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**“मैं रोज रात को लगाती हूं विको टरमरिक क्रीम”**  
इसमें है हल्दी और चंदन के गुण  
ये त्वचा को रात भर रिपेयर करें और सुबह तक हेल्दी बनाएं.



**Shivangi Joshi**  
Leading actress



इसमें है हल्दी और चंदन के गुण जो त्वचा को रिपेयर करें और सुबह तक हेल्दी बनाएं. इसलिए स्ट्रेस से होनेवाले पिंपल्स, डार्क सर्कल्स और एजिंग आपके चेहरे पर दिखते नहीं. तो आप भी रोज रात को इस्तेमाल करें विको टरमरिक क्रीम और स्वदेशी आयुर्वेद के साथ मेरी तरह निखरते रहें.

**त्वचा को दीजिए  
हेल्दी चमक**



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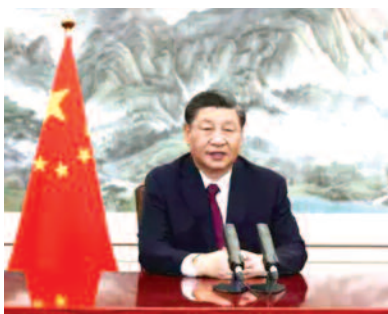
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# READERS' FORUM



## Friends And Foes

**APROPOS** the story "Dragon and the Tale", *Organiser*, January 29. This is a well written timely article by Lt Gen (Rtd) Kamal Jit Singh, highlighting that China is our enemy No. 1. Not only China, even the United States and Europe are not pro-India. Their only interest is in capturing more than one billion market of India. We should attain self sufficiency in the defence sector and increase our nuclear arsenal 10



fold to deter all. Only Russia and Japan are our trustworthy friends.  
**Dr SATISH K PANDIT,**  
*Panipat*

## A Budget To Please All

**APROPOS** the Edit 'Prudence over Politics' by Prafulla Ketkar, Editor

*Organiser* and other stories on Budget, February 12. Going through these excellent, well-researched write-ups was an engaging experience. Equally satisfying was the fact that the Budget meticulously prepared by Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister, left economists and market players flabbergasted. Even the most pessimistic of them could not pinpoint a single lacuna in such a voluminous Budget.



It was also heartening to learn that the Budget was inspired by *Saptarshi* (Seven Sages). It was wise on the part of the Government to use the wisdom of the seven rishis of ancient Bharat in the first Budget of *Amrit Kaal*. Moreover, it was a balanced Budget that caters to all sections of society.

**BHUPINDER SODHI,** *Chandigarh*

## Anti-India Rant

**APROPOS** the cover story 'Bharat Baiter' and other stories on BBC News, *Organiser*, February 5. This broadcaster of the UK has been persistently following anti-India agenda whether it was its one-sided reporting during India's war with Pakistan in 1965 or extending a platform to anti-Bharat voices whether terrorists espousing the cause of Khalistan or Pakistan-back terrorists. In this context, the statement

issued by seasoned French journalist Francois Gautier, as quoted in the story, assumes added importance. He is right that BBC did not narrate the horrendous attack on *Kar Sevaks*, while they were returning from Ayodhya. How can a broadcaster which claims to be a champion of human rights across the world, including Asia, remain tightlipped when such a spine chilling incident involving burning alive of Hindus by Islamists occurred? Would it have kept quiet if this attack was orchestrated on Christians or Muslims when they were travelling in a train in India? When the court of the land and Nanavati Commission have exonerated Shri Narendra Modi from any charge then why did the BBC decide to propagate the false rumour about the former Chief Minister, who now occupies the most important post



in the Central Government? These are some of the hard hitting questions which the British broadcaster will not like to answer as then its anti-India bias would be revealed. Even the British PM Rishi Sunak, a proud-Hindu who has struck a rapport with PM Modi, has distanced himself from this mischievous story.

**RANDHEER SRIVASTAVA,**  
*Prayagraj*

## Media Representation of RSS: The Art of Missing the Point

A statement by Sarsanghchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat is again twisted and misrepresented by a section of the media that has created an uproar. Invoking the teaching of Sant Ravidas, he said in Marathi, “If any Pandit gives a scriptural justification of caste-based discrimination, then it is false”. Otherwise, a very progressive and egalitarian statement meant to promote social harmony.

The misreporting for the purpose of misrepresenting RSS is not happening for the first time. When the Sarsanghchalak explained the Western, contractual view of marriage and the limited role of women in social life in contrast to the Hindu civilisational thought where women have equal *Dharmic* rights, the media misrepresented it with a half quote. Many political leaders using Goebbelsian techniques made the repetitive attribution of the same. The same was true about the issue of reservation. The Sarsanghchalak ardently argued for the effective implementation of the reservation policy so that it would reach the unreached. He was, unfortunately, presented as anti-reservation since then for short-term political interests. After terming the RSS Brahminical for decades, the same section of media is trying to portray the organisation as anti-Brahmin.

