

Voice of the Nation

₹50.00

ORGANISER

Vol. 74, No. 5 New Delhi

July 24, 2022, Shraavan Krishna 11 Yugabd 5124



#SRI LANKAN CRISIS

LANKA ON FIRE

The dynastic politics, mindless policies and Chinese debt trap allowed a mob led by Islamist-Communist conglomerate to undermine the Constitutional scheme of things in Sri Lanka



www.organiser.org

<https://twitter.com/eOrganiser>

<https://www.facebook.com/eOrganiser>



**SANSKRITI
UNIVERSITY**
FOR EXCELLENCE IN LIFE

www.sanskriti.edu.in

Ranked **3rd** School of
Tourism & Hospitality
in Uttar Pradesh by



Ranked among **Top 30**
Band Performer,
ARIIA Ranking 2021



COURSES OFFERED

Engineering • Polytechnic • Management & Commerce
Tourism & Hospitality • Fashion • Law & Legal Studies
Humanities & Social Science • Education • Rehabilitation
Yoga & Naturopathy • Basic & Applied Sciences • Agriculture
Pharmacy • Nursing • Medical & Allied Sciences • BAMS
BNYS • Journalism & Mass Communication

200
BEDED
AYURVEDIC
HOSPITAL
(KERALEEYA TREATMENT)

WELLNESS
CENTRE
(KERALEEYA PANCHKARM)

U.P. GOVT
APPROVED
INCUBATION
CENTRE

13
STARTUPS
RUNNING

PLACEMENT RECORDS

91% Students Placed | **54 Lakhs** Highest Package



📍 Campus: 28 K. M. Stone, Mathura – Delhi Highway, Chhata, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh (INDIA)

☎ 9690899944 ✉ enquiry@sanskriti.edu.in 📞 9358512345

📞 Toll Free Number: 1800 120 2880



Scan QR code to visit website

ANALYSIS

- 24 Dealing with the Taliban
- 26 Rupee gaining global Currency
- 29 Goa: From Frustration to Desperation
- 30 Last Gamble
- 32 No Redemption In Sight
- 40 Opening New Vistas
- 42 Going For the Skill

COVER STORY SRI LANKAN CRISIS



- 10 Lanka in Fire
- 15 A Teardrop in Indian Ocean
- 18 Chung of the Problem



OPINION

- 48 Unsung Heroes: Subaltern Surge

REPORT

- 35 Medha In The Dock



- 06 REPORT/HINDU SANKALP MARCH
Enough is Enough



- 09 INTERVIEW/ALOK KUMAR
"SC exceeded limits of propriety in Nupur case"

COLUMN

- 04 Readers' Forum
- 05 Editorial
- 44 Book Review
- 46 Defence Scan
- 50 Temple



20 OBITUARY

Abe San,
India's Friend



- 36 FILM REVIEW/ ROCKETRY
Secular Racket Science

Editor: Prafulla Ketkar | Asso Editor: G Sreedathan | Chief Copy Editor: Madhur Tankha | Correspondent : Nishant Kumar Azad |
Chief News Coordinator: Ganesh Krishnan R | Art Director: Shashi Mohan Rawat | Sr Graphic Designer: Mukta Surma Kataria
| DTP Operator: Manoj Kumar Singh | Cover Page Design: Shashi Mohan Rawat |
E-mail: editor.organiser@bpd.in | Website: www.organiser.org | Phones: 8860874360

Bharat Prakashan (Delhi) Ltd.

Managing Director
Bharat Bhushan Arora
Chief General Manager
Ashish Kumar Khare (cgm@bpd.in)
General Manager
Shonal Gupta (shonal.gupta@bpd.in)
Director & Publisher
Bihari Lal Singhal

Advertisement Department

Phone : 708-9696-708
Email : advt@bpd.in

For Delivery Complaints, Circulation Drives, Agency, Book Stall, Bulk Subscriptions, Retail Subscription and Subscriber Support

Phone : 814-3232-814
Email : support@bpd.in
Agency Phone : 972-7979-972
Working days : Monday to Saturday
Time : 9 Am to 6PM

Registered Office:

The Address, Plot No. 4B, District Center, Mayur Vihar, Phase-1 Extn., Delhi-110091

Gujrat Office :

B-1, Parav Apartment, Behind LG Hospital, Mukti Maidan, Maninagar, Ahmedabad-380008
Gujrat, Mob. 942-6170-862

Lucknow Bureau:

Bureau Chief : Sunil Rai
Office: Vishva Samvaad Kendra, First Floor, Dr G B Pant Marg, Lohia Panth, Jiamau, Hazratganj, Lucknow

Uttarakhand Bureau:

Bureau Chief : Dinesh Mansera
Office: 163, Palam City, Rampur Road Haldwani, Uttarakhand-263139

Bengaluru Bureau:

Office: Vikrama Prakashan, No. 106, 5th Main Road, Post Box No. 1804, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru-560018

Guwahati office:

Bureau Chief : Dibya Kamal Bordoloi
Office: Greenland Apartment, Block2,1E Rukminigaon, Guwahati, Assam-781022



Leftists Unmasked

APROPOS the story 'The Liberal Art of Provocation', *Organiser*, July 17, shows the real face of Left liberal cabal, who flaunt their Western education but know absolutely nothing when it comes to Santhan Dharma and giving respect to our Gods and Goddesses. Their malicious propaganda is out in the open and they are now fully exposed. While the Toronto-based filmmaker Leena Manimekalai was guilty of misrepresenting Goddess Kali, TMC MP Mahua Moitra not only crossed the red line of decency and morality but also hurt sentiments of Hindus when she shamelessly said that Ma Kali eats non vegetarian food and drinks alcohol. She subsequently provoked Hindus so that they attempt to attack her. However, Hindus did not bite the bait. The entire country has seen how intolerant Islamists are as they mercilessly killed Kanhaiya Lal, a resident of Udaipur earning livelihood through tailoring, and Umesh Kolhe, a pharmacist in Maharashtra, for extending support to Nupur Sharma but Hindus have remained peaceful. Had the filmmaker and MP heaped such insults on the minority religion then they would have to face the music. Hinduism believes in tolerance but now they need to assert themselves by speaking against so-called seculars who want to misuse their creative freedom to demean

their Gods and Goddesses.

AMRISH PATHAK, *Ahmedabad*

Abandoning Hindus led to Govt Fall

APROPOS the story 'An experiment Gone Wrong', *Organiser*, July 10, 2022 makes it clear that the Maharashtra Government led by Udhav Thackeray fell due to several reasons like lack of experience, dynastic cult and inefficiency of Government. But essentially it was deviation from its core ideology that was responsible for the State Government's downfall. We are now reminded of a comment by Shiv Sena leader, during the Ayodhya movement, "A friend in need is a friend indeed". It implied that Shiva Sena's support was indispensable for the BJP's cause. Such a Shiv Sena aligning with the NCP and the Congress, which are far from the Hindu cause, was not digestible to Sena's cadres. So, the fall of the Government was certain. Devendra Fadnavis with a deft move was instrumental for the installation of Sena-BJP Government. His sacrifice in accepting the Deputy CMs post ensures not only the longevity of the State Government, but also will reward Bharatiya Janata Party with substantial seats in 2024 Lok Sabha elections. For a party like BJP, sacrifices by leaders are not uncommon. We have the sterling example of Advaniji.

DHARMARAJAN AK, *Thalassery*

Name Changing the Right Step

RENAMING cities, towns and villages of India which were given Islamic names by Muslim invaders is a welcome step. No self respecting Hindu would like his city to have a Muslim name.

Such names are symbol of atrocities and conversion that Islamic invaders indulged in. It is heartening to know that Swami Chakrapani Maharaj National President, Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha & Sant Mahasabha, recently demanded to rename the national capital as Indraprastha. This will be an apt move and would be welcomed not only by Bhartiya but also make the world take notice that the capital of India has now a name associated with Bharat's ancient civilisation. They should know about sacrifices of Pandavas rather than Islamic invaders who plundered Bharat and converted Hindus so that they could rule Hindustan. The first politician who should get credit for removing Islamic names is Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who renamed Allahabad as Prayagraj and Faizabad district as Ayodhya. He deserves to be congratulated and showing the right direction to CMs of other States. His statement that "Ayodhya is a symbol of our *aan, baan aur shaan* (honour, pride and prestige)," made at a grand "Deepotsav" event organised in the pilgrim town will remain in memory of residents of this temple town. Muslims of today have become more radicalised than their predecessors. There is an increasing number of men sporting beards and wearing sherwanis and women covering themselves with hijab and burqa. They need to know that they are living in Hindustan where feelings of Hindus would never be compromised.

RAJIV SOOD, *Agra*

The Resolute March with a Message

On July 9th, 2022, since early morning, ordinary people thronged the streets of Central Delhi unprecedentedly. It was not a political call. No posters or hoardings were raised to mobilise the masses. Just messaging through direct or social media and more than 1 lakh 50 thousand people hit the street with just one question – whether this country would be run by the Constitution or by the Sharia Law.

The Hindu Sankalp March organised under the aegis of Vishwa Hindu Parishad was unique in many ways. It was a peaceful march of the entire Hindu society who felt concerned about the growing Islamic radicalisation in Bharat and how violence is being justified under one pretext or the other. People from all walks of life, from Armed Forces personnel, bureaucrats, and spiritual leaders to ordinary women, children, students and labourers, started gathering around the Mandi House circle of Central Delhi.

The massive march concluded at Jantar Mantar, a designated protest place near the Sansad Marg. There was only one speech by the International Working President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Shri Alok Kumar, an eminent lawyer. He broadly made three points through that brief but fiery speech: Firstly, targeting Nupur Sharma is a diversionary strategy of Islamists so that the right to worship at Kashi and Mathura takes a backseat. Secondly, the present-day Bharat is not ready to accept the Sharia mindset of *Sar Tan Se Juda*. Thirdly, the question of free speech is central here. Do we have a right to discuss the Islamic history, personalities and scriptures and raise relevant questions about them as we do in the case of all other religions? This question should be a fundamental consideration before the court in this case involving Nupur Sharma. The March ended with the collective recitation of Hanuman Chalisa.

After the Ram Janmabhoomi Movement, perhaps it was the first time that the nation witnessed this kind of Hindu strength on roads. The entire atmosphere was electrifying and disciplined at the same time.

The brutal killings of Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur, Rajasthan and Umesh Kolhe in Amaravati, Maharashtra, had shaken the nation to the core. After the controversy erupted with the television debate involving Tasleem Rahmani, a former SDPI leader and Nupur Sharma, former spokesperson of BJP, violent protests were orchestrated all over Bharat, with an open call for beheading of Nupur, as per the Sharia Law. Even the people who stood by her were threatened. The actual killings of Kanhaiya Lal and Umesh Kolhe reminded everyone of Taliban or ISIS-like beheadings. The judicial observations while hearing the petition filed by Nupur Sharma for clubbing all FIRs were perceived to encourage the Islamists, as they held Nupur Sharma responsible for beheading. There was an atmosphere of anger and frustration. Everyone believed that the threat of Islamic radicalisation was real and existential. The show of unity and expressing concerns through placards and slogans sent a message nationwide.

The Hindu Sankalp March itself was a message. It was an embodiment of awakened Hindu consciousness. Each woman talking to the media was fearlessly standing by Nupur Sharma and defended her, citing the Islamic scriptures. The underlying message of the March was simple and straight: the Hindu Unity for protecting the civilisational values of our nation is the sole guarantee for free speech, religious freedom and other Constitutional rights.

 @PrafullaKetkar



We never realised the secret of organised strength, and hence we lost our freedom and peace though always numerically superior to any invading force, for want of organised life.

.. Even a solitary Muslim goonda feels confident that he can terrorise the whole Hindu population of a place. Every Hindu feels that he is alone and single-handed though the truth is otherwise. This feeling is responsible for the atmosphere of dread and cowardice prevalent in our midst. It has made us wretched and degenerated to such an extent that we are not ashamed to connive at the atrocities committed under our very nose just to save our skin . . . It should be our effort, therefore, to fight out these unworthy and perverted ideas and replace them by healthy and proper outlook, if we have to put a stop to our downfall". –MS

*Golwalkar (Shri Gururji),
Second Sarsanghachalak of
RSS, in his speech delivered
at the Sangh Shiksha Varg on
May 7, 1942, at Nagpur*



March for Hindu Cause: Through banners, protesters emphasised the need that Bharat will be governed by the Constitution and not Sharia

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

OUTRAGED BY THE RECENT KILLINGS OF HINDUS, TAILOR KANHAIYA LAL AND PHARMACIST UMESH KOLHE BY ISLAMISTS FOR SUPPORTING FORMER BJP SPOKESPERSON NUPUR SHARMA, VISHWA HINDU PARISHAD UNDERTOOK A MASSIVE MARCH IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL. IT WAS AIMED AT SENDING OUT A CLEAR MESSAGE THAT LAWS IN BHARAT WILL BE GOVERNED BY THE CONSTITUTION AND NOT SHARIA

■ MAHENDRA KUMAR

Under the banner of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, thousands of Hindu activists belonging to various organisations participated in the Hindu Sankalp March held on July 9. Carrying flags of various Hindu organisations, they marched peacefully, turning the city a sea of saffron. The march began at Mandi House and concluded at Jantar Mantar.

DEMONSTRATING STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

During the march, the enthusiastic participants, which included politicians as well as prominent religious figures, raised slogans of 'Jai Shri Ram', 'Vande Mataram' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'. More than 1.5 lakh people participated in this march. Such a big march has not been witnessed before in Delhi in recent years. This march in the heart of Delhi was against "attacks carried on members of the Hindu community".



Sankalp Hindu March was a peaceful march that highlighted



the Hindu philosophy of tolerance and peaceful co-existence

"Despite the presence of such a large number of people in the Sankalp Hindu March, there was no untoward incident. It was a peaceful march that highlighted the Hindu philosophy of tolerance and peaceful co-existence," said a participant.

The march was a sharp contrast to anti-India protests like those against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) that were organised by Islamic and Left organisations. Such protests often result in the participants looting grocery shops, chemists, furniture and electronic outlets, damaging automobiles and properties, eve-teasing, besides misbehaving with by-standers.

RALLYING BEHIND NUPUR SHARMA

Addressing the public meeting, VHP International Working President Alok Kumar expressed concern over the recent murder of tailor Kanhaiya Lal in Rajasthan's Udaipur, and stated that Hindus were being attacked everywhere.

He said, "Many Hindu groups are on the streets today for the Sankalp March. We have gathered here to raise our voice against attacks on Hindus. They cannot be targeted like this, we will not spare those who are targeted."

Extending support to former BJP functionary Nupur Sharma, who has been given death threats by Islamists after she made remarks on Prophet Mohammad during a TV show even though Islamic scholars have verified authenticity of her comments, Alok Kumarji said Nupur Sharma should be treated "innocent" till the apex court decides otherwise.

REPORT/HINDU SANKALP MARCH

All Hindu organisations of Delhi have participated in this historic Hindu Sankalp March. Hindu society has reiterated its resolve that the country will run according to the constitution. All organisations have come together for this. The wishes of some jihadi forces working to prevent India from being a nation will never be fulfilled.

— **Kapil Khanna**, VHP Leader



India will be run by the Constitution and not by the Shariat. Hindu brotherhood will serve only those who will walk with the law. Those who cut Hindus' throats will not be treated as brotherly fodder. This Sankalp March has been organised to make the Hindu society aware of Islamic fundamentalism

— **Mahamandaleshwar Swami Naval Kishore Das Ji**



Lakhs of elderly, youth, women, men and children have participated in this Hindu Sankalp March. All Hindus are out on the streets today. I think the jihadists and their supporters and the leaders and journalists who stand behind them have come to know today that India is strongly against jihad

— **Kapil Mishra**, BJP Leader



Making it clear that the country needs to be run according to the Constitution of Bharat, Alok Kumar said, "I have heard the statements of Nupur Sharma and she gave only two

examples from the life of Prophet Muhammad. Until the Supreme Court says that Nupur Sharma is guilty, everyone should consider her innocent. Two judges of the Supreme Court have made a remark and it should not be treated as a judgement."

Pointing out that through this Sankalp March, Hindus have tried to show their strength and taking a unified stand when it comes to speaking for the safety of their community, Alok Kumarji said, "The march has highlighted the fact that Hindus are believers of Dharma but respect human lives and people of other faiths. Respecting all religions is the core of Hindus. This is the result that Hindus respect all religions. Despite this, there have been constant conspiracies by the Muslims against the Hindus. This is the reason why Hindus are being put to death across the country."

