history of coal sector in the country for the coal mines auction conducted in an efficient & transparent way. The success of coal block auctions carried out by the new government has proved that its decision to conduct a "fair and transparent" bidding for coal mines has benefitted the country in a big way because India has actually hit a gold mine with the recently concluded auctions.

In order to laid down robust & transparent system after the Supreme Court order, an Ordinance was promulgated to legally enable the Government to re-allocate 204 coal mines cancelled by the court and ensure smooth transfer of right, title and interests in the mine along with its land and other associated mining infrastructure to the new allocatee to be selected through an auction or allotment to Government companies, as the case may be. The Parliament passed the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill 2015 on 20th March, 2015 which replaced the Ordinance. Under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015, the Central Government has so far successfully auctioned in three tranches 31 coal mines

and allotted 42 coal mines/ Blocks to Central or State Government Companies .

The auction of coal mines has been universally hailed to be a success, which has not only ensured that there is no disruption in the economy in the wake of the order of the Supreme Court , but have also set new benchmark for efficiency and transparency. It is estimated that Rs 3.44 lakh crore of likely revenue to States through coal mines e-auctions & allotments over 30 years from just the three rounds of auction. The fourth round of auction of 8 coal mines (Schedule III) for non-regulated sector has also been announced.

Out of 34 operating coal mines auctioned/ allotted, nine mines have started coal production and have registered over 5Mt output and rest all expected to begin production in next 2/3 months.

Coal India Ltd (CIL) production jumped 8.8 per cent to 321.38 mt during April-November period of current fiscal while off-take soared by 9.8 percent.

In a historic decision, in order to meet the requirements of the industry, improve coal quality, promote efficiency as well as save the environment, CIL will supply 100% crushed coal to its customers from 1st April, 2016. The Ministry has

decided to ensure supply of quality fuel by supplying crushed coal from 1st January next year. CIL has also started the process of setting up 15 coal washeries to supply clean coal Grade 10 and above from October 2017.

Rationalisation of linkages has been done so far for 19 thermal coal plants resulting in annual saving of Rs 1423 crore in freight cost.

Key highlights of Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act 2015 are as follows:

- The new Act has provisions for allocation of coal mines through a transparent bidding process i.e. E-auction.
- The E-auction of coal blocks will ensure the continuity in coal mining operations and will promote optimum utilisation of coal resources.
- The new Act also facilitates E-auction of coal blocks for private companies for captive use and allots mines directly to state and central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
- It has provisions that propose strong measures for rehabilitation and compensation for displaced persons.
- It enables sale of coal specially to small, medium and cottage industries which will increase employment & incomes in these sectors. ■

'Democratic' Sonia Vs 'Dictatorial' Modi

By S Gurumurthy

The Congress party characterises Modi as a dictator and by implication, presents Sonia as a democrat. Whether a popular leader is a dictator or a democrat is tested by conduct. An unpopular dictator is an oxymoron. A dictator may become unpopular but no unpopular person can ever become a dictator. How a leader behaves when in position of power – particularly when his or her position is under threat – offers the most reliable test. A popular Indira Gandhi was tested twice. Once in 1969 when her senior colleagues dissented her individualistic style. She used State power, backstabbed the party and defeated the party nominee in the election for the President of India and captured the party with the help of the enemies of the party by forging an ideological alliance with them. This destroyed the democratic Congress party as the nation knew till then. She put the party under her virtual dictatorship. She changed the very paradigm of national politics from politics of ethics and character to politics of power and success. This brought out her dictatorial mind. The real dictator in her came out when the Allahabad High Court unseated her from

Parliament and the Supreme Court made her a Prime Minister without voting rights in Parliament. She struck at the nation, imposed Emergency and, as Nani Palkhiwala said, defaced and defiled the Constitution, courts, Parliament, Opposition, media, and the people at large and put the whole nation under total dictatorship. It is 40 years since and still now,

credentials of Sonia and Modi?

Look at how the 'dictatorial' Narendra Modi conducted himself when, just three years before he became the Prime Minister, he was under tremendous pressure from the Opposition, media and even the courts. Sonia Gandhi and her party had accused him of being the merchant of death. The UPA, which had made the CBI its

A popular Indira Gandhi was tested twice. Once in 1969 when her senior colleagues dissented her individualistic style. She used State power, backstabbed the party and defeated the party nominee in the election for the President of India and captured the party with the help of the enemies of the party by forging an ideological alliance with them. This destroyed the democratic Congress party as the nation knew till then. She put the party under her virtual dictatorship. She changed the very paradigm of national politics from politics of ethics and character to politics of power and success.

no one in the Congress or from the family of Indira Gandhi has sincerely regretted the Emergency. On the contrary, Rajiv Gandhi, after he got four-fifths majority in the Lok Sabha in 1984, even tried to justify the Emergency. And that Congress party and Sonia Gandhi, claiming to be the proud daughter-in-law of Indira Gandhi, are trying to brand Narendra Modi as dictatorial – by implication, claiming to be democratic. Is it not time then that one compared the democratic

Alsatian, used the agency to target him in the Sohrabuddin case. The sordid story was exposed by The New Indian Express (see articles titled, Fixing Shah, by Fabrication, CBI Betrays Court, Bails Out Congress and Interrogating The Media – published in August 2010). The media was applauding every effort to fix and get rid of him. Yet, there was no FIR against him. No complaint had been filed in any court against him. No court had issued him summons. No court had ordered his examination by

police. But the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Gujarat riots summoned him for examination like police would summon any one at their discretion. He was as popular in Gujarat as he is now all over the country. He was a powerful and performing Chief Minister of Gujarat. Also he was seen as the rising national leader within the BJP when the SIT

his answers, the SIT finally exonerated him. But his adversaries would not leave him. They charged the SIT with favouring him. Finally, the Supreme Court had to exonerate him twice – once, when the UPA was in power and next time, a few months ago. This is ‘dictatorial’ Modi’s behaviour.