Is this misrepresentation by accident or by design? Is it the problem with the *Hindutva* practised and propagated by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) or pertaining to a section of media and intelligentsia that sees anything Hindu with contempt and aversion?

In this case, the problem started with a section of Marathi media. Unlike Hindi, in Marathi, the Pandit word is not equated with the Brahmin caste. Still, the mischief was played to distort the statement. More importantly, the Sarsanghchalak was speaking at the event commemorating Sant Ravidas’s birth anniversary, a great social reformer from the Bhakti tradition. The central message of saintly figures like Ravidas Ji was that caste-based discrimination does not have a scriptural sanction of Hindu Dharma. Dr Mohan Bhagwat reiterated the same in the present context instead of discussing the nuances of how to reduce, minimise and annihilate caste-based discrimination and differences, the same media and intellectuals who never get tired of branding the RSS as Brahminical preferred to project it as anti-Brahmin. This mischief of misrepresenting RSS is rooted in the fundamental folly of the dominant intellectual class of Bharat that took pride in carrying forward the colonial legacy of painting anything Hindu as regressive and rightist and, therefore, promoting social hierarchy.

During the era of external aggression and subjugation, we had forgotten the inherent unity and continuity in our society across the region. Since its inception, the RSS school of thought has believed in reorganising the society on the civilisational edifice by reigniting those connecting threads.

Denouncing any form of inequality and discrimination, primarily based on birth, was a precondition for such an endeavour. RSS did precisely the same, not just in thoughts but also in practice through the Shakha and allied activities. Vishva Hindu Parishad, under the guidance of the Second Sarsanghchalak MS Golwalkar, brought all sects under the broad Hindu umbrella together in 1969.

They collectively passed a resolution that any form of caste-based discrimination does not have a Dharmic sanction. The then RSS Sarsanghchalak Balasaheb Deoras gave a clarion call of ‘caste is no longer a system and it must go lock, stock and barrel’ in 1974. This has been RSS’s mission and vision in action that has been in practice since 1925.

The problem is not with the *Hindutva* (Hinduness) represented by the RSS but with the folly of Intellectual Reductionism rooted in the colonial understanding of Hindu society and culture. Sadly, the same thinking that believes in social divisions and frictions as progressive and unifying diverse sections on common cultural ethos as regressive dominates the media space. It is absolutely fine to critically evaluate and analyse what the RSS is doing or saying. Misrepresenting and misreporting what the RSS and *Hindutva* stand for is a clear sign of intellectual dishonesty rooted in anti-Hindu bias.

 @PrafullaKetkar



Untouchability is a... saddening and unfortunate aspect of our social inequality. Some thinkers opine that it was non-existent in the olden times, but at some stage, during the passage of time, it gatecrashed into our social system and took root. Whatever be its origin, all of us consider that untouchability is a terrible folly and it must, of necessity, be thrown out lock, stock and barrel. There are no two opinions about it. ...If untouchability is not wrong, then nothing in the world is wrong! Therefore, every one of us must aim to eradicate social inequality in every form”

—Madhukar Dattatreya alias Balasaheb Deoras, 3rd Sarsanghchalak of RSS, in his speech delivered at Vasant Vyakhyanmala (a lecture series organised at Pune on May 8, 1974) on Social Equality and Hindu Consolidation

