

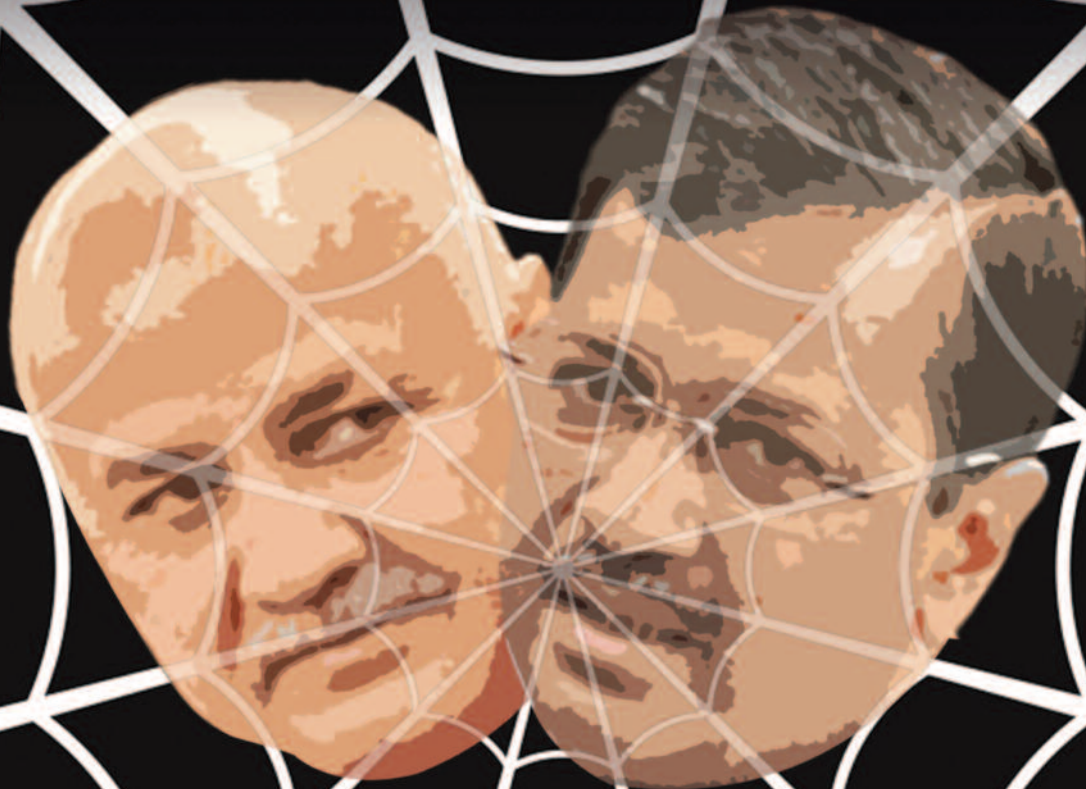
Voice of the Nation

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# ORGANISER

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#DelhiLiquorPolicy

## 'AAP' KARI COBWEB

Exposés in the excise scam probe lay bare the hollowness of Arvind Kejriwal's kind of politics. Instead of taking action or coming clean on graft charges, AAP is dodging the critical questions on transparency & accountability



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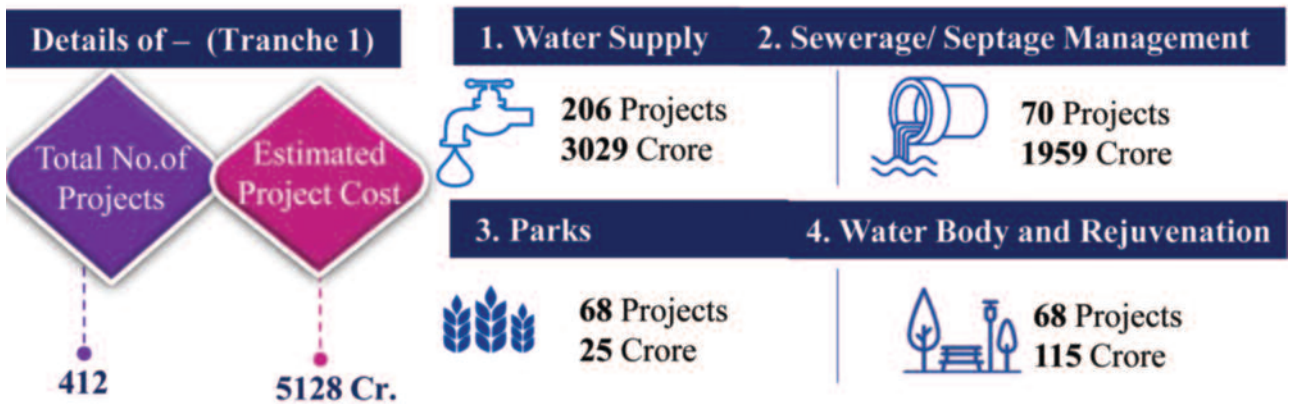
## AMRUT 2.0 – Making Cities Water Secure

**Hon'ble Prime Minister launched AMRUT 2.0 on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021**

**Aim:** To provide **universal coverage of water supply** and to ensure **100% coverage of sewerage/ septic management in 500 AMRUT cities.**

### Key Highlights

- Mission has a **reform agenda** with a focus on **strengthening of urban local bodies** and water security of the cities.
- All projects proposed by State will aggregate to the State Water Action Plan (SWAP) which will be submitted in **three tranches.**



### Targeted Outcomes

- 1 100 % Household sewer connection in 31 AMRUT Cities
- 2 100 % Household water tap connection in all Cities
- 3 Rejuvenation of water bodies to augment water and enhance amenity value and development of green spaces



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## Revisiting Partition Is Necessary

**APROPOS** 'Beacon of Hope', *Organiser*, August 28, the writer has rightly mentioned how Hindu Dharma which stands for the philosophy of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* is being followed by the Narendra Modi Government at Centre. Believing in the Hindu *dharma* that the entire universe in one family, the Government of India has come to the rescue of COVID-19 patients across the globe by helping in the vaccination drive and showing to the world how *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* can be beneficial for the world which does not want to be dependent on China, which is pursuing unethical practices and was responsible for spreading Coronavirus at his factory in Wuhan. By 2047, many countries would practice the Hindu Dharma on their own. This would be a positive move as it would bring them all round happiness, peace of mind and make the world a better place. After all, Hinduism does not believe in disturbing people of other faiths as can be seen historically and even in contemporary times. Even the noise emanating from mandirs like bhajans, resonance of shanks or musical instruments do not disturb people of other faiths. Unlike masjids, there are no loudspeakers which

are meant to alert Hindus that they have to be present in the mandir. Neither do they offend religious sensitivities of people of other faiths.

**NAVEEN MEHRA**, *Janakpuri*

## Exploring Spiritual Tourism

**WITH** reference to the Temple column, 'Janmashtami Signifies Unity In Diversity', *Organiser*, August 28, I would like to point out that it was an interesting read. It was a timely piece as the Hindu festival was



celebrated recently with enthusiasm. Janmashtami's relevance is confined not only to Krishna Bhagwan but it also highlights the concept of unity, which is essential in a multi-religious and multi-ethnic nation like Bharat. Since Krishna Bhagwan is loved by all, irrespective of faith, creed, sex and occupation, it is important that Mathura and Vrindavan are revamped and made as a tourist hot spot. This way, Bharatiya culture and its rich civilisational heritage can be strengthened, enriched and showcased to all Indians, who come from far and wide places down South and North East. They need to feel proud of Bharat and partake in the festival that celebrates the essence of our vast nation. Moreover, Mathura, one of the must go places of pilgrimage, is one of Bharat's serene spiritual destinations that needs to be dis-

covered to understand what Bharat is all about. Apart from a dip in the ancient river, each of the temples need to be visited and discovered. These *pracheen* temples have their own importance as they describe divergent phases of Krishna Bhagwan's life. The city of Mathura as well as Vrindavan depict enchanting cultures and traditions that captivate the soul and elevate the spiritual senses of the visitors.

**MANISH GUPTA**, *Lajpat Nagar*

## Diamonds Made in Labs

**FALLING** demand and rising raw pricing pressure are dulling the brilliance of the diamond sector. In comparison to highs reached a decade ago, CRISIL Ratings projects that the Indian diamond industry's revenue will decline by a large margin this fiscal year due to both a decline in demand and an increase in global crude oil costs. One of the main demand drivers is the COVID-19 epidemic and shutdown in China, a significant buyer of polished diamonds from India. Following the invasion of Ukraine, US sanctions against the Russian diamond mining *Alrosa* have also significantly decreased the supply of raw diamonds. Large customers in the US and EU have asked for origin certificates from India. Our country needs to give this some serious thought and has to make sure that polished diamonds remain in demand. Fortunately, according to reports, consumers' preferences for lab-grown diamonds, which are less expensive, have changed. Our lab growing diamond industries must take advantage of this potential.

**VIJAY KUMAR HK**, *Raichur*

## Kejriwal, Corruption and Credibility

**T**he allegations of corruption on the Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government and his blue-eyed boy Manish Sisodia in the formulation and execution of the Liquor Excise Policy have rocked the politics not just in the Capital city but also nationally. After a few weeks of the Health Minister Satyendra Jain getting arrested on the charges related to Hawala, a report by the Chief Secretary of Delhi came up with a report on procedural lapses that allegedly took place in the new liquor policy. The irregularities pointed out are glaring and need a thorough investigation.

While announcing the formation of the Aam Aadmi Party in 2012, Arvind Kejriwal announced that a new political party would provide an 'alternative politics for changing the system and giving power back to the people'. People will approve all the decisions, and the Gandhian principle of decentralised decision-making was a declared promise. Even now, AAP is a self-proclaimed political party that 'avowedly adopts the anti-corruption platform'. Then, what went wrong with the liquor policy?

Amidst the horrific COVID-19 crisis, the Kejriwal Government's priority was to change the earlier liquor policy by inviting private players into the business. Rationally, the Government has no reason to be in the liquor business. The core objective of the policy was to increase the treasury inflow. An increase in the number of liquor outlets, reduction in the permissible drinking age from 25 to 21, licence to liquor vends in the residential areas with special discount coupons and extension of the timing to serve alcohol from 10 pm to 3 am were important political initiatives. Kejriwal went ahead with the policy execution, despite protests from women in many parts of Delhi. Were local women involved while taking this decision? Why does the AAP Government want to encourage alcohol consumption in Delhi? What kind of Gandhian politics is this?

Last-minute changes in the policy without the Cabinet approval, a waiver of Rs 144 crores to private vendors against liquor licences in the pandemic, returning the earnest money to the vendors in the Airport Zone and promoting cartelisation are the key allegations against Manish Sisodia. Yes, these are just allegations; but the Delhi Government withdrew the supposedly beneficial policy immediately after the report became public. Was there any financial quid-pro-quo in the rolling out of this policy? What is the connection of these alleged irregularities with the Punjab elections? Was there a post-facto approval by the Cabinet to the rules modified after the tendering process? Were AAP activists involved in mediation while allocating the licences to the liquor barons? A party vouching for 'clean politics' should answer these questions.

Answers to these questions cannot be *New York Times* certifying the Delhi Model of Education. Even accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of either misusing the central investigation agencies or trying to break the AAP legislative party would not cover up the corruption charges. Unfortunately, Kejriwal started using the usual political tricks of diverting the issue in a different direction, instead of asking Satyendra Jain and Manish Sisodia to come clean.

Just a Few days back, Kejriwal praised the Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann for sacking Health Minister Vijay Singla for allegedly demanding a one per cent commission in tenders and purchases of his department, testifying for zero tolerance against corruption. AAP had certified all other parties as 'corrupt' at the time of formation, so repeating the same allegations does not make sense. Are transparency and accountability the articles of faith for Kejriwal and his AAP, or just election gimmicks? An answer to this central question will decide the credibility and future of the self-proclaimed corruption crusader.

 @PrafullaKetkar



**Corruption will go when the larger numbers of persons given to the unworthy practice realise that the nation does not exist for them, but that they do for the nation. It requires a high code of morals, extreme vigilance on the part of those who are free from the corrupt practice and also have influence over corrupt servants. Indifference in such matters is criminal."**

**— MK Gandhi,**  
*Harijan, February 01, 1948*



Manish Sisodia with Arvind Kejriwal. The duo need to explain the rationale behind Delhi Government's decision to hand over wholesale liquor business to private players despite expert panel's reluctance

# **AAP-KARI SCAM: NOOSE TIGHTENS AROUND KEJRIWAL**

**SAB GOLMAAL HAI: HOW DELHI CHIEF MINISTER'S DEPUTY MANISH SISODIA MADE CHANGES IN THE DELHI EXCISE POLICY TO HELP LIQUOR BARONS AND PARTY FINANCIERS CAUSING A HUGE LOSS TO THE STATE EXCHEQUER**



■ **ORGANISER BUREAU**

**F**inally, noose is tightening around Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo Arvind Kejriwal after it was revealed that his deputy and Education Minister Manish Sisodia had gained 'unfair advantage' by privatising liquor business in the State and giving multiple retail licences to big companies. AAP which rose to power as a party that fought corruption is finding its leaders embroiled in a slew of corruption charges. The first case that blew upon the face of the AAP leadership was a money-laundering case involving one of the key Ministers in the Cabinet, Satyendar Jain. After a probe by Enforcement Directorate, Jain was arrested on May 30, 2022. The ED on June 6 had seized Rs 2.85 crore cash and 133 gold coins weighing 1.80 kg from Satyendra Jain's aides during its day-long raid conducted

# AAP'S LIQUOR SCAM

**FIGURES BASED ON:**  
A Liquor Brand One 750ml Bottle

	Old Policy	New Policy
Wholesale Price	166.73	188.41
Excise	223.89	1.88
VAT	106	1.9
Retailer Margin	33.35	363.27
MRP	550	555.76
Additional Excise	—	4.54
Total MRP	—	560
Govt. Income	329.89	8.32

\*Figures in INR

## April 2021

Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia used COVID-19 as an excuse and issued orders to waive Rs 144.36 crore license fee of the liquor cartel without Cabinet approval

## May 2021

Manish Sisodia got the Arvind Kejriwal-led Cabinet to take a decision authorising him to make changes in the liquor policy

## May 2021

When LG Anil Bajjal flagged this, the Cabinet withdrew its earlier decision. But Sisodia's earlier decision benefiting the liquor mafia continued to be implemented

## July 8, 2022

Delhi Chief Secretary complained to new LG Vinay Saxena about Sisodia's illegal orders which caused a huge loss to the government. Liquor sales increased by 60 per cent and 87 per cent respectively in Delhi but revenue fell by almost 80 per cent

## July 14, 2022

Chief Minister Kejriwal-Sisodia called an urgent Cabinet meeting in an illegal manner without informing the LG in advance. Cabinet tried to legalise Sisodia's earlier illegal orders

## July 22, 2022

LG Vinay Saxena ordered a CBI enquiry into Delhi liquor scam

## July 30, 2022

Kejriwal announced withdrawal of liquor policy due to fear of getting caught

at various places across Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR). The agency had also seized various incriminating documents and digital records during these raids. The most lethal slap on the AAP leadership's face was the Abkari scam involving Kejriwal's confidant Manish Sisodia. Taking offence as the best form of defence, AAP tried to cleverly deflect the issue by enlisting Sisodia's performance as Education Minister. But AAP's rivals were in no mood to let him off the hook so easily. They alleged that the AAP Government had allowed 'cartelisation' in liquor business by giving multiple retail licenses to big companies. Addressing a press conference, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said the Delhi Government handed over wholesale liquor business to private players despite the expert panel recommending against it.

## DELHI EXCISE POLICY 2021-22

The Delhi Government brought in new excise policy enabling private players into the market. Previously, four government corporations ran 475 of Delhi's total 864 liquor stores. Delhi was divided into 32 zones and a total of 27 private vendors were allowed to open liquor shops in each zone. This meant every municipal ward had two-three liquor vendors operating in the area, much to chagrin of local residents. Under the new policy, 849 liquor licences were awarded to private companies through open bidding. Further, the private liquor shops were allowed to offer discounts on the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) in order to attract consumers. They were allowed to deliver liquor at home, and even keep their shops open till 3 am. The Delhi Government had said the policy would eliminate the liquor mafia, increase revenue for the Government, and enhance the consumer experience.

This policy change resulted in a 27 per cent increase in Government revenue to Rs 8,900 crore and marked the complete exit of the Delhi Government from the liquor business. On July 8, 2022, Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar found irregularities and procedural lapses in the new liquor policy and sent a report to Lt Governor V K Saxena accusing Manish Sisodia of providing undue benefits to those holding liquor licences. He alleged the benefits were extended in return for the money that was used by the AAP in the Punjab Assembly elections. Financial quid pro quo at the top political level, wherein the Minister In-charge of the Excise Department, Manish Sisodia, took and got executed, major decisions in violation of the statutory provisions and the notified Excise Policy that had huge financial implications. Sisodia reportedly waived off Rs 144.36 crore on the licence fee, to be paid

by the private liquor vendors, under the pretext of the pandemic. He also caused loss to the Excise Department and provided benefits to liquor licensees by waiving the import pass fee of Rs 50 per beer case, the report claimed. He also allegedly made several modifications in the tender with ulterior motive of raking in money. The Government made several policy tweaks which encouraged cartelisation, alleged BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra. According to an investigation, it was found that the promoters and shareholders of one of the companies which was blacklisted by the Madhya Pradesh Government for evading excise duty was awarded a licence in contravention to New Excise Policy of Delhi 2021-22.

CBI sources claimed that Vijay Nair, founder of Only Much Louder (OML), a Mumbai-headquartered company, known for organising the NH7 Weekender concerts and AIB's roast shows, had been working as a part time volunteer with the AAP for over eight years and organised several events for them. Nair, CBI sources alleged, played an instrumental role in giving money to public servants in exchange of favours for the liquor barons. The CBI is probing the role of liquor barons Amit Arora, Dinesh Arora, Marwah, and Pandey for their involvement in the scam. The agency is looking into the waivers given to the liquor barons in exchange of monetary benefits and they were all part of a nexus. The violations caused losses of over Rs 140 crore to the State exchequer. It also allegedly refunded earnest money of Rs 30 crore to the lowest bidder of the licence of Airport Zone, despite failing to obtain no-objection certificate from the airport authorities. In a bid to 'legalise' the decisions the Government got Cabinet approval post facto as recently as on July 14, "which in itself was in violation of laid down rules and procedures". When the scam came to light, Sisodia withdrew the new liquor policy and reverted to the older policy on July 29 which permitted only Government-owned shops to sell liquor. Talking about the scam, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said, "Roots of the excise policy 'scam' lead to the doorstep of corrupt Kejriwal. No one is above law and no corrupt person will be spared."