The court had on July 1 reprimanded suspended Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Nupur Sharma for her remarks about Prophet Mohammad, saying that her (Nupur's) "unbridled tongue" has "infected the entire country". The court had also said that "Sharma alone is responsible for what is happening in the country" as she made remarks about Prophet Mohammad either to get cheap publicity or under some political agenda or under some hateful activity. In the Hindu Sankalp March, Mahamandaleshwar Swami Naval Kishore Das said that India will be run by the Constitution and not by the Shariat. "Hindu brotherhood will serve only those who will walk with the law."

HISTORIC MARCH

Pointing out that more than one lakh Hindus, including senior citizens, youth, women, men and children have participated in this Hindu Sankalp March, BJP leader Kapil Mishra said that all Hindus are out on the streets today. "This is a historic Sankalp March in which lakhs of Hindus have participated. Our only message is that India will run through the Constitution. Our main issue is that the fundamentalists who brutally murdered Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur and Umesh Kohle in Amravati should get capital punishment."

Expressing satisfaction over the participation of Hindu organisations of Delhi in this historic Hindu Sankalp March, the VHP leader said Hindu society has reiterated its resolve that the country will run according to the Constitution. It saw the participation of Lt Gen Nitin Kohli, Maj Gen Dhruv Kotoch, Maj Gen SP Sinha, Major Gen Sanjay Soi, Vidya Sagar, Former Ambassador, Saroj Bala IRS, former member, CBDT, and many renowned Hindu religious figures. ■

“SC EXCEEDED LIMITS OF PROPRIETY IN NUPUR CASE”



A slew of murders and attacks on Hindus in the wake of the Nupur Sharma episode have left the Hindus outraged. Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) recently organised a massive Hindu Sankalp March in Delhi, calling for upholding the rule of law and constitutional principles. Organiser Sub-editor Yatharth Sikka spoke to VHP International Working President Alok Kumar on the latter's plan of action. Excerpts:

■ **What is the purpose of the Hindu Sankalp March and what it means to Hindu society?**

This is to take a resolve that we shall maintain the unity, integrity and fraternity of Bharat as enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution. Recently, there have been instances and incidents which have threatened this unity and the rule of law. Some people had grievances against the expelled BJP leaders Nupur Sharma and Naveen Jindal. On their complaints, FIRs have been registered. The police are investigating: The legal procedure is that the matter would go to a court and it would decide if the former BJP leaders were guilty. But, some people were not ready to accept this. They hit the streets, shouted slogans, stood on the pulpits and said, “Whosoever raises his eye, his eyes would be gauged out, whosoever waxes eloquent, his tongue would be cut, whosoever raised his head, it would be severed from the body”. This is not the rule of law. These are principles of Sharia law which may have prevailed 1400 years ago but they are out of date today. They are not applicable today in India and we shall not let anybody insist upon them. Then there were two murders about which the police had credible information that the victims' were in danger. These things are a challenge both to the rule of law and fraternity.

Therefore, we have decided to express the resolve

of the country to maintain unity and integrity to ensure that India would become a developed country, a happy country, a prosperous country and the Vishwa Guru.

■ **The Vishwa Hindu Parishad has launched some helpline numbers. What do you aim to achieve?**

In various parts of the country, threats are being issued. We have advised people not to be cowed down but go to the police station and report them. We expect the police to act. It is possible that at some places the police may not be inclined to do so. In such cases, the victim can call local Bajrang Dal members and our young persons would accompany him to the police station and persuade the police to perform their duty.

■ **Hindu organisations seem to be upset with the Supreme Court. Why is that?**

No, we are not upset with the Supreme Court. We have full faith in the Supreme Court. But, then some of the oral comments that were made during the hearing of Nupur Sharma's case were unnecessary; they did not relate to the matters at hand and should have been avoided. We believe the Supreme Court exceeded the limits of propriety in making such irresponsible comments. ■



MANISH ANAND

Political and Strategic Affairs Editor of The Raisina Hills

LANKA IN FIRE

BY SIGNING THE BRI PROJECT WITH CHINA, SRI LANKA HAD ALLOWED ITSELF TO BE PLACED ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK. COUPLED WITH DEBT CRISIS, SOCIAL UNREST, ISLAMIC RADICALISM AND LOPSIDED ECONOMIC AND FARM POLICIES BROUGHT THE ISLAND NATION TO ITS KNEES

Popular anger against the Government of Sri Lanka was manifested on July 9 in Colombo resulting in protesters using their full energy in attacking the Presidential building. By then the Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had fled. Before him, his brother Mahinda Rajapaksa, who was Prime Minister of the country, too had fled. The “Go Gotta Go” campaign led from Galle Face, the nerve centre of the protest against Gotabaya Rajapaksa, seems to have reached its conclusion.

The Galle Face protest, lasting more than 80 days, gave expression to the seething anger among the people against the financial collapse of the island nation, has largely been peaceful, barring the attack on Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe’s private residence. It was torched in Colombo. There had been a few incidents of violence in the early days when Mahinda Rajapaksa had sought to bully the protesters in a clear sign of arrogance having overwhelmed the ruling family of the island nation.





Public outrage against Sri Lankan Government and its administrative machinery is unprecedented



Public anger against the island nations's heads of Government is understandable given their indifference to the plight of the common man

RULING ELITES FLEE

Five days after he went into hiding, Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled the country, with reports suggesting that his first stop would be the Maldivian capital Male and afterwards he would seek shelter in another Asian country. This was after the immigration officials at the airport refused to visit the VIP lounge to stamp his passport, which made him miss multiple flights out of the country. Gotabaya Rajapaksa was indeed afraid to get his passport stamped, fearing the people in the airport. At last, he had to flee in the Sri Lankan Air Force plane out of the country on the last day of his Presidency.

On July 13, Gotabaya Rajapaksa was supported to finally give up the Presidency of the country, while the Sri Lankan Parliament is expected to elect his successor on July 20. Prime Minister Renil Wickremesinghe has also quit, while being in the office only for a few weeks, after an all-party meeting which agreed on the roadmap ahead following the Rajapaksa brothers fleeing Colombo.

CLINGING ON TO HIS CHAIR

The diplomatic community is perplexed as to why Gotabaya Rajapaksa hung on for so long when he knew

that the people didn't want to see him in the office for even one day. And what exactly is the significance of July 13 that he waited to finally resign from his post. Yet, life seems to have come full circle for Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the former powerful Defence Minister of the island nation, who was hailed for victory in war against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). His popularity had been at peak not long ago, and now he has been reduced to the status of a national disgrace. This happened in a quick space, after the 2019 Easter terror attack and the COVID-19 pandemic.

INDONESIAN PARALLEL

Before we dig deeper into the Sri Lankan systematic malaise, it will not be out of place to appreciate the restraint of the people, who have been facing an unprecedented crisis amid shortages of essential goods for months. This is in contrast to what had happened in Indonesia on May 4, 1998.

Suharto had been the President of Indonesia for 32 years and ran the country with an iron hand, while his excesses were seemingly ignored, as the East Asian country roared with the economic advancements by reaping the early benefits of globalisation. But he was a despot and undemocratic. People there ran out of patience



CHINA CONTROLLED THE PORTS, WHICH WERE BUILT AS PART OF THE BRI, IN PAKISTAN, SRI LANKA, MYANMAR AND EAST AFRICA TO THROW A RING AGAINST INDIA WITH THE AIM TO CHOKe ITS MARITIME AUTONOMY AND ALSO DICTATE GLOBAL TRADE

there, and the government went on a spree to collect easy money through loans at much higher rates of interest. Sri Lankan economy had turned into a sitting duck, which was slayed by the twin blows of the 2019 Easter terror attack and the 2020 COVID-19 outbreak. But the economy of the island nation was put to the chopping block when Sri Lanka signed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of China. The diplomatic community world over has been well aware of the ways the BRI rolled on to crush the health of the finances of not less than 60 countries, spread over in Asia, Africa, Latin America and even Europe.

DRAGON'S DEBT FIRE

The modus operandi of the BRI was simple – bribe the ruling elites, fund unproductive assets which will be built by the Chinese firms, trap the countries in debt by adding on to costlier loans, usurp the assets built for 99-year lease, and ultimately lord over a financial colony for strategic gains. Sri Lanka willfully walked into Beijing's trap, which was indeed a part of the pearl of strings set up against India in the Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. China controlled the ports, which were built as part of the BRI, in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and east Africa to throw a ring against India with the aim to choke its maritime autonomy and also dictate global trade.

In the pursuit of its objectives, China bribed the ruling elites in such countries. The Chinese bids to influence the economies and politics of Myanmar, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Afghanistan are well-known among the strategic affairs commentators.

The 2019 Easter terror attack jolted the Sri Lankan economy out of its slumber, for the international tourists became hesitant to come to the island nation. The foreign currency reserves began dipping. The COVID-19 pandemic broke the backbone of the tourism industry, while also choking the remittances sent by the expatriates, as the Sri Lankans lost their jobs in other countries. The debt-funded economic comforts crumbled. The arrogance of power fooled Gotabaya Rajapaksa to go fully organic,

on May 4, 1998 and in the course of over a month more than a thousand people lost their lives, while several were injured and hundreds of women were raped, as arson and violence gripped the whole country. The people at last prevailed and Indonesia got democracy.

There's a stark similarity between Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Suharto, both were forced out of their offices by the people. But the Sri Lankan people have ensured that the island nation escaped the fury of 1998 in Indonesia, and the police and the military establishment must not have taken the full orders from their President.

While the people of Indonesia had also gained from the early benefits of globalisation, Sri Lankans too enjoyed a good standard of life, with the human development indicators of the island nation being at par with some of the developed countries. The GDP per capita income was in excess of neighbours, including India. The economy was healthy, and the people enjoyed all the benefits of a middle income country after the war with the LTTE ended.

ECONOMY RUINED DUE TO BRI

But the people ignored the malaise that had been taking the cancerous form, as the foreign debt piled up and populist policies became the norms of the political parties



Demonstrators entering the residence of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka

WHILE SRI LANKA SOUGHT TO KEEP HER ECONOMY AFLOAT WITH EXCESSIVE FOREIGN DEBTS, WHICH INCLUDED SEVERAL BAILOUT PACKAGES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF) IN THE LAST FEW DECADES, IT'S EVIDENT THAT AATMANIRBHARTA IS AN INSURANCE AGAINST EXTERNAL SHOCKS

banning the imports of fertilisers in May 2021, which was partially lifted within six months after the agricultural productions crashed. But by then the Sri Lankan economy had begun bleeding excessively, and Beijing had shut down half of China as part of its “Zero Covid Policy”, which gave its President Xi Jinping an alibi to turn the deaf ears to the pleas of the ruling elites in Colombo for additional loans. China by then became convinced that the financial defaults by countries trapped by Beijing in debts are on the cards, and extending additional financial commitments would become tough to recover. China is already known to be a Shylock in the financial world, as Beijing never forgives loans given to others.

INDIA IS FRIEND NEXT DOOR

India, true to its tradition, rushed with humanitarian aid besides extending line of credits to help Colombo source oil, cooking gas, food and other essential goods. While Sri

Lanka is negotiating a bailout package of about USD 4 billion, India has already committed USD 3.8 billion to the island nation. India's Foreign Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been keeping a close watch on Sri Lanka's economic distress, while also reaching out to the multilateral agencies for the much needed financial help. India has shown by its deeds that New Delhi indeed swears by her neighbourhood first policy, which was seen much in action during the COVID-19 pandemic when vaccines and medicines were provided to Kathmandu, Thimphu, Dhaka, Colombo, Male, besides others on priority.

AATMANIRBHARTA IS THE KEY

The world is watching Sri Lanka closely and China indeed stands exposed for making countries financially weak and dependent. This is in contrast to India's small island development partnership, as seen in countries like Mauritius, where New Delhi funds only such projects which are desired by the local people to help them boost their livelihoods.

While Sri Lanka sought to keep her economy afloat with excessive foreign debts, which included several bailout packages from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the last few decades, it's evident that AatmaNirbharta is an insurance against external shocks. The developing countries, including Sri Lanka, are dependent on imports of oil and food, which need to be bought in foreign currency and that in turn needs to be earned, while its absence could only lead to a situation where Colombo currently is stuck. ■

A TEARDROP IN INDIAN OCEAN

THE PICTURESQUE ISLAND NATION IS REELING UNDER A CIVIL WAR LIKE SITUATION. THE BENEFICIARIES OF THIS CHAOTIC LUNACY ARE EVANGELISTS, JIHADIS, DUBIOUS CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS AND ULTRA-LEFTISTS

■ **KAY CEE**



Protests against the economic crisis have simmered for months and came to a head recently when hundreds of thousands of people took over government buildings in Colombo

The storming of the official and private residences of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe at Colombo recently could be a harbinger of many things that could happen in neighbouring India also. The factories specialised in churning out misinformation campaigns are active in Sri Lanka. They operate and function under the guise of civil rights and human rights organisations, NGOs, Leftists. Urban Naxalites, Christian evangelists, Islamic extremist organisations and of course the Left-dominated media. These elements were responsible for the debacle of Mahinda Rajapaksa in the 2015 general election. This is not the assessment of this writer, but of President Gotabaya Rajapakse, the younger brother of Mahinda Rajapakse.

There was no reason to believe that Mahinda would lose the 2015 Parliament election. The Rajapakse Government had literally wiped out the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the terrorist organisation which had turned the island of pearl to a tear drop in the Indian Ocean. For almost three decades, murders, assassinations and bomb attacks perpetrated by the assassins and human bombs were part and parcel of Sri Lanka's daily life. Thousands of Sinhala citizens were murdered by the LTTE terrorists at the orders of Velupillai Prabhakaran, commander of the dreaded organisations.

The Indian and Western media portrayed this illiterate desperado as a hero. The western media and

the European countries like Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Germany, etc., had vested interests in Sri Lanka. They wanted a Christian Republic to be carved out of this Buddhist country. That was how they encouraged and funded the Tamil secessionism in the island nation of 65,610 sq km land mass. (Tamil Nadu measures 1,30,000 sq km in area).

The Dravidian leaders like Karunanidhi and MG Ramachandran promoted and supported the LTTE in its terrorist activities with fund, cash and other materials. Tamil Nadu became a haven for the LTTE till they did the unpardonable sin of murdering former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for reasons best known to them only. It is authentically reported that when two LTTE agents called on Rajiv Gandhi in the month of April 1991, the latter had told them to ask Prabhakaran to lie low for the time being. "Ask him to wait till our elections are over. He will certainly get his Eelam," Gandhi had told them, while seeing them off after an hour long meeting. But Prabhakaran struck within one month by getting Gandhi assassinated with the help of a human bomb called Dhanu who blew herself up with RDX tied to her body.

While heads of State like Chandrika Kumaratunge, Premadasa, Jayavardane failed to put an end to the menace by the name of LTTE, it was Mahinda Rajapakse who put his foot down and obliterated the organisation and its chief. The LTTE elements escaped from Sri Lanka to European countries and

CEYLON SINKING



Sri Lanka's anti-Government protesters, who forced President Gotabaya Rajapaksa from his official residence at the weekend, announced that they will vacate key buildings they have overrun. "We are peacefully withdrawing from the Presidential Palace, the Presidential Secretariat and the Prime Minister's Office with immediate effect, but will continue our struggle," a spokeswoman said.

Meanwhile, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was yet to resign on Thursday. Rajapaksa fled to the Maldives on Wednesday and was expected to head to Singapore later on July 14. Fearing backlash from civilians, President Rajapaksa has requested the Maldives government to arrange a private jet to fly him to Singapore, government sources in Maldives have said.

On July 13, the Lankan political leaders held an all-party meeting, where it was decided to let the parliament Speaker take over as the acting President. The office of Ranil Wickremesinghe, who has been asked to step down, said the ruling party and the opposition must form an all-party government.

Protests against the economic crisis have simmered for months and came to a head recently when hundreds of thousands of people took over government buildings in Colombo, blaming the Rajapaksa and his allies for runaway inflation, shortages and corruption.



China, which discouraged Sri Lanka from approaching IMF for a bailout package, is responsible for the economic crisis prevailing in the island nation

Canada for regrouping and recouping to strike back. But the Mahinda Rajapakse era saw Sri Lanka entering a phase of reconstruction, rehabilitation and rebuilding of the economy. The NGOs started campaigning across the globe claiming that civil rights and human rights were being crushed in Sri Lanka by the Rajapakse administration. But they were silent about the thousands of Sinhala people who lost their lives in the LTTE attacks. An equal number were maimed by land mines, claymore mines and RDX laden improved explosive devices. The LTTE had an army made up of children kidnapped from Tamil families in the north by Anton Balasingham, the main ideologue and advisor to Prabhakaran. Balasingham's wife, Adele, was the mastermind in kidnapping young children to be trained as suicide bombers for the LTTE. But the reports, documentaries and books prepared by the civil right organisations, media persons who sing peans to the LTTE and Tamil Eelam have not mentioned a single word about this cruel woman who is now roaming freely in Australia.