# TOUCHSTONE OF **HINDUTVA** – AN ENLIGHTENED UNIFIED SOCIETY

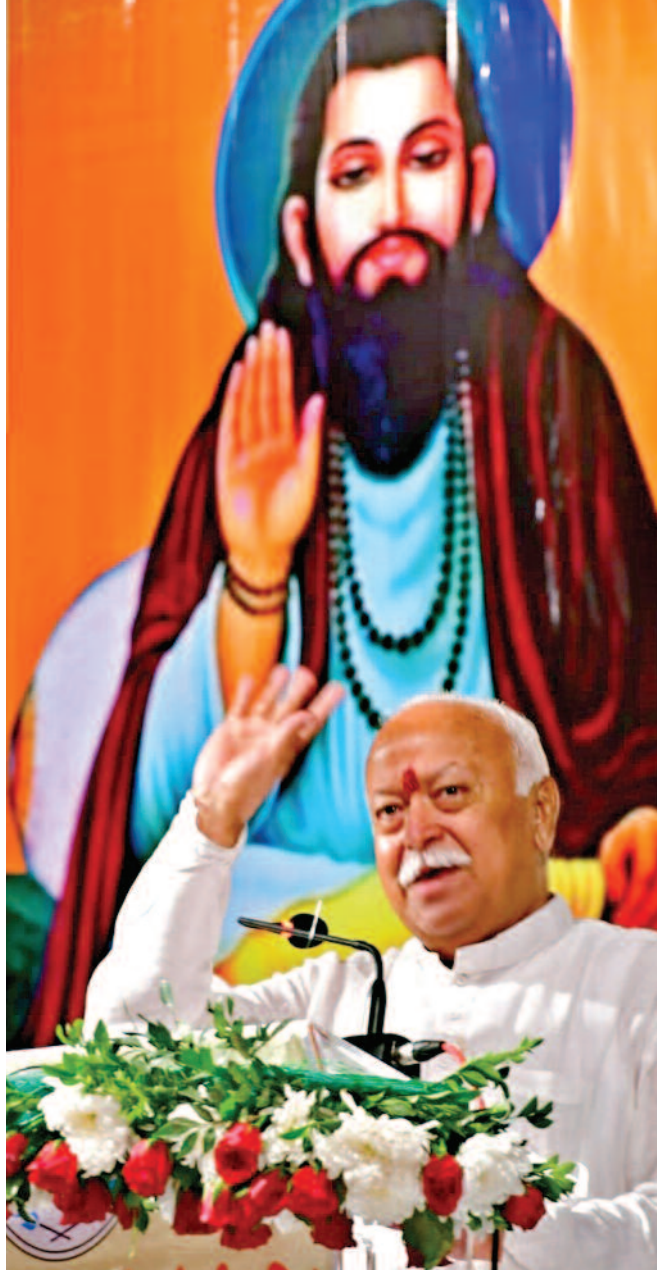
WHILE SPEAKING ON THE OCCASION OF SANT RAVIDAS (ALSO REFERRED AS SANT ROHIDAS IN MAHARASHTRA) JAYANTI, RSS SARSANGHCHALAK DR MOHAN BHAGWAT INVOKED RAVIDASJI'S TEACHINGS AND SAID THAT IF SOME SCHOLARS (PANDITS) WITH REFERENCE TO SCRIPTURES JUSTIFY CASTE-BASED DISCRIMINATION, THEN IT IS FALSE. A SECTION OF THE MEDIA MISTRANSLATED OR RATHER MISCHIEVOUSLY TRANSLATED THE WORD 'PANDIT' (WHICH MEANT 'SCHOLAR') FOR BRAHMIN. MOHANJI WAS SPEAKING AT A PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY RAVIDAS SAMAJ PANCHAYAT AND VASUDHA CHARITABLE TRUST AT RAVINDRA NATYA MANDIR IN MUMBAI, TO MARK THE 647TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SANT RAVIDAS

**D**r Mohan Bhagwat ji's lecture has created a furore in social and political circles. There are two streams of negative reactions. One from the usual suspects whose political enterprise runs on dividing Hindu society, the other from newly awakened Hindus angered by years of mistreatment by secular establishment and the left illiberal politics, awakened by the RSS working tirelessly for 97 years for this purpose. Of these, there are two kinds of purists. One, those who consider themselves Savarkarites and think that the RSS has diluted its Hindutva by having open talks with Muslims and Christians. It's worth noting here that Savarkar in his book said: "A time will come when being a Hindu may

mean nothing but a person born in this land, when people have got over bigotry... " The other purists are traditionalists and ritualists who think that the RSS's Hindutva is sham as it is not religious and ritualistic.

The speech of Mohan Bhagwat ji has left the Left in confusion. They are not sure how to react, except show scepticism. Who can oppose a solution that unites the people, except those whose agenda is to divide and break the society?

Mohan Bhagwat ji has quoted Sant



Sarsanghchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat, while Speaking at the 647th birth anniversary programme of Sant Rohidas (Ravidas), organised by Ravidas Samaj Panchayat and Vasudha Charitable Trust at Ravindra Natya Mandir, Prabhadevi in Mumbai, Maharashtra

## OPINION



**RATAN SHARDA**

Author and Columnist

Ravidas whose powerful influence on Hindu society and his views on equitable society created a huge impact. His Guru was a Brahmin, his followers included so-called upper caste kings, queens, including Meera Bai. However, the traditionalists claim that the RSS is trying to target Brahmins, though it is a misquote. They believe that Hindu society was divided by the British and had no casteist problems earlier, and we as Hindus had no hand in it. It is believed by most, including the RSS, that the misuse or exploitation of castes began due to distortions in society brought in by the Islamist and Christian invaders. The other sad side of this truth is that ultimately our society accepted these distortions to perpetuate these divisions and exploit weaker sections. Nobody could have forced us to introduce untouchability, nor forced us to fight each other on the basis of caste. An author is criticised for presenting a history of Ranas because many believe that he does not present Ranas' caste correctly. An author's book is disputed hotly about Raja Suheldev, both by Rajbhars and Passis! Chhatrapati Shivaji took oath as a Hindu king designating his throne as Hindu Padpadshahi but many try to reduce him to only a Maratha warrior. Brahmin Peshwas fought relentlessly and selflessly under Maratha kings' flag to create a pan-Bharat kingdom. But there is an effort to split hair over their legacy. These differences are our own gifts to ourselves.

Sant Tulsidas, now attacked by casteists, was harassed and opposed by pandits (scholars) and the priestly class for writing Ramayan in simple Avadhi. Sant Gyaneshwar had to pass many '*agni parikshas*' and suffer immensely before he was accepted as a Sant. Ironically, both sides in these cases were Brahmins. But the Hindu society has also shown its debt to these great saints through ages. Many saints who criticised our society heavily were accepted and the Hindu society reformed itself. We are the only society that is self-correcting and that is why we survive and thrive.