The BJP alleged that Kejriwal was the "kingpin" of the excise policy "scam" and said handcuffs are getting close to him as nodes of corruption are being unravelled. He said Kejriwal was busy indulging in corruption when Covid-affected people needed his help.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta, who also addressed the press conference, said, "Delhi's excise policy has proved to be a corrupt one. Arvind Kejriwal is the kingpin of this entire scam." ■



Kejriwal used the clean image of Anna Hazare to build a public platform against corruption. However, by mind-2012 he replaced Hazare as the face of protesters

# MASTER OF **MANIPULATIONS**

**ARVIND KEJRIWAL MAKES REPEATED U-TURNS WHETHER IT WAS MISUSING ANNA HAZARE TO FULFIL HIS POLITICAL AMBITION OR USING AND THEN REMOVING FOUNDING MEMBERS OF AAP**



**GB REDDY**

Hyderabad-based Columnist and Strategic Analyst

**A**rvind Kejriwal (AK), the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo, remains an enigma due to his chameleon (a person who often changes his or her beliefs or behaviour in order to please others or to succeed) like personality, behaviour changes best suited to changing environmental political situations to achieve his end objective: by "hook or crook" reach the pinnacle of politics in India - the Prime Minister.

Viewed broadly, AK's individual personality and behavioural traits are highly complex. Neither ideology worries

him nor key features like ethics, morals, values and mental ethical traits bother him. AK is highly calculative in all his moves: exploits and attempts to seize opportunities with disregard to its fallout - political opportunism. AK makes repeated u-turns. His behavioural pattern is a product of contextual inherited life-altering experiences including current day "do or die" vicious politics.

Can such a controversial character be expected to steer the nation on an even keel? Key milestones of AK's life story are

## AK'S PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT MUST BE VIEWED FROM THE SEVERAL DEFAMATION CASES FILED AGAINST HIM BY HIS POLITICAL OPPONENTS AND HIS LATER APOLOGIES

reviewed broadly. Born in Agrawal community in Haryana in August 1968, none can deny credit to AK for his academic par excellence intellectual credentials - a graduate in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Kharagpur. Served in TATA Steel, Jamshedpur, from 1989 to 1992. Resigned and spent some time in Kolkata, where he met Mother Teresa, and volunteered with The Missionaries of Charity and at the Ramakrishna Mission in North-East and at Nehru Yuva Kendra.

In 1995, AK qualified in the Civil Services Examination and joined the Indian Revenue Service as an Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax. His service was riddled in controversy. While in service in December 1999, AK, Manish Sisodia and others founded a movement named Parivartan (change) - a non registered non government organisation in Delhi. Parivartan addressed citizens' grievances related to the Public Distribution System (PDS), public works, social welfare schemes, income tax and electricity. It ran on individual donations - a Jan Andolan movement. By 2000, Parivartan organised movements to include: a public interest litigation (PIL) demanding transparency in public dealings of the IT Department and organised Satyagraha outside the Chief Commissioner's office and electricity department.

In January 2000, AK took two years paid leave to pursue higher education on the condition that he would not resign from service on resuming work for at least two years. On rejoining, AK kept getting his salary without doing any work. After working for 18 months, AK applied for leave without pay. For the next 18 months, Kejriwal was on sanctioned unpaid leave.

When the Delhi Government enacted a State-level RTI Act in 2001, Parivartan used to help people get their work done in Government Departments without paying a bribe. In 2002, the group obtained official reports on 68 public works projects, and performed a community-led audit to expose misappropriations worth Rs 7 million in 64 projects. In 2003 (and again in 2008), Parivartan also exposed a PDS scam. In 2004, Parivartan also stopped the World Bank-aided project for privatisation of water supply that would have resulted in a likely ten-fold hike in water tariffs. The project was stalled as a result of Parivartan's activism.



So also, the Parivartan-led movement resulted in a court order that required private schools, which had received public land at discounted prices, to admit more than 700 poor kids without a fee.

Next, in 2005, AK and Manish Sisodia launched "Kabir" - a registered NGO. According to AK, Kabir was mainly run by Sisodia. Unlike Parivartan, Kabir accepted institutional donations. Finally, in February 2006, AK resigned as Joint Commissioner of Income Tax in New Delhi. Ultimately, AK paid Rs 927, 787 as dues, but stated that this should not be considered as an admission of fault. Meanwhile in 2006, AK was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Emergent Leadership in recognition of his involvement in Parivartan. In December 2006, AK established the Public Cause Research Foundation together with Manish Sisodia and Abhinandan Sekhri. He donated his Ramon Magsaysay Award prize money as seed fund. Prashant Bhushan and



In 2010, Kejriwal protested against corruption in the Commonwealth Games to attack Sheila Dikshit

Kiran Bedi served as the Foundation's trustees.

In 2010, AK protested against corruption in the Commonwealth Games. He argued that the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) did not have any powers to take any action against the guilty, while CBI was incapable of launching an unbiased investigation against the Ministers. He advocated appointment of public ombudsman - Lokpal at Centre and Lokayuktas in States.

### **USING HAZARE TO FULFIL HIS POLITICAL AMBITION**

In 2011, AK joined several other activists, including Anna Hazare and Kiran Bedi, to form India Against Corruption (IAC) group that evolved into the 2011 IAC Movement demanding enactment of the Jan Lokpal Bill. The Government convened the draft committee for the NAC Bill. AK was one of the civil society representative members of this committee. AK alleged that the IAC activists had an

unequal position in the committee, and the Government appointees kept ignoring their recommendations. The Government argued that the activists could not be allowed to blackmail the elected representatives through protests. AK retorted that democratically elected representatives functioned like dictators. Furthermore, AK and other activists criticised the NAC's Bill on the grounds that it did not have enough powers to take action against the Prime Minister, the judiciary and others. The activists also criticised the procedure for the selection of Lokpal, the transparency clauses and the proposal to disallow the Lokpal from taking cognisance of public grievances.

The IAC activists intensified their protests, and Anna Hazare organised a hunger strike. AK and other activists were arrested for defying a police directive to give a written undertaking that they will not go to JP Park. AK attacked the Government on this and said there was a need for a debate over police power to detain and release people at will. Finally in August 2011, a settlement was reached between the Government and the activists.

### **ALLEGATION OF FOREIGN FUNDING**

However, activist Arundhati Roy claimed that the IAC movement was not a people's movement; instead, it was funded by foreigners to influence policymaking in India. She pointed out that the Ford Foundation had funded the Emergent Leadership category of the Ramon Magsaysay Award, and also donated \$397,000 to AK's NGO Kabir. AK denied the allegations that the movement was a plot against the ruling Congress by the RSS, or that it was an upper-caste conspiracy against the Dalits.

### **PORTRAYING HIMSELF AS MESSIAH OF THE MASSES**

By January 2012, the Government backtracked on its promise to implement a strong Jan Lokpal, resulting in another series of protests from AK and his fellow activists. These protests attracted lower participation compared to the 2011 protests. One of the major criticisms directed at the Jan Lokpal activists was that they had no right to dictate terms to the elected representatives. As a result, AK and fellow activists decided to enter politics. By mid-2012, AK replaced Anna Hazare as the face of the protestors. In November 2012, they formally launched the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP); Kejriwal was elected as the party's National Convener. The AAP was launched at Bangalore in July 2013. After joining politics, AK claimed that he had chosen public service over earning crores as an Income Tax Commissioner. The IRS association highlighted that AK was never promoted to be Commissioner of Income Tax.

In the 2013 Delhi Legislative Assembly elections, AK contested against the incumbent Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit defeating the incumbent CM, in New Delhi by a margin of 25,864 votes. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 31 seats, followed by AAP with 28 seats. However, AK formed a minority government in the hung Assembly, with outside support from the eight INC MLAs, one Janata Dal MLA and one independent MLA.

On February 14, 2014, AK resigned as Chief Minister after failing to table the Jan Lokpal Bill in the Delhi Assembly. He recommended the dissolution of the Assembly. AK blamed the Congress and the BJP for stalling the anti-corruption legislation. In April 2014, he said that he had made a mistake by resigning without publicly explaining the rationale. In 2015 during the second term of the AAP Government, the Jan Lokpal Bill was passed. Cosmetic passage of Jan Lok Pal Bill may not have the

**KEJRIWAL HAS SELF PROCLAIMED HIMSELF TO BE 'ANARCHIST'. MOST IMPORTANTLY, AK TOOK THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO BUNDLE OUT THE ORIGINAL FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE AAP — SHANTI BHUSAN, YOGENDRA YADAV, PRASHANT BHUSAN, ASHUTOSH, KUMAR VISHWAS ETC. BY DOING SO, AK DEMONSTRATED HIS INTELLECTUAL BANKRUPTCY AS AN "AUTOCRAT" BORDERING ON NARCISSIST PERSONALITY**

deterrence effect as puritans would like to believe.

## REPEATED APOLOGIES

Also, AK's personality assessment must be viewed from the several defamation cases filed against him by his political opponents and his later apologies to include: 2014 - apologised to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari for his unverified allegations in the case of list of most corrupt politicians; 2016 and 2018 - apologised to Bikram Majithia on involvement in drug trade. In 2018, AK, Sanjay Singh, Raghav Chaddha and Ashutosh apologised to Arun Jaitley for alleging that he committed irregularities in the DDCA in a joint letter. AK's "hug" with Laloo Prasad Yadav, convicted for corruption in various scams, reflects the most dramatic turnaround in his behaviour from being the 'Champion or flag bearer of "IAC" to making a u-turn. Latest is the filing of a case against his Health Minister Satyendar Jain, who

is in jail and the investigations into Liquorgate scam involving his buddy Manish Sisodia. Most importantly, in an affidavit to the Election Directorate before the second term elections in 2015, AK had also declared that he has 10 criminal charges and 47 total charges against him.

## NARCISSIST PERSONALITY

AK has self proclaimed himself to be 'anarchist'. Most importantly, AK took the first opportunity to bundle out the original founding members of the AAP – Shanti Bhusan, Yogendra Yadav, Prashant Bhusan, Ashutosh, Kumar Vishwas etc. By doing so, AK demonstrated his intellectual bankruptcy as an "autocrat" bordering on narcissist personality. Consequently, many founding members in the States also disassociated with the AAP.

Having been in the forefront of the IAC Movement against the Congress Party's corruption, AK sought the support of the Congress party to become Chief Minister - another u-turn.

Chastised by the electorate, AK exploited the opportunity provided by the Modi led NDA for inaction against corruption to gain a thumping victory in Delhi State Assembly elections.

On the political views, AK advocates for a decentralisation of Government and involvement of the Panchayats in local decisions and budgets and foreign multinational corporations power reduced in the decision making process of the Central Government and that the politicians at the Centre must be held accountable for their actions and inaction after their election.

## INSULTING HINDUS BY QUESTIONING THE NEED FOR A RAM MANDIR

Most importantly, however, AK has been insulting Hindus and making and adopting anti-India and anti-Hindu policies. For example, AK on several occasions had questioned the need for a Ram Mandir. In 2014, AK mocked the intent and repeatedly said that the Government should instead build schools, colleges and hospitals. In August 2020, the official Twitter handle of AAP had shared pictures of Kanchenjunga in Sikkim, held sacred by both Hindus and the Buddhists, Kamet Peak, and Nanda Devi hills in Uttarakhand, where lies a sacred temple of Nanda Devi, an incarnation of the Hindu Goddess Durga. It drew analogies between these sacred peaks and a humongous landfill at Ghazipur in Delhi. The controversial tweet was accompanied by the caption, "Highest Mountains of India." Ahead of the 2019 General Elections, Kejriwal had shared an image where a man with a broom can be seen hitting

the Swastika symbol, a symbol holy to Hindus, Buddhists and Jains. Yet, in June 2021, AAP leader Sanjay Singh ran a misinformation campaign alleging funds misappropriations by the BJP and Ayodhya Ram Mandir Trust.

In 2020, AK took another u-turn by declaring himself as a devotee of Hanuman. He claimed that since Hanuman is a devotee of Sri Ram, by extension, even he is so. AK announced that after the Ram Mandir is constructed in Ayodhya, he will take the elderly people from Delhi free of cost to Ayodhya for Darshan.

In 2016, AAP faced widespread criticism, especially from the Sikh community after it published a picture of the Golden Temple and the party symbol 'broom' on the title page of its youth manifesto and then compared the same with holy scriptures of the Sikhs, Hindus, and Christians in a speech at its release.

Alluding That Hindu Genocide In Kashmir Was Fake

Next, AK initially opposed regularisation of the Kashmiri Hindu teachers but relented on court orders in 2019 and failed to give permanent jobs to 233 Kashmiri Pandits. AK sparked outrage for his recent comments in the legislative Assembly in which he mocked The Kashmir Files and implied that the Kashmiri Hindu genocide was 'fake' by calling the movie a "Jhoothi film" (full of lies). Criticising BJP for supporting the film, he had asked the filmmakers to put the film up on YouTube for free.

Most significantly, the AK-led AAP has always been at the forefront of providing tactical support to any type of protest or violence against Hindus. The anti-CAA protests in 2020 culminating in the anti-Hindu Delhi riots was a clear manifestation of planned genocide against Hindus living in the Muslim-dominated areas. The AAP ran a misinformation campaign alleging that protests led by women at Shaheen Bagh neighborhood against the CAA were "scripted and strategized" by the BJP. They claimed that the Shaheen Bagh shooter, Kapil Gujjar, who opened fire near the anti-CAA protest at Shaheen Bagh on February 1, was allegedly associated with the BJP and was inspired by senior leaders like Anurag Thakur and Delhi MP Parvesh Singh Sahib. This conspiracy theory, however, fell flat when the Delhi Police revealed that the shooter belonged to the AAP, exposing the dangerous nexus with shooter.

Furthermore, AK supported the "tukde tukde gang" and sheltered anti-Hindu Delhi riots kingpins Tahir Husain and Amanatullah Khan. The AAP government procrastinated delaying the process of granting sanctions to prosecute the "tukde tukde gang. After delay in February 2020, the

ruling AAP permitted the prosecution of Kanhaiya Kumar and others.

Also, AK and the AAP nexus with the Khalistani's are also real. AAP, along with other opposition parties such as the Congress, supported the 'farmers' protest at the Singhu border against the Central government's farm laws, which was hijacked by Khalistani elements. AAP even provided the protesters at Singhu Border with free Wi-Fi. It was these Khalistani elements who stormed the national capital on Republic Day 2021. In fact, after the AAP's clean sweep in Punjab in the 2022 Assembly elections, the banned Khalistani organization SFJ had written a letter to the now, Punjab Chief Minister and AAP leader Bhagwant Mann requesting that the AAP allow a Khalistani referendum. In a letter released by the SFJ, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, made a sensational allegation that AK-led AAP used Khalistan votes and funds to win Punjab.

Most disconcerting is AKs protest over AGNIPATH scheme favoring status quo ante of the armed forces recruitment procedure and service conditions without having a clue about the need for advancing combat capability of forces due to technology advancements. Recruiting shortages in skill sets ultimately result into capability shortages in combat. More significantly, investing in technology over personnel is a sure recipe for disaster in wars.

Of utmost significance is the array of spokespersons (Saurab Bharadwaj, Raghav Chadda, Sanjay Singh, Atishi Marlena, etc) appearing 24x365 on visual media spreading speculative rumors, fake and false news, thereby conduct high-decibel information warfare to swing people in their favor is certainly a critical factor. But, what about its costs? And, the fund flows?

Viewed in the background personality behavioral pattern of abandoning professional career and jumping into politics and fake, indulging in unsubstantiated campaigns and U-turns, AK and his band of followers are a band of "Autocratic-Anarchists" and self-centric opportunistic leaders in pursuit of power at all costs. AK has mastered the art and science of political opportunism. As of now, de facto, AK and his team are not a political statesman of virtue, ethics and morality. Of course, their track record of providing services to society is poor. In sum, what next "face or mask" will AK and his gang wear will be governed by their ruthless pursuit of power. Being an intellectual par excellence, AK will attempt all his best to exploit all available opportunities to his personal advantage by vilifying rivals with utter disregard to its fallout on the people, the society and least on national security interests. ■



Three hundred illegal Rohingyas have been illegally settled by AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan in Delhi

# DEMOGRAPHY JIHAD

**IN A CONCERTED AND SYSTEMATIC MANNER, ROHINGYAS ARE BEING SETTLED IN AREAS IN A BID TO ALTER THE DEMOGRAPHY OF THE AREA. IT IS HIGH TIME THAT THE GOVERNMENT PROBE THE ORGANISATIONS WHICH ARE PROVIDING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AND PUSHING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY**

## ■ ORGANISER BUREAU

**T**he plight of the persecuted Hindus from Islamic countries in the neighbourhood who seek refuge in Bharat seldom makes it to the headlines of the so-called mainstream newspapers. But sob stories of illegal Rohingya migrants who infest urban centres and push the crime graph are splashed on the front pages of 'national' English newspapers. There are religious outfits and politicians who arrange Aadhar and ration

cards to such unruly elements who are brought in trucks and sent to various parts of the country. They are clandestinely rehabilitated in strategic areas to bring about a demographic change in the local population. They are provided with all facilities including free electricity, ration and other facilities. Realising they are solid vote bank, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has been very generous.



## TRIPURA'S PREDICAMENT

It has come to the light that Rohingyas have contributed to the rising crime in the society. Sometime ago, family consisting of six members has been arrested from the Unakoti district of Tripura on December 26, 2021 after they had illegally crossed the Bangladesh border and entered India.