The debacle faced by Mahinda Rajapakse in the 2015 parliament election was described as the victory of



goodness over evil by the media that has been bought over by the Left radicals with the support of China. The Muslim minority and Tamils were threatened by these group to vote for the opposition candidates while most of the Sinhala voters who had no doubt about the return of Mahinda stayed back in their homes and watched cinemas being aired in Sinhala channels. Rajapakse lost by just one or two per cent votes.

People in India are yet to understand that the so-called Tamils in Jaffna and other north eastern provinces in the island nation are not real Tamils. They are all descendants of migrants who came to Ceylon from the Malabar province of Kerala, says Wijayabalan Ramasamy, a businessman based in Colombo. "Their language, food habits, traditions and culture are that of the Thiyya community in Malabar. The temple priests are known as Gurukkal, who act as teachers in martial arts," said Wijayabalan whose roots are in Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Eelam concept was inculcated in the Jaffna population by the British colonial masters through evangelists. It is worth remembering that a British evangelist Robert Cadwell was the one who floated the concept of Dravidian nationalism in Tamil Nadu. After reaching Tamil Nadu for religious conversion, Cadwell acted as if he was a

DRAGON'S SILENCE



Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa (R) shakes hands with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi during a meeting in Colombo on January 14

China's silence has left many Sri Lanka watchers baffled. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa is considered to be very close to the Chinese. As the current atmosphere is not conducive, China is keeping off Sri Lanka. China is the single-largest foreign investor in Sri Lanka and its debt policy has pushed the Island Nation into deep economic crisis.

After the crisis deepened, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement which stated China hoped Sri Lanka would "overcome the current difficulties and strive to restore stability, revitalise the economy and improve people's livelihoods at an early date". Prof Harsh V Pant of the Observer Research Foundation said, "China's silence has also been due to the public sentiment towards the Rajapaksas. China aims to de-hyphenate its identity in Sri Lanka from the Rajapaksas, given they were their main access-point into the country. Since China wants to return to doing business later in the country, it was essential for them to stop being associated with them."

According to Prof Pant, even prior to the crisis, China also did not respond positively to Sri Lanka's requests for debt-restructuring.

Sri Lanka owes China \$4.6 billion. It was unable to access a \$1.5 billion credit line from Beijing and also hadn't heard back from China about a \$1 billion loan to buy essential commodities. According to experts, it was China which had discouraged Sri Lanka from approaching the IMF for a bailout. Instead, China offered an alternative by offering new loans to pay off the old ones, thereby pushing Lanka into deep crisis.

– **Organiser Bureau**

CHUNG OF THE PROBLEM

THE CHAOS IN THE ISLAND NATION COMMENCED WITHIN WEEKS OF CHUNG TAKING OVER AS THE CHIEF OF THE US MISSION IN COLOMBO



Islamists have participated in the protest to create mayhem in Sri Lanka

linguist and claimed that Tamil had no links with north Indian languages like Hindi or Bengali and it was a unique and distinct language. The Christian missionaries propagated this theory and this was consumed by the gullible “Dravidians”. It is unlikely that a school dropout like E V Ramasamy Naicker, a caste Hindu, was an authority on Tamil traditions as claimed by Dravidians.

The separate Dravidian land as visualised by the Dravidian leaders include Tamil Nadu, part of Kerala, and north and north east of Sri Lanka. The LTTE is recouping in foreign land and many countries are helping them, said General Daya Ratanayake, former chief of staff of Sri Lankan Army.

In India, the DMK, MDMK, PMK, the DK and Naam Tamizhar are political outfits which support the LTTE elements roaming freely in Tamil Nadu. MDMK founder Vaiko and VCK leader Thol Thirumavalavan observe with fanfare the death anniversary of Prabhakaran every year. (Remember, Prabhakaran is a Court proclaimed absconding assassin and these politicians who got elected as parliament members under oath to the Indian Constitution pay their respects to an absconding murderer!).

Gotabaya’s mandate is for five years and he should have been allowed to rule for five years or till it is proved that he has committed impropriety. Now, there is total chaos and confusion in the emerald island. The beneficiaries are no going to be the Sinhala but the evangelists and jihadis and of course the extreme Left radicals. “May be in another six months a new system would be in place. In all probability, Sajith Premadasa would emerge as a rallying point and Sri Lanka will bounce back,” said Wijayabalan.

But all said and done, this was not the way to send out Rajapakse and Wickremesinghe. ■

Is the United States of America behind the recent chaos and confusion in Sri Lanka? The role of civil rights, human rights organisations (a façade for Left wing extremism), evangelists and jihadi elements supported by the remnants of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the uprising was clear from the behind. The mobilisation of people prove the hand of LTTE, the same which Tamil Nadu saw at Marina Beach in December 2016 demanding permission for Jallikattu which had been stopped following the Supreme Court.

Though the Tamil Nadu Government of the day had been taken aback by the massive assembly of people at Marina Beach, within days it was clear that the LTTE elements along with Islamists were the ones who mobilised the crowd. The pattern of protests were repeated elsewhere in the State by urban Naxals to make the Union Government withdraw its decision to go ahead with drilling for oil and methane gas in the districts of Puthukottai.

The LTTE may be down in Sri Lanka but the organisation is getting strengthened in Tamil Nadu to stage another series of terrorist activities in the island nation. This time the secessionist movement in Sri Lanka got a new lease of life as the US administration led by Joe Biden has intensified its efforts to dethrone administrations and Governments which do not toe its lines.

“Who does President Chung want as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka,” tweeted Shenali Waduge, noted political commentator last week. Shenali was referring to the role played by Julie J Chung, the US Ambassador to Sri Lanka. The chaos in the island nation commenced within weeks of Chung taking over as the chief of the US mission in Colombo, points out Sri Lankan watchers.

The question being asked is how Gotabaya Rajapakse who was elected by 6.8 million voters was ousted by 50,000 protesters who were mobilised by the “unknown” leaders who led the agitation. Chung, a career diplomat,



Protesters showed their ire against the government's apathy to their genuine problems by desecrating the Presidential Palace

has a track record of overseeing such subversive activities in regions in the Indo-Pacific and Western Hemisphere where she had served in the past.

Questions are being asked about the propriety behind the ouster of Gotabaya Rajapakse and brother Mahinda from the posts of President and Prime Minister, respectively. The Rajapakse brothers are credited with the destruction of LTTE in Sri Lanka. But the second rung leaders of the secessionist forces are still active in European and American continents. They are mobilising money and weapons for reviving the Eelam cause and this has international patronage. The election (?) of Joe Biden as US President (much against popular expectations) has resulted in extreme Leftwing elements and evangelists tightening their control over the administration and this has its impact even in countries across the world. India, Israel, Sri Lanka, Japan are countries that have been chosen by these forces to usher in administration which are convenient and friendly to them.

According to policy experts in Colombo, Gotabaya is not at all responsible for the present scenario. "Let it be noted that from January 2019 to January 2022 no loans were taken by President Gotabaya. His administration was only repaying loans taken by the previous Government. All other Governments took loans to not only repay loans but to run

the government. President Gotabaya upon assuming office was faced with a global crisis – covid which impacted tourism foreign remittances and loss of business (import-export) trade. It will be too late when people realise he is not responsible for the debt situation of the country. He is responsible for the fertiliser issue for which he had tendered an apology. He is also responsible for some bad decisions but these come nowhere near the treacherous decisions taken by predecessors. However, as President he must take the blame which he did," says Shenali Waduge.

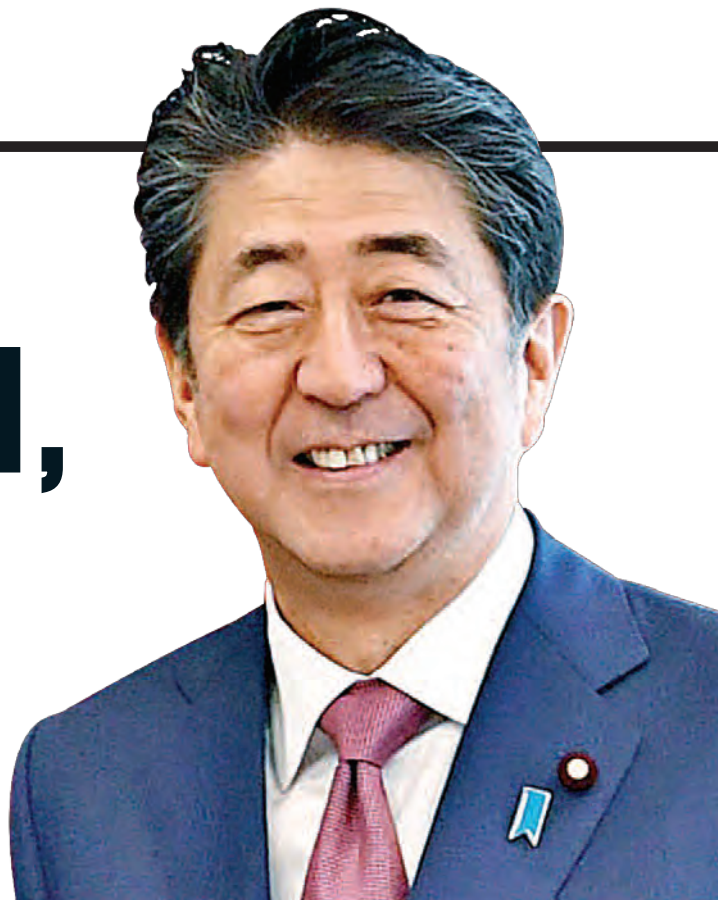


Ambassador Julie Chung

The entire media is propagating the concept that Gotabayas are responsible for all misdeeds and there were no corruption in the island nation before Mahinda and Gotabaya entered the scene. Character assassination is the hallmark of Naxalites, Marxists, evangelists and Jihadis. The propaganda machine in Colombo and other cities are in full swing churning out false and fabricated news. This will come

to an end once the democratically elected Government is out of the way. What will happen next is anybody's guess. But what is shocking is the events which are likely to take place in New Delhi. The riot against the revolutionary farm laws was a test dose. It had the same elements -- civil and human rights organisations, Marxists, Jihadis, evangelists, urban Naxalites and of course Canada-based extremist organisations. ■

ABE SAN, INDIA'S FRIEND



IN SHINZO ABE'S DEMISE, INDIA LOST A GOOD FRIEND. ABE BECAME THE DEFINING FACE OF INDO-JAPAN RELATIONS NOT MERELY FOR HIS ENVIABLE AND WELL KNOWN EQUATION WITH INDIAN PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI BUT ALSO FOR THE WAY HE FOCUSED ON INDIA'S INTERESTS

The outpouring of sympathy for former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe following his assassination on July 8 showed the enormous popularity he enjoyed across the world. The Japanese government acknowledged receiving more than 1,700 condolence messages from 259 countries, regions and institutions.

Abe became the defining face of Indo-Japan relations not merely for his enviable and well known equation with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi but also for the way he focussed on India's interests. Abe had gone on record in calling Modi his most dependable friend. While representing The Asahi Shimbun, Japan's leading news daily, I have had the chance to see in Kyoto and Ahmedabad the free and easy way in which the two leaders engaged with each

other. The close ties between the two leaders helped bolster Indo-Japan ties to a special strategic and global partnership.

As Japan's longest serving Prime Minister with nine years in office from 2006-07 and again from 2012-2020, Abe had a special bond with India. He was also the chief guest at the Republic Day parade in 2014 during the UPA regime. His contribution to India-Japan ties was richly recognised by the conferment upon him of the prestigious Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian award in 2021. The Indian Government announced a day of State mourning and Prime Minister Narendra Modi mourned the demise of his best friend in his personal blog.

Given Abe's enormous contribution to lifting India Japan relations, his demise has



TRIPTI NATH

Senior Journalist



Modi acknowledged that for Abe, the Indo-Japan relationship was one of the most consequential relationships for the people of our two countries and the world

come as a big blow at a time when the two countries are observing the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations.

Dr Titli Basu, Associate Fellow at MP-Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, says, "India lost its most ardent advocate in Japan with the abrupt end of the Abe phenomenon. As the leader of the Japan-India Association and Japan-India Parliamentary League, he kept India close to him even when out of office. Abe believed in Modi's nation-building vision, with Japan offering state-of-the-art infrastructure across India, including the strategic peripheries of the North-East, massive investment, and developmental aid."

For a majority of Indians, Abe is justifiably synonymous with helping build the bullet train, the flagship project of India-Japan ties. He has left an unforgettable legacy by committing the 'Shinkansen' bullet train technology to India. Images of Abe participating in the 2017 foundation stone laying

ceremony of the bullet train in Ahmedabad are equally fresh in the minds of people. In his address at the ceremony, Abe had expressed the hope that he would enjoy the beauty of India through the windows of the bullet train in next few years. It is tragic that Abe's life was snatched a year before he and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had envisioned the bullet train to fly on the tracks between Ahmedabad and Mumbai.

The 508-km high-speed rail network is estimated to cost Rs 1.1 lakh crore, including the purchase of 24 train sets, interest during construction and import duties. The Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is funding 81 per cent of the total project cost, through a loan.

Abe's participation in the Ganga Aarti in the Varanasi, Prime Minister Modi's constituency will also remain etched on public memory for times to come. In an article published in the online edition of Japan's leading newspaper, the Yomiuri Shimbun, Prime Minister

ABE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE GANGA AARTI IN THE VARANASI, PRIME MINISTER MODI'S CONSTITUENCY WILL ALSO REMAIN ETCHED ON PUBLIC MEMORY FOR TIMES TO COME WHEN MODI PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO JAPAN IN SEPTEMBER 2014 WITHIN FOUR MONTHS OF TAKING OVER AS PRIME MINISTER FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO UPGRADE THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP TO "SPECIAL STRATEGIC AND GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP"

Narendra Modi has credited the former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe with helping a largely narrow, bilateral economic relationship with India into a broad, comprehensive one that covered every field of national endeavour. This became "a pivotal for our two countries and the region's security."

The article titled "My friend, Abe San" appeared in the Outsiders Section of the Japanese news daily on the day of Abe's final journey. Modi paid glowing tribute to Shinzo Abe in the article and described him an outstanding leader of Japan, a towering global statesman and a great champion of India-Japan friendship. Modi recalled his first meeting in 2007 during his Japan visit as the Chief Minister of Gujarat. "Right from that first meeting, our friendship went beyond the trappings of office and the shackles of official protocol."

Modi acknowledged that for Abe, the Indo-Japan relationship was one of the most consequential relationships for the people of our two countries and the world. "He was resolute in pursuing the civil nuclear agreement with India -- a most difficult one for his country -- and decisive in offering the most generous terms for the High-Speed Rail in India. As in most important milestones in independent India's journey, he ensured that Japan is there side by side as New India accelerates its growth."

When Modi paid an official visit to Japan in September 2014 within four months of taking over as Prime Minister for the first time, the two sides agreed to upgrade the bilateral relationship to "Special Strategic and Global Partnership". At that time, Abe announced JPY 3.5 trillion investment over five years as part of Investment Promotion Partnership. This target has already been

surpassed.

Prime Minister Modi has said that the Japanese are one of the most trusted investors in India and that India is committed to providing Japanese companies a favourable environment. During the flying visit of Japanese Prime Minister, Fumio Kishida in March this year for the 14th India Japan summit, the two sides concluded a roadmap for a roadmap for industrial competitiveness partnership.

According to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, direct investment from Japan to India has been increased. Japan was the fourth largest investor for India in FY2020. The interest of Japanese private sector in India is rising. At present, some 1,455 Japanese companies are operating in India. Surely, the upswing in economic relations would not have been possible without Abe's political will.

India's former Ambassador to Japan, Deepa Wadhwa, in a recent interview to ANI said that Abe had a special connect with India. Ambassador Wadhwa said it was Abe who was the progenitor of the Indo-Pacific concept. It was in his address to the Indian Parliament that Abe used the term in his speech titled 'Confluence of the two Seas'. He saw the Indian and Pacific Oceans as a continuum. "The term used for the region was Asia Pacific. The grouping APEC, which is basically the shores of the Pacific, excluded India. Though India wanted to be a part of APEC, we haven't got membership. Shinzo Abe included India in this Indo-Pacific concept which is economically, strategically, geo-economically and geo-strategically important region of the world and made India an important pillar of that," she added.

Referring to the Quad, she said that a lot of what we talk about today is because of Abe's efforts. "When he first talked about the Quad security initiative involving the four pillars of democracy—Japan, India, Australia and the US, there were very few takers for it to begin with. The Chinese were upset. It took a while but now see where the Quad is. It has developed. He had the patience to see his ideas being realised into something concrete."

Professor Rajiv Ranjan who has been teaching Japanese History in the Department of East Asian Studies in Delhi University, says Abe was a very popular Prime Minister. Abe has been supporting amendments to the Constitution which is a very complex process. "He had also been working on ensuring the rise of Japan while keeping the interests of the Japanese people."