We, conscious Hindus, acknowledge that Brahmins are being targeted by the Left groups, because they sacrificed their lives to save dharma and knowledge. They remained in poverty and never sold their soul. Their genocide was measured in weight of their sacred thread 'janeu'. Yet it is also true that we Indians follow the caste system even after converting to allegedly casteless religions. However,

On February 5, 2023, Pujaniya Sarsanghchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat was speaking on the occasion of Sant Ravidas Jayanti in Mumbai. In his



address, he used the word 'Pandit', which means 'Vidvan' (Scholar). Based on the feelings of Hindu saints, Dr Bhagwat said, the truth is that Bhagwan (God) is omnipresent. Whatever the name may be, but the ability and respect are same and everyone is equal. Therefore, nobody is superior or inferior by birth. Scholars, who talk about caste quoting scriptures, is false"

— Sunil Ambekar,  
Akhil Bharatiya Prachar  
Prasar Pramukh

**TARGETING OF MOHAN JI BEGAN THE DAY PEOPLE REALISED HIS GRAND VISION OF MOVING TOWARDS A CASTELESS HARMONIOUS SOCIETY. HIS CALL FOR 'ONE WELL, ONE TEMPLE' AND 'ONE CREMATION GROUND' IS THE CALL FOR SUCH A SOCIETY**

these are uncomfortable truths that we need to accept and rise above casteism of every type to create a unified, strong society. Is there a design behind Bhagwat bashing?

I have watched the speech of Dr Mohan Bhagwat ji at Sant Ravidas Jayanti. It is an outstanding speech; a compassionate plea for following his teachings and rise above caste and feelings of high and low, because God did not create these divisions. It was a 45 minute appeal to rise above caste divisions and work hard, respect dignity of labour and

## WHAT DR MOHAN BHAGWAT SAID

In the western world marriage is a contract. A husband and wife are involved in a contract under which the husband says that you should take care of my house and I will take care of all your needs. And I will also protect you. So, the husband follows the contract terms, till the time, the wife follows the contract. The Hindu society and the RSS don't think the way the West and orthodox people look at women. Men should forget about supporting women and guiding them - just let them be free and they can decide what they can do or achieve in life" (In Hindi)

— Dr Mohan Bhagwat in Indore, MP, January 2013

Reservation for socially backward classes is the right example in this regard. If we would have implemented this policy as envisaged by the Constitution makers instead of doing politics over it, then present situation would not have arrived" (In Hindi)

— Dr Mohan Bhagwat in an interview to 'Organiser Weekly' in September 2015

If some scholars (Pandits) with reference to scriptures justify caste-based discrimination, then it is false" (In Marathi)

— Dr Mohan Bhagwat Mumbai, Maharashtra, February 2023

stand united. Out of this fine speech, one sentence is plucked out and a new controversy created. It is not the first time. A serious social activist would have gone through the full speech to understand the spirit before reacting, not passed angry comments on the basis of one mistranslated sentence.

Targeting of Mohan ji began the day people realised his grand vision of moving towards a casteless harmonious society. His call for 'One well, One Temple' and 'One cremation ground' is the call for such a society.

We recall the first famous controversy when he was quoted half way when he described how the West and

orthodox people look at women. He had then gone on to explain that the Hindu society and the RSS don't think that way, and men should forget about supporting women and guiding them - just let them be free and they can decide what they can do or achieve in life.

He was again targeted with a wrongly picked quote when he said that we have to relook at the reservation policy, and find out why the deserving sections of the society have not benefited from reservations and why a few chosen groups are cornering all the benefits for decades. It was a wake-up call. Instead, his words were widely misrepresented and he was made the scape goat

## HOW MEDIA REPORTED

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat at it again, says women should be just housewives and husbands should be the breadwinners

— India Today

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat pitches for review of reservation policy

— The Times of India

Caste system made by priests was 'wrong', everyone equal before god: RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat

— India TV

for the defeat of the BJP in Bihar.

His support for decriminalising LGBT was not liked by many Hindus too, just like many Christians and Muslims. He was again targeted by such people for this support based on the Hindu world view.

His call to Muslims to join the national mainstream by owning their heritage, forefathers and history, and not be enamoured by Arabs with whom 99 per cent of Muslims have no relation has been ridiculed in worst terms and insults heaped on him. His appeal to Muslims to give up their supremacist attitude clearly shows that he is speaking from a position of strength and not a 'secular' mindset. His harsh critics, when asked, if they have any solution to the Muslims question, have nothing to offer except hate. National issues are not solved by negation and abuse.

He has been criticised for quoting Swami Vivekananda who said forget all Gods for next 50 years and worship and work only for the motherland. In the current controversy, his passionate call for unity of Hindus beyond casteism has been neglected by picking on one line out of a 45-minute address. Are these concerted attempts to stop him from being vocal?