As per reports, Tripura police with the help of Tripura State Rifles (TSR) arrested the family after raiding the house of one Sahnaj Ali from Ichabpur area in the Gournagar Block near Kailasahar. The arrests were made after the police received a tip-off about the Bangladeshi infiltration. Abdul Rakim (32), the head of the family revealed that they illegally entered India from Bangladesh via Dawki, Meghalaya. The Rohingya family then travelled to Assam from where they took an Agartala bound train.

Reportedly, the Rohingya family planned to obtain fake documents and establish themselves as Indian citizens. They tried to stay in Agartala and later moved to North Tripura area of Ichabpur.

Earlier, Chakma organisations in Tripura told the Tripura police that a minimum of 108 Rohingya refugees were arrested between 2018 and March 2021. The Chakma organisations also stated in a memorandum that Tripuris in Bangladesh faced repeated attacks from Bengali Muslims in the area around Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) of Bangladesh which caused a rapid influx of the ethnic Tripuris into the Dhalai and South Tripura districts of Tripura, India.

Following the controversy over the proposal to house Rohingyas in economically weaker section (EWS) flats in Delhi following a tweet from Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, on August 17, the Ministry of Home Affairs led by Home Minister Amit Shah clarified that the Rohingya illegal foreigners will not be given EWS flats in Delhi. "Govt of Delhi proposed to shift the Rohingyas to a new location. Illegal foreigners are to be kept in Detention Centre till their deportation as per law," the HMO said.

The Ministry of Home Affairs stated on August 17 that it has not given any directions to provide EWS flats to Rohingya illegal migrants. "Govt of Delhi proposed to shift the Rohingyas to a new location. MHA has directed the GNCTD to ensure that the Rohingya illegal foreigners will continue at the present location at Kanchan Kunj and Madanpur Khadar as MHA has already taken up the matter of their deportation with the concerned country through MEA", the HMO tweeted.

It added that the illegal foreigners are to be kept in

AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan had systematically settled 300 illegal Rohingyas in Delhi. According to a report by Dainik Bhaskar in May 2020, more than 300 Rohingya Muslims have illegally settled in Madanpur Khadar area of Delhi and are expanding their base. The report says that they are living illegally right across the cremation ground in Madanpur Khadar area of the national capital. Moreover, they have settled on the land of irrigation department of the Uttar Pradesh Government which is about 5.2 acre land.

As per the report, they are also getting all government benefits as well. Amid the lockdown the Delhi Government and Okhla MLA Amanatullah Khan provided them with ration. The illegal settlement of Rohingya Muslims has led to stolen electricity through illegal means and also have a boring water.

The report further stated that the local residents allege that the Kalindi Kunj Police station officers know about the illegal Rohingyas are selling marijuana, smack and other illegal substances but are not taking any action against them.

# 'INSTEAD OF PROVIDING THEM HOUSING SEND THEM BACK': ALOK KUMAR

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) has strongly objected to the plan by the Central Government to house Rohingya Muslims in EWS flats in Delhi and provide them basic amenities. After Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri announced that all Rohingya Refugees will be shifted to

EWS flats in the Bakkarwala area of Delhi, VHP issued a statement urging the govt to reconsider the move and expel the Rohingya Muslims from India instead.

Alok Kumar, the International President of the VHP, stated in the statement that it is upsetting to witness Hardeep Puri, the Union Minister for Urban Development, referring to the Rohingya Muslims as refugees and awarding them EWS apartments in Bakkarwala, Delhi. He stated that the Union of India's continuous position, including in its affidavit submitted



before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, is that the Rohingyas are not refugees but infiltrators.

Alok Kumar said, "We are shocked to see a statement of Shri Hardeep Puri, the Union Minister for Urban Development terming the Rohingyas as refugees and allotting to them the EWS flats in Bakkarwala, Delhi. We might

remind Mr Puri of the statement made by the Union Home Minister Sh. Amit Shah in Parliament on 10.12.2020 declaring that Rohingyas will never be accepted in India (Rohingya Ko Kabhi Bhi Sweekar Nahi Kiya Jaega)."

"The fact that the Hindu Refugees from Pakistan continue to live in abysmal sub-human conditions in Majnu-ka-Tila area of Delhi makes the bounty proposed to be conferred on the Rohingyas makes it more deplorable," he added.

Detention centers till their deportation as per law. The MHA asserted that the claims of shifting Rohingyas to EWS flats and giving them refugee cards are not true. It made clear that Rohingyas are 'illegal foreigners' illegally staying in India, and they will be deported, not be given refugee status.

This comes hours after Minister Hardeep Singh Puri tweeted that all the 1100 Rohingya illegal foreigners would be provided with accommodation (EWS flats) and protection.

## THE IMPEDIMENTS

Although the Central Government had made its stand abundantly clear that it treats Rohingyas as illegal immigrants and wants them to be repatriated to their land of origin, it has not been able to send back them. For them, there is no dearth of support system.

Top lawyers are lined up to argue their cases. If their concern for human rights only reason for their legal intervention, then why they don't ever take up the plight of

Hindu refugees from Pakistan or Bangladesh for that matter.

According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), about 40,000 Rohingyas in India live in camps and slums in different parts of the country. According to an estimate, about 5 thousand Rohingya Muslims live in the surrounding areas of Jammu and Kashmir and around more than 900 Rohingyas are living in Delhi. The BJP had blamed Rohingya Muslims and illegal Bangladeshi immigrants for the violence that followed stone-pelting at the Hanuman Jayanti Shobha Yatra in Delhi's Jahangirpuri on April 16, 2022.

Several Rohingyas have made Delhi their home. About 500 Rohingya families put up in slums located in Shram Vihar of Kalindi Kunj in the national capital. The population is going up ever since they landed in India. Jahangirpuri which last year Many have built their slums in Yamuna Khadar. Many Rohingya do not even have a refugee identity card. They have sneaked into the country and reached Delhi via different states. There are more than 150 Rohingyas in the refugee camp located in Shram Vihar. ■



It is a matter grave concern for the Indian Government that Rohingyas are now not only involved in drug dealing as well as major crime

# NOT ONLY BHARAT, BANGLADESH TOO WANTS TO REPATRIATE THEM

**ROHINGYA MUSLIMS HAVE BECOME A SECURITY CONCERN FOR BANGLADESH AS THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE CRIMES IS ON THE RISE**

**B**angladesh recently sought cooperation from China to repatriate Rohingya refugees to Myanmar during a visit by Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who promised better trade ties, investment and support for infrastructure development in the South Asian nation. China had used its influence in Myanmar to broker a November 2017 agreement to repatriate about 700,000 Rohingya Muslim refugees who fled persecution in Myanmar in August that year.

Despite attempts to send them back, Rohingyas refused, fearing danger in Myanmar, which was exacerbated by the military takeover last year. Wang arrived in Dhaka on Saturday and met with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister A K Abdul Momen.

Bangladesh is grappling with rising crimes involving Rohingya community, who are putting up in refugee camps in Bangladesh. According to Bangladesh media reports, Rohingyas have been involved in various crimes including kidnapping, drug peddling, illegal trading of counterfeit money, robbery and gold smuggling.

Security agencies said that the Rohingyas are hard to

control even though hundreds from the community have been arrested and charged with numerous crimes in the past years. Police say most of the criminals who are involved with the sale of drugs are Rohingyas. *The Bangla Tribune* has reported that Rohingyas are now not only limited to drug dealing; they are also involved in major crimes like robbery, extortion and contract killing. Chittagong Narcotics Control Department said in the last six years (from 2017 to June this year), 462 Rohingya men and women have been arrested from Chittagong.

Narcotics Control Department's Metro Region Deputy Director Mukul Jyoti Chakma told *Bangla Tribune*: "Rohingyas are now a big cause of concern in Chittagong. They are being used to sell and carry drugs as well." According to the report, Rohingyas were caught with fake notes. "This is the first time this sort of incident has been reported," said a police officer. Gang wars between criminal groups within the community are also very common, according to media reports.

There are 11 lakh Rohingyas in Bangladesh, which included minority Hindu Rohingyas also. ■

## CLUESS ON COUNT

SOCIAL ACTIVISTS SAY EVERY DAY THOUSANDS OF BANGLADESHIS TURN UP IN KERALA AND OUT THEM MANY ROHINGYAS ALSO HAVE SNEAKED IN

**A**lthough the Kerala Government claims there are only 12 Rohingyas in the State, the fact of the matter is the Government doesn't have the exact number of illegal immigrants in the State. Some time ago, the Kerala Government had told the Supreme Court that at that time there were only 12 Rohingya refugees present in the State and no anti-national activities including their association with Pakistan's ISI or the Islamic State or Caliphate (ISIS) has been reported so far.

The State made the submission in response to a PIL filed by BJP leader and lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay seeking directions to the Centre and the states to identify, detain and deport all the illegal migrants and infiltrators including Bangladeshis and Rohingyas.

The Government in an affidavit said the refugees present in the State comprise two families, including two newborn babies, who are residing at Muttill in the Wayanad district. It said, "so far, no instances of Rohingyas being associated with ISI or ISIS were reported in the state."

Kerala Government also submitted that during the last five years, no case under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956, has been reported against Rohingyas or illegal Bangladesh immigrants in the state. The affidavit further submitted that in 2015, Wayanad Muslim Orphanage authorities (WMO), an NGO, brought the Rohingya Refugees to Bafaqi Home, Mananthavady, Wayanad.

As per the Standard Operating Procedure issued by MHA on "infiltration of Rohingyans into the Country", their Biometric and Biographic details were uploaded in the Government e-Portal except one new baby born in December 2019, it said.

At the time of the arrival of these Rohingyas in Kerala, they possessed UNHCR Cards, it said, adding that renewal of cards of four Rohingyans, belonging to one family, however, are pending as they are unable to go to Chennai, due to financial hardships and COVID-19 pandemic. The affidavit said that instructions have been given to District Police Chief, Wayanad to maintain a close watch on Rohingya infiltrators. About illegal migrants, the State is taking concrete steps to detect the overstaying foreigners who used forged travel documents or surreptitiously entered into the country.

### POACHING BY PASTORS

**Many** of them, who had fled to India after the earlier spate of violence, have settled in Jammu, Hyderabad, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi-NCR, and Rajasthan.

As the proverb goes: from frying pan into the fire, Christian missionaries are involved in the conversion of Rohingya Muslims to Christianity. Recently it was reported that at Byatarayanapura camp in Bengaluru North, about 10 families have converted to Christianity, reported a national daily. A total of '1,500 Rohingyas living in Delhi, Haryana and Hyderabad have converted'.

Earlier, the Karnataka Government had told the Supreme Court that it would "scrupulously" follow the orders to be passed on the PIL. Upadhyay, in his PIL, has sought a direction to the Centre and the states to "amend respective laws to make illegal immigration and infiltration a cognizable, non-bailable and non-compoundable offence".

"The large-scale illegal migrants, particularly from Myanmar and Bangladesh, have not only threatened the demographic structure of bordering districts but seriously impaired security and national integration," the plea said.

Upadhyay's plea alleged there was an organised influx of illegal migrants from Myanmar through agents and touts via West Bengal, Tripura, and Guwahati. "This situation is seriously harming the national security of the country," the plea said. Earlier, the apex court, on April 8, had made it clear that Rohingyas, who have been detained in Jammu, shall not be deported to Myanmar unless the procedure prescribed for such deportation is followed by the authorities.

The order was passed on an application seeking the release of detained Rohingya refugees and also a direction to the Centre not to deport those who have been detained in the sub-jail in Jammu. The Centre had earlier opposed the plea saying the country cannot be the "capital" for illegal immigrants. Violent attacks allegedly by the Myanmar army have led to an exodus of Rohingya tribals from the western Rakhine state in that country to India and Bangladesh.

— **Organiser Bureau**



# BANGLA CONNECTION

**THE WORRYING FACT ABOUT THE RECENT ARREST OF JIHADI MASTERMIND MUFTI MUSTAFA IN ASSAM PROVES BEYOND DOUBT THAT ABT, THE BANGLADESH WING OF AL-QAEDA IN THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT, WAS FINANCING THE SPREAD OF JIHAD IN THE NORTH EASTERN STATE**

■ **DIBYA BORDOLOI**

**O**n July 28, the Assam Police busted a Jihadi module in the Brahmaputra riverine area (Char) in the middle Assam district of Morigaon at a place called Moirabari. The densely populated Muslim-inhabited area was an obvious choice of the Bangladesh-linked Jihadi module and its masterminds to hide themselves from the eyes of the security agencies.

The Assam Police intelligence had information about a Jihadi module running from the far-flung riverine area of Morigaon district and the NIA had also passed on the tipoff. But what was busted by the Assam Police in Moirabari shocked the entire State.

## **HAND OF BANGLADESH WING OF AL-QAEDA**

It was one of the biggest crackdown of Jihadi network by the Assam Police in recent times. On the morning of July

28 it was challenging task for the police team to bust the Jihadi module as it was based in a madrasa located in a densely populated Muslim Char area. A huge team of Morigaon Police headed by SP Aparna Natarajan sealed the Jamiul Huda Madrasa and arrested the Jihadi mastermind Mufti Mustafa, who obtained Islamic education from Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra and was running the madrasa since 2018.

Police investigation revealed that Mustafa was receiving money from Bangladesh-based terrorist organisation Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) to spread Jihad in Assam. It was found in the investigation that small amount of money was transferred to Mustafa's account regularly by terrorist organisation ABT's prime member Amiruddin Ansari alias Hujur. This terrorist was finally arrested by the West Bengal Police. Notably, ABT is the Bangladesh wing of Al-Qaeda

## **THE POLICE INVESTIGATION HAS REVEALED THAT THE IDEA OF THESE JIHADI MODULES ARE TO INDOCTRINATE AND RADICALISE THE MUSLIM YOUTH TO START SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN THE STATE AND AS A WHOLE IN THE COUNTRY TO ESTABLISH SHARIA LAW IN INDIA**

in the Indian subcontinent.

### **JIHADI HISTORY IN ASSAM**

The first module of Jihadi was busted in Assam in 1999. Terrorist organisation Harkat Ul Mujahideen was trying to set up its base in Assam but it was successfully busted by police and security agencies.

In 2003/04, another Islamic terrorist organisation Harkat Ul Jihad Al Islami (HUJI) was trying to set up its wing in Assam which too was busted by the security agencies. After a gap of six years, another Islamic terrorist organisation Jamatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) tried to induct Muslim youth in their Jihadi modules between 2011 to 2016. But security agencies foiled their attempts to set up bases in the State. The Assam Police also busted Jihadi modules of Hisbul Mujahideen between 2015 and 2020. After 2020, Bangladesh-based terrorist organisation Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) is trying hard to create several modules in the Muslim-populated districts of Assam.

Top sources of the Assam Police informed us that unlike other terrorists organisations, who were previously trying to set up Jihadi bases in Assam, ABT is not focusing on one module. In fact, the AQIS-affiliated terror group is operating more than six modules in Assam, so that even if one module is busted by the police, other modules are functional at the same time.

### **AL-QAEDA'S JIHAD MODULE**

In the last six months, the Assam Police has busted five modules of Jihadis in the State which were sponsored by Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) and designed by Al-Qaeda in the Indian subcontinent. These Jihadi modules has been busted by the police on inputs given by National Security Grid (NSG) which includes NIA, IB and State Police Intelligence. The first module was busted in Barpeta district of lower Assam which was a sleeper cell of ABT-affiliated to AQIS on March 4, 2022. Six Jihadis including Bangladesh national Mohammad Suman alias Harun Rashid alias Safiqul Islam were arrested by police.

Mohammad Suman is an active member of ABT and he entered Assam via West Bengal in 2018. He was teaching Arabic in Jamiul Huda Islamic Academy in the district.

With the cover of a madrassa teacher, Suman was working on setting up a base for the Islamic terrorist organisation in the State. The Assam Police in its investigation found that like Suman, at least 6 terrorist of Bangladesh entered Assam during the pandemic period and were working silently on indoctrinating the Muslim youth of the State toward Jihad and terror ideology. He was also Imam of a Masjid in the Howly area in Barpeta district. The case has been handed over to the NIA by the Assam Government for further investigation to unearth the larger conspiracy. On April 14, 2022, the Assam Police busted the ABT module 2 in Barpeta district. Six Jihadis were arrested by police who were running another sleeper cell of Ansarullah Bangla Team in Barpeta district. Huge Jihadi literature was also recovered by police from the arrested Jihadis. On April 15, Bongaigaon District Police busted third ABT Jihadi module in the State and arrested five terrorists. One Abul Kasim, who is a native of Tripura, was also arrested by security agencies during the operation.

Again on July 27, the Barpeta Police arrested 9 Jihadis and busted the fifth module of Bangladesh-based terrorist group that sponsored a sleeper cell in Assam. One of the arrested Jihadi Dewan Hafizul Islam visited Bangladesh several times and he was the prime linkman between Jihadi modules in Assam and the Bangladesh-based terror outfits. Hafizul used mobile SIM cards of Bangladesh for communication with the masterminds of Jihad based in the neighbouring country.

Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma revealed that high end sophisticated communication devices were used by these jihadi modules. They even used special mobile applications which were not available in India for their internal communication purposes. Another boy from Karimganj district namely Akhtar Hussain was arrested by the Bangalore Police on July 27. Akhtar was in Bangalore working as a food delivery boy in the Tilaknagar area of the city with the intention to join Al-Qaeda and was involved in Jihadi modules based in Kashmir. The arrest was made in a joint operation by the Central Crime Branch and Internal Security Division of Bangalore Police. Five others were also arrested by the Bangalore Police in connection with Akhtar.

### **MADRASSA MODULE**

Important inputs were received by Assam Police that one Mufti Mustafa from Moirabari area of Morigaon district was

# ANALYSIS/ ISLAMISATION IN ASSAM

involved in a financial transaction with Ansarullah Bangla Team. This is the fourth and most dangerous module busted by the Assam Police. With the financial assistance from ABT, Mustafa was running a madrassa in the Char area where 43 students were studying Islamic education. The madrassa run by Mustafa in the interior riverine area was a safe house for Bangladeshi terrorists who visited Assam to spread Jihad in the State.