In the 17-paragraph article in *Yomiuri Shimbun*, Modi



Tetsuya Yamagami - suspected of killing former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, is escorted by a police officer

extended heartfelt condolences on behalf of the people of India and his behalf to the people of Japan, especially to Smt Akie Abe and his family.

Modi said that he will always "cherish the singular honour of having been invited to his family home in Yamanashi prefecture, nestled among the foothills of Mt. Fuji." Enumerating some memorable interactions with Abe, the Prime Minister mentioned their visit to Toji temple in Kyoto, train journey on the Shinkansen, the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, the Ganga Aarti in Kashi, and the elaborate tea ceremony in Tokyo.

Recalling his last meeting with Abe San during his visit in May this year, the PM said, "He had just taken over as the Chair of the Japan-India Association. He was his usual self-energetic, captivating, charismatic, and very witty. He had innovative ideas on how to further strengthen the India-Japan friendship. When I said goodbye to him that day, little did I imagine that it would be our final meeting."

Modi wrote, "Every meeting with Abe San was intellectually stimulating. He was always full of new ideas and invaluable insights on governance, economy, culture, foreign policy, and various other subjects. His counsel inspired me in my economic choices for Gujarat.

Later on, it was my privilege to work with him to bring about an unprecedented transformation of the strategic partnership between India and Japan."

The Prime Minister said that the Quad, the ASEAN-led fora for an Indo Pacific Oceans Initiative, the India-Japan Development Cooperation in the Indo Pacific including Africa, and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure all benefitted from his contributions. "Long before others, he, in his seminal speech to the Indian Parliament in 2007, laid the ground for the emergence of the Indo-Pacific region as a contemporary political-strategic, and economic reality -- a region that will also shape the world in this century."

PM Modi said that Abe took bold decisions and his far-reaching policies-Abenomics- reinvigorated the Japanese economy. The Prime Minister said that Abe San had a deep insight into the complex and multiple transitions taking place in the world. "I will always be indebted for his warmth and wisdom, grace and generosity, friendship and guidance, and I will miss him dearly." The Japanese are known for their devotion to work and Abe died while addressing a stump meeting for a candidate ahead of the Senate elections. Abe fell to bullet shots fired in quick succession from a home-made gun by Tetsuya Yamagami, a 41-year old local resident in the peaceful and tourist town of Nara in western Japan. The assassin who once worked with the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force, is now unemployed and attacked Abe, as he had a grudge against a specific organisation that he believed was linked to Abe.

The assassination has left the Japanese in a state of shock as Japan has never seen such political violence in its post war history of 75 years. Shoichiro Takaji, Bureau Chief of Kyodo, a Japanese news agency said that the attack is very uncharacteristic of Japanese society. According to the July 13 online edition of leading Japanese daily 'Yomiuri Shimbun', the National Police Agency has launched a review of the security measures in place on the day the former Prime Minister was attacked. Addressing the Press in Tokyo on July 12, NPA Commissioner General Itaru Nakamura said, "The failure to fulfil the responsibility of dignitary protection has had grave consequences."

The NPA aims to compile and publish the outcome of the review by the end of August. While this security review is imperative, the damage is irreversible. The world has lost a charismatic leader who did his best to raise the profile of Japan. ■



PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Afghan Parliament building in Kabul on December 25, 2015. The project was initiated by the Indian Government in 2007 as a mark of friendship and cooperation to help rebuild the country

DEALING WITH THE TALIBAN

THE INDIAN POLICYMAKERS NOW REALISE THAT THE TALIBAN REGIME IS A REALITY, AND ENGAGEMENT WITH THEM CAN ENSURE SOME FORM OF REGIONAL SECURITY AND STABILITY

Recently India has reinvented its engagement policy with the Taliban. This can be gauged from a high-level Indian diplomatic delegation led by JP Singh, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs that interacted with the Taliban that held a meeting with the Taliban's acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in the Afghan capital in the first week of June. This was the first-ever official visit by the Indian officials to Afghanistan since New Delhi closed down its Embassy in Kabul following the Taliban's return to power in August 2021. Also India was quick in responding and providing relief material to Afghanistan after the recent devastating earthquake. In wake of this natural disaster, India has operationalised its embassy in Kabul in a limited manner by deploying a technical team to monitor and coordinate the delivery of humanitarian assistance. India still has no formal diplomatic ties with the Taliban Government. But its envoys have previously met the group's representatives in Doha, where the group has a political office. India is stepping up engagement with new rulers in Afghanistan, insisting that it has only

humanitarian motivations. But the message is clear: New Delhi is ready to have limited engagement with the Islamists. When the new regime took power in Kabul, India followed a wait and watch approach but now this has changed to act now.

INDIAN INFLUENCE DIMINISHED

Definitely New Delhi was a direct beneficiary of two decades of the U.S. military presence in Afghanistan. But the American complete exit has been particularly difficult for India and has sharply curtailed its role and influence in the country. But now India wants to make a new start with the Taliban so that it can have some decent presence in Afghanistan. India has made huge investments in Afghanistan over a long period of time. Total disengagement with the Taliban will only allow the vacuum to grow which something India can't afford. Particularly considering Pakistan's interests and China's footprint in the country. Also New Delhi has economic and strategic ambitions in Afghanistan and the Central Asian states. Which cannot be fulfilled without establishing

ANALYSIS



MANISH RAI

Political Analyst for West Asia and Af-Pak Region



Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi (right) and JP Singh (left), the Indian Ministry of External Affairs secretary, held a meeting in Kabul

ties with the rulers in Kabul. Also extending aid and developing trade and diplomatic ties with the Taliban regime are seen as ways to prevent it from acting against Indian interests.

PAK CONSOLIDATED ITSELF IN AF

Since the mid-1990's, India has carefully avoided any public engagement with the Taliban whom it has seen solely through the lens of the support that they received from the Pakistani deep state. India acknowledges failure of its traditional approach to the Taliban and of the changed dynamics in South Asia and beyond. In the 1990s, when the Taliban first came to power, India abruptly shut down its embassy in Kabul and effectively withdrew from Afghanistan. But that only allowed Pakistan to entrench itself in Afghanistan as a de-facto power behind the scenes, and used Afghanistan as its strategic depth against India. While the United States of America, Russia, China and Iran pivoted from treating the Taliban as enemies to building relations with them in recent years, New Delhi still remained inflexible, leaving it with little leverage when the militants returned to power. But recently some disputes between Pakistan and Taliban like border tensions, fencing of Durand line, and sheltering of TTP members in Afghanistan by the Taliban got flared up. This gave a hint to New Delhi that Taliban are in no mood in working merely as proxies of Pakistan. Under these circumstances India is seeing a little opening for itself.

WOONG BHARAT

On the other hand, the Taliban is also looking eager to engage with India. The Indian diplomats amazingly found

all the Embassy property in Kabul—the Ambassador's residence, the new Indian chancery as well as the residential accommodation inside the complex—in good shape. The Taliban had made sure that all the properties had been properly guarded these last ten months, sending a powerful signal that it wants to re-engage with India. There are strong reasons why the Taliban is wooing India. The regime is desperate for economic and humanitarian aid, which India can and has provided in the past. A stronger relationship with India will also provide the regime with greater leverage in its relations with Pakistan. Taliban also realises that India has played a significant developmental role in Afghanistan as one of its largest bilateral donors. India has economic clout to assist Afghanistan.

Since 2001, a lot of things have changed in the Afghan political landscape. When first in power in 1996, Taliban was just a ragtag militia with no strategic thinking. But today's Taliban are shrewd politicians; it won't be a cakewalk for anyone to use them at will. Taliban is looking for sovereignty and economic independence from Pakistan. For them India is a very viable option. India was never averse to any reconciliation process with the Taliban. As far as New Delhi is concerned, the Taliban is not the central problem. Pakistan's overwhelming influence on the Taliban and the latter's inability to liberate itself from such influence are the main issues. The best thing about India's diplomatic return to Afghanistan is that at last a direct contact with the Taliban regime will be established. So India won't have to depend on third-party contacts, via the US or Russia or Qatar. It is always better to speak directly to a concerned party rather than through someone else. ■



RUPEE GAINING GLOBAL CURRENCY

AMID GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS AND INFLATION, THE NARENDRA MODI GOVERNMENT AIMS TO GENERATE \$500 BILLION WORTH OF EXPORTS IN 2022-23. THE RBI'S HISTORIC DECISION TO POSITION INR AS AN INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY MAY BENEFIT TO BUILD A STRONGER LEAD

ANALYSIS



PRASOORN SHARMA

A Pentland-Churchill Fellow for Global Public Policy leadership at NYU and UCL, he represented India at India-China Strategic Economic Dialogue

The internationalisation of the Indian Rupees (INR) has greater ramifications including promoting exports, saving foreign currency reserves, facilitating trade with countries under sanctions and adding strength to the Indian Rupees (INR) in forex trade.

EXPORT PROMOTION

Annually, India exports around 45 million kg of tea to Russia. But because of the current war between

Russia and Ukraine and the sanctions imposed by the United States and Europe, tea exports had dropped by 10 per cent between January and April compared to the same period last year. In 2019, India exported 53 million kg of tea to Iran. India could not participate in dollar-denominated trade. Hence, a rupee-rial trade mechanism was put in place in 2018.

Amid geopolitical tensions, inflation and high petroleum products, the Narendra Modi Government

courageously aims for generating \$450 billion or \$500 billion worth of exports in 2022-23 after recording merchandise exports of \$420 billion in 2021-22. The RBI's historic decision to position INR as an international currency may benefit to build a stronger lead with the help of the operational readiness put in place to increase exports.

India's shipment of goods in June rose by 16.78 per cent year-on-year to \$37.94 billion, slipping from 20.55 per cent growth in May 2022 and 48.34 per cent in June 2021. The trade deficit rose to \$25.63 billion on account of a steep increase in gold and crude oil imports, as per the government's preliminary data.

ASSAULT ON DOLLAR HEGEMONY

India, previously, signed deals with the UAE for rupee-based trade and now the Reserve Bank of India has a clear path to support this deal. Iran too has been looking to export to India using the Rupee. Venezuela has expressed interest.

Furthermore, parting from current provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act where the final payment has to be in free foreign exchange (USD, EURO etc) except for Nepal and Bhutan, now the final payment to all countries can be in INR.

The hegemony of US dollars as a currency of trade has been challenged in the past by the Euro, British pounds and yen. But, still, the US dollar controls the majority of international trade. The current sanctions by the US and EU to kick Russia out of the SWIFT system, without considering the stakes of other countries including India have impinged India to consider internationalisation of INR.

It is time to unleash the full potential of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) which has been accepted in Singapore, Bhutan, UAE, Nepal and France. Addressing Digital India Week In Gandhinagar, Ashwini Vaishnav, Minister of Electronics & Information Technology, stated that India is in discussions with 30 countries for UPI.

Furthermore, NPCI is planning to promote the UPI system to 32 million NRIs. Last year, NRIs remitted \$87 billion, the biggest inflow for any country tracked by the World Bank. Efficacious overseas expansions by NPCI would give India a home-grown alternative to SWIFT. Further, UPI's association with foreign nations will

increase trade, travel and remittance flows between the countries and lowers the cost of cross-border remittances

SAVING FOREIGN CURRENCY RESERVES

Since India imports more than it exports, the country will save foreign currency by doing trade in INR. For e.g.

India can pay for oil imports from Russia in INR.

Further, In 2021-22, India's trade with Russia was worth \$13.1 billion. If all this trade can be done through INR-Rouble, India can save \$13.1 billion as foreign currency reserves.

According to the Sri Lankan High Commission, in 2020 India was Sri Lanka's second-largest trading partner with bilateral merchandise trade amounting to around \$3.6 billion. If all this trade can be done through INR, India can save \$3.6 billion as foreign currency reserves.

INR-BASED GLOBAL FUND

SBICAP Ventures Limited (SVL), a subsidiary of the State Bank of India



INDIA, PREVIOUSLY, SIGNED DEALS WITH THE UAE FOR RUPEE-BASED TRADE AND NOW THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA HAS A CLEAR PATH TO SUPPORT THIS DEAL. IRAN TOO HAS BEEN LOOKING TO EXPORT TO INDIA USING THE RUPEE. VENEZUELA HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST

recently signed an MoU with the Ministry of External Affairs for establishing the Trilateral Development Cooperation Fund (TDC Fund) for joint projects with global partners.

The TDC Fund will contribute to India's commitment of approx. Rs.175 cr. (£17.5 million) to the Global Innovation Development Fund (GIP Fund)—anticipated to be established in association with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) under the India—UK Global Innovation Partnership (GIP).

The GIP Fund will invest in mainly Indian MSME enterprises that are within the goals of the GIP and have



Since India imports more than it exports, the country will save foreign currency by doing trade in INR

THE STARTUP INDIA INITIATIVE ALREADY HAS MANY “INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES” LIKE INDIA FINLAND TECH HUB. POST- COVID-19 WORLD IS LOOKING FOR INNOVATIONS, SOLUTIONS, AND ENTREPRENEURS WHO CAN REVIVE THE ECONOMY AND HUMANITY’S SURVIVAL. NOW IS THE TIME TO LEVERAGE INDIA’S AND INDIAN’S GOODWILL AND GLOBAL ACCEPTANCE

successfully proven implementation of social impact innovations that can be replicated and scaled up in third countries. GIP Fund will support Indian innovators that are at an advanced phase but lack capital for expansion to other developing countries. It is highly recommended to partially or fully make such global funds INR-based especially for investing in countries from Africa and Latin America.

INR, STARTUP INDIA & STPI SHOULD GO GLOBAL

Now, the Startup India initiative should embark on global outreach by helping Indian startups go global. The Startup India initiative already has many “International bridges” like India Finland Tech Hub. Post-COVOD-19 world is looking for innovations, solutions, and

entrepreneurs who can revive the economy and humanity’s survival. Now is the time to leverage India and Indian goodwill and global acceptance. Thus, the Startup India initiative should open global “handholding offices” to help Indian startups establish offices, collaborations, and partnerships.

According to the National Association of Software and Services Companies, India’s software and services exports grew from 8.1 per cent to \$147 billion in the fiscal year 2020.

The exports through STPI units had grown from Rs 17 crore in the financial year 1992 to Rs 5.69 lakh crore in the financial year 2022. In post-COVID-19 era, STPI should allow global entrepreneurs to establish and manage a software company digitally—from anywhere in the world—without the need for travel. E-company registration will help global entrepreneurs to hire Indian software talents and boost software exports. A complementary UPI ID and INR bank account should also be provided.

With the world economy falling into recession, COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war are subverting the paradigm of the world order, Bharat and millions of Bharatiya can shape this significant re-adjustment of the world order for the furtherance of the Akhand Bharat mission.

In conclusion, I will recite the following Sanskrit *shloka* to every Bharatiya in India or abroad

समुत्कर्षनिःश्रेयस्यैकमुग्रं परं साधनं नाम वीरव्रतम् ।
तदन्तः स्फुरत्वक्षया ध्येयनिष्ठा हृदन्तः प्रजागर्तु तीव्रानिशम् ॥

(The only best means of attaining high spiritual happiness and great spiritual prosperity is to keep the spirit of fierce bravery burning (for our motherland) in us forever. May the spirit of intense and unbroken devotion (for our motherland) keep burning in our conscience.) ■

FROM FRUSTRATION TO DESPERATION

BJP IN GOA WITH A CLEAR MAJORITY DOESN'T NEED MORE MLAS TO SIDE WITH THEM. HOWEVER, STILL MANY LEADERS FROM CONGRESS WANT TO DISOWN THEIR PARTY AND JOIN BJP. THIS HAS LEFT SEVERAL OBSERVERS PUZZLED



Goa Congress meeting in a hotel in Panaji

■ **VARUN SINGH**

The rebellion of Maharashtra is still fresh in the minds of the people, and even before one could blink their eyes, the news of another rebellion came in. This time, the rebellion rumours are from Goa, the adjoining state of Maharashtra, where rumours of eight MLAs of the 11 Congress MLAs defecting to BJP started making the rounds. What was surprising was the names of Michael Lobo, Digambar Kamat and other senior MLAs being part of the alleged defection. Though nothing happened, except for the Congress party in centre sending an observer to firefright and change the leader of

opposition, it once again gave credence to the news that not all was well in the Congress party in Goa. But what led to this? Why are its own men abandoning the Congress party, it is clear that unlike Maharashtra, the BJP in Goa with a clear majority doesn't need more MLAs to side with them. However, still many leaders from Congress still want to disown their party and join the ranks of BJP is what has puzzled many in the political circles. In Goa, Congress has 11 MLAs and it was being said that of these 11, at least eight MLAs are willing to jump ship to join the BJP. What is leading the Congress leaders to abandon

the party on which ticket they won the elections and what the BJP has to win from this. Dr Manoj Kamat, a political analyst from Goa says that for Congress in the last elections in spite of being the largest party it couldn't form government and thus there was a frustration, that is the reason three years ago Congress MLAs abandoned the party and joined the BJP. This time it was desperation why the Congress MLAs are planning a rebellion. "Congress leaders cannot stay out of power for long. This time they were acting out of desperation, they have been out of power for long, their constituents want them to get funds, jobs, and development to the constituency, by staying in opposition this isn't possible and hence, they wanted to switch sides," said Kamat.