## RSS AND CASTEISM

Anyone who has done any serious reading on the RSS, would be aware that one of the key reasons for founding the RSS was to reform the Hindu society, help it envision a larger goal of free Bharat on the strength of a united society rising above caste, linguistic and regional divides. The RSS's conduct in public life with a casteless approach was appreciated by Gandhi and Ambedkar too. Ideas to move away from casteism were simple.

Bachharaj Vyas had joined the RSS during Dr Hedgewar's time. When invited to the RSS camp, he said, "I don't eat food prepared by 'others'." The swayamsevak told Dr ji to drop him. Dr ji asked him to let Vyas join and carry his own utensils. After one day, Vyas ji came to Dr ji and admitted to his mistake and joined other members in the camp. The same style was used by Shri Guruji to change a die-hard high caste host by taking him to another home, saying, "this is also my home."

Shri Guruji earned the ire of Karpatri ji Maharaj when the latter asked him to implement *varn vyavastha* in the RSS, and Guruji politely told him that he should implement it first on his disciples and then think of talking to swayamsevaks about it. At another time he clearly said that *varna vyavastha* and *jaati* might have been good social structures at one time, but they were outdated now and should be dropped.

## THE VHP PERSUADED MANY SANTS AND MATHAM PRAMUKHS TO GO OUT AND VISIT DISPOSSESSED BRETHREN IN THEIR HOMES. THERE ARE MANY CASES, INCLUDING GURUVAYOOR, WHERE THE VHP AND RSS WERE ABLE TO PERSUADE THE TEMPLES TO OPEN THEIR GATES FOR THE DALIT BRETHREN

His signal service was persuading all the Mahants, Sants and most importantly the Shankaracharyas to pass a resolution in the first sessions of the newly founded Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) that said, "Hindavah sahadarah sarve, *Hindu na patito bhave*" (Hindus are born of the same mother – so they are brothers -, and no Hindu is 'fallen' – all are equal.) It was a revolutionary statement coming from Hindu leaders including the Shankaracharyas who believed in *varna vyavastha*.

Balasaheb Deoras said, "If untouchability is not bad, there is nothing bad in this world. It must be thrown out lock stock and barrel." He added that our forefathers may have taken sour water from their well. If we find a new well with sweet water, should we still stick to the old well? The Samajik Samarasta Manch was established under his guidance to spread the message of brotherhood between all sections of the society.

The VHP persuaded many sants and *matham pramukhs* to go out and visit dispossessed brethren in their homes. There are many cases, including Guruvayoor, where the VHP and the RSS were able to persuade the temples to open their gates and welcome Dalit brethren. It trained priests from SC/ST communities and also women.

The RSS passed many resolutions against casteism and made policies to help society get over this feeling of high and low. The Ram Temple movement saw all sections of the society come together as one, as Hindus, beyond caste and creed. The RSS has always promoted inter-caste marriages and its leaders have happily gone to such weddings to bless the couples.

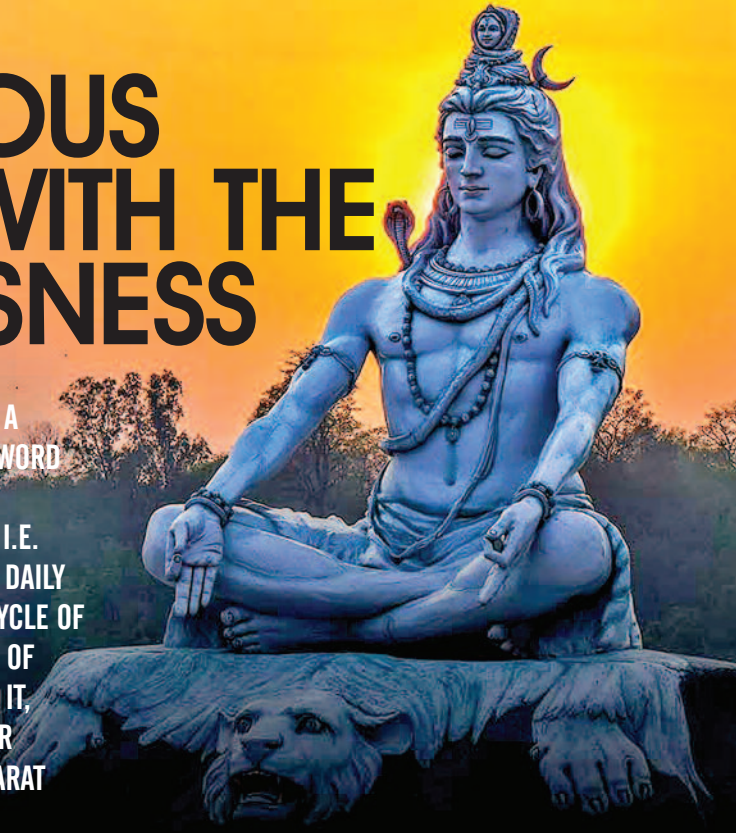
A last anecdote before I close. I have heard this story first hand. A senior RSS pracharak was promoted to the post of Sah Sarkaryavaah (joint general secretary). Some newspapers picked up the story and claimed that he was promoted to overtake a 'Dalit' Sah Sarkaryavaah. The new appointee was stunned. He went and asked the named person known to him for many years, if he belonged to a particular caste. The person just smiled and kept quiet.