One of the top leaders of Ansarullah Bangla Team Alamgir was in Moirabari. He took shelter in the madrasa and was working as an Imam of a local Masjid. The Morigaon Police in its investigation found

that Darknets were also used by these Jihadi for communication purposes so that the security agencies couldn't reach them. It was revealed in the police investigation that arrested Mustafa has communication link with all the busted Jihadi modules in Assam and some in West Bengal. He was also in regular touch with the top terrorist leaders of Ansarullah Bangla Team based in Bangladesh. Zakir Mahati and Mahbubur, two Bangladesh-based terrorist leaders, regularly transferred money to Mustafa's account.

CM Dr. Sarma said that it is now confirmed that 6 Bangladesh Jihadis are roaming in Assam to set up a base for Al-Qaeda in the Indian subcontinent. Of these six, one Mohammad Suman was arrested by the police. The other five are still at large and trying to create Jihadi modules in the State. These Jihadi modules created by the Bangladeshi nationals are not known to each other. The only connecting point between these modules is Mufti Mustafa who was arrested by the Assam Police on July 27. But the worrying fact is that the hub of all these radicalisation and Jihadi activities are madrassas. Most of the arrested Jihadis are either linked with some madrassa or Imam in a Masjid. So far, the police investigation has revealed that the idea of these Jihadi modules are to indoctrinate and radicalise the Muslim youth to start subversive activities in the State and as a whole in the country to establish Sharia Law in India. Interesting the Islamic terrorist organisation took advantage of the pandemic period to penetrate more in the Muslim populated areas in the state. ABT organised armed training camps in Assam during the COVID-19 period which includes Cyber Security, small weapons training and Bomb making.



Abbas Ali (22) arrested by Goalpara Police for links with global terror outfit ABT. He provides shelter to Bangladeshi terrorists in Assam and provides logistics including sim cards

## JIHADI GAME PLAN

Unlike other terrorist outfits, the Jihadi modules are not aiming to start subversive activities immediately. Their primary aim is to set up bases for Bangladesh-based terrorist outfits Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) and Al-Qaeda in the Indian subcontinent. Then they try for indoctrinating and radicalised Muslim youth for Jihad as much as possible. Their bigger aim is to establish Sharia Law in India.

Meanwhile, Assam Police DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta said that intelligence has received two videos issued by AQIS where their leader Osman Mahboob asked to

spread jihad in Assam. The AQIS also started publishing their mouthpiece in Bangla language to penetrate in Bangladesh, West Bengal and Assam. The arrested Bangladeshi terrorist Mohammad Suman married an Indian girl from Sirang district of Assam. His primary motive was to assimilate into the local society for a longer period. Marrying an Indian girl was only intended to continue his Jihadi activities. Five Bangladesh nationals namely Abu Tallah, Mahbubur Rahman, Alamgir, Abu Issa and another person are absconding in India. They are all involved in Jihadi activities. They entered Assam during 2016/17 and created several modules of Jihadi in the State which were subsequently busted by the security agencies.

## THE MUMBAI, BHOPAL, UP CONNECTION OF JIHAD

So far, the Assam Police have arrested 29 Jihadis in the State. Of these, Mohammad Suman arrested in Barpeta and Mufti Mustafa arrested in Morigaon is a big catch for the security agencies. Mufti is said to be the commander of the Jihadi modules active in Assam. He was also the only linkman with the top leaders of terrorist outfits ABT and AQIS in Bangladesh. Mufti is a Islamic scholar having doctorate in Islamic education. He is also a cyber expert and used high end darknet for communication amongst the Jihadi modules in the State. Mustafa took a doctorate degree in Islamic Law from Bhopal in 2017. He studied in Nandurbar in Maharashtra in Jamia Akkalkuwa. He also studied in Jamia Arabia Hathaura in Banda Uttar Pradesh.

Morigaon SP Aparna Natarajan said that Mufti used to visit Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh frequently. Mufti collected huge sums of rupees from various people in Mumbai to run his madrassa. Police are investigating these links of Mufti to unearth the entire Jihadi network active in India. ■



While former AIMIM social media head Syed Abdahu Kashaf who led the 'sar tan se juda' protest is moving freely, Raja Singh who is facing death threats has been arrested again

## KCR SURRENDERS BEFORE ISLAMISTS

ISLAMISTS CALLING FOR BEHEADING OF SUSPENDED BJP MLA T RAJA SINGH HAD A FIELD DAY, THANKS TO THE SUPPORT FROM ASADUDDIN OWAISI'S AIMIM AND NONCHALANT ATTITUDE OF THE POLICE

■ **YATHARTH SIKKA**

Islamists, hysterically shouting *Allahu Akbar* and *sar tan se juda*, were baying for suspended BJP MLA T Raja Singh's blood. Some had sharp weapons on them. They ransacked Hindu businesses and heckled Hindus. Some radical Islamists even targeted the Sangh: "RSS Walon Ko, Kaat Daalo Saalon Ko"... "Bolo Bolo Kya Chahiye, Gustakh-e-Nabi Ka Sar Chahiye".

The Islamists were protesting against Raja Singh reported controversial remark against Muhammad.

Immediately after Singh was arrested, the BJP suspended the MLA. The party also slapped a show-cause notice on him. The controversy erupted after BJP MLA T Raja Singh in a video criticised Islamist stand-up comedian Munawar Faruqui who has a show scheduled in Hyderabad. Faruqui has a history of making derogatory remarks on Hindu gods and goddesses. T Raja had threatened that if the show happened, he would set the venue on fire. He allegedly made some remarks against

Muhammad that drove the Islamists crazy.

Just after his remarks gone viral, Raja Singh was taken into custody from his residence by a task force under the Hyderabad Police Commissioner and produced before the 14th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court on August 23. However, he was granted bail hours after arrest. But again on August 25, he was again arrested by the police.

Meanwhile, the TRS police remained mute spectators, as Islamists created mayhem in the city. The mob pelted stones on the police and public property as well.

The crowd that cried for beheading Raja Singh was led by Syed Abdahu Kashaf, a close aide of AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi. "In this protest, I myself used the statement (slogan). I did not have any intention of doing something unconstitutional. My intention was that the person who abuses or uses ill language against the Prophet, will suffer the punishment *sar tan se juda*. That is my religious belief," said Kashaf.

He said, nobody will be allowed to utter a word against Islam. "Hyderabad is totally controlled by us, I am accountable for whatever happens in the future," he added. Kashaf said on being questioned about the consequences of the slogans raised by him.

The controversial *sar tan se juda* chants came to light in June this year when a Muslim mob vociferously raised the same to back the killers of a Hindu tailor Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur. Kanhaiya Lal was beheaded in his shop for supporting former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma.

Meanwhile, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has taken cognisance of a viral video from Telangana where children were seen raising *sar tan se juda* slogans during protests in Hyderabad against Raja Singh.

In a letter to the Hyderabad Police Commissioner, NCPCR has directed the Police to register an FIR in the matter and produce the children seen in the video before the Child Welfare Committee. The commission has further directed the commissioner to take action within seven days and submit an action taken report.

The letter read, "As per reports and videos which have surfaced on social media, a shocking revelation shows a video wherein several children in Hyderabad are seen raising slogans of *sar tan se juda* and demanding that Raja Singh, a BJP MLA be hanged. It seems that the children have been influenced and used in the protests as political tools."

Telangana Congress Leader Firoz Khan has also asked the Muslim community to beat Raja Singh



**OVER 90 ISLAMISTS WHO RAISED 'SAR TAN SE JUDA' SLOGANS AND BEHEADING OF T RAJA SINGH HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED BY HYDERABAD POLICE. THE REPORT ALSO SAYS THAT THE ISLAMISTS HAVE BEEN RELEASED ON DIRECTIONS OF AIMIM'S ASADUDDIN OWAISII**

wherever they see him. Threatening Raja Singh on camera, Khan said, "T Raja Singh wants to do politics of polarisation. Put him in jail. Raja Singh should apologise for his statement. The Prophet is our hero. If he doesn't apologise, then I would want to ask every Muslim in Hyderabad to beat him wherever you see him. We can take the law into our hands not once, but several times."

While Raja Singh was arrested for his alleged remarks on Muhammad, over 90 Islamists who raised *sar tan se juda* slogans and beheading of Raja Singh have now been released by Hyderabad Police. As per sources, the Islamists have been released on the directions of AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi.

According to the locals, men, women and even children were involved in stone pelting as well as chanting the murderous chants calling for T Raja Singh's beheading. ■



# DOUBLE DOWN ON CORRUPTION

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS HAS SAID IN CLEAR WORDS THAT THERE ARE MANY PROJECTS WHICH NEED A DETAILED INVESTIGATION, BUT THESE INVESTIGATIONS CANNOT GO ON FOR A LONG TIME AND CANNOT BE A FARCE

■ **VARUN SINGH**

**W**hat looks like a major blow to the Uddhav Thackeray led Shiv Sena, the deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on August 24 announced that a detailed and timebound investigation shall be carried out in various alleged scams that took place in the last 2.5 years regarding projects carried out by the BMC. Three most important investigations, firstly related to COVID-19 centre scam, secondly the road scam and lastly an investigation in the cycle track project.

The cycle track project was the pet project of Aaditya Thackeray, which ran into several controversies and Congress MLA Zeeshan Siddique raised the matter in the

house to which Fadnavis assured that an investigation in this regard will be carried out. Siddique represents the Bandra east constituency in the Maharashtra Assembly, Bandra east houses Matoshree, the residence of the Thackerays.

While talking about the alleged scams that took place while awarding tenders during the COVID-19 pandemic, where some employees of the BMC were even named, Fadnavis said, “Employees of Municipal Corporation opened companies and were even awarded tenders during the pandemic. This needs to be investigated not by BMC, but by an officer from the Urban Development department and this investigation has to be carried out in a time bound



**FADNAVIS CLAIMED THAT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO PROVIDE HOMES TO THE SAFAI KARMACHARIS BUT SOMEONE IN THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT OVERTURNED THIS DECISION. NOW 29,000 SANITATION WORKERS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH HOMES THAT WILL BE ON OWNERSHIP BASIS**

ordered that those organisations, which are in quality constructions and big organisations will be awarded the contract and not those who would earlier not even put layers on the roads. All the agencies including the BMC, MSRDC, MMRDA, PWD have been asked to fill the potholes, so that during Ganesh Chaturthi there's no issue. Fadnavis talked about the economics related to potholes and said that the government has put its attention to this economy too. The government also decided that all sanitation workers within the Municipal corporations will be provided with a permanent home on ownership basis.

Fadnavis claimed that the central government had decided to provide homes to the Safai Karmacharis but someone in the previous government overturned this decision. Now 29,000 sanitation workers will be provided with homes that will be on ownership basis. Also, the BMC has been asked to carry out the redevelopment of the chawls and their dilapidated quarters on their own, as BDD chawl is being redeveloped by MHADA. The BMC elections are soon to be held and for the last two decades Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena has been in power, the BJP also shared the power with the Shiv Sena, but in the last five years it has only the Shiv Sena led by Thackeray that was in power.

All the projects in which the Eknath Shinde-Devendra Fadnavis led government has ordered an inquiry and investigation, were passed during the last two and half years. The road contract is an ongoing issue, but an inquiry is now seen as a direct attack on the Shiv Sena, which in the last few years has been targeted for the bad road condition in the city. Even Congress' Milind Deora released a video on Wednesday stating that Rs 12,000 crore has been spent on the road repairs within BMC jurisdiction in the last five years and has demanded that a CBI inquiry be set up for the same. The interesting point here is Deora, a former Congress MP, has accused the Shiv Sena led BMC, but his party is part of the MahaVikas Aghadi, which also comprises Shiv Sena and the NCP. ■

manner.”

Fadnavis further added, “There can't be a farce in the name of investigation, a proper time bound investigation has to be conducted and be conveyed to the BMC. There are specific complaints, and these complaints need a special CAG audit. I have spoken to the chief minister and a special audit by the CAG will be conducted and this will be done soon.” According to Fadnavis, a police complaint has already been registered regarding the scam related to the COVID centre, already Lokayukta has received a complaint, and prima facie there appears to be wrongdoing.

Talking about the road quality and the alleged scam related to it, Fadnavis said, “We are paying attention to all the issues including the Rs 2,000 crore scam, the quality of roads and the entire economics of potholes.” Currently in Mumbai, around 1200 Km roads are still of tar, Fadnavis claimed that already a tender has been issued for the concretization of 400 Km road, tender for 200 Km will be issued soon, tender for the remaining 600 Km will be issued by March next year and in the next three years all these roads will be concretised.

Fadnavis also claimed that, earlier in BMC a local contractor would get qualified for the road work, but big companies like L&T won't. Now the chief minister has



# DOWN THE SLOPE

THE NEW SPATE OF SELECTIVE KILLINGS OF KASHMIRI HINDUS, SIKHS AND MIGRANT WORKERS FROM OTHER STATES OF BHARAT IS AIMED AT BLOCKING THE NEW COURSE OF HISTORY IN KASHMIR

## ANALYSIS



**VIJAY KRANTI**

Chairman, Centre for Himalayan Asia Studies and Engagement

**K**ashmir Valley is going through a new phase of violence—target killings. Except for some major events like the historic violent campaign against the local Kashmiri Pandits in 1989-90 and the mass killing of Kashmiri Sikhs in Chhattisingh Pura in 2000, the terrorist violence in Kashmir over past many decades has been mainly focused at killing Indian security forces. While the main purpose of the violence against the Kashmiri Hindus and the Kashmiri Sikhs was to achieve ethnic cleansing of the Valley during 1989-90 and later years, the killings of Indian security forces served

the dual purpose of attracting international attention to separatism in Kashmir as well as to please terrorists' promoters and paymasters sitting in Pakistan and other countries. But things have changed in a big way in the post-Article 370 era. Terrorists are now focusing on killing unsuspecting and helpless individual Hindus and Sikhs. Their victims now are Kashmiri Pandits who had returned to the Valley under rehabilitation package of the State Government; non-Kashmiri government employees who have been posted from Jammu region to the Valley; or poor

labourers and workers from other States of India who found one or other petty job in Kashmir.

## SHATTERING DREAMS OF ORIGINAL INHABITANTS FROM RETURNING HOME

The purpose behind these target killings is to instil fear in the hearts of those Kashmiri Hindus who want to return to their lost homes in the Kashmir Valley and also to forestall the inflow of such workers, businessmen and entrepreneurs from the rest of India who find the prospects of enjoying same freedom of employment and business in J&K what Kashmiris have been enjoying across India since ages.

Since the beginning of this calendar year in January, at least 28 individuals have been killed already and the spate of violence seems unending. The new modus-operandi of lone wolf attacks has turned out quite attractive for the terrorist groups especially because the security agencies have been able to successfully neutralise most of terror groups in recent years and thereby making larger and organised attacks nearly impossible in the Kashmir Valley.

## NC, PDP AGAINST BRINGING BACK HINDUS

Interestingly, all traditionally dominant separatists, terrorist groups and local politicians in the Valley have a vested interest in ensuring that the strategy of the new spate of lone wolf terror attacks on helpless individuals succeeds. On one hand, the 'Gupkar Road' lobby of Kashmiri politicians, led by former Chief Ministers Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, and their separatist supporters want to stop this new process of bringing back the Kashmiri Pandits to their ancestral homeland. They are trying to peddle this move as the Centre's attempt to change the 'demographic character' of the State. On the other hand, the gun totting terrorists look at the new trend of returning Pandits and others from outside the State as the undoing of the ethnic and religious cleansing of Kashmir which they had achieved successfully after decades of killings and unrest in the Valley.

On August 16, Kashmiri terrorists entered a fruit orchard in Shopian and gunned down two Kashmiri Hindus who were engaged in routine work in the apple garden. One of the two victims, Sunil Kumar Bhat (48) died on the spot, whereas his cousin Pitambar Nath Bhat was struggling for his life in the hospital when last information came in. On May 12 this year, terrorists entered the Tehsil office in the Chadoora area of Badgam district and shot dead Rahul Bhat in his office chair in the presence of his office colleagues. Rahul was one of those Kashmiri Pandits who had been given a State Government job as a part of the package for those Pandit

## THE 10 HINDUS KILLED IN 36 WEEKS IN KASHMIR

- » ON OCTOBER 6, 2021, THE TERRORISTS SHOT DEAD 68-YEAR-OLD MAKHAN LAL BINDROO, KASHMIRI PANDIT OWNER OF THE FAMOUS BINDROO MEDICAL IN IQBAL PARK, SRINAGAR.
- » ON THE SAME DAY OCTOBER 6, 2021 ANOTHER HINDU WAS KILLED, 56-YEAR-OLD VIRENDRA PASWAN, A NATIVE OF BHAGALPUR DISTRICT OF BIHAR WHO WAS RESIDING IN ALAMGARI BAZAR ZADIBAL.
- » ON OCTOBER 7, 2021, TERRORISTS KILLED TWO TEACHERS IN A SCHOOL IN SRINAGAR. PRINCIPAL SATINDER KAUR AND TEACHER DEEPAK CHAND DIED AFTER THEY WERE SHOT AT POINT-BLANK RANGE AT THE GOVERNMENT BOYS HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL IN IDGAH, SANGAM IN SRINAGAR.
- » ON OCTOBER 16, 2021 ANOTHER STREET VENDOR FROM BIHAR WHO USED TO SELL GOLGAPPA, 30 YEARS OLD HINDU MAN ARBIND KUMAR SAH, WAS SHOT DEAD BY A TERRORIST IN SRINAGAR.
- » ON APRIL 13, 2022 THIS YEAR, A CIVILIAN NAMED SATISH KUMAR SINGH RAJPUT WAS KILLED IN A TARGETED ATTACK. HE WAS FIRED UPON BY TERRORISTS IN THE KULGAM DISTRICT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, AND HE DIED AFTER HE WAS SHIFTED TO A HOSPITAL.
- » ON MAY 12, 2022 A KASHMIRI HINDU YOUTH RAHUL BHAT WAS KILLED BY MILITANTS IN BUDGAM DISTRICT. RAHUL BHAT WORKED WITH THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT IN THE TEHSILDAR OFFICE AT CHADOORA IN BUDGAM. WHEN HE WAS IN THE OFFICE ON THAT DAY, TERRORISTS HAD FIRED AT HIM IN THE OFFICE PREMISES.
- » BURQA-CLAD TERRORISTS HAD HURLED A GRENADE INSIDE A NEWLY OPENED WINE SHOP THROUGH THE PORTHOLE WINDOW ON MAY 17, 2022 KILLING ONE AND INJURING THREE OTHERS. IN THE ATTACK IN NORTH KASHMIR'S BARAMULLA, ONE OF THE EMPLOYEES RANJIT SINGH HAD LOST HIS LIFE.
- » ON MAY 31, 2022 IN YET ANOTHER TARGETED KILLING OF A HINDU IN KASHMIR, 36-YEAR-OLD RAJNI BALA WAS SHOT DEAD BY TERRORISTS IN KULGAM DISTRICT'S GOPALPORA AREA. SHE WAS SHOT OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL BY ISLAMIC TERRORISTS.
- » ON JUNE 2, IN ANOTHER TERROR ACT OF TARGETED KILLING IN THE UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, ISLAMIC TERRORISTS SHOT DEAD A BANK EMPLOYEE NAMED VIJAY KUMAR IN THE KULGAM DISTRICT ON JUNE 2, 2022.