Kamat claims that it is the matter of sustenance for the leaders of Congress and for the BJP with leaders coming in from the Congress it was about strengthening the party for the Lok Sabha polls, and especially in South Goa. South Goa has a Congress MP and they want to win this seat in 2024 elections. So what was in store for the Congress leaders jumping the ship? According to sources in the political circles, none of them were offered any deputy Chief Minister post, but apparently two cabinet berths and several corporation heads for the other MLAs. To sum up the entire political fiasco that took place in Goa in the words of Kamat, the rebellion will happen if not today then in coming days, the Congress leaders will leave as they need power to win the future elections from their respective seats and out of sheer desperation the rebellion will take place. ■



Uddhav Thackeray camp feared that if he doesn't take this decision of changing Aurangabad as Sambhaji Nagar and Osmanabad as Dharashiv then even this opportunity will be snatched by Devendra Fadnavis

LAST GAMBLE

BY RENAMING AURANGABAD TO SAMBHAJI NAGAR AND OSMANABAD TO DHARASHIV, UDDHAV THACKERAY WANTED TO PROVE A POINT AND TURN THE TABLES ON BJP. BUT HE MISERABLY FAILED

■ VARUN SINGH, Senior Journalist

On the last day, the renaming of Aurangabad to Sambhaji Nagar and Osmanabad to Dharashiv, in the last Cabinet meeting of Uddhav Thackeray led to a political turmoil. Uddhav Thackeray had planned this but it failed to materialise. We will discuss the real story behind Uddhav Thackeray's last minute decision of renaming.

According to sources, Uddhav Thackeray tried all the tricks from the book to retain power during the political crisis of Maharashtra which saw him being unseated as Chief Minister and his own Minister Eknath Shinde taking over his post. The renaming of Aurangabad to Sambhaji Nagar was one such trick. It was Shiv Sena which always had been referring to Aurangabad as Sambhaji Nagar and Osmanabad as Dharashiv; it was also part of its manifesto for a long time to rename these districts of Maharashtra. However, there was a lot of drama that took place in the last days of the MVA government, where Uddhav Thackeray was even seen as going soft on the issue of renaming of Aurangabad to Sambhaji Nagar, something that is close to the Shiv Sena's ideology. Contrary to Shiv Sena, Devendra Fadnavis was

visibly aggressive on the topic.

ABANDONING HINDUTVA IDEOLOGY

Uddhav Thackeray was battling a rebellion which kept on accusing him of leaving the Hindutva ideology of Balasaheb Thackeray. The renaming issue kept on popping several times and the former Chief Minister and Shiv Sena party president was seen not doing much about it. According to sources, Uddhav Thackeray camp asked one of his Ministers amongst the very few to propose the name change and bring it in the Cabinet. In the last cabinet meeting, Uddhav Thackeray then got this topic out of the syllabus for some Ministers from the MVA alliance parties and got it passed.

RECTIFYING HIS MISTAKE

Uddhav Thackeray camp feared that, if he doesn't take this decision, then even this opportunity will be snatched by Devendra Fadnavis. There were major rumours that Devendra Fadnavis in his first Cabinet meeting would have passed this same decision. Uddhav Thackeray realised that the last Cabinet

meeting was his last chance to make an attempt to prove that he was still following hardcore Hindutva and wanted to gain a point over his rivals and the rebel and made this decision," said the political source.

While Uddhav Thackeray and his camp wanted to win a point over the BJP, they ended up putting their own partners of the MVA alliance in trouble. Earlier, Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar claimed that he wasn't aware about the decision that Uddhav Thackeray took during the last Cabinet meeting of renaming Aurangabad and Osmanabad. Though surprisingly most of the Ministers from NCP were present during the last Cabinet meeting. There was news that only two Congress MLAs showed their displeasure in regards to the name change.

The game was to show that Uddhav Thackeray camp was still following the hard-core Hindutva ideology of Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray. But many ended up reading this strategy as Uddhav Thackeray's parting gift to BJP. The Congress saw major protests where many of its city units, especially that in Aurangabad where party workers protested against this decision, most of its ministers didn't know what to say, they were caught unaware and even last week there were protests by AIMIM. AIMIM's Intiaz Jaleel represents the constituency in Parliament. The AIMIM in the Rajysabha elections held on June 10 had supported the MVA and it was left red faced when the MVA changed the name at the last moment of Aurangabad to Sambhaji Nagar. On the other hand, the Shinde and Fadnavis government got a gift and they even welcomed the decision on the floor of the house and claimed that this government will ratify the name changes.

The name change strategy left many questions, firstly why did the ministers in the cabinet especially from the Congress and NCP agreed to this decision? The Shiv Sena barring the chief minister had hardly three ministers in the cabinet that day, the rest present were from the NCP and Congress. To answer this, a political source said, "Most ministers of NCP and Congress wanted to give one last opportunity to save their government and also as Uddhav Thackeray was facing a rebellion on the same issue, they allowed it to happen. Somewhere, they were still confident that things may change and the government would stay."

However, that didn't happen and instead now, the same thing that the MVA alliance partners thought will help them, has been a bone of contention and that is the reason why even a seasoned politician like Sharad Pawar, who was attributed as the architect of the MVA came out and said he wasn't aware about the name change decision by Uddhav Thackeray.



THERE WAS A LOT OF DRAMA THAT TOOK PLACE IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE MVA GOVERNMENT, WHERE UDDHAV THACKERAY WAS EVEN SEEN AS GOING SOFT ON THE ISSUE OF RENAMING OF AURANGABAD TO SAMBHAJI NAGAR, SOMETHING THAT IS CLOSE TO THE SHIV SENA'S IDEOLOGY

Things have gone so bad, that the Congress is giving out clear signals that it doesn't want to continue to Shiv Sena led Uddhav Thackeray in the MVA, in which now Uddhav Thackeray's party is the smallest one. After Uddhav Thackeray announced the support to NDA candidate Draupadi Murmu for Presidential polls, things went further sore between the Congress and Uddhav Thackeray.

The Congress in a recently held meeting with NCP apparently informed Sharad Pawar that they do not wish to continue in an alliance where Uddhav Thackeray is a part of. However, Sharad Pawar has still convinced Congress to stay put in the alliance. Though political pundits clearly say that, the days of MVA are numbered.

Post the presidential polls to be held on July 18, it is believed that the Shinde and Fadnavis government will announce the cabinet. The gossip circle is buzzing with the news that many MLAs from other parties are also willing to jump the ship towards BJP. Already the Shinde camp is growing strong, with many Sena leaders abandoning Uddhav Thackeray and joining hands with Eknath Shinde, the latest being a former corporator Sheetal Mhatre, joining Shinde. Mhatre, was seen heavily criticizing Shinde and the rebel MLAs, but she now joining Shinde it is believed that many are waiting to join, but Shinde camp is picking them wisely. ■

NO REDEMPTION IN SIGHT

A SERIES OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING SACRILEGE OF THE SACRED SIKH SCRIPTURE HAS FRUSTRATED THE PEOPLE OF PUNJAB. THE AAP-LED GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB HASN'T REVEALED ITS FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION POST MAKING PUBLIC THE FINDINGS OF THE SIT

A series of incidents involving sacrilege of the sacred Sikh scripture, Sri Guru Granth Sahib (SGGS), were reported in 2015. The first incident reported was theft of the SGGS from a Gurdwara in Burj Jawahar Singh Wala, a village in the Kot Kapura tehsil of district Faridkot, Punjab, on June 1, 2015. A month and a half later, on September 23, some posters carrying derogatory remarks about the Sikh religion and the SGGS were found pasted in the same village at Dhodha Peer Gate. The third incident was reported on October 12, when pages of the SGGS were found strewn outside a Gurdwara in village Bargari, tehsil Kot Kapura, district Faridkot.

In the fourth incident, on November 4, 2015, torn pages of a Pothi (smaller version of the SGGS) were found scattered on the streets of Malke village in Moga district.

Burj Jawahar Singh Wala is about four kms from Bargari and Malke is about eight kms from Bargari. The incidents therefore, took place in the same area though distributed over two districts.

REASON FOR SAD'S DRUBBING

The incidents elicited shock and consternation across Punjab and the rest of the world. The dismayed people took to the streets in protest against the then coalition Government led by the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD). In the attendant violence two people lost their lives.

The inability of the then Government to check or effectively investigate the sacrilege



cases is believed to be a major reason behind the defeat of the SAD coalition at the hands of the Congress party in the 2017 Vidhan Sabha elections. The then Congress President and later Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh swore on the holy book that he would bring the culprits of the sacrilege cases to book, but he could not do so in his four and a half year tenure. The Aam Aadmi Party, in its election campaign for 2022 also promised to punish the culprits of the sacrilege cases "within twenty four hours" of being elected.

While the Bargari, Burj Jawahar Singh Wala and the poster case were subject to investigation by a large number of agencies (including the CBI) and judicial commissions, the case of sacrilege in village Malke was investigated by a single Special Investigation Team (SIT) under Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Ranbir Singh Khatra, who has since retired as Inspector General (IG). Khatra, being a devout Sikh

ANALYSIS



JAIBANS SINGH

A geo-strategic analyst
and columnist

SACRILEGE CASES



THE INABILITY OF THE THEN GOVERNMENT TO CHECK OR EFFECTIVELY INVESTIGATE THE SACRILEGE CASES IS BELIEVED TO BE A MAJOR REASON BEHIND THE DEFEAT OF THE SAD COALITION AT THE HANDS OF THE CONGRESS PARTY IN THE 2017 VIDHAN SABHA ELECTIONS

The Sikh community was outraged after theft of the SGGS was reported from a Gurdwara in Burj Jawahar Singh Wala, a village in the Kot Kapura tehsil of district Faridkot, Punjab

and a committed officer, carried out the investigation with due diligence. He was helped in no small measure by one Sewak Singh, an Army man who was an eyewitness of the sacrilege.

FIRST SENTENCE IN SACRILEGE CASES

The SIT, in 2018, arrested five followers of Dera Sacha Sauda whose head and self-professed Godman Gurmeet Ram Rahim is presently serving a life sentence for various heinous crimes. The challan was presented in the lower court at Moga on December 27, 2018. Now, after four years, the court of Judicial Magistrate, Rahul Garg, has meted out a three-year imprisonment and fine of Rs 5,000 to three accused—Pirthi Singh of Baghapurana, Amardeep Singh alias Deepa and Mithu Mann of Malke village, all followers of Dera Sacha Sauda. Two of the accused have been acquitted due to lack of evidence.

The sentence, being the first in the series of sacrilege cases that took place in 2015, has been welcomed by the people of Punjab and Nanak-Leva (followers of Nanak) Sikhs across the world. This has led to a mad rush within



In another case of desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib, torn pages of Sikh holy book were found in a distributary of the Bist-Doab canal in Jalandhar

political parties to take credit for the same. In the lead is the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). "The sacrilege case in Malke village was reported in 2015 when the SAD was in power. The Congress formed the Government on the promise of delivering justice in the case. However, they did nothing during their rule. It is only the AAP Government led by

SACRILEGE CASES



The SIT has arrested five followers of Dera Sacha Sauda whose head Gurmeet Ram Rahim is presently serving a life sentence for various crimes

THE REPORT HAS ESTABLISHED A DIRECT LINK OF FOLLOWERS OF DERA SACHA SAUDA AND THE SELF-STYLED GODMAN AND CHIEF OF THE DERA, GURMEET RAM RAHIM SINGH, WITH ALL SACRILEGE CASES. THE PROVOCATION WAS A BAN ON SCREENING OF A FEATURE FILM OF THE DERA CHIEF

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann which ensured that the accused get punished,” said Harpal Cheema, Finance Minister of Punjab.

The widespread perception among the people, however, is that credit should go to Ranbir Singh Khatra and other members of the SIT as also to eyewitness, Sewak Singh, who left his job to pursue the case due to his love and respect for his Sikh faith and the SGGS.

The accused have been awarded three years imprisonment under section 295-A and another three years under 120-B of IPC. Both punishments will run parallel. They have been given 30 days to appeal in higher court and have been bailed out as per law. Compare this with the case of BJP national spokesperson Nupur Sharma who is facing charges under Section 153A, 153B, 295A, 298 and 305 of the Indian Penal Code and if proved she will get a jail term in excess of 10 years. Surely the legal cell of the Government could have applied similar sections to ensure enhancement of the punishment. The Government-led prosecution did not put in enough effort to ensure that the accused got maximum punishment.

Indian Army veteran Sewak Singh, who has pursued the case for seven years, is quite vocal in his criticism of

the Government. “This is not justice,” he says while adding that, “politicians were claiming credit for the battle that I fought for seven years.” It is hoped that the Government will put in more effort as the case moves to the Higher Court.

The present Government of Punjab recently released the report of a five-member SIT constituted on April 2, 2021, on the directions of the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The SIT is headed by Inspector-General of Police, SPS Parmar. The 497-page report has been made available to a select group of Sikh leaders instead of being tabled on the floor of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha at the just concluded Budget session. This is, however, the first time that a report on the subject has been made public.

The report has established a direct link of followers of Dera Sacha Sauda and the self-styled Godman and chief of the Dera, Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, with all sacrilege cases. The provocation was a ban on screening of a feature film of the Dera chief. About nine Dera followers have been specifically named in the SIT report while emphasising that they were in touch with the Dera management all through the occurrence of the incidents. Some among the accused are absconding and thus declared as proclaimed offenders, others are already in police custody or out on bail. As mentioned above, the chief conspirator Gurmeet Ram Rahim is already in jail; the prime accused, Mohinder Pal alias Bittu was killed by inmates in the Nabha jail.

The SIT gives a clean chit to the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) that has suffered great setbacks due to its purported involvement in the sacrilege cases.

The sacrilege incidents remained centrestage in the 2017 and 2022 Vidhan Sabha elections. The people vented out their anger on all such political leaders who, they felt, had not taken the investigation seriously or done enough to find the perpetrators of these heinous crimes and bring them to justice.

Though happy with it, the people are unlikely to remain satisfied with the legal outcome of the Malke incident. The incumbent AAP-led Government of Punjab has yet not revealed its future course of action post making public the findings of the SIT. All future actions of the Government in this matter will be watched by the people with great interest. The incidents, therefore, are likely to dominate the social and political consciousness of the people of Punjab for a long time to come. There is every possibility of a lot more political heads rolling in pursuit of justice that the people are determined to ensure. ■

MEDHA IN THE DOCK

CONTROVERSIAL ACTIVIST MEDHA PATKAR WAS RECENTLY BOOKED IN MADHYA PRADESH FOR MISAPPROPRIATING FUNDS COLLECTED IN THE NAME OF EDUCATING TRIBAL CHILDREN. SHE IS ACCUSED OF EMBEZZLING OVER RS 13 CRORE ON THE PRETEXT OF FUNDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

■ ORGANISER BUREAU

Misusing money while claiming that she is championing the cause of tribal education is simply unpardonable. This is what Medha Patkar, who gained notoriety as a result of the Narmada Bachao Andolan, is being accused of. A formal case was registered in Madhya Pradesh against the self-styled activist, who gained notoriety as a result of the Narmada Bachao Andolan, in a cheating case. Medha Patkar and several others have been accused of misusing funds in the name of educating tribal children. The FIR was lodged in Madhya Pradesh's Barwani district against Medha Patkar as well as eleven others in this regard. In the FIR, Pritam Raj, the complainant, accused Patkar of embezzling more than Rs 13 crore on the pretext of funding educational opportunities for tribal children. The complaint also alleged that Patkar had misappropriated funds since she does not have accounts for all of the donations collected for the education of the tribal poor between 2007 and 2022.