This is the RSS – vision in action. ■



# UNCONSCIOUS CONNECT WITH THE CONSCIOUSNESS

CONTRARY TO THE COMMON DEPICTION OF SHIVA AS A FIERCE AND TERRIFYING GOD OF DESTRUCTION, THE WORD SHIVA SIMPLY MEANS MANGALAM I.E. AUSPICIOUS. ANYTHING THAT IS AUSPICIOUS IS SHIVA. AND RATRI I.E. NIGHT IS THE TIME FOR REJUVENATION, BOTH IN THE DAILY SENSE IN LIFE AND IN THE COSMIC SENSE, IN THE CYCLE OF LIFE, DEATH AND LIBERATION, MOKSH. THE CONCEPT OF SHIVARATRI, AND THE TRADITIONS ASSOCIATED WITH IT, ENCAPSULATES THE COSMIC UNDERSTANDING OF OUR ANCIENTS AND HAS BEEN A MEANS TO CONNECT BHARAT AND ITS PEOPLE TO EACH OTHER AND THE UNIVERSE



## OPINION



**DK HARI & DK HEMA HARI**

Founders, Bharath Gyan

Indian thought and practices, over time immemorial, have commemorated certain days and festivals as a means for people to understand, remember and reunite with the Universe and the divinities of the Universe. These festivals become gateways for people to reach out and be in communion with the Divine.

The festival known as *Shivaratri* is one such gateway to reach out and understand the divinity called Shiva or the *Shiva Tattva*.

Once we understand the meaning of *Shiva Tattva* and the celebration of *Shivaratri*, our celebrations and the enjoyment of the *Tattva* of Shiva will only be enhanced manifold. It will make our celebrations more relevant and meaningful.

These celebrations take on an even

greater significance when one realises how this entire civilisation with all its different languages and diversity, has still shared the same understanding of the *Shiva Tattva* and has chosen the same ways and time windows to relish and celebrate it.

### MEANING OF SHIVA

Contrary to the common depiction of Shiva as a fierce and terrifying God of destruction, the word Shiva simply means *Mangalam* i.e. auspicious. Anything that is auspicious is Shiva.

This auspiciousness, which is all pervading throughout the universe, is a constant presence during the lifetime of this universe, before the creation of the universe and will continue to be so after the



bid each other well with this auspicious phrase “*Shivaasthe Panthaanaha*”.

The term “*Shiva*” also has a much larger connotation, which includes:

- having the potential,
- being capable of,
- boding well,
- being favourable, promising.

All of these meanings of Shiva are also attributed to the Indian term “*Mangalam*”, which also has a similar all-encompassing meaning of denoting the potential to manifest something good.

## SHIVA-SHAVA

From a metaphysical perspective, Shiva can be split as sha+ee+va where

- *sha* stands for *Shareeram*, body,
- *ee* stands for *eeshwari*, life giving energy and
- *va* stands for *vayu* or motion.

Thus, Shiva represents the body with life and motion.

If the “*ee*” is removed from Shiva, it gets reduced to *sha+va* or *shava*. *Shava* means a lifeless body.

Anything with *Shiva* is with life and anything without Shiva is *Shava* or without life. Here we see that while *Shava* is motionless or lifeless, Shiva is with the potential of life.

Manifesting this ‘potential’ as matter, life and the cosmos is Shakti, the energy *tattva*, the female counterpart of Shiva. Without Shakti, Shiva stays as the potential. It is Shakti that triggers Shiva into manifesting as life.

This body is composed of many cells. It is the Preeti, the forces of attraction, which keep the cells together to produce a body with life or with Prana. When this Preeti is gone, the cells disintegrate and Prana goes away from the body and the body is considered to be dead.

Thus, Shiva and Shakti together produce the universe as we can and cannot see.

So, Shiva is auspicious, Shiva is potential and Shiva is Life. Shiva is all encompassing – the universal soul or consciousness, *Chaitanya*. Realising this Shiva *Tattva* leads to *Ananda*, bliss.

## RUDRA – THE BODILY CONNECT

### THE COSMOS

From modern science, today we know that the space in the Universe contains various particles that are in continuous motion and form the interstellar matter. It is the spread that is left behind after the destruction of various stars and other cosmic bodies.

It is this spread, of these various particles in space, that

dissolution of this world, this solar system, this galaxy and this entire universe.

For what is auspiciousness if not the potential that exists to “be” – bhava from which comes the name for Shiva as *Shambhava*, *Shambo* where the prefix ‘*Sham*’ denotes goodness.

In Indian thought, the Universe is always there, in one form or the other, as subtle alone or with gross, as dynamic or at rest. It only keeps moving through countless cycles of Creation, *Srishti* and Dissolution, *Pralaya*.