INPUT BY – OPINDIA

families who intend to return to their homeland after a three decades long exile. On 31st of same month, another Hindu Government teacher Rajni Bala (36) was shot dead in the Gopalpura of Kulgam. She was posted in Kashmir while her husband worked in another Government office at Samba in the Jammu region. Only two days after Rajni's killing, Vijay Kumar, the young branch manager of the Ilaqai Dehati Bank in the Mohanpur colony of Kulgam, was killed by the terrorists. He had recently come from Hanumangarh of Rajasthan to work in this local rural bank.

It is interesting to note that target killing of Hindus and Sikhs in the Valley has started soon after the abrogation of Article-35A and neutralising of Article-370 in August 2020

## **THE PURPOSE BEHIND THESE TARGET KILLINGS IS TO INSTIL FEAR IN THE HEARTS OF THOSE KASHMIRI HINDUS WHO WANT TO RETURN TO THEIR LOST HOMES IN THE KASHMIR VALLEY AND ALSO TO FORESTALL THE INFLOW OF SUCH WORKERS, BUSINESSMEN AND ENTREPRENEURS FROM THE REST OF INDIA**

started showing results on the ground a year later in 2021 in the form of a campaign for bringing back those Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley who were violently thrown out in 1989-90 period. The new economic scenario which promises external investments in new businesses and industry from across India and foreign lands too has also presented the inevitability of large inflow of businessmen, investors and workers from outside to J&K. All this goes against the agenda of the separatists, terrorists and their paymasters who have been dreaming of separating Kashmir from India and establishing the 'Nizam-e-Mustafa' (Islamic rule) here.

The efforts to halt this new process in the Kashmir Valley started with the gunning down of a famous chemist and a highly popular Hindu Kashmiri Pandit, Makkhan Lal Bindru, in his shop at Jehangir Chowk in the centre of Srinagar on October 5, 2021. He was one of those Kashmiri Pandits who had refused to leave the Valley even during the peak of anti-Pandit violence in 1989-90. On the very next day, a Bihari hawker, named Virendra Pawan, who was selling 'Bhelpuri', a popular Marathi quick-food, was shot dead at Madina Chowk of Lalbazar in Srinagar. And on the very next day on October 7, terrorists barged into the Government Boys Higher Secondary School at Idgah in Srinagar. They inspected identity cards of the entire staff, separated the Sikh lady Principal Supinder Kaur and another Hindu teacher Deepak Chand and gunned them down in front of students and teachers.

The message was clear. The Kashmiri terrorists shall not allow Pandits to return to their homeland and reclaim their properties, jobs, businesses and their traditional social-place in the Valley which belonged to them since centuries. Nor would they allow the Central and Union Territory governments to open the State, surely not the Valley, for 'outsiders' to settle or undertake any job or business – not even selling 'Bhelpuri'. If the flight of Kashmiri Pandits and non-Muslim employees from the Valley is any indication, this campaign of separatist forces is proving successful. More than 4,000 non-Muslim employees of the UT

Government, who belong to various areas of Jammu, have been on a long strike to demand their transfer and relocation out of the Valley. A large number of daily wage workers from Bihar, UP, Chhattisgarh and other States have already moved out to their respective home States. A large number of Pandits from all the seven transit camps, established by the State and Central Government for the returnee Pandits, are depleting fast. Reports from the two camps at Mattan and Vasu in the Valley say that except for 20 families, all others out of 300 families have already left the Valley.

It is interesting to note that the political leadership of Valley, especially the Gupkar Alliance led by Dr Farooq Abdullah's National Conference and his staunch opponent Mehbooba Mufti's PDP, too, have put its political weight behind the terrorists' agenda of protecting the ethnically cleansed character of the Valley. Taking shield from the ongoing exercise of preparing a fresh electoral list of the State, these leaders announced strong opposition to the inclusion of new voters in the list. These new names include hundreds of thousands of those residents who have been living in the State for many generations but remained deprived of most of their civic rights, especially the voting rights because of Article-370. These communities include Hindu and Sikh refugees from erstwhile Pakistan since 1947 who had settled in Jammu; the Valmikis (sweepers and night-soil cleaners) whose more than three generations have been living in the State; and the Gorkha families who had settled in the State since over a Century as the soldiers in the Maharaja's army. The Gupkar-Alliance has even threatened to approach the Supreme Court against new additions into the electoral list.

## **UNANIMITY BETWEEN POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND TERRORISTS**

All these developments show that all terrorists as well as the political forces in the Kashmir Valley are on the same page and are bent upon maintaining the status quo, achieved through decades long violent process of ethnic cleansing of the Valley and stopping the integration of the State, especially the Valley into the national mainstream. They would use all means, including target killings on non-Muslims citizens of Kashmir or through the popular political and legal ways. This is neither human nor democratic. One should hope that these forces don't succeed in their goal, lest it neutralises all gains of abrogating Articles 35-A and 370. That can push India into a Lebanon or Israel-like situation where people of the rest of India are pitted against the separatist forces of the Kashmir Valley. And this needs to be checked before it is too late. ■



The Gupkar Alliance led by Dr Farooq Abdullah's National Conference and his staunch opponent Mehbooba Mufti's PDP, too, have put its political weight behind the terrorists' agenda of protecting the ethnically cleansed character of the Valley

## DISRUPTOR GANG

**DESPITE THE UNION GOVERNMENT'S PRAGMATIC EFFORTS TO INTEGRATE THE VALLEY WITH THE REST OF BHARAT, KASHMIRI POLITICIANS DON'T AGREE WITH THE IDEA OF ONE NATION, ONE CONSTITUTION, ONE FLAG AND ONE LAW FOR ALL. THEY CONTINUE TO HARP ON THE AGENDA OF SEPARATIST IDEOLOGY**

**W**ith the announcement of the registration of eligible voters in J&K by the representative of the UT Government recently, a section of the political class of Jammu and Kashmir has found a new issue to harp on and has raised the issue of inclusion of non-locals in the electoral rolls of Jammu and Kashmir to arouse the passions of the people. Though the Government of J&K has come out with a clarification as well in this regard yet politics in this context has taken a front seat in the public discourse. The mind of a major section of the political class in J&K is still carrying the hangovers of Article 370, special status and separate constitution. It is because of this hangover that the controversy has found a place in the public debate. Moreover, their politics is based on their separatist agenda, therefore these controversial narratives suit their politics.

### ANALYSIS



**ASHWANI KUMAR CHRUNGOO**

Senior BJP leader and columnist

### VOTING IN OTHER STATES AND UTS

It would be in order to place on record that the citizens and State subjects of Jammu

and Kashmir have been voting in other States and Union Territories of the country wherever they got themselves registered as voters since inception of the democratic process in the country. They vote for both the Parliamentary as well as the Assembly elections in the States where they continue to live. Consequent upon their jobs, businesses or migrations due to one reason or the other, they have also purchased lands, properties and other assets throughout the length and breadth of the country without any sort of controversy in this regard in these States and UTs. Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Buddhists of the erstwhile J&K State live almost in all parts of India for the last several decades and enjoy their rights as ordinary citizens. Moreover, this practice is in vogue irrespective of the social and religious background of the people of the JKUT and all sections of the population in J&K have been engaged in such a practice all along.

This practice is not limited to voting only. There are glaring examples when prominent persons of J&K would contest elections from outside the State and get elected to the Parliament of India. They would eventually be made even Ministers in the Union Cabinet. Ghulam Nabi Azad and Mufti Mohd. Sayeed are classic examples in this regard who got elected from Maharashtra and UP respectively and

# JAMMU AND KASHMIR

were later appointed as the Ministers in Government of India. Their contesting elections were not subjected to the controversy of non-locals getting elected from the respective States. Law didn't permit such a controversy nor it permits now.

In addition to this, when Mufti Sayeed was elected from RS Pura in Jammu region for the Assembly of the State, he was practically a 'non-local' for the people of the constituency. Parties like the PDP and Congress ought to bring these facts before the public and justify their arguments in the light of these facts about their own past. They also require to explain to their own people in their parties as to why they at all need to 'encroach' upon the rights of the people of other constituencies earlier in the context of the arguments they forward now.

There is a thumb rule regarding the registration of voters in India. If a person is continuously residing at a place for the last six months and is otherwise an eligible voter can register himself/herself as a voter. Every citizen,

## **FOR THE PEOPLE OF INDIA IN GENERAL, AUGUST 5, 2019 HAS SINCE DECIDED THE ISSUE FOREVER THROUGH THE BIGGEST TEMPLE OF DEMOCRACY IN INDIA, THE PARLIAMENT**

who is 18-years-old on the qualifying date (January 1 of the concerned year, unless disqualified) is eligible to be enrolled as a voter. Enrollment is possible at ordinary places of residence and only at one place. The names of eligible electors ordinarily residing in an Assembly constituency, are enlisted in the voters list by the registering authority. These lists are called the Electoral Roll of that constituency. There are tens of thousands of people from Jammu and Kashmir who have their votes in the respective States and UTs and a few among them have even contested elections and been elected to the municipal bodies of their respective towns and cities in various States without any sort of issues like locals and non-locals.

There is no doubt in the fact that earlier the non-locals in Jammu and Kashmir couldn't vote in the Assembly elections due to the impact of Article 370 and a separate Constitution of the State. While they could vote in the Parliamentary elections, however, they were not eligible to vote in the Assembly elections. The West Pakistan refugees, though being the registered voters, weren't permitted to vote in the Assembly elections of the State while they could vote in the Parliamentary elections in

J&K. The developments of August 5, 2019 when Article 370 was made dysfunctional along with the abrogation of Article 35A and the separate Constitution of J&K, this anomaly ceased to exist. However, a few elements in the UT of J&K love to live with this anomaly and thus hoodwink the opinion of the people, unfortunately.

Some political parties as well as some public figures in the JKUT continue to be guided by the earlier practices and narratives in this regard. They try to defy the existing ground situation and change the constitutional scheme emerging out of the abrogation of the special status of the State. They don't agree with the idea of one nation, one Constitution, one flag and one law for all. They continue to harp on the agenda of separatist ideology or the fantasy of sub-nationalism. The hard fact remains that except in the case of appointment in the government jobs and purchase of immovable properties in the UT, the domicile rules don't apply in any other case. The issue of domicile and the issue of voting are two separate issues and have no intimate relationship whatsoever. A person who is not a domicile certificate holder can also apply to become a voter (if otherwise eligible) and get enrolled as a voter in a constituency anywhere in India. The same applies in the case of Jammu and Kashmir as well. Now, Jammu and Kashmir is not an exception post abrogation of Article 370.

There is a dire need for all the politicians of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory to avoid rather shun the pastime of creating hypes on flimsy grounds. The hype on electoral rolls is absolutely flimsy and misconceived and has the potential to create confusion and social disharmony in an otherwise fragile atmosphere of the UT deeply influenced by terror, death and destruction of the past three decades.

Politics is an instrument for public welfare and not for sowing seeds of discord and disharmony. Those who embark on the fate of the petitions filed against the Parliamentary actions of August 5, 2019 in the Apex Court should pursue the cases at an appropriate level and wait for the judgement. For the people of India in general, August 5, 2019 has since decided the issue forever through the biggest temple of democracy in India, the Parliament. It is for the people of India to make a judgement on the issue in the 2024 General Elections in which the leaders and parties opposed to the actions of August 2019 will be free to take the issue to the public. Hence, it would be advisable for all to maintain restraint in the public discourse and allow law to take its own course. ■

## OPINION



**RAKESH KUMAR**

Columnist

**R**ecently senior advocate Kapil Sibal, a legal luminary with five decades of standing in the Supreme Court, talked about the hopeless situation at the top court. After him, there has been a beeline of lawyers expressing disappointment over the Supreme Court's performance. As a non-legal person, I am pained. When I look at the fall in the image of court in the common man's eye, I find top advocates at the same court are to be blamed equally. Let's explore the judging the judge syndrome by lawyers, a bit deeper.

The first reaction to this 'no hope left' comment makes one assume that the persons having the pain must have been dedicated to eradication of corruption from the judiciary. One gets a shock of a

lifetime when the facts indicate that in reality, the same person has fought a very audacious battle to save a proven corrupt judge from impeachment. Strange way of expecting a corruption-free judiciary despite defending its corruption.

### THE IMPEACHMENT PROCESS AGAINST JUSTICE V RAMASWAMI

In 1991, 108 MPs from different parties submitted an impeachment motion against Justice V Ramaswami, citing 14 charges of corruption. These charges were based on audit report of the Chandigarh administration. The then Speaker of Lok Sabha Rabi Ray constituted an inquiry committee, comprising serving Justices P B Sawant

# WHEN LAWYERS JUDGE JUDGES

THOSE WHO MAKE NOISE CLAIMING THAT 'NO HOPE LEFT' IN INDIAN JUDICIARY ARE THEMSELVES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SITUATION

**BAR, COURT, AND THE PUBLIC MAKE A TRIPOD CALLED JUSTICE. ALL THREE HAVE TO WORK IN HARMONY. THE BAR ACTS AS A CONVEYOR BELT TRANSFERRING JUSTICE FROM JUDGES TO THE PUBLIC. THERE IS ENOUGH SPACE TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES AMICABLY, THE ONLY THING NEEDED IS TO TAKE UP THE MATTER IN THE RIGHT FORUM BUT NOT IN PUBLIC**

of Supreme Court, serving Justice P D Desai of Bombay High Court and Justice O Chinnappa Reddy who was a retired judge of the Supreme Court. The committee submitted its report concluding that Justice V Ramaswami was “guilty of wilful and gross misuse of office, purposeful and persistent negligence in the discharge of duties, intentional and habitual extravagance at the cost of the exchequer, moral turpitude by using public funds for private purposes in diverse ways and reckless disregard of statutory rules and brings disrepute to the high office and dishonour to the institution of the judiciary and undermines the faith and confidence which the public reposes in the administration of justice”. The impeachment motion contained 11 charges.

In the meantime, the Bar council also reacted sharply to the corruption charges on Justice V Ramaswami. The April 1990 issue of the magazine ‘The Lawyers’, edited by Indira Jaising, was forwarded to the Chief Justice of India, which contained the full text of the audit report of the Chandigarh administration. A group of senior advocates, the attorney general, Soli Sorabjee, Parasaran, Venugopal and Dr Chitale also met the Chief Justice of India and urged him to act.

Chief Justice Sabyasachi Mukherjee explained: “Legally and constitutionally the Chief Justice of India, as such, has no right or authority to inquire into the conduct of a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court.”

The bar was not satisfied and Nani Palkhivala’s rejoinder was, “There is danger in allowing the bar to pass judgment on a judge. But what is the option before the bar? There is no machinery to bring errant judges to book.”

The audit report, the committee formed by the Lok Sabha speaker and the bar, all were in agreement that action should be taken against the corrupt judge. Yet, the Congress party thought otherwise and decided to defend the undefendable. They got none other than senior advocate Shri Kapil Sibal to defend Justice V Ramaswami.



On May 10, 1993 a five-hour long speech before the Lok Sabha by Shri Kapil Sibal led to the defeat of the impeachment motion where all Congress MPs abstained. That day rare precedence was set. A person proven guilty by the committee of judges escaped punishment due to protection by the Congress party and the arguments of Shri Kapil Sibal. This was the beginning of ‘no hope left.

From here on the image of the Indian judiciary has seen a continuous fall. Shanati Bhushan former law minister submitted a sealed envelope in Supreme Court in 2010 in which he said he listed the corrupt judges’ names. The envelope was never opened.

It is irony that the Government after Government irrespective of political parties has kept on protecting corrupt judges. Shri Kapil Sibal maintained his stand till 2010 when he called the impeachment process “unconstitutional”. He further added, “I think it’s doing the



Former Congress Leader Kapil Sibal

**ON MAY 10, 1993 A FIVE-HOUR LONG SPEECH BEFORE THE LOK SABHA BY SHRI KAPIL SIBAL LED TO THE DEFEAT OF THE IMPEACHMENT MOTION WHERE ALL CONGRESS MPS ABSTAINED. THAT DAY RARE PRECEDENCE WAS SET. A PERSON PROVEN GUILTY BY THE COMMITTEE OF JUDGES ESCAPED PUNISHMENT DUE TO PROTECTION BY THE CONGRESS PARTY AND THE ARGUMENTS OF SHRI SIBAL**

65 years of age, they are brilliant lawyers, have strong convictions, and are highly active in the area of social causes like environment, social justice, extremist violence, etc. Over and above many times they are more experienced than the sitting judges and some judges have worked under them in past. They find it difficult to stand up to the senior lawyers. This has led to the trend of questioning the decision whenever judgment is not favourable.