Soliciting Donations for Education According to the FIR, Medha Patkar raised more than Rs 13 crore through the Narmada Navnirman Abhiyan Foundation. She has been accused of inciting anti-Government sentiments by soliciting donations for education. In addition to Medha Patkar, the FIR names Parveen Romu Jahangir, Vijaya Chauhan, Kailash Avasya, Mohan Patidar, Ashish Mandloi, Sanjay Joshi, and others as accused. Medha Patkar is best known for her Narmada Bachao Andolan against the Sardar Sarovar Dam on the Narmada River. The protest contributed to postponement of the Sardar Sarovar Dam project on the Narmada River for years. The so-called social activist and environmentalist expressed concern as soon as the construction of the project started. When Medha Patkar visited the project site in 1985, she accused that the dam had fallen short of the social and environmental requirements set forth by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

For suspected money laundering during the Narmada Bachao Andolan, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had



FOR SUSPECTED MONEY LAUNDERING DURING THE NARMADA BACHAO ANDOLAN, THE ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE HAD FILED AN FIR AGAINST ACTIVIST MEDHA PATKAR ON APRIL 5 THIS YEAR. IN ADDITION TO THE ED, INVESTIGATIONS INTO PATKAR'S SHADY DEALINGS HAVE ALSO BEEN INITIATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE INTELLIGENCE AND THE INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT

filed an FIR against activist Medha Patkar on April 5 this year. In addition to the ED, investigations into Patkar's shady dealings have also been initiated by the Department of Revenue Intelligence and the Income Tax Department. According to a media report, Patkar's NGO received a donation of roughly Rs 1.2 crores within a year of its foundation in 2004 but managed to elude authorities for almost 17 years.

The investigation raised a number of concerns regarding the payments. According to records obtained by the media, the NGO received the funds on June 18, 2005, from 20 different sources in a single day. Surprisingly, the amount of all 20 donations was the same, which was Rs 5,96,294. Pallavi Prabhaara Bhalekar, one of the donors, was a minor at the time the donations were transferred. ■

FILM REVIEW



SHARMI ADHIKARY

Senior Journalist, Film Blogger



SECULAR RACKET SCIENCE

R MADHAVAN'S DEBUT FILM *ROCKETRY: THE NAMBI EFFECT* SHOWCASES THE LIFE OF S NAMBI NARAYANAN, THE ISRO ROCKET SCIENTIST WHOSE CAREER WAS RUINED, AND IMPEDED BHARAT'S PROGRESS IN SPACE SECTOR AFTER ACCUSATIONS OF ESPIONAGE

“There is no place for alternative narrative.” A line Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri was told when the director of the successful and eye-opening *The Kashmir Files* had, in 2016, tried to screen his *Buddha in a Traffic Jam* before students at Jadavpur University. Considering the youngsters who spewed this extremely intolerant remark to scare him away from the campus in the southern part of Kolkata hadn't watched the film he had so passionately made to expose the truth behind the nexus of anti-Indian forces working prodigiously to impede the progress and growth of Bharat, Agnihotri was stumped by the reaction a mere mention of screening of the work garnered. This was not all. In the opening chapter of his incisive and best-selling book, *Urban Naxals*, the independent filmmaker and author described the extent of humiliation and bodily harm meted out to him for daring to present a narrative that opposed the far Left.

Injured physically, humiliated with abuses like 'Bloody Fascist Brahmin' and even spat at, Agnihotri saw the volatile and noxious front of the Left ecosystem that had been brainwashing the youth of the country for years.

Ironically, these were the same proponents of free speech who were forbidding the showcase of a film fearing that it just might expose the carefully crafted sham the Communists and the Naxals have protected to ensure India grovels in penury and underdevelopment while they utilise these conditions as a crutch to fill their coffers.

Though the hold of the Left cabal has subsequently loosened over the consciousness of an audience who are now open to reading unwhitewashed history of the country even as they map the political and sociological changes taking place, the efforts to malign attempts at nationalistic works in cinema continues even after six years. So, while *The Kashmir Files* took on a vicious gang of sold-out 'film reviewers' trying to sabotage the honest work as 'propaganda', the most recent target of urban Naxals who basically are trying to hold on to the hypnotic effect they continue to have over a section of the urban audience is R Madhavan's directorial debut *Rocketry: The Nambi Effect*, a sensitive and earnest biopic on S Nambi Narayanan, the ISRO rocket scientist whose career was ruined after accusations of espionage marred his meteoric climb in



A still from *Rocketry*: Madhavan was criticised for sporting tilak on his forehead in the film

space sciences. While the flimsy reviewers could not criticise the well-received film on the basis of technique, performances and narrative, they tried to malign the engaging pan-Indian drama because the director dared to depict Nambi sir as he actually was: A proud Hindu. Or was it a last ditch attempt to discredit the film lest dirty secrets tumble out of the Congress closet? Secrets that prove how in cahoots with global superpowers, the then political hyenas manoeuvred to impede the growth of Nambi Sir who always kept India ahead in his list of priorities.

THE PRICE FOR BEING A NATIONALIST

The lines blur between reel and real if we deconstruct how the voices emphatically declaring their love and devotion for Bharat have repeatedly been snuffed out or sidelined. The movie very boldly shows how Nambi Sir was dogged in his work that would benefit India massively. In that pursuit, he took some strict decisions regarding his friends, colleagues and family but that only proved how faithful he was to his country. The brilliant scientist had to pay a heavy price for being selfless and patriotic. In the end when he asks, "If I was exonerated, shouldn't we find out who was behind the conspiracy?" his despondency is just too stinging.

R Madhavan minced no words when he praised PM Narendra Modi's efforts to digitise India economically while

GOING BY HOW THE LEFT ECOSYSTEM HAS ALWAYS HYPERVENTILATED AND RAMPANTLY SHADOW BANNED WORKS THAT HAVE NOT MINCED WORDS ON POLITICS, HISTORY OR NATIONALISM, THIS WAS AN EXPECTED REACTION. BUT THEN, THE TIME TO SNAP BACK AT THE PROPONENTS OF DOUBLE STANDARDS IS HERE

he was screening *Rocketry* at Cannes earlier this year. As was expected, the actor and director had to court a fair share of slurs for openly declaring how impressed he was with the Prime Minister's decisions to buttress India's digital transactions. Lifestyle journalists sucking up to the Lutyens brigade, who had earlier found Maddy cute, were now vitiating their Instagram timelines declaring the popular artist as a 'Sanghi' and a 'Modi bhakt'. While they couldn't argue logically as to why Madhavan's remarks were unfounded, they rubbish him just because his beliefs didn't match theirs. Here was a renowned film personality who wears his Sanatani identity with pride and praising PM Modi on a global forum unlike the deracinated stand-up comedian Vir Das so clearly something surely must be amiss with him, right?

Just like how wrong Agnihotri was in showing the reality

ROCKETRY



THE PEOPLE WHO LAUDED A SHAHRUKH KHAN FOR ESTABLISHING THAT 'TERROR HAS NO RELIGION' THROUGH *MY NAME IS KHAN* ARE GETTING INSECURE WITH MADHAVAN'S NATIONALIST BIOPIIC. NOT ONE WORD WAS SPOKEN ABOUT HOW NAMBI SIR'S FAMILY WENT THROUGH TURMOIL AND THE HEAVY PRICE THEY HAD TO PAY IN TERMS OF HEALTH AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TUMULT

behind the *Kashmiri Hindu genocide* and exodus of 1990 instead of crafting a distorted narrative such as *Shikara*, directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra, husband of Anupamaa Chopra who was the first one to defame The Kashmir Files as well as *Rocketry*. Agnihotri has always spoken out against separatists and terrorists funded by Pakistan in his interviews and tours so that Indians understand the root cause of problems not just in Kashmir but in the whole of India. Enconced amidst her coterie of Bollywood glitterati, who have only presented a one-sided narrative before the audience ever since the industry existed, Chopra perhaps felt insecure when the reality was out after all. A truth her husband's politically correct film failed to present, despite being a Kashmiri Hindu himself. So, while that was lauded and celebrated just like so many whitewashed films justifying terrorism in Kashmir, Agnihotri's film was preyed at by the noxious elements who like hiding facts to propel a war of narratives to dismantle the truth.

MAKING A MOCKERY OF HINDU TRADITIONS

Even as we focus on *Rocketry*, there can be no denial that the presentation of Nambi Sir as a practicing Hindu didn't go down well with the industry insiders who have always depicted Hindus and their traditions in a mocking or derogatory light. For instance, one line from the Kartik

Aaryan starring Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 is just too obvious. The angry thakursaab of an old haveli in a Rajasthani village hollers to a tensed Ruhaan (Aaryan) that if it is proved that he has lied to the family about the death of their daughter Reet (Kiara Advani) then he will decapitate him for the mistake committed. In a script fraught with random jibes at Hindu religious practices, this aberration seems to stand out even though a jocular ambience is created around the harsh announcement. Why? Because, for any sane mind well versed with dharmic traditions, it's not easy to digest that the film would show beheading someone is something that Sanatan dharma propagates. A brutal punishment that Sharia law unleashes is shown to be a generic Hindu norm. Just like how the Aghori tradition is shown as a dark, occult practice in the film through problematic, ill-researched scenes.

Rubbishing Hinduism has interestingly been a very Bollywood thing. Actually it extends to all soft powers that permeate a larger audience of art and aesthetics. From denying Hindu genocide in Kashmir; to celebrating Wendy Doniger, a supposed Indologist, and her book titled *The Hindus: An Alternative History*, which if anything, shows how distorted her understanding of Hinduism is; to forcibly terming Hitler's chosen symbol Hakenkreuz as Hindu Swastika; to Jeffrey Kripal portraying Sri Ramakrishna as a paedophile and Swami Vivekananda as a homosexual; to Paul Courtright, in his book *Ganesa*, mocking Lord Ganesha's trunk to sexual organ, the insults just don't seem to end. There are innumerable pages and handles on social media that regularly put up sexual and abusive images of Hindu gods and goddesses knowing very well that there would be no serious repercussions. The latest being Leena Manimekalai's problematic depiction of Goddess Kali in a film poster as well as Mahua Moitra's comments about Maa Kali. And to think that these are Hindus themselves!

That clearly makes Chopra's comments on *Rocketry* seem clearly driven by a vicious propaganda to rob the buzz off the film. What could possibly be her reason to call the biopic on one of India's most talented rocket scientists too Hindu centric! Why do the left liberals have a problem if S Nambi Narayanan is shown to be a practicing Hindu doing surya namaskar every morning before going to ISRO, his workplace; for visiting the mandir to pray so that his years of efforts to take India's space science research forward by leaps and bounds bear fruit; for exclaiming Amme Bhagavathi often, for sporting the vibhuti and most importantly for being a staunch nationalist who always prioritized the success development and growth of Bharat. But, going by how the left ecosystem has always

hyperventilated and rampantly shadow banned works that have not minced words on politics, history or nationalism, this was an expected reaction. But then, the time to snap back at the proponents of double standards is here.

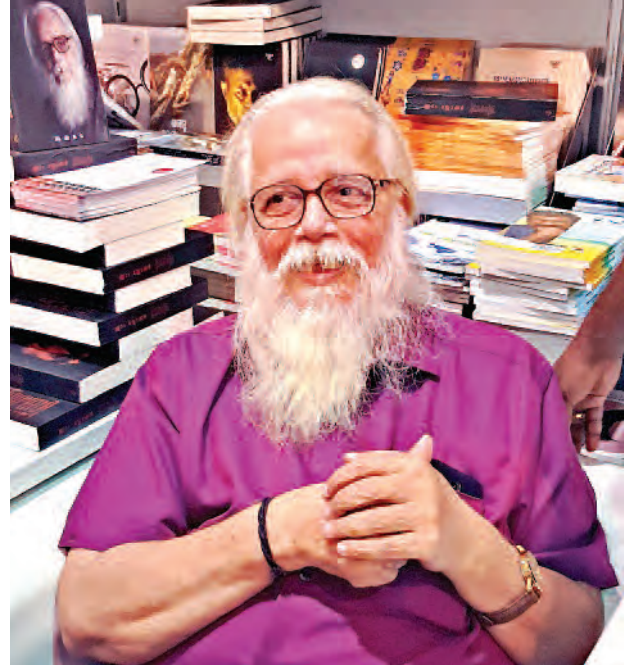
EXPOSING THE HYPOCRITES

India is waking up to the fact that a deep state does exist. And part of that dangerous cult club is the same ecosystem that swears by freedom of speech and creative choices. Yet, they are exposing their spinelessness and hypocrisy as they unnecessarily harp on a brilliant scientist's religious leanings and not how he was wronged by the then powers-that-be. The people who lauded a Shah Rukh Khan for establishing that 'terror has no religion' through *My Name is Khan* are getting insecure with Madhavan's nationalist biopic. Not one word was spoken about how Nambi Sir's family went through turmoil and the heavy price they had to pay in terms of health and psychological tumult. These are patriots who gave their all for the country just like Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan did, as charted in Sashi Kiran Tikka's film *Major*, where Adivi Sesh breathed life into the role of the brave soldier. No one dared to point out that actor Suriya didn't bother to mouth Jai Hind in the last scene of the Tamil version of *Rocketry*. So ingrained is their resistance towards the country yet critiques find flimsy flaws with the film on grounds of religion. Rather the projection of Hinduism.

Or are they ruffled that the audience just might start asking uncomfortable questions like, "Why wasn't the death of Vikram Sarabhai and Homi Bhabha probed into?" that will open a can of worms regarding the death and alienation of some of India's most meritorious space scientists during the rule of the Congress. While the movie thrashes out this through a series of well-researched incidents and experiences, it also reminds us of Tapan Sinha's *Ek Doctor ki Maut* based on the life of Dr Subhash Mukhopadhyay, who despite being the pioneer in inventing IVF, was treated with abject disdain by the Congress and the CPIM, forcing him to eventually end his life. While the world credits Dr Robert Edwards for the achievement, erudite circles know that Dr Mukhopadhyay was purposely victimized to 'allow the west take the credits'. The chronicles of S Nambi Narayanan also reveal a similar conspiracy to keep India groveling.

SCIENCE AND FAITH

The very premise of detractors questioning Nambi Sir's upholding his Hindu identity falls flat when we probe into how Western physicists and NASA scientists practicing



S Nambi Narayanan, former ISRO scientist

Christian orthodoxy.

NASA scientists however cannot depend too much on their constrained religion construct that focuses on one Judgment Day. Doing that would disable them to make discoveries by looking beyond considering just a few centuries ago they did think that the Earth was flat, a presumption Sanatanis never had.

Hinduism is essentially rooted in science. Which is why Western scholars such as Albert Einstein, Erwin Schrodinger, Werner Heisenberg and many more did their path breaking research taking teachings from Hinduism, something they have openly admitted. Schrodinger's Cat theory is quite literally based on the theory of probability, rooted in Hinduism because there is no scope of probability in absolutist Abrahamic faiths. Heisenberg, a key figure in the world of quantum mechanics, is believed to have understood much of quantum mechanisms through his mystical experience in Hindu dharma.

Father of atomic bombs, Julius Robert Oppenheimer was a theoretical physicist who was influenced by the *Bhagavad Gita*, *Mahabharata* and Indian historical facts. He studied Sanskrit to understand the *Bhagavad Gita* better. Niels Bohr, known for his tremendous contribution in atomic structure and quantum theory, has openly declared that he 'goes into the Upanishads to ask questions'. The instances don't end there. So, if these extremely famous names were not called out for their belief in Sanatani traditions and faith, why does the axe always come down heavily on Indian scholars, scientists, filmmakers and aesthetes who wear their Hindu identity on their sleeves with glistening pride? Why this abject resistance towards the existence of an alternative narrative? ■

OPENING NEW VISTAS

NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY ENVISIONS AN EDUCATION SYSTEM ROOTED IN INDIGENOUS CUSTOMS AND BELIEFS, FURTHER CONTRIBUTING IN A DIRECT MANNER TO TRANSFORM INDIA

The New Education Policy (NEP) is a detailed document that covers all aspects of education—from early childhood education to higher education, including vocational training as well. It is an ambitious policy that seeks to transform the system of education in India, in order to make it a world-class system. It is rightly said that; the policy is based on the pillars of “Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, Accountability” and will transform India into a vibrant knowledge hub.”

RESPECT TOWARDS FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES AND CONSTITUTIONAL VALUES

The National Education Policy envisions an education system, which is rooted in Indian customs and beliefs, further contributing in a direct manner to transform India. The purpose of the policy is to change the system sustainably into an equitable-vibrant society endowed with knowledge. The motive is to provide good quality education to all, making India into a superpower with knowledge in all fields. The National Education Policy seeks to enlighten the students with deep-rooted pride of being knowledgeable only in thought, but also in spirit, intellect, and deeds. It ensures that the curriculum of all the institutions “develop a deep sense of respect



towards the Fundamental Duties and Constitutional values, bonding with one’s country, and a conscious awareness of one’s roles and responsibilities in a changing world.”