This aspect of Shiva, as the auspiciousness, *mangalam* in Universe, is evident from the following examples.

## SHIVAASTHE PANTHAANAHA

The traditional way of wishing “Goodbye” used to be through a phrase “*Shivaasthe Panthaanaha*” meaning “Let your ways be auspicious” (‘ways’ here meaning your paths, your deeds, your ways of life).

For many millennia, people across India have



# MAHASHIVARATRI

**THE 'EE' SOUND IN SHIVA DENOTES 'LIFE GIVING ENERGY'. ANYTHING WITH SHIVA IS WITH LIFE AND ANYTHING WITHOUT SHIVA IS SHAVA OR WITHOUT LIFE. WHILE SHAVA IS MOTIONLESS OR LIFELESS, SHIVA IS WITH THE POTENTIAL OF LIFE. MANIFESTING THIS 'POTENTIAL' AS MATTER, LIFE AND THE COSMOS IS SHAKTI, THE ENERGY TATVA, THE FEMALE COUNTERPART OF SHIVA. WITHOUT SHAKTI, SHIVA STAYS AS THE POTENTIAL. IT IS SHAKTI THAT TRIGGERS SHIVA INTO MANIFESTING AS LIFE**

leads to further creation and regeneration of matter. It is the continuous spread of these particles in space that allows for the various objects in space to connect to one another and can in one sense be called the "body of the Cosmos or Creation" or "fabric of the Cosmos".

The winds caused by the movement of these particles, which form part of the body of the Cosmos, are not our earthly winds but cosmic winds. These cosmic winds cannot be felt by our five senses nor can their sound be heard by human ears. But all the same, these sweeping and moving cosmic winds make their own howling sound all through the expanse of the universe and are hence *Rudra*, where *Ru* means 'howling sounds' and *dra* is 'that which moves'.

## MICROCOSM AND MACROCOSM

Adi Shankara, a famous saint of India and a highly realised soul, who lived around 480 BCE, had this to say therefore,

*"Na Rudram, Rudram Archayet"*

"Without this humanly body, *Rudram*, and its understanding, we cannot understand that cosmic body, *Rudram*"

It is only with this human body and its understanding that we, in this human body, can understand the body of this Universe and the forces that act in it.

Cremation grounds are often referred to as *Rudra Bhoomi*. The human body is also called the *Rudra Bhoomi*.

Thus, with Shiva being the potential to manifest, *Rudra* is that attribute of Shiva which continuously sweeps through the Universe and thus keeps the cycle of manifestation and regeneration going on.

The name *Rudra* is often equated with "Terrific". Let us understand the term "terrific". It means super, awesome, tremendous, huge, enormous etc., whereas 'terrifying' means

frightening, scary or horrifying. So, while *Rudra* as Terrific is one name for Shiva, *Ugra* as fierce, wrathful is also another name of Shiva.

The immenseness of these cosmic winds that sweep the entire vastness of this universe is terrific in many senses of the word. *Rudra* thus represents a terrific phenomenon that is universal, cosmic and great in magnitude. It is the very essence of material manifestation and regeneration.

## SHANKARA – IN EVERY PARTICLE

We can see that the concept of Shiva Tattva is a cosmological phenomenon, which is very abstract and subtle, or *Sukshma*. Hence even though these concepts have been so lucidly brought forth by our ancients, using various forms for Shiva, it could still be beyond understanding for a few, as it cannot be wholly expressed.

With the aim of making it easier to relate to Shiva Tattva and to indicate that we need to focus our minds to understand Shiva and also to re-emphasise the presence of Shiva in all bodies including humans, we have Shankara, as a meditating human form.

Shankara etymologically comes from "*Sham karothi ithi Shankara*", meaning, "that which does good".

Thus, the form of Shankara brings to bearing that Shiva, the auspicious and with the potential to manifest all goodness, can only be realised through deep meditation, a state when the sound of OM reverberates through our mind, being and senses.

People across India have thus used the calm, human, meditative form of Shankara to align their gross body, *Rudra*, made of many subatomic particles with the auspiciousness in the Cosmos.

No wonder, goes the saying

*Kankar Kankar Mein Hain Shankar.*

*Shankar resides in every gravel of sand.*

*Every gravel of sand is also full of good.*

This civilisation has discerned this goodness in the Cosmos as Shankara. For them, every particle, both animate and inanimate, embodies Shankara. Hence, the above saying.

## SHIVARATRI: UNDERSTANDING NIGHT OR RATRI

This creation resonates with rhythm or a natural heartbeat. Every object in this creation has its own cycle or rhythm in which it rises to a peak and ebbs to a low. This low is called the night or *ratri*.

The word *Ratri* means "comfort giver". It is derived from the root "*ra, rama*" meaning "that which bestows - comfort, pleasantness".