Not only this, now attempts are made to approach a favourable bench and more. No effort is made to hide the same. The cases of Teesta Setalvad were being heard by judge Aftab Alam. An estranged former aide of her Rais Khan Pathan moved the Supreme Court seeking recusal of Justice Aftab Alam from the bench only then did the truth come out. It was further reported by him that his (Aftab Alam) daughter is closely associated with NGO working for the Gujrat riots (It was widely reported in national media). A former Gujarat high court judge and former Gujarat Lokayukta Justice S M Soni had requested the Chief Justice of India not to allow Gujrat cases to be heard by justice Aftab Alam alleging that he has a communal mindset (*The Times of India*, July 27, 2012). New phrases like bench hunting and forum shopping are being heard and the Supreme Court has taken a strong view and has said that: Unscrupulous litigants cannot be allowed to even think of indulging in "forum-shopping" to get favourable decisions and it is a "depreciable conduct" in the field of law. (PTI)

The respect shown to senior lawyers by the judges has taken an ugly turn including disrespect for the judges in open courts, media, etc. Nowadays there are more oral comments and fewer written orders, the judges take extra care not to offend these senior lawyers. In the Ram Janmabhumi case, papers were torn by a lawyer, further, when the court was intending to decide the Ayodhya case

greatest disservice to the nation if politicians decide on the fate of judges." A very important question is to be answered here whether we are here to follow the constitution or to overrule the constitution. In the last 75 years failing to impeach a single corrupt judge has further deteriorated the image of the Supreme Court.

However, this conviction against the impeachment evaporated in thin air as soon as Congress lost the majority in the Lok Sabha. In 2018, an impeachment motion was brought against the then Chief Justice Deepak Mishra by none other than the Congress party and read by Shri Kapil Sibal the champion of no impeachment against judges.

## ADVOCATES AND JUDGES

Another fact has also influenced the present state of affairs. Most of the top leading senior advocates are above

**AT GODHRA THE TRAIN WAS ATTACKED BY A MOB OF AROUND 2,000 PEOPLE. AFTER SOME STONE-PELTING, FOUR COACHES OF THE TRAIN WERE SET ALIGHT, TRAPPING MANY PEOPLE INSIDE. 59 PEOPLE INCLUDING 27 WOMEN AND 10 CHILDREN WERE BURNT TO DEATH, AND 48 OTHERS WERE INJURED. ACCORDING TO J MAHAPATRA, ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE GUJARAT POLICE, "MISCREANTS HAD KEPT THE PETROL-SOAKED RAGS READY FOR USE MUCH BEFORE THE TRAIN HAD ARRIVED AT GODHRA**

in a time-bound manner, Kapil Sibal asked, "what is the hurry"? Passing sarcastic remarks has become the order of the day. The courtroom arguments are now heading to bizarre arguments. In one incident senior lawyer was telling the Chief Justice of India that he could not hear a particular case as his name is in the FIR registered by the police. No inspector can file an FIR against any judge without proper permission. In this case, due process was not followed, still, the senior lawyer asked the Chief Justice of India to recuse the case. Arguing a case is fine but playing to the gallery will not improve the hopes of common Indian. There are better ways to manage the relationship between Senior Lawyers and Judges. As per a PTI report on July 26, 2016, Justice Dipak Misra, was hearing an appeal of Rahul Gandhi in a defamation case. He couldn't recognise U R Lalit – a senior advocate, ex-high court judge, and father of his colleague, Justice UU Lalit. Senior Lawyer UR Lalit was trying to respond to a query raised by the bench about the power of magistrates to ask the police to probe into private criminal defamation complaints. Lalit argued that the proposition of law laid down by this court in the judgment is new and hence needed to be debated upon. Justice Dipak Misra then asked: Have you practiced criminal law?

This was insulting and unwarranted as the court selects senior advocates only after due diligence and after getting satisfied with the experience and credibility of the lawyer. However, senior lawyer UR Lalit did not react but Shri Kapil Sibal representing Rahul Gandhi tried to explain in the meantime saying, "Lordship, he has practiced criminal law much more than us". Judge RF Nariman whispered in the ear of CJI and the CJI retreated saying, "Now, I will ask

Sibal to sit down. Sorry. Sorry, you have never argued before me. So, I didn't recognise you." the matter did not end here, the graceful senior lawyer UR Lalit saved the pride of the judge by saying, "Still, it is my fault. The man who occasionally comes to the Supreme Court should be ready for this." (PTI). This was a far more graceful way of handling the situation rather than going to the media and expressing anguish.

Whispers in the judicial corridor claim that as a judge UR Lalit paid for his uprightness and fair judgments during the autocratic rule of emergency and never got the recognition he deserved.

### **WORKING FOR QUESTIONABLE ORGANISATIONS**

Recently, some news reports said that the Popular Front of India (PFI) had paid lawyers such as Kapil Sibal and others. Shri Sibal declared that he received Rs 77 lakhs for providing legal services. He was paid Rs 77 lakh for fighting the case in 2017 titled "Safin Jahan (petitioner) versus Asokan KM and others (Respondents)", which related to Hadiya's marriage to Shafin Jahan. Which was challenged up to the Supreme Court with the NIA and the father of Hadiya being parties. "In that litigation, Kapil Sibal represented Hadiya, the wife." As a common man, one always used to wonder, how anti-India forces get the best advocates to fight for their cause, but now the report on PFI funding has thrown some light. If they get paid Rs 93 lakhs for a small case of alleged love jihad marriage then what are the stakes in big cases? The brilliance of the advocate changed the narrative from luring the girl to 'what the girl wants and Hadiya had been made a party to the proceedings as per the request of Shri Kapil Sibal, (Supreme Court observer).

### **DISCRIMINATORY YET SELF-DEFEATING.**

The most disturbing part of this 'no hope left' myth, is that it is discriminatory in the beginning and self-defeating in the end. As an ordinary common man, one compares two incidences of riots, the one in 1984 against Sikhs and 2002 Gujrat riots. The first one occurred at pan-India level the second is State level. One was organised by leaders of the ruling party while the other was instigated by Godhra where the train was attacked by a mob of around 2,000 people. After some stone-pelting, four coaches of the train were set alight, trapping many people inside. Fifty nine people including 27 women and 10 children were burnt to death, and 48 others were injured. According to J Mahapatra, additional Director General of the Gujarat police, "miscreants had kept the petrol-soaked rags ready



Chief Justice U U Lalit

for use much before the train had arrived at Godhra.

In the first case, the mother has been assassinated and there were enough reasons to become revengeful, in the second case there is no such motive. In the first case, the leader justified violence by saying, “when a big tree falls ground shakes” but no such utterances in the Gujrat riots. Still surprisingly, the supreme court intervened at a very early stage. Cases were transferred out of state. SIT was formed, submitted the report, and over 600 accused were prosecuted, despite this prosecution SIT was not able to trace any proof of conspiracy, the court is fully satisfied with the SIT report, and charges have been dropped yet the ‘no hope left’ campaign is not satisfied. When they fail in argument in court, they assault the judges in public.

## **DIVINE EXPECTATION FROM INCUMBENT CHIEF JUSTICE**

Some people are offended that as senior advocate U U Lalit represented Shri Amit Shah, and maybe this is why some are questioning his appointment as CJI. Is it fair, when defending terrorists, Maowadis, and other criminals justified by quoting the cab rank rule, which says no brief should be declined if the fee is right? The attack on the judiciary is unfortunate as the judges cannot reciprocate the favours, as said by CJI Dipak Misra, “You can afford to lose your temper but we cannot”. (PTI; November 10, 2017)

Bar, court, and the public make a tripod called justice. All three have to work in harmony. The bar acts as a

**A COMMON MAN GAINS POWER WHEN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM IS WELL-OILED SMOOTH AND EASY TO APPROACH, THE PUBLIC CAN EASILY FIGHT CORRUPTION IF IT CAN SAY WITH CONFIDENCE, “MAIN COURT JAUNGA” I WILL GO TO COURT, OR ELSE THERE IS NO PLACE TO HIDE. PUBLIC TRUST AND FAITH IN THE JUDICIARY HAVE TAKEN A BEATING. TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM ARE NOT THE RIGHT FORA TO VENT OUT DIFFERENCES**

conveyor belt transferring justice from judges to the public. There is enough space to resolve differences amicably, the only thing needed is to take up the matter in the right forum but not in public. A common man gains power when the judicial system is well-oiled smooth and easy to approach, the public can easily fight corruption if it can say with confidence, “main court Jaunga” I will go to court, or else there is no place to hide. Public trust and faith in the judiciary have taken a beating. Twitter and Instagram are not the right fora to vent out differences.

Chief Justice U U Lalit has only 74 days to his credit yet hopes are high, Raja Parikshit achieved salvation in 7 days, CJI has 10 times more time, to strengthen the bridge between the judiciary and the bar. ■

# “KEEP SOCIETY ABOVE INDIVIDUAL WHILE DOING SOCIAL WORK”

RSS SARSANGHCHALAK DR MOHAN BHAGWAT CALLED UPON PEOPLE TO MAKE COLLECTIVE EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT A POSITIVE CHANGE IN SOCIETY

■ NISHANT KUMAR AZAD

“Sangh is working to awaken the society, unify it and make it more organised as a single entity...so that India can emerge as a model society for the entire world,” said Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarsanghchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat at the ‘Suyash: Samaj Upyogi Yuva Shakti’ in New Delhi on August 21.

Dr Bhagwat was speaking at the event organised by the RSS Delhi Prant at Ambedkar International Centre on the various social welfare activities carried out by individuals and organisations.

At the event, young people and organisations doing social work in various fields were invited where some of them also shared their experiences. The Sarsanghchalak said that the aim of Suyash is not to gain numbers or popularity and not to provide a platform to anyone, but to bring forth the youth power to make India a Vishwa Guru.

He reiterated the importance of working as one society. “Many personalities from different sections of the society sacrificed and contributed to the country’s Independence, but it took time for us to flourish as one society,” Dr Bhagwat said.

Addressing the gathering Dr Bhagwat stressed the need to work for society without thinking about individual



RSS Sarsanghchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat addressing the gathering at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi (Photo: Ashutosh Kumar)

सुयश  
समर्पित युवा, समर्थ समाज  
समाज उपयोगी युवा शक्ति



Delegates and dignitaries at the event

interests. He stressed on the collective effort needed to bring about this unifying change. “People should come forward in serving society as a community and not as an individual,” added Dr Bhagwat.

“It is the basic nature and DNA of Indians that they think like society and not individuals and we need to further encourage them. We need to prioritise us above ‘my and mine’ while doing welfare work and this will help us evolve as a society,” the Sarsanghchalak added.

Emphasising the need to adopt a positive attitude, Sarsanghchalak said that rather than getting disappointed at a few bad things happening in society, we should focus on uncountable good things happening in society. Many good works of welfare and social services are being done in the country. The programme was attended by 707 representatives of different NGOs working in Delhi. About 30 of these delegates shared their experiences.

One of the delegates, Manika Badwar, Director of Rasoi On Wheels Foundation, told the *Organiser*, “Our food van serves 1,500 meals in a day and prepares roughly about 50,000 meals in a month covering old-age homes, visually

Many personalities from different sections of the society sacrificed and contributed to the country’s Independence, but it took time for us to flourish as one society”

—Dr Mohan Bhagwat

impaired homes, *bastis*, where not everybody reaches. Little children come to *bastis* with an empty stomach and we feed them. Our idea is to provide them with a meal for at least one time”.

Rasoi On Wheels is a mobile kitchen service that is providing packed meal boxes to the underprivileged section of society. These meal boxes are ideally suited for distribution amongst the needy at vantage places like slums, orphanages, old age homes, schools, hospitals & any other places since the hungry & underprivileged are everywhere.



Our food van serves 1500 meals in a day and prepares roughly about 50,000 meals in a month covering old-age homes, visually impaired homes, bastis, where not everybody reaches

— **Manika Badwar**, Director, Rasoi On Wheels Foundation

Another delegate, Hemlata Varun, founder of Suta Foundation said, “We work on improving the health care of women and also provide them legal aide. We identify 30 cluster areas every month and provide free sanitary napkins and basic healthcare to them for three months”.

Amit Kumar of Join Together said that his NGO works on the rule of ‘We’ and not ‘I’, as all the members of our NGO give a small proportion of their income to this noble cause. “Till now we have provided education to 3,000 children. We encourage each child to be engaged in every activity which will expand their horizons and nurture their hidden talent.” he added. The NGO also works for cancer patients by organising hair donation camps as donating hair is an easy way to help people who have experienced hair loss due to chemo or other medical treatment. With these hair donations, the NGO produces wigs that are provided free of cost to people suffering from cancer.

Join Together is an initiative started by a few passionate and enthusiastic youth wanting to educate each child who gets deprived of education due to several reasons. The NGO also organises various events for the unprivileged



We work on improving health care of women and also provide them legal aide. We identify 30 cluster areas every month and provide free sanitary napkins & basic healthcare to them for 3 months

— **Hemlata Varun**, founder of Suta Foundation

sections of and helps them with basic materials.

Renu Singh, Director of 'Naya Rasta', said that her organisation works for women’s empowerment and also provides education to deprived children. Mohit Kumar of 'Yuva Shakti' said that after the Delhi riots, the problem of the Hindu exodus had started in his area, which his organisation worked to stop. While sharing her experience Sushila Om, founder of 'Chhoti Si Asha', said that her organisation provided food and medicines to needy people during COVID-19. Pandit Hariom’s organisation works among the deprived section of society especially the youth of Delhi and spreads Indian traditions like Yoga, Sangeet, and Havan. Talking to the *Organiser*, Savita of 'Raj Bala Coaching' said that her institute provides free computer classes to women and children. Sunil Dheda’s organisation runs an ambulance service for sick cows and so far they have saved the lives of 2000 cows.

Along with other prominent dignitaries RSS Delhi Prant sanghchalak Kulbhushan Ahuja, Muslim Rashtriya Manch leader Indresh Kumar and Delhi Prant Karyawah Bharat Bhushan Arora were present on the occasion. ■

## “BENGAL VIOLENCE SHOULD BE A NATIONAL CONCERN”

SUNIL AMBEKAR SAID THAT THE VIOLENCE IN BENGAL SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED JUST AS A PROBLEM RESTRICTED TO THE STATE, IT'S A NATIONAL THREAT. PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY MUST TAKE IT SERIOUSLY AND COMPEL THE CONSTITUTIONAL APPARATUS TO CURE THIS MENACE

■ NISHANT KUMAR AZAD



From left: Senior journalist Abhijit Majumder, RSS Akhil Bharatiya Prachar Pramukh Sunil Ambekar, founder of Garuda Prakashan Sankrant Sanu and author of the book Shivam Raghuvanshi

“Violence in West Bengal is not just a matter of Bengal, it is and should be a matter of concern for the whole country. Its a dangerous precedent for our democracy and such a trend can spread to any corner of the country,” said RSS Akhil Bharatiya Prachar Pramukh Sunil Ambekar at the launch of *Democracy Under Seize: Ballot, Bullet and Blood* in Delhi on August 24.

The book documents the horrors of persecution and political violence unleashed by TMC in the aftermath of the ruling party winning the West Bengal Assembly elections in 2021.

Addressing the gathering at the book launch Ambekaji said that when disturbances are taking place in a State, the State administration should intervene strongly, but if those in power for their own selfish reasons remain silent, then it does not remain a matter of that State. In such a situation, the whole country has to raise its voice. It is necessary to send a message to the anarchist forces that this will not work in the country.

Sunil Ambekar said that the incidents in West Bengal, before and after the elections, put a question mark on the unity, integrity, democracy and security of our country. We

need to empathise with the pain and emotions of the victims of violence in Bengal. It is natural to be worried and angry that such incidents are happening in the country in today's time.

Sunil Ambekar also appreciated the authors Shivam Raghuvanshi and Shubham Tiwari for bringing out the pain of victims in front of public.

The Akhil Bharatiya Prachar Pramukh said that when the infiltrators entered Assam and the movement started, then some people thought that this was a problem of the State. But, this crisis is not only of Assam, if this crisis is not stopped then there will be a crisis in the country. Everyone is experiencing this fact today.

“When we are marching ahead, and if someone tries to hold back our progress, resolve and dreams, then it is necessary to send a message by the entire society to such powers that this will not work in the country”, he said.

Sankrant Sanu, founder of Garuda Prakashan and publisher of the book, said, “This kind of violence with support of the State dispensation is often buried and takes years to shift through and document. The young authors have documented living history with on-ground fieldwork, an effort as inspirational as the events are tragic.” ■



The seminar on Sri Aurobindo's 'Thoughts and Writings'—Auro Adhyayan saw an engaging Q&A session

# FOR A SPIRITUAL SWARAJ

**TRUE SPIRITUALITY COMES IN PHASES, PHYSICALLY, VITALLY, MENTALLY AND SPIRITUALLY. UNTIL OUR MINDS ARE SPIRITUAL, THE NEW AGE OF SPIRITUALITY DOESN'T ARISE. NATURE IS ALWAYS INTERESTED IN TAKING THE WHOLE OF HUMANITY ALONG. SRI AUROBINDO STATED 'SPIRITUALITY IS INDIA'S ONLY POLITICS, THE FULFILLMENT OF SANATAN DHARMA IS THE ONLY SWARAJ'**

Institute of Human Study, in collaboration with Samvit Kendra and Pragna Bharati organised a seminar on Sri Aurobindo's 'Thoughts and Writings'—Auro Adhyayan on August 21, 2022 at CESS, Hyderabad. The seminar 'Sri Aurobindo and India' was supported by Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Shri Bal Reddy of Samvit Kendra introduced the day's topic and invited the Governor of Telangana, Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan to inaugurate the day's proceedings. While inaugurating the seminar online, Dr Tamilisai wished the delegates a fruitful and successful day of deliberations.

In his opening remarks Prof RS Sarraju, Pro Vice Chancellor of Hyderabad Central University, and a member of Governing Board Auroville, of commended the organisers for conducting a seminar on Maharshi Aurobindo's writings, thoughts and views and stated that Sri Aurobindo's views are more relevant today than ever. Dr Chhalmayyi Reddy of Aurobindo International School, was the moving force behind the seminar and presided over the session.

In the first session of the day, Prof Murali Manohar

introduced Prof Ananda Reddy from Auroville who has dedicated his life to spreading the vision of Aurobindo and that of the Divine Mother.

Prof Ananda Reddy in his keynote address, stated that Mother was sure that those who were receptive of Sri Aurobindo's thoughts will absorb his worldview in the coming years. He described Sri Aurobindo as a multifaceted, multi dimensional visionary who went beyond philosophy, Hinduism and belongs to the entire globe. This year we are celebrating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Maharshi Aurobindo where we all take part in the understanding of his consciousness.