EXPLORE MULTIPLE AREAS

Not only this, National Education Policy has also given students an opportunity to explore several areas to recognise their interest area. So that they can excel in that particular field; which is the aim of this holistic and multidisciplinary education. The goal finally is to develop and transform students in their different capacities like intellect, aesthetic, and integrate them into social, physical, emotional, and moral ways. The introduction of new courses with new nomenclatures in the education pattern is also designed in a manner to develop well-rounded individuals - “possessing critical 21st century capacities in fields across the arts, humanities, languages, sciences,

ANALYSIS



DR NEHA SINHA

Researcher at Indian Council of World Affairs



The New Education Policy will play a vital role, not only in conducting research on disruptive technologies, but also in creating initial versions of instructional materials and courses

social sciences, and professional, technical, and vocational fields; an ethic of social engagement; soft skills, such as communication, discussion and debate; and rigorous specialisation in a chosen field or fields.” Such a holistic approach towards education in the long term is seen as a pragmatic approach for students in higher studies and programmes from all the fields and disciplines like professional, technical, and vocational field. Therefore, introducing new courses by the institutions by updating their curriculum, pedagogy, assessment plans - it leads to students' quality learning.

OUT-OF-THE-BOX THINKING IN CREATING COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION

The New Education Policy will play a vital role, not only in conducting research on disruptive technologies, but also in creating initial versions of instructional materials and courses including online courses in cutting-edge domains, and assessing their impact on specific areas such as professional education. Not only do the new courses lead to creating new opportunities among learners, but it also provides confidence among students to do well in life. Here, it becomes important to also understand the infrastructural

THE NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY SEEKS TO ENLIGHTEN THE STUDENTS WITH DEEP-ROOTED PRIDE OF BEING KNOWLEDGEABLE ONLY IN THOUGHT, BUT ALSO IN SPIRIT, INTELLECT, AND DEEDS. IT ENSURES THAT THE CURRICULUM OF ALL THE INSTITUTIONS “DEVELOP A DEEP SENSE OF RESPECT TOWARDS THE FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES AND CONSTITUTIONAL VALUES, BONDING WITH ONE’S COUNTRY, AND A CONSCIOUS AWARENESS OF ONE’S ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN A CHANGING WORLD”

development of a particular institution.

REDUCING DROPOUT RATES

According to the New Education Policy, which is holistic and multidisciplinary in its approach, the importance of suitable resources such as updated libraries, classrooms, quality labs, technology, sports/recreation areas, student discussion spaces, hostels and canteens also play a significant role. These are among some of the initiatives that will be required to ensure that learning environments are engaging and supportive, and engaging for all students to become successful. Moreover, the education system aims to reduce the rate of dropouts among students. Therefore, without any shade of doubt the implications are set to have positive change in India's educational scenario. This means hand in gloves - with the provision of equitable and inclusive education. Policy Is Global and Local It's also important to note how the policy of introducing new courses is benefiting the students individually. The students can pursue education with more flexibility as they can enter, exit and re-enter as per their interest, convenience and career options. Very rightly the former President APJ Abdul Kalam had stated during an IIT-Guwahati convocation programme —“that education should create jobs and entrepreneurs, the NEP is aimed at doing the same thing. It will help create jobs and entrepreneurs in our society,” . We can therefore conclude by saying that policy is both global and local in its outlook. The intent makes a significant headway from earlier policies by putting emphasis on quality education as the topmost agenda of educational reforms— by strengthening the foundations of education, catering to the educational needs of the most disadvantaged, and making India a global leader in education. ■



To mainstream vocational education, Skill Hubs are being created across the country

GOING FOR THE SKILL

MORE THAN ONE CRORE YOUTH JOIN THE SKILL INDIA MISSION ANNUALLY

The Government of India has come up with a novel solution to make our youth acquire skills that would enable them to earn their livelihood and live comfortable lives. The intent is holistic development of students from across the country. Therefore, the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Government at Centre came up with a revised National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

To mainstream vocational education, enable sharing of infrastructure and developing well-defined pathways for students to continue with their chosen academic-vocational pursuits, Skill Hubs are being created across the education and skill ecosystem. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is giving a boost to the National Education Policy (NEP). This initiative will ensure broad-based convergence of vocational education with formal education in a phased manner. The 'Skill Hub Initiative' focuses on the introduction of skill training programmes in the education ecosystems.

Furthermore, for the spread of entrepreneurship amongst the students from their school life itself, the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business

Development has written books on entrepreneurship for CBSE Class IX to Class XII.

REAPING DEMOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGE

With 65 per cent of its youth in the working age group, India is all set to become a hub of livelihood opportunities. If ever there is a way to reap this demographic advantage, it has to be through skill development of the youth so that it adds not only to their personal growth but also helps Bharat to become an engine of economic growth. Therefore, Skill India empowers youngsters of the country with skill sets which make them more employable and productive in their work environment.

READY FOR JOB FROM DAY ONE

Under the National Skill Qualification Framework, Skill India offers a range of courses across 40 sectors in the country which are aligned to the standards recognised by both the industry and the Government. The courses help youngsters to concentrate on practical delivery of work and help them enhance their technical expertise so that they are ready from day one of their job. It would be beneficial not only to

the youth but also to private companies as they would not have to make an investment in training young recruits.

In pursuance of this policy, the Narendra Modi Government worked round-the-clock with experts in the vast field of education and came up with Skill India Mission comprising skilling schemes of all Ministries/Departments.

Under Skill India Mission, whose main objective is to provide adequate training in market-relevant skills to over 40 crore youth by 2022, more than 20 Central Ministries/Departments are implementing Skill Development Schemes/Programmes to enhance skill levels of millions of people on a pan-India basis. Through this pioneering scheme, 556.1 lakh persons have been trained.

Under the Skill India Mission, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has been enhancing skills through various schemes like the *Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana* (PMKVY), *Jan Sikhshan Sansthan* (JSS), National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS) through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), to youths across the country. Apart from the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the youth of the country are getting skill training through three major skilling schemes of the other Ministries, viz. *Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojna* (DDU-GKY) and Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI) implemented by Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and *Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojna*- National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAY-NULM) by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). These programmes are run as per Common Norms as decided by the empowered committee. The National Council of Vocational Education and Training (NCVET) has been established as the regulator in the field and they are tasked with coming up with National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) for standardising skill training in the country.

ENCOURAGING STATES TO OPEN SKILL UNIVERSITIES

The Ministry does not have any scheme to set up Skill University in the State. On the positive note, the Ministry has been encouraging States to open Skill Universities with an objective to promote skills education in an integrated and holistic manner with general education so as to ensure pathways for progression and mobility across forms of education and skill. The State Government themselves may set up Skill Universities through State Act as it has been done by States like Haryana and Rajasthan.

The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education is implementing the component of

FOR THE SPREAD OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AMONGST THE STUDENTS FROM THEIR SCHOOL LIFE ITSELF, THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT HAS WRITTEN BOOKS ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR CBSE CLASS IX TO CLASS XII

Vocationalisation of School Education under the umbrella of *Samagra Shiksha* - an integrated scheme for school education', a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The scheme aims at integrating Vocational Education with general academic education in all Secondary/Senior Secondary schools; enhancing the Employability and Entrepreneurial abilities of the students, providing exposure to work environment; and generating awareness amongst students about various career options so as to enable them to make a choice in accordance with their aptitude, competence and aspirations. The scheme covers Government and Government aided schools.

Under the Vocational Education component of *Samagra Shiksha*, NSQF-compliant vocational courses are offered to the students from Class 9th to 12th in the schools covered under the scheme. The employability Skill module has been made a mandatory part of the vocational courses. It consists of Communication Skills, Self-Management Skills, Information and Communication Technology Skills, Entrepreneurship Skills and Green Skills.

USING VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TO CREATE JOBS

Vocational courses are taught to the students from Class 9th to 12th. At the secondary level i.e. Class IX and X, vocational modules are offered to the students as an additional subject. At Sr. Secondary level, i.e. Class XI and XII, vocational courses are offered as a compulsory (elective) subject. The State Governments have also been advised that vocational courses are to be treated at par with other academic subjects and accorded a similar status in the scheme of subjects.

After completing Vocational Education in schools, the students have the option to opt for vocational courses in ITIs/ Polytechnics /B Voc colleges or opt for academic courses or consider self-employment depending upon their aspirations and needs. The existing system of integration of vocational education with general education under *Samagra Shiksha* provides for flexibility to students to choose for vocational path as per their interest and aspirations.

— **Organiser Bureau**



UNRAVELLING AURANGZEB

SAURABH D LOHOGAONKAR'S BOOK CONCLUSIVELY PROVES THAT MUGHAL EMPEROR, AURANGZEB BETRAYED HIS MOTHERLAND. IN HIS EYES, BHARAT WAS THE LAND OF THE KUFFAR, AND IT WAS HIS DUTY TO EITHER KILL OR CONVERT THEM TO ISLAM

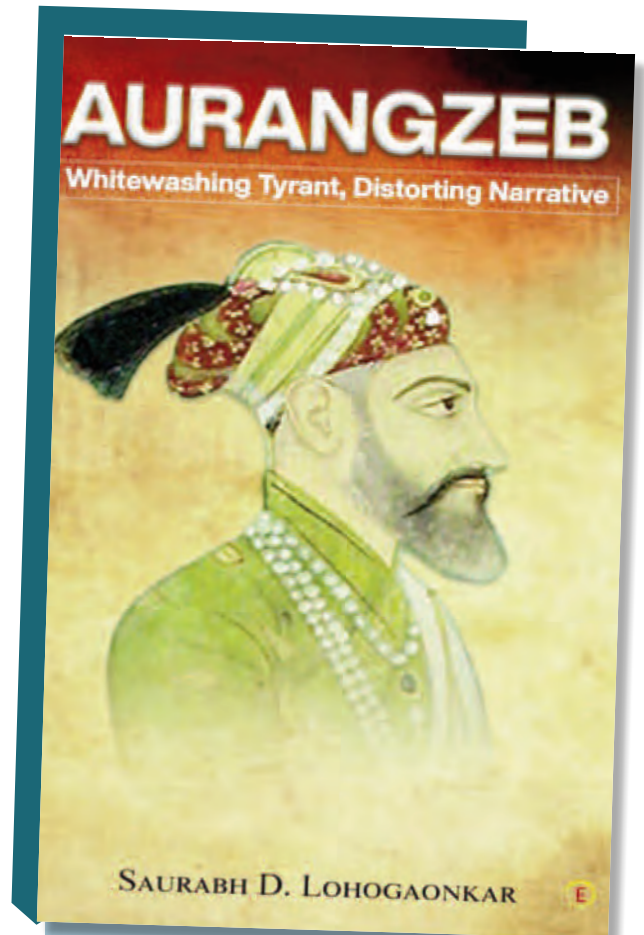
■ **BALAJI SUBRAMANIAN** *Freelance Writer*

Muhi al-Din Muhammad, also known as Aurangzeb, was one of India's longest-serving rulers belonging to the Mughal dynasty. In his book, *Aurangzeb, Whitewashing Tyrant, Distorting Narratives*, Saurabh D Lohogaonkar systematically disintegrates the lies that were spun around one of the world's greatest mass murderers by presenting actual data and historical eyewitness accounts.

Lohogaonkar's book reads more like a detailed forensic study of this dark period that saw millions of Hindus die and their places of worship systematically demolished. The author has presented compelling evidence of Aurangzeb's cruelty and hatred against non-Muslims and his lack of faith in those Muslims who had recently converted to Islam and even Shia Muslims.

The book conclusively proves that during his reign as the Mughal emperor, Aurangzeb was very proud of his Timurid connection, which is clear evidence that he only saw Bharat as his property but not his country. In his eyes, Bharat was the land of the Kuffar, and it was his duty to either either kill or convert them to Islam.

In fact, in this book, the author gives the



"Aurangzeb, Whitewashing Tyrant, Distorting Narratives, Author: Saurabh D Lohogaonkar, Publisher: Evincepub Publishing, Pp 341, ₹ 599.00

actual percentage count of how many foreign Muslims there were in comparison to converts and Hindu nobles. The book gives the exact percentage of many Irani-Turkish served under the Mughals and under Aurangzeb. More than 65 per cent of top positions were held by foreigners, and Indian Muslims consisted of only 14 per cent and Hindus less than 20 per cent. The author has

actually given pie charts to prove his point.

American historian Will Durant, in the book, *Our Oriental Heritage*, writes, "Aurangzeb cared nothing for art, destroyed its "heathen" monuments with coarse bigotry, and fought, through a reign of half a century, to eradicate from India almost all religions but his own,".

Aurangzeb, Whitewashing Tyrant, Distorting Narratives covers many facets of Aurangzeb's rule, from his quest to gain power by killing all his brothers and nephews to how he reintroduced the humiliating Islamic taxation of Jazia over non-Muslims and his constant wars to expand his territory. However, his most cunning masterstroke was to use his religion as leverage during his struggle for succession. Aurangzeb was a tyrant, but he was also at the same time one of the coldest and most calculating people, and his decisions, albeit cruel, were well thought out. The story of how he outwitted his elder brother Dara Shikho was perhaps his finest achievement from a psychological perspective since he had nothing but hate for his brother, who was not only liked by their father but also by the people.

AURANGZEB OBSESSION WITH ANNIHILATING THE MARATHA EMPIRE COST THE MUGHALS VERY DEARLY AS THE COFFERS RAN DRY, AND THERE WAS REBELLION ALL OVER HIS DOMAIN

After Dara Shikho was captured, he wrote to Aurangzeb to forgive him and allow him to live in retirement, which many readers might find as new information because it has been conveniently erased from public memory. However, Aurangzeb saw his brother Dara, who had translated the Vedas to Persian, as a threat, and to ensure his brother's killing did not affect him in any way, he declared Dara an apostate. Once Dara was declared an apostate, his fate was sealed as now Aurangzeb had a watertight religious reason to have him killed.

AURANGZEB'S BLIND AND VENGEFUL FAITH IN ISLAM ENSURED THE MUGHALS WERE CONSTANTLY AT WAR WHICH LED TO THE DEPLETION OF ITS TREASURY

Killing people in the name of blasphemy and apostasy are still prevalent in Islam and Pakistan is proof. Once Dara was killed, his head was paraded all over Delhi to terrorise the people and relish victory of Aurangzeb.

For over three hundred years, Aurangzeb has been portrayed as a pious man who lived a simple life, but in reality, he was one of the most vindictive human beings to ever walk on the face of the earth. After getting rid of his elder brother, he put his youngest brother Murad Bakhsh in prison, where he was given drugs to make him senseless, and he did the same to his nephew Sulaiman Shikoh. Once every bit of life was sucked out of them, they were both executed and now buried in a traitor's cemetery in Gwalior.

Aurangzeb's blind and vengeful faith in Islam ensured the Mughals were constantly at war which led to the depletion of its treasury. Even his own son, Prince Akbar, who had fled to Persia, said that his father's quest for more territory in the last twenty-five years of his life ravaged the Mughal army. He said, "The soldiers are impoverished and unprovided with arms, people have no employment, traders being assassinated or their goods stolen. The lands of the Deccan, which are so vast and once seemed like terrestrial paradise, are now a day's uncultivated, unproductive, and inhabited (Page 250)

Aurangzeb's empire travelled with him because he was an extremely paranoid person who did not trust anyone. Wherever he went, he turned that place into a barren moon as his troops ransacked the countryside, which led to millions dying. His obsession with annihilating the Maratha empire cost the Mughals very dearly as the coffers ran dry, and there was rebellion all over his domain. ■



RAKSHA MANTRI LAUNCHES 75 AI PRODUCTS/TECHNOLOGIES



RAKSHA Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launched 75 newly-developed AI products/technologies during the first-ever 'AI in Defence' (AIDef) symposium and exhibition, organised by MoD on July 11, 2022. The products, launched as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, fall under various domains. These include AI Platform Automation; Autonomous/Unmanned/Robotics systems; Block Chain-based Automation; Command, Control, Communication, Computer & Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance; Cyber Security; Human Behavioural Analysis; Intelligent Monitoring Systems; Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems; Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Operational Data Analytics; Manufacturing and Maintenance; Simulators/Test Equipment and speech/voice analysis using Natural Language Processing. The Raksha Mantri also released a book comprising the details of these 75 products showcasing the collective efforts put on by the DRDO, DPSUs, iDEX start-ups and the private industry in last four years in the field of AI.



'BIG BANG BOOM SOLUTIONS' TO DELIVER ANTI-DRONE DEFENCE SYSTEM TO IAF

ACCORDING to media reports, Chennai-based Big Bang Boom Solutions will commence delivering its Anti-Drone Defence System (ADDS) to the IAF from August this year. This portable system can be operated by a single person.



INS TARKASH'S VISIT TO DJIBOUTI AND SUDAN

INDIAN Navy's frigate INS Tarkash, visited Djibouti as part of her long-range overseas deployment followed by Maritime Partnership Exercise with Sudan Navy. The ship is on a deployment to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which is intended to coincide with the Independence Day enabling her to hoist the tricolour in South America on the occasion as part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'. INS Tarkash also conducted a Maritime Partnership Exercise with Sudan Navy ships Almaz and Nimer in the Red Sea near the Sudan Naval Base on July 7, 2022. The exercise included manoeuvres, flying operations for vertical replenishment, visit and board operations, and communication procedures.