Now compare how the ‘democratic’ Sonia behaved

loyalists, including Motilal Vohra, the Congress party treasurer, charging them with conspiracy, fraud, cheating, and criminal breach of trust to rob the shareholders and the public of thousands of crores. All this happened when the UPA was in power. Rahul Gandhi threatened to file a defamation suit against Dr Swamy. Swamy challenged him but Rahul ran away. In June 2014, a Delhi criminal court took cognisance of the offence and issued summons. Forthwith, Sonia Gandhi and other five accused, including Rahul, filed petitions in the Delhi High Court to quash the criminal proceedings. They kept delaying the hearing till they thought they got the judge they felt comfortable with. One judge recused himself and so did the next. The matter went to the third judge, who Sonia and her co-accused did not like, and he too recused himself. All the accused petitioned to have the matter heard by the second judge who had recused himself earlier. The case was posted before the very judge, who Sonia and her co-accused felt comfortable with. It is that very same judge, who decided on December 7, 2015 that the lower court has rightly ordered their trial and summoned them, and asked them to appear before the metropolitan magistrate. Still, hell broke loose. The very next day the Congress president was seen instigating her MPs to stall Parliament.

He was as popular in Gujarat as he is now all over the country. He was a powerful and performing Chief Minister of Gujarat. Also he was seen as the rising national leader within the BJP when the SIT summoned him. But he did not use his party to drum up support for him in the Assembly nor did his party stall Parliament. The Gujarat Assembly functioned and so did Parliament. He could have gathered a million people to give him a great ovation when he went to the SIT office to put pressure on the investigation and on the instigators of the case against him. He respected the summons and drove to the SIT office in his car. He walked down the lane leading to the SIT alone. He was grilled by the SIT for over eight hours. He answered their questions. Satisfied with his answers, the SIT finally exonerated him.

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after the National Herald case caught up with her, her son and her family loyalists. Here is the National Herald case in brief. In November 2012, Dr Subramanian Swamy exposed how Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi have grabbed properties of National Herald worth thousands of crores through a convoluted criminal strategy. After that, this newspaper carried a detailed article, National Herald Affair: It’s Fraud All The Way (TNIE, November 8, 2012), explaining the fraud. In January 2013, Dr Swamy filed a criminal complaint against Sonia, her son and family

When the Speaker asked them why were they disturbing the House, they shouted they saw in the National Herald case “political vendetta” and “democracy in danger”. When the Speaker asked them to spell out what they want and offered to allow them to raise the issue and speak in the House, they ran away from speaking in the House. Obviously, they only had instructions to stall the House. The same theatrics were repeated in the Rajya Sabha. Not that they did not talk in the House. They couldn’t. Why?

It needs no seer to say that the prosecution on the National Herald fraud was an act of the judiciary and the Modi government had had nothing to do with it. There was no CBI or Income Tax or the Enforcement Directorate in the picture which could link the prosecution to the government. It was the private complaint of Dr Subramanian Swamy on which the magistrate held that Sonia, Rahul and the four family loyalists had created a trust company fully controlled by them as a cloak or sham of a special purpose vehicle to convert public money and to acquire control over thousands of crores of assets of National Herald. The court held that the accused acted as a consortium to achieve the nefarious purpose and asked them to face trial. This was the prima facie assessment of the court under the law. The

Obviously stressed by the court notice on charges of swallowing thousands of crores of properties of National Herald by using the Congress party, Sonia Gandhi said, “Why should I be scared of anyone? I am Indira Gandhi’s daughter-in-law.” She said this after personally directing the Congress party to halt Parliament on Tuesday. This is ‘democratic’ Sonia, the daughter-in-law of Indira Gandhi, the saviour of democracy in India, charging Modi with ‘dictatorship’. There cannot be a more cruel joke on democracy.

government had no role in this process at all. It was between Sonia Gandhi and her co-conspirators on the one hand and Dr Subramanian Swamy on the other, with the court playing the neutral and judicial role. This order was passed in June 2014. Did Sonia or Rahul or any of the accused or the Congress party even hint that the magistrate had acted outside the law? Stop Parliament? In contrast, they all went to the Delhi High Court to quash the order and summons of the magistrate. The judge, whom they were comfortable with, decided on December 7 that they better face the criminal case as the magistrate had rightly decided.

The very next day, the ‘democratic Sonia’ ordered her party to stall Parliament. Even as she was overseeing

the closure of Parliament for the day on December 8 and her son was on a flying visit to Tamil Nadu to offer relief to the flood-affected people, their lawyers were standing before the magistrate and pleading that Sonia, Rahul and the other accused were “keen to appear before the court”. Where is vendetta then, Madam Sonia? The court has granted them 10 days and directed them to appear on December 19. It remains to be seen whether the ‘democratic’ Sonia and Rahul will walk alone and appear before the court like Modi did before the police or gather a huge crowd for theatrics and disturb the court like the Gandhis disturbed the Shah Commission.

A caveat: Obviously stressed by the court notice on charges of swallowing thousands of crores of properties of National Herald by using the Congress party, Sonia Gandhi said, “Why should I be scared of anyone? I am Indira Gandhi’s daughter-in-law.”

She said this after personally directing the Congress party to halt Parliament on Tuesday. This is ‘democratic’ Sonia, the daughter-in-law of Indira Gandhi, the saviour of democracy in India, charging Modi with ‘dictatorship’. There cannot be a more cruel joke on democracy. ■

(The author is a well-known commentator on political and economic issues.)