From the vast ocean of Sri Aurobindo's thoughts, he wrote in 1905, 'I was born with the great mission of liberating India and the entire world'. Bhagwan Srikrishna's Divine command received by Sri Aurobindo directly was to liberate and uplift the nation, 'speak to your nation, India's liberation will pave the way for the world's future'. It was with this spirit of Srikrishna and Maa Kali that he plunged into the modern Kurukshetra of India's freedom struggle. It was also important to regain

# REPORT/ON SRI AUROBINDO'S SEMINAR

India's spirituality which would enable her Renaissance. For him, all human activity is replete with spirituality, entirely based on the principles of *Sanatan Dharma*, there's no part of life which is 'secular' and devoid of Sanathana principles. In the entire world, attempt of India itself is to make the very path of life spiritual, all life is infused with Brahman, and life itself is full of divinity. India need not imitate western secular mode of functioning, we need to integrate life and all walks of life including politics with a spiritual connect. The challenge is to make life into Life Divine. Sri Aurobindo said Indians were blindly imitating the west, India's poverty is not material poverty, but lack of original thinking, and that we have a 'thought-phobia'. Even today when we have a profusion of universities, are they really of a better quality? Speaking of national education, he said we require a national 'yagna' of integral education for intellectual rejuvenation and emotional or resurgence of vitality of life; our life should be full of vitality and energy if we want to achieve great heights of creativity and intellect, like our ancient Rishis achieved. Spirituality can only grow in the vast and deep life vitality, from material growth as well as from national spirit. Preparation of a material base is mandatory for the dawn of new spirituality, which is keyed into the Divine Order.

Sri Aurobindo said, 'The soul of Hinduism languishes in an unhealthy body; we need to make India United and One'. The divisions between India and Pakistan would also go. India can be the Guru of the world if she chooses. Sri Aurobindo had the divine vision 'God has a chosen country in which the higher knowledge is preserved, and in this *chatur-yuga*, that country is India'. Once again let India revive its spiritual awakening of the ancient knowledge and Dharma with no divisions of caste religion or creed, India is the future'.

Dr Ananda Reddy opined that the title of the seminar should be 'Sri Aurobindo's India' and not 'Sri Aurobindo and India'. "Sri Aurobindo defined 'the nation is my mother'. Bhagwan Srikrishna commanded him to liberate the nation, and to take the *Sanatan Dharma* of this country to the entire world. Sri Aurobindo's thoughts are spread out in 35 volumes, it's for us to learn from the Guru." In his keynote address, Prof Makarand Paranjape, eminent professor, scholar, author, said, decades ago Dr Paranjape had put together the authoritative 'Aurobindo Reader', a compilation of select passages of Sri Aurobindo.

Prof Paranjape, while presenting the special talk 'Bhavani—Bharathi : Sri Aurobindo's Zeitgeist of the



**Some Intellectuals believe that India got Freedom from colonists, this is not really true, and therefore it is an important duty of every citizen, especially youth to remember our history. For that we need to start understanding the true meaning of 'Swatantrata'**

— Shri J Nandakumar,  
National Convenor of Prajna Pravah

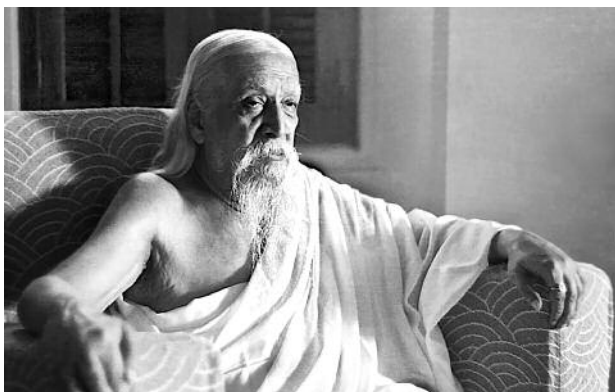
Nation', said we have the unique privilege of celebrating the unique and wonderful conjecture, India@75, and Sri Aurobindo@150. We need Shraddha and devotion, to develop the receptivity for true learning. Sri Aurobindo in his thoughts reflected on the 'Deva-sangha', with a collective consciousness and formlessness devoid of sectarianism. We must give a new soul and life, to our endeavors in polity, education, literature, arts etc—Kaliyuge Sanghe Shakti.

**Swaraat-Viraat: The Vedic idea**—*Swarajya Sukta* from *Rig-Veda*, *Chandogya*, *Kathopanishad* and other *Upanishads* state the ideas of *Swaraat*—and we can see it in the glorious traditions of our Rajarshis—Janaka, Ajathashatru etc, and that idea of *Swaraat* is indeed *Viraat*. Sri Aurobindo elucidated the idea of *Swaraj* in 1906 in Nashik, 'Swaraj is life, Amrit and salvation, it's the breath of life, Swaraj is the life of nation'. Even as early as in 1896, in Cambridge, in 'Lotus and Daggers society', he reflected on the idea and body of the nation. Aurobindo's thoughts and writings. When *Sanatan Dharma* or Spiritual Nationalism declines, the nation declines. He said Revisiting 'Sri Aurobindo's magnificent 'Bhavani Bharati' will enable us to work towards the unfinished business of India's Renaissance. To move towards the spirit of nation, we need to cultivate not just *Rashtra-Yagna*, but *Vishwa-Yagna*.

Shri Ayush Nadimpalli, of Samachara Bharati and Samvit Kendra introduced the speakers of the afternoon session.

Dr Beloo Mehra from Auroville, a prolific writer, author of several journals & articles, presented her talk on 'Indian Artistic and Literary Culture in the Light of Sri Aurobindo'. The session on Indian Arts and Aesthetics was a 'multi-sensory' experience, with beautiful pictures and paintings. 'Raso Vai Sah—verily He is the delight'—

# REPORT/ON SRI AUROBINDO'S SEMINAR



Sri Aurobindo

Sri Aurobindo is said to have remarked when asked about his humour and wit. The experience-oriented Indian art is reflected in *Sat-Chit-Ananda* as represented in the Shiva-Shakti cosmic dance of Tandava and Lasya. Indian art was always integral, never differentiated between classical or folk arts. Sri Aurobindo's 'Renaissance in India' discusses Indian sculpture, temple architecture and paintings including Ajantha. 'The highest purpose of Indian art at its greatest is to disclose something of Self, the Infinite, and the Divine to the regard of soul' said Sri Aurobindo.

Shri J Nanda Kumar, National Convenor of Prajna Pravah, in his interesting talk, presented the idea of 'Swatantra' which permeates the land whether in the common man or in Parama Siva. Some intellectuals believe that India got freedom from colonists, this is not really true, and therefore it is an important duty of every citizen, especially youth to remember our history. For that we need to start understanding the true meaning of 'Swatantrata'. Sri Aurobindo believed that, Awakening of India should happen in moral and spiritual ways, and not just mechanically. Swatantra should not be by limiting ourselves to changing the Government only. However, political spiritualisation was only one part, ideal way involves the infusion of Dharma into all walks of life—Political, Social, Arts and Literature etc. Our *Sanatan Dharma* is not only our National religion but also the Universal religion; we have to keep fighting for *Sanatan Dharma*. As Prime Minister Modi, in his recent 75th Independence Day speech, talked about *Panch Pran*, the second pledge clearly is meant to eradicate colonised mental slavery.

In his 'Awakening of India', Sri Aurobindo said that Independence is not just a political change of Government, but the awakening of the soul of the nation

as well as the 'all-important Dharma, the national religion which is also universal'. The spirit of Sanathana Dharma has to mould all walks of life, which is actually the true independence. The Bengal partition by the British, 'Banga-bhanga' of 1905, saw the uprising of Bharat singing Vande mataram—the 'Swa' of Bharat was the clarion call which forced British to reverse the partition. Avanimdranath Tagore presented *Maa Bharati* as a Yogini. From 1905-1911, Sri Aurobindo was politically very active. The motive of the British behind the Partition of Bengal was to divide the people, they did it as an experiment to test the waters. However, entire Bharat reacted to this partition. In 1923 Kakinada AICC session, our national leadership wanted Western validation, and didn't even allow the singing of *Vande Mataram*. Russia is the only nation, which followed its own way and did not require any validation from the West. If we want to be sovereign, we have to live upto the principle of swatantra, just *Bharat Mata ki Jai* slogan is not enough.

The real freedom fighters and icons like Alluri Sitaramaraju, Velu Nachiyar were sidelined and ignored. Presently, the Amrit mahotsav @75 is an opportunity to

**INDIA NEED NOT IMITATE WESTERN SECULAR MODE OF FUNCTIONING, WE NEED TO INTEGRATE LIFE AND ALL WALKS OF LIFE INCLUDING POLITICS WITH A SPIRITUAL CONNECT. THE CHALLENGE IS TO MAKE LIFE INTO LIFE DIVINE**

pay our gratitude to the forgotten heroes. Sri Arabindo's Uttarapada speech stood for spiritual democracy and nationalistic fervour. He declared *Sanatan Dharma* as our nationalism. He said no evolution is possible without involution, he also defined the 'Super mind'; unfortunately our Science Institutes have followed 'Greek 4-elements theory' and not the '5-elements' of Bharat. India was the centre of scientific advancement in ancient times. Sri Aurobindo stated that despite the emergence of Brahmins as a knowledgeable class, India never slid into theocracy as in the West; it is significant that above the Brahmins and Kshatriya kings, were Rishis who belonged to all communities.

In the concluding remarks, Shri Ayush Nadimpalli said we must ponder over what happened between 1912 and 1947, and we need to think, express, write and talk on the various aspects that would lead to strengthening and unification of Bharat. ■



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# REALISTIC TAKE ON FREEDOM STRUGGLE

**AN ENDEARING FEATURE OF MANISH SHRIVASTAVA'S BOOK IS THAT IT IS HIGH ON FACTS. IT IS A COMPELLING READ AND IS A TRUE TRIBUTE TO OUR PATRIOTS AS THE NATION CELEBRATES AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV**

■ **SAKET SURYESH**

*An intellectual says a simple thing in a hard way.  
An artist says a hard thing in a simple way*

—Charles Bukowski

**T**he story of India's freedom struggle as told till now moves in spurts and lacks continuity. If one were to read it from the popular sources, one would believe that post the First War of Independence, which has been projected by the British as murderous mutiny by a murderous mob, there was a brief lull, during which AO Hume, erstwhile British bureaucrat, formed Congress and then Gandhi arrived from South Africa and metamorphosed a sleepy movement of elites and brought it to the masses.

While it is true that Congress for almost half a decade was a loyalist British-sponsored convention of Indian elites, which Gandhi managed to broaden it as a popular movement, this presumption that until then there was no activity towards freedom is hugely misplaced. From the Sanyasi movement to the armed resistance in Maharashtra to the revolutionary movement in Bengal, and Arya Samaj in the Western India to the revolutionaries of Central provinces under the Hindustan Republican Army- the zeal to free the motherland continued unabated.

This book 'Mitramela'- taken from the first revolutionary group formed by legendary freedom fighter, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, is third in the series of ten books the author has planned to write, in this praiseworthy attempt to resurrect those lost heroes. One big casualty of caricaturisation of history is that while they make the



**Mitramela**, Author: Manish Shrivastava, Publication Sarv Bhasha Trust, Pp 127, ₹ 249.00

heroes too big in stature, they reduce everyone else so small in size that they are like miniature toys in the background not worthy of any attention.

While this is unjust to the great heroes, it also is unjust to those who we are trying to make appear as giants of history. Apart from the commendable motive of Manish behind writing this series, what is exceptionally notable here is that his writing allows all those personalities to come out of hiding and breathe in the fresh, free air of India for the first time.

Much like the previous books in this series, the narration is in story-telling pattern. As we had in the second book of the Krantidoot series, Kashi, where Azad as a young recruit in the Hindustan Republican Army, as an off-shoot of Anushilan Samiti, is told the history of revolutionary movement and key characters are introduced, here the backdrop is of National College also known as Tilak School of Politics in Lahore (Tilak was from Pune and this College is in Lahore, then Western India, now Pakistan, and we are told that before Gandhi and Congress, there was no national movement for freedom which ran across the regions) where Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and other students are being introduced to Savarkar, the revolutionary movement in England, by their

teacher, Bhai Parmanand, himself a noted leader of Ghadar movement.

Somewhere, the reader is transformed into one of those students of National College, Lahore, and almost imagines himself or herself sitting on the classroom benches, elbows on the desk and face held between the palms, charmed with the story of Savarkar who could with sheer power of his words transform the disdainfully passive into a daring patriot.

The story touches upon the hard research that went into the first proper record of India's First War of Independence coordinated across various regions of India, put together by Savarkar and published as India's First War of Independence. The book was promptly banned by the British looking at the emotions it stirred across India. Ironically Savarkar's book was banned in England and Nehru's books were published and sold in England, with Krishna Menon as latter's literary agent in England.

The story touches on the fear among the British in 1907-1908 as the Fifty years Anniversary of the Revolution of 1857 came up and activities in the India House. Number of articles celebrating the first national uprising were published by the Indian Sociologist brought out by India House. On May 9, 1907, Lala Lajpat Rai and Sardar Ajit Singh were arrested and deported to Burma by the British Government fearful of the repeat of the rebellion.

The record of David Garnett, a young Irish revolutionary from those times who visited India House and met Savarkar in 1909, mentioning the environment in the India House where Savarkar read a chapter from his book and the moved audience, after the reading went to another room and sat poignantly listening on the gramophone Vande Mataram. Coming back to this book, we have Bhagat Singh devotedly listening to the inspiring story of India House. We the readers, learn about the first movement to boycott the British clothes in Pune organised by Savarkar on October 2, 1905, under the guidance of Tilak and supported by the Brahmins of Pune at Mahadev Temple of Sardar Natu (Gandhi is still in South Africa and yet to support the Zulu War of the British). We learn about the founding of Mitra Mela, a revolutionary group. Mitra Mela is a front for revolutionary organisation Rashtrabhakta Samuha under the codename - Ram Hari, by Savarkar, still a school child.

The narrative-builders of Independent India who

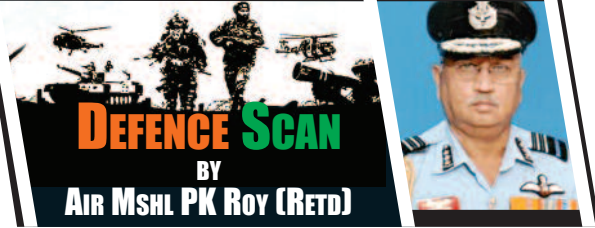
often pose as historians do not speak about this phase of Bhagat Singh's life. This does not go well with their motive of setting Bhagat Singh in the mould of a staunchly communist and mildly Hindu-hating revolutionary. Bhagat Singh was sent to the DAV because students in Khalsa school of Lahore were made to sing prayers praising the British Empire. Bhagat Singh joined DAV in 1917.

The college which forms the backdrop of this book is affiliated to the *Punjab Qaumi Vidyapeeth* founded by Lala Lajpat Rai and Bhai Parmanand. Acharya Jugal Kishore, who also appears in the novel carrying the story forward, was the Founder-Principal of the College. While we have no way of knowing if the story was indeed narrated to Bhagat Singh as a student as it is detailed in this book, but what we do know is that Bhai Parmanand who tells the story of Savarkar who wrote the book on 1857 revolution was also sentenced to death in 1915 in the first Lahore Conspiracy case for writing history of India.

After his death sentence was commuted, he was sent to Andaman, like Savarkar was sent in 1911. Bhai Parmanand was released after five years in Andamans, having served hard labour in the prison. While he was away, his property was forfeited by the British and his wife lived in penury supporting two of his young daughters with a monthly salary of Rs 17 a month as a vernacular teacher in Arya Samaj Primary School. Both his daughters died, one in childhood, another later in her early youth as he writes in *The story of My Life* due to the hardships she suffered as a child. This is not a book of one-upmanship between one freedom fighter against another. It is simply an attempt to bring forth inconvenient truths. We need more such books to be written and be read across the board. We must fight against the zeal of current politicians to create villains out of those who suffered for their desire to serve the motherland. The contents of the book are backed by a long list of references.

The only way to fight lies is facts and this book by Manish Shrivastava scores high on facts. We owe it to those of our leaders who have been pushed to the shadows forgetfulness in order to honour politically important ones. The sincerity, honesty and simplicity of the writer stands out in this book. This is a must read and reading this will be a true tribute to our patriots in this *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*.

*(The writer is a columnist an author of several books)*



## RAKSHA MANTRI ATTENDS SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION (SCO) AT TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN



**Bilateral Meetings:** On August 23, 2022, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh reached Tashkent, Uzbekistan on a three-day official visit to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). During the visit, he held bilateral meetings with the Defence Ministers of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Belarus & Kyrgyzstan and reviewed the entire spectrum of defence cooperation with them, with focus on identifying avenues to expand mutually beneficial collaboration. He also discussed issues of mutual interest during exchange of pleasantries with Russian Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu, wherein he conveyed his deep appreciation for arresting in Moscow a terrorist who was planning attacks in India.

**Meeting of the Defence Ministers' of SCO Member States:** On August 24, 2022, the Raksha Mantri attended the Annual Meeting of the Defence Ministers' of SCO



Member States. Addressing the meeting, he called upon SCO to unitedly fight against terrorism and eliminate the menace in all its forms. He asserted that terrorism in any form, including cross-border terrorism, committed by anyone and for whatever purpose, is a crime against humanity. In this context, he proposed to host a workshop in India in 2023 on the theme 'Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief—Risk mitigation and Disaster Resilient Infrastructure' for the Defence Ministries of SCO Member States. He also suggested an annual seminar on 'Topic of Interest' among the defence think tanks of SCO countries. Shri Rajnath Singh voiced India's full support to a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan, while emphasising to respect its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, national unity and non-interference in internal affairs. Expressing India's concern on the situation in Ukraine, he stated that India supports talks between Russia and Ukraine to resolve this crisis.

## INDIAN COAST GUARD RESCUES 32 BANGLADESHI FISHERMEN

ON August 23, 2022, Indian Coast Guard rescued 32 Bangladeshi fishermen after their boats capsized at Indo-Bangla International Maritime Boundary Line and handed them over to Bangladesh Coast Guard in accordance with existing Memorandum of Understanding between the two Coast Guards.