BRAZILIAN NAVY DELEGATION VISITS WESTERN NAVAL COMMAND



A Brazilian Navy delegation led by Vice Adml Liberal Enio Zanelatto, Director of Industrial Production & Engineering, called on Vice Adml Ajendra Bahadur Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command on July 11, 2022. The two senior officers discussed various issues of common interest, including defence & submarines technology, Make in India, initiatives towards professional cooperation between the navies, and the outlook of the Indian Navy towards shared maritime interests with all likeminded navies/ nations.

INDIGENOUS AIRCRAFT CARRIER VIKRANT COMPLETES 4TH PHASE OF SEA TRIALS

THE fourth phase of Sea Trials for IAC has been successfully completed on July 10, 2022, during which integrated trials of majority of equipment and systems onboard including some of the Aviation Facilities Complex equipment were undertaken. The ship's delivery is being targeted in end July 2022, followed by commissioning of the ship in August 2022 to commemorate 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The Indigenous design and construction of Aircraft Carrier by Indian Navy and Cochin Shipyard Ltd is a shining example in the Nation's quest for 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India Initiative' with more than 76 per cent indigenous content. Maiden Sea Trials of IAC were successfully completed in August 2021. This was followed by second and third phases of Sea Trials in October 2021 and January 2022 respectively.



ISRO DEVELOPS SATELLITE FOR BHUTAN

File Photo



ISRO Chairman said that the engineers of India's premier space agency and Bhutan government

have developed a small satellite and Bhutanese engineers are being trained for using it. India has been working closely with the government of Bhutan in the area of space cooperation, and in August 2019 both Prime Ministers had inaugurated the Ground Earth Station of South Asia Satellite (SAS) in Thimphu jointly. In 2017, the SAS was launched by India as a gift to the countries in South Asia Region including Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives and the Ground Earth Station has been constructed with the support of ISRO. The SAS is expected to have a positive impact on the socio-economic development of Bhutan in areas including communication and disaster management. Therefore, as a special gift to the people of that country, India has offered to increase bandwidth on an additional transponder as per Bhutan's requirements.

ARMY RAISES ITS FIRST LIGHT COMBAT HELICOPTER SQUADRON



ON June 1, 2022, Army raised its first Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) squadron at Bangalore. Seven LCH units are planned, each having 10 helicopters for combat roles in the mountains.

ARMY TO CONDUCT TRIALS OF AI ENABLED UNMANNED ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES IN LADAKH

ARMY will be conducting trials of indigenously developed AI-enabled, unmanned all-terrain vehicles in Ladakh for



surveillance and logistics operations. Trials will also be held in deserts in Rajasthan before the final product is selected. One of the vehicles under consideration has been developed by the Kalyani Group that runs on both batteries and motors. The vehicle was one of the 75 products that were on display at the defence ministry's first AI symposium in Delhi Monday.



ACCORDING to inputs provided by Taher Calcuttawala, co-founder and Chief Operating Officer of 'SAIF Seas' to Janes during the East Tech 2022 held in Kolkata, 'SAIF Seas' has delivered 50 "remote-operated buoys" to the Indian Navy, which can be used for rescue and surveillance operations. 50 more will be delivered by the end of this year. It is designed for rescue and can be customised for various other missions by fitting it with additional equipment. ■

SUBALTERN SURGE

VEER SURENDRA SAI, WHO PLAYED A SEMINAL ROLE IN THE 1857 REVOLT, BECAME VOICE OF THE OPPRESSED TRIBAL ORIYAS, WHO WERE EXPLOITED BY THE BRITISH

In 1809, Veer Surendra Sai was born in his family's home in the Sambalpur district. He was a direct descendant of Madhukar Sai, the Chauhan dynasty's 16th-century Maharaja of Sambalpur. His father was the sixth in line to the Sambalpur throne. Sai led a brave resistance against the British, yet the majority of Indians have never heard of him. Even before the 1857 Revolt, he had begun a fight against foreign control, and he continued it for a long time after the conclusion of the revolt.

ENDURING LONG YEARS IN PRISON

Veer Surendra Sai was part of the famous 1857 Revolution. There aren't many historical examples that compare to Surendra Sai's heroism and his extraordinary sacrifice for the good of his countrymen. He played a pivotal role in advancing the Revolution of 1857 and 1858 in the hill regions of Western Odisha. After winning the Crimean War and putting down the Indian Revolution in 1858, the British rose to become a formidable force in the world. Up until 1862, Veer Surendra Sai waged an unyielding battle against the powers of

imperialism. He served as the torchbearer throughout this crucial four-year time in the Indian Revolution's last phase. From an early age, Surendra Sai was an unrelenting opponent of the British Raj and a rebel by nature. His 37-year revolt against the British began in 1827, when he was just eighteen-years-old, and lasted until 1862, when he ultimately surrendered, and even beyond that, until he was finally apprehended in 1864. Throughout his revolutionary career, he spent 17 years in prison in Hazaribagh jail. After his final arrest, he was sentenced to a further 20 years in prison, which included 19 years imprisonment in the isolated Asirgarh hill fort till he passed away.

Throughout his life, he was not only a great revolutionary but also a charismatic leader of the populace.

OPINION



DR ANKITA KUMAR

Independent Researcher





THROUGHOUT HIS REVOLUTIONARY CAREER, VEER SURENDRA SAI SPENT 17 YEARS IN PRISON IN HAZARIBAGH JAIL. AFTER HIS FINAL ARREST, HE WAS SENTENCED TO A FURTHER 20 YEARS IN PRISON, WHICH INCLUDED 19 YEARS IMPRISONMENT IN THE ISOLATED ASIRGARH HILL FORT TILL HE PASSED AWAY

Surendra Sai championed the cause of the oppressed tribal people who were used as instruments by the British to build their political dominance in Sambalpur and who were exploited by the higher caste Hindus. Surendra Sai wanted to expel the British from Sambalpur. By the end of 1858, the Indian Revolution was over, and the British had established law and order throughout the country. However, Surendra Sai persisted in his revolution since he was unable to be put down. The British military resources were mobilised against him, and the brilliant Generals who had been credited with putting down rebellions in other parts of India were sent to Sambalpur to put an end to his uprising. But every attempt was unsuccessful, and Surendra Sai was able to thwart the British's ability and plan for a considerable amount of time. After serving for three years in Sambalpur, Major Forster—a reputed general who had been given full military and civil authority as well as a Commissioner's

powers to subdue Surendra Sai and his adherents—proved to be unreliable and was dismissed by the British Government in 1861. Major Impey, his successor, was able to see the pointlessness of waging war against Veer Surendra Sai. He made the bold claim that Surendra Sai had never been defeated and would never be. The Deputy Commissioner of Sambalpur's comment demonstrates Surendra Sai's power and magnificence. In actuality, his valiant struggle against a much stronger power over a period of four years following the suppression of the Indian Revolution in 1857–1858 is a singular accomplishment. The British cut off the rebels' access to all sources of food and other necessities of life in addition to seizing their entire food supply. However, it was unable to quench Surendra Sai's spirit of resistance.

ENDURING UNIMAGINABLE SUFFERING

With the support of the Indian Government, Major Impey renounced the idea of a bloody conflict and carefully adopted a policy of peace and goodwill. However, they had to confront Veer Surendra Sai. This great revolutionary, who had never seen defeat, surrendered with complete confidence in the sincerity and morality of the British Government. However, after Impey's passing, things abruptly changed, and British officials resumed their hostile behaviour against the great hero. On April 30, 1862, Sambalpur was placed under the control of the newly established Central Provinces. Surendra Sai immediately made the decision to surrender. But he quickly lost hope, and the new regime reversed the previous liberal stance. The officials discovered that despite his surrender, the lion continued to be a lion. The British administrators were shocked to learn that Surendra Sai's capitulation did not put a stop to the movement. They abruptly arrested Surendra Sai and all of his family members, friends, and supporters after resigning in order to plan a conspiracy. Six of Veer Surendra Sai's followers were later imprisoned in the Asirgarh hill fort. Like Napoleon, the great hero spent his final years on Saint Helena. On February 28, 1884, Veer Surendra Sai died at Asirgarh Jail. Veer Surendra Sai was a great martyr who sacrificed everything close to and dear to him in order to fight nearly alone against the most powerful imperialist forces, and he endured unimaginable suffering his entire life. Along with being a great revolutionary throughout his life, Surendra Sai was a charismatic tribal leader. He was always in favour of the downtrodden tribal people who were being exploited by the British officials. ■



Dr UJWALA CHAKRADEO

Vice Chancellor
SNDT Women's University

CALL OF GANGA MAIYYA

GANGA MAIYYA'S NAME IS ALWAYS CHANTED BY EVERY SINGLE PERSON OF VARANASI, A PILGRIMAGE CENTRE OF BHARAT FROM ANCIENT TIMES. HINDU MYTHOLOGY SAYS THAT THE CITY WAS FOUNDED BY BHAGWAN SHIVA

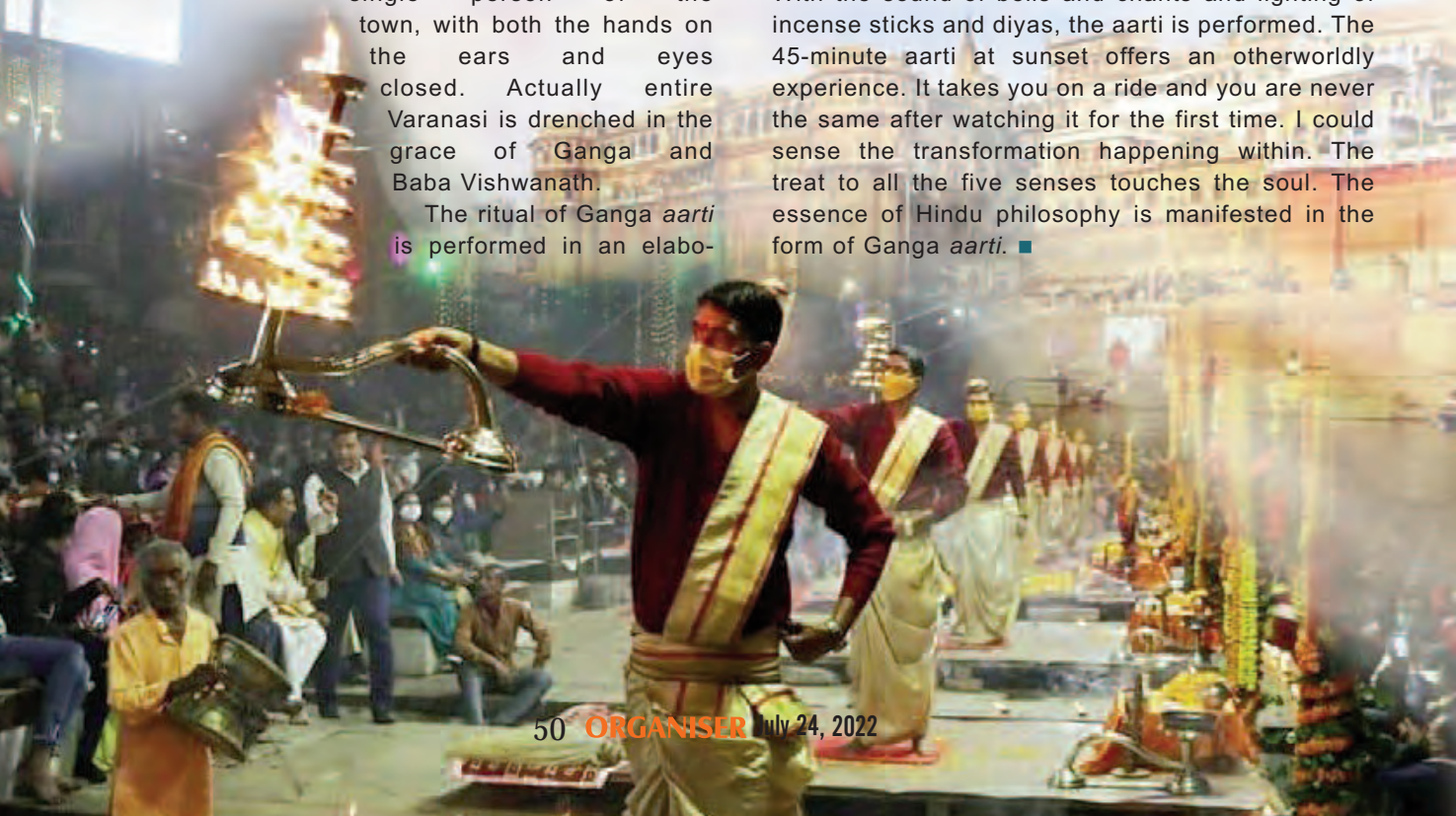
I have been fortunate to closely experience the divine consciousness of Varanasi through Ganga aarti. The divine river was calling and when I reached Varanasi, all other obstacles were removed. The first glimpse of Ganga Maiyya or Ma I had was from the top of the steps of the ghats. What a scene it was: I was awestruck by the chorus of women draped in green saris dancing to the tune of the melody arising out of that serene environment. The ghats are the place for the performance of all cultural activities with the backdrop of traditional beautiful architecture.

As dusk fell, people started pouring in. As a town planner I wondered how the place could sustain the number of people as it did. The crowd of more than 60 thousand *bhakts*, all submerged in the *bhakti rasa*. Only *bhakti* can do it. Ganga Maiyya's name is always pronounced by every single person of the town, with both the hands on the ears and eyes closed. Actually entire Varanasi is drenched in the grace of Ganga and Baba Vishwanath.

The ritual of Ganga aarti is performed in an elabo-

rate manner every day in morning and evening. The entire river front is decorated with traditional 80 ghats, each having peculiar characteristics. The diversity of Bharat is depicted in the architecture of these ghats. The priests perform the aarti at Dashashwamedh Ghat located just next to Kashi Vishwanath temple. The entire ghat gets illuminated with a divine light.

Varanasi has been one of the holiest places of Bharat, since ancient times. According to Hindu mythology, Varanasi was established by Bhagwan Shiva himself. The city is the spiritual capital of Bharat. The aarti is the reason why thousands of people flock to the city every day. At Dashashwamedh Ghat, amongst the hustle-bustle, I could find the perfect place to watch the aarti. The entire city falls silent when a *shankh* (conch) is blown, announcing the commencement of the aarti. With the sound of bells and chants and lighting of incense sticks and diyas, the aarti is performed. The 45-minute aarti at sunset offers an otherworldly experience. It takes you on a ride and you are never the same after watching it for the first time. I could sense the transformation happening within. The treat to all the five senses touches the soul. The essence of Hindu philosophy is manifested in the form of Ganga aarti. ■





प्रधानमंत्री मातृ वंदना योजना

गर्भवती महिलाओं को
नकद प्रोत्साहन



लक्षित लाभार्थी: ऐसी स्तनपान करवाने वाली माताएं,
जो पहली बार माँ बनी हैं एवं सभी गर्भवती महिलाएं जो पहली बार
माँ बनने वाली हैं, जो केन्द्र/राज्य सरकार अथवा
सार्वजनिक उपक्रम में नियमित रोजगार में न हो

योजना में मिलने वाली प्रोत्साहन राशि आँगनबाड़ी केन्द्र में
पंजीकरण के पश्चात् पात्र महिलाओं को तीन किस्तों में दी जाती है

प्रथम किस्त	द्वितीय किस्त	तृतीय किस्त
1,000 रूपये	2,000 रूपये	2,000 रूपये

प्रोत्साहन राशि Direct Benefit Scheme (DBT) के माध्यम से सीधे लाभार्थी के
आधार से जुड़े बैंक/पोस्ट ऑफिस खाते में जमा की जाती है। संस्थागत प्रसव करवाने
पर पात्र महिला को **जननी सुरक्षा योजना** के तहत प्रोत्साहन राशि अलग से मिलती है।



1 जनवरी 2018 से 31 मार्च 2022 तक
2,09,532 लाभार्थियों के बैंक खातों में
₹95.64 करोड़ की राशि जमा

अधिक जानकारी के लिए नजदीकी आँगनबाड़ी केन्द्र/पर्यवेक्षक/सम्बंधित बाल विकास परियोजना अधिकारी से सम्पर्क कर सकते हैं

सूचना एवं जन सम्पर्क विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार



ENGAGE EXPLORE INSPIRE LEAD

Admissions Open for
*Post Graduate Diploma
in Leadership*

SESSION 2022-23

APPLY NOW

+91 8384-074775 | rishihood.edu.in

Rishihood Univeristy, Sonipat, Delhi-NCR