## THREE IAF OFFICERS TERMINATED IN ACCIDENTAL BRAHMOS MISSILE FIRING INCIDENT

Representative Photo



REPORTS indicate that the defence ministry has terminated the services of three officers of the IAF after a high-level probe held them responsible for the March 9, 2022 accidental firing of a Brahmos missile that landed in Pakistan. The Court of Inquiry (CoA) into the incident found that deviation from the SOP by three officers led to the accidental firing of the missile.

## GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO FURTHER EMPOWER ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL—RAKSHA MANTRI

ADDRESSING the gathering at a Seminar titled 'Introspection: Armed Forces Tribunal', organised by Armed Forces Tribunal Principal Bench Bar Association in New Delhi, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh said that the Judiciary is a strong pillar of democracy, and judicial officers, and lawyers are in turn pillars of this judicial system. He said people knock on the doors of the judiciary when all other options were closed to them and sound Judiciary delivery systems were the basis for "Suraj" or good governance. He added that the Government was committed to make the Armed Forces Tribunal more empowered and responsive and implement measures that were required in this direction. He called for a balance between 'justice delayed is justice denied' and 'Justice hurried is justice buried' to lessen the burden of pendency on the judicial system in general and the Armed Forces Tribunal in particular as the timely delivery of justice will not only reduce the burden on Armed Forces Tribunal but will also reinforce the confidence of our soldiers in the system.



## DRDO AND INDIAN NAVY SUCCESSFULLY FLIGHT-TEST VERTICAL LAUNCH SHORT RANGE SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE

DRDO and Indian Navy successfully flight-tested the indigenously designed and developed Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur on August 23, 2022. The missiles, equipped with indigenous Radio Frequency seeker, intercepted the target with high accuracy. Raksha Mantri has complimented DRDO, Indian Navy and associated teams on the successful flight trial of VL-SRSAM and stated that the missile will prove to be a force multiplier for the Indian Navy.



## PINAKA EXTENDED RANGE ROCKET TEST FIRED FROM POKHRAN FIRING RANGES



ON August 24, 2022, multiple successful test firing trials of Pinaka extended range rocket, developed by DRDO, were carried out in the Pokhran firing ranges. Developed by DRDO, the Pinaka extended range rockets are produced by private sector firm. The Guided Extended Range Rocket Ammunition has a range of 75 km with an accuracy of 40 meters.

## AIR CHIEF MARSHAL VR CHAUDHARI DISCUSSES DEFENCE COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY CHIEF



CHIEF of the South African Army Lieutenant General Lawrence Khulekani Mbatha called on Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari at Air headquarters on August 23, 2022 and discussed bilateral issues and defence cooperation between the two countries. The South African Army Chief along with a two-member delegation is on a four-day visit to India seeking to further strengthen military ties between both countries.

## VIETNAM-INDIA BILATERAL ARMY EXERCISE 'VINBAX 2022' CONCLUDES



VIETNAM-INDIA Bilateral Army Exercise VINBAX 2022 concluded at Chandimandir with an impressive display of Multi Agency HADR demonstration and an equipment display showcasing the Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives. The exercise had commenced on August 1, 2022 and was focused on deployment of Army Engineer and Medical teams in UN Peacekeeping operations. What made the exercise unique was the fact that it was the first time ever that the Vietnam People's Army (VPA) was undertaking a Field Training Exercise with any foreign Army. The fact that Vietnam chose India for this honour, speaks volumes about the value the two countries place on their mutual relationship. The next edition of VINBAX will be hosted in Vietnam in 2023. ■

# SAVARKAR'S AIDE

VVS AIYAR, WHO ALONG WITH VINAYAK DAMODAR SAVARKAR PARTICIPATED IN THE FIGHT FOR BHARTIYA INDEPENDENCE, LEFT A RICH LEGACY WITH HIS WRITINGS ON FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND WARRIORS

**V**VS Aiyar was inspired by nationalism when he met Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. There was a transformation in his life after his conversation with Savarkarji. He started participating in the fight for Indian Independence. He also assisted in setting up the Indian Home Rule League and providing instruction for a violent revolution for the liberation of India. He was influenced by Savarkar, who in turn was influenced by him. The three individuals that turned India House into a centre for revolutionary operations were Savarkar, VVS Aiyar, and TSS Rajan (who later joined the Congress and also served as Minister in the Madras Presidency).

Under the direction of VVS Aiyar, one of Savarkar's landmark writings, *The Indian War of Independence*, was translated from Marathi to English.

In the Tiruchi village of Varahaneri, VVS Aiyar was born on April 2, 1881, into a middle-class Brahmin family. From St. Joseph's College, he earned a BA in History, Politics, and Latin. He majored in law and graduated from the University of Madras with a Pleader degree in 1902. Later, he worked as a Junior Attorney or Pleader in the Tiruchi District Courts. He moved to Rangoon in 1906 and worked as a junior attorney in the chambers of an English barrister. In 1907, he travelled from Rangoon to London and enrolled in Lincoln's Inn with the goal of becoming a Barrister in Law.

He learned various languages throughout his academic career, including Tamil, Sanskrit, English,



## OPINION



**DR ANKITA KUMAR**

Independent Researcher

French, and Latin. He was also an excellent wrestler, a swift shooter, and skilled in all sports, including swimming. His goals at that time included learning English dance as well as English music. However, when he met Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, his life underwent a significant transformation. He served as Savarkar's right-hand man in setting up the Indian Home Rule League and providing instruction for a bloody rebellion for the liberation of India.

Aiyar gave up his Lincoln's Inn membership in 1910. Aiyar fled to Paris after the British issued a warrant for his arrest. But he had no desire to continue living as a political exile in exile in Paris. Though in French Pondicherry, he went back to India and met Subramaniya Bharathi and Aurobindo there. Until the end of the First World War, he stayed in Pondicherry for ten years. Aiyar participated in the plot to kill Ashe, the Tirunelveli Collector, in Pondicherry. General Ashe was murdered by Vanchinathan, one of his students. As a result, Aiyar and his buddy Subramanya Bharathi encountered greater difficulties. He completed the entire Thirukural translation into English during this time. VVS Aiyar believed that the French Government may one day forcibly remove him from Pondicherry, so he wanted to leave something behind that would help preserve his legacy among his people even if his body were taken away from the Tamil nation he cherished so much. In light of the extremely limited and precarious time he had available, he began to ponder what would be the best course of action for him to take in this situation. He quickly came to the conclusion that he could stake a modest claim in his countrymen's memories if he could translate the shortest and most faultless of the old Tamil masterpieces into English. As a result, he got to work on it right away and finished it in five months.

## PENNING BOOKS ON FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Aiyar relocated to Chennai during the conclusion of World War I and served as the Editor of journal Desabhaktan. He was detained and convicted for sedition in September 1921 for 9 months in prison. Additionally, VVS Aiyar wrote *Kamba Ramayanam-A Study*, his major achievement, while he was incarcerated. He published several biographies of freedom fighters and warriors in order to instill in people a spirit of bravery and heroism, as was his personal trait. He wrote a biography of Italian patriot Garibaldi as a series for India. Additionally, he wrote a biography of Guru Govind Singh. On June 3, 1925, while attempting to save his daughter Subhadra who was drowning, Aiyar perished at the Papanasam falls.



**“For indeed he was a pillar of strength, a Hindu of Hindus, and in him our Hindu race has lost one of the most exalted representatives and perfect flower of our Hindu civilisation – ripe in experience, and mellowed by sufferings and devoted to the service of men and God, the cause of the Hindu Sanghatan was sure to find in him one of its best and foremost champions in Madras”**

— Vinayak Damodar Savarkar

## SAVARKAR'S EMOTIONAL TRIBUTE

Vinayak Damodar Sarvakar paid his deep respects to VVS Aiyar on his death in the journal Mahratta. He wrote, “For indeed he was a pillar of strength, a Hindu of Hindus, and in him our Hindu race has lost one of the most exalted representatives and perfect flower of our Hindu civilisation – ripe in experience, and mellowed by sufferings and devoted to the service of men and God, the cause of the Hindu Sanghatan was sure to find in him one of its best and foremost champions in Madras..... It is the loss of Aiyar, the scholar, the friend, the noblest type of a Hindu gentleman, the author of *Kural* (in translation), the saintly soul whose life has been one continuous sacrifice and worship, that we so bitterly bewail today and bitterly chafe at our inability to pay a public tribute to his memory in a fashion worthy of the noble dead. Oh, the times on which our generation has fallen! The noblest sink down and are washed off to the shores of death, while the unworthy keep gaily swimming on the tides of life. But thou hast done thy duty, friend! It was for Human Love that thou lived, and died too for human love as martyr unto her. Thou knew no peace in life, oh Soldier of God. But peace be with thee in Death. Oh friend, peace be with thee and divine rest!” ■



Dr UJWALA CHAKRADEO

Vice Chancellor  
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# INVINCIBLE SPIRIT

LIKE MOST OF TEMPLES OF BHARAT, JAGAT MANDIR OF GUJARAT, DEDICATED TO KRISHNA BHAGWAN, WAS DESTROYED REPEATEDLY AND WAS REBUILT AGAIN AND AGAIN BY HIS DEVOTEES

**D**warka in Gujarat is one of the most ancient cities of Bharat. Krishna Bhagwan, Dwarkadhish is considered to be the king of Dwarka. Mention of this city is in the epic *Mahabharata*. As per the *Mahabharata*, Krishna Bhagwan established his Yaduvanshi kingdom in Dwarka between 3,500 and 5,000 years ago. Later, it was submerged in the sea. Several excavations and expeditions have been carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Structures linked to the presence of temples and forts have been discovered during these expeditions by the ASI.

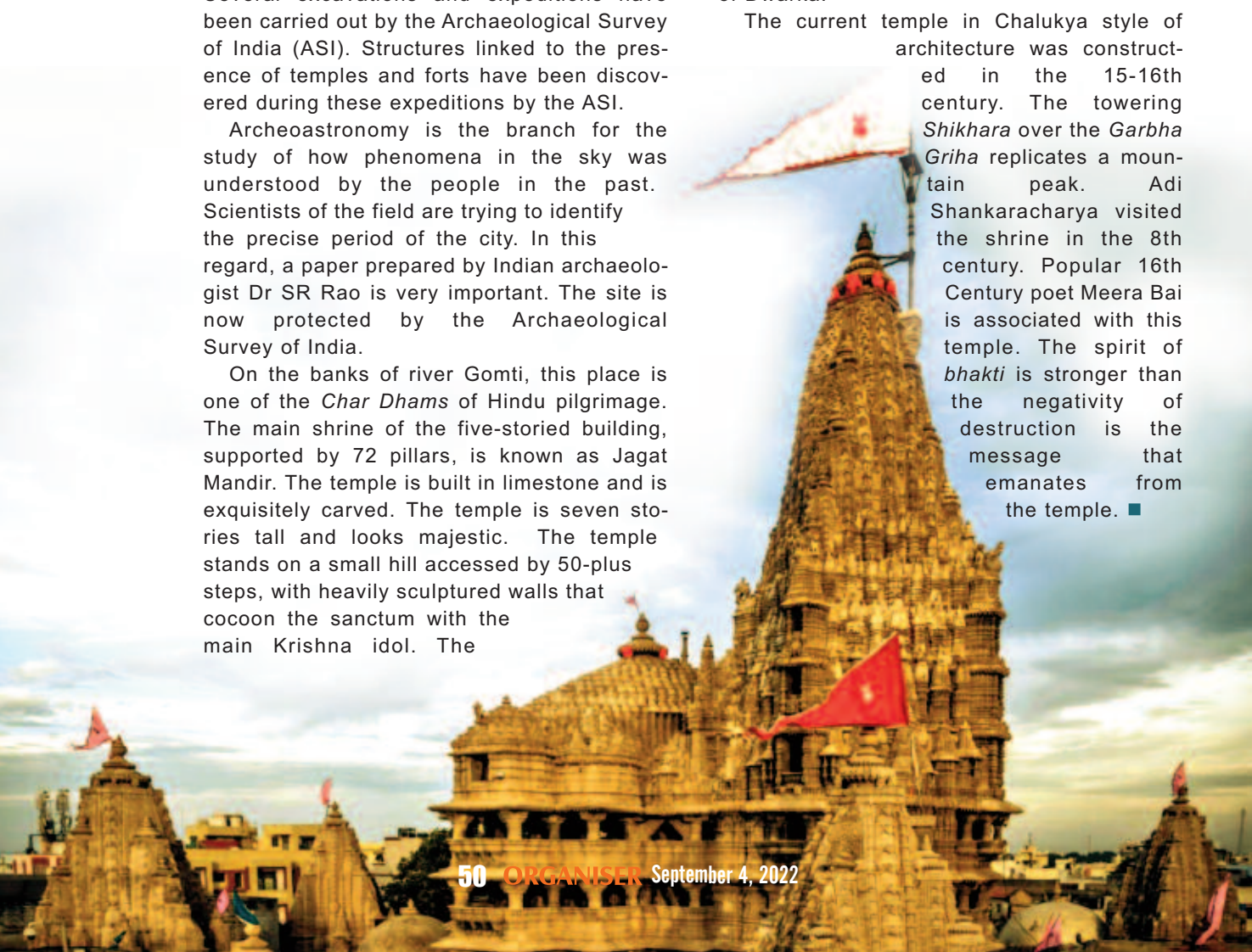
Archeoastronomy is the branch for the study of how phenomena in the sky was understood by the people in the past. Scientists of the field are trying to identify the precise period of the city. In this regard, a paper prepared by Indian archaeologist Dr SR Rao is very important. The site is now protected by the Archaeological Survey of India.

On the banks of river Gomti, this place is one of the *Char Dhams* of Hindu pilgrimage. The main shrine of the five-storied building, supported by 72 pillars, is known as Jagat Mandir. The temple is built in limestone and is exquisitely carved. The temple is seven stories tall and looks majestic. The temple stands on a small hill accessed by 50-plus steps, with heavily sculptured walls that cocoon the sanctum with the main Krishna idol. The

original structure was destroyed by Mahmud Begada. Like most of the temples of Bharat, this temple also has a similar fate. This was destroyed again and again and was rebuilt again and again.

In 1861, Dwarkadhish Temple was renovated by Maharaja Khanderao. Then in 1960 it was refurbished by Shankaracharya of Dwarka.

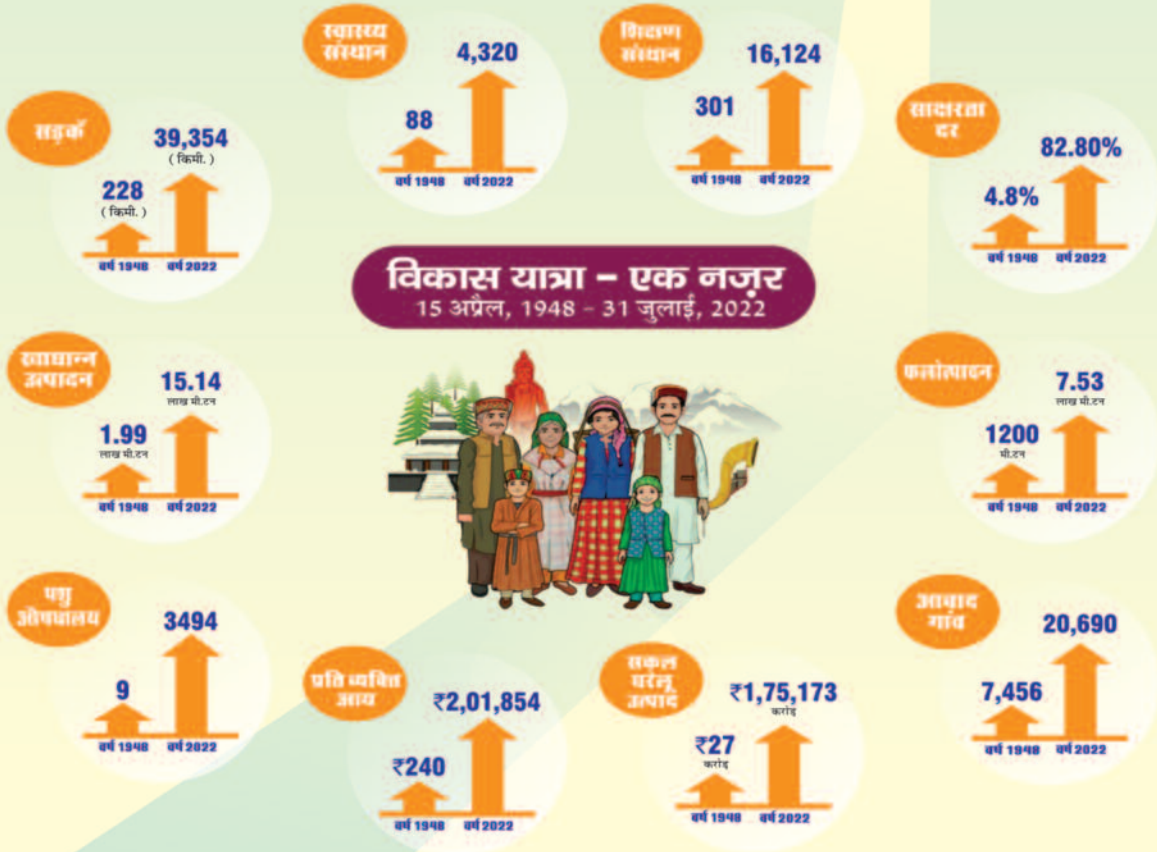
The current temple in Chalukya style of architecture was constructed in the 15-16th century. The towering *Shikhara* over the *Garbha Griha* replicates a mountain peak. Adi Shankaracharya visited the shrine in the 8th century. Popular 16th Century poet Meera Bai is associated with this temple. The spirit of *bhakti* is stronger than the negativity of destruction is the message that emanates from the temple. ■





“हिमाचल ने हर राष्ट्रीय संकल्प की सिद्धि में अग्रणी भूमिका निभाई है, आने वाले समय में भी ये उत्साह जारी रहेगा”  
-नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

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