**Shri Narendra Modi**  
Hon'ble Prime Minister



**Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister

## NAVA KARNATAKA FOR NAVA BHARAT

# Major Strides in Women Empowerment

Education, Youth and Social Development  
Special Steps for Protection of Health

## "Grihini Shakthi" Scheme

Grihini Shakthi Scheme is an exclusive scheme that provides financial assistance to housewives from low-income families in distress affected by Covid and floods. The scheme will be implemented soon.



### Welfare and empowerment of women

Budget allocation - Rs. 43,188 crore

Three Samarthya Scheme implemented in State for the first time

- Encouragement to set up small enterprises under **Three Samarthya Schemes** to make SHG members successful entrepreneurs

Under the 'Amrith Self-Help Micro Enterprise' Scheme, Rs. 75 crore has been released to the chosen 7500 SHGs at Rs. 1 lakh per SHG to make them into micro-enterprises.

- 40,000 SHGs selected across the state for capacity building, skill training and training in marketing and branding.
- Training from Technical Support Agencies and agreement through empanelled agencies and certification
- Additional bank contact through **Arbith Bank** for undertaking entrepreneurial activities with ease
- Fairs under the name **'Karnath'** for providing market to products of SHG women.
- Extension of the **'Sakshith'** scheme all over the state. The project aims to prevent child marriage, school dropout rate of girl children and eradicate malnutrition.
- Steps for **self-protection training** for 2 lakh girls
- **Self-protection training** for inmates of SC, ST and OBC girls' hostels
- Pension for Acid attacks increased from Rs. 3,000 to **Rs. 10,000**

### Education and uplifting students

- For the first time in the State's history, steps taken to build **8,101 classrooms** at a cost of **Rs. 1,412 crore**.
- Steps taken to appoint **15,000 teachers**. Of this, **5,000 teachers** will be appointed in Kalyana Karnataka.
- Implementation of **National Education Policy 2020**
- **Rs. 60 crore** grant for constructing **400 Anganawadi** buildings combining it with the MGNREGA scheme
- **Rs. 7.50 crore** spent @ **Rs. 1 lakh** per Anganawadi to build infrastructure in **750 Anganawadi** centres under Amrutha Anganawadi Centres.
- Grant provided to schools for specially-abled children raised from **Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000** per child under the special education scheme of specially-abled children. Grant increased by **50%**.

### Steps to eradicate malnutrition in children

- Facilities provided to children with severe malnutrition have been extended to children with moderate malnutrition.
- Distribution of **fortified rice** in 14 districts in the State through ration system
- Under the **Midday Meal Scheme**, serving of Banana/Peanut Chikki for 1st to 8th standard students who do not eat eggs in Kalyana Karnataka districts and Vijayapura district.

### Welfare of Labourers

- Implementation of works worth **Rs. 2,610 crore** for the development of labourers
- Scholarship schemes started to encourage the children of labourers. Grants worth **Rs. 462.32 crore** allocated to **2.97 lakh** children.
- Under **Nalini Sarvaman Yojna**, through DBT, **Rs. 5,000** transferred to the bank account of each labourer engaged in weaving and pre-loom activities. The scheme has benefitted **2 Lakh** labourers.

### Health

- Project to upgrade **100** primary health centres into community health centres flagged off. **71** of these PHCs belong to Kalyana Karnataka.
- **438 'Namma Clinic'** started in State.
- **300 Women Care Centres** started in State to provide advice on women's health problems.
- A Regional Cardiac Centre of Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research established in Hubballi at a cost of **Rs. 280 crore**.
- Kidwai Regional Cancer Centre started in Belagavi at a cost of **Rs. 90 crore**.
- Steps taken to establish **Infection Control**, where chemotherapy is administered to cancer patients, in 10 selected institutes of medical sciences.
- Seven Taluk hospitals upgraded into **100-bed** hospitals.
- Trauma Centre established in Tumakuru at a cost of **Rs. 30 crore**. **Rs. 10 crore** provided in 2022-23.
- **Ayushman Clinic** will be started in the state soon.



As enshrined in our Constitution - To safeguard public property and to assure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

**karnataka information**  
Department of Information and Public Relations



# MAHASHIVARATRI

Ratri is that which gives one comfort or rest from the 3 types of activities namely:

1. *Kayika* or bodily actions,
2. *Vachika* or speech
3. *Manasika* or thoughts.

A person is afflicted by 3 types of agents, namely

1. *Adhyatmika* – psycho-physical aspects pertaining to the self, the *Atma*
2. *Adhi Bhauthika* – aspects pertaining to the elements of Nature, the *Bhuta*
3. *Adhi Daivika* – aspects beyond that pertain to the cosmic, the *Divya*

During the night, as one sleeps and gets regenerated, all 3 types of actions are subdued and mind is completely at rest, free from all types of afflictions. Hence night is called *ratri* or the comfort giver.

What a beautiful way to form a word such that its very formation implies its meaning and function!

It is during the ratri or night of any being, that the being gets rejuvenated and refreshed for its next cycle or day!

## WHAT IS PRALAYA?

Only if there is dissolution of the old can there be scope for regeneration of the new. There is a continuous cycle of dissolution and regeneration going on in the Universe.

The process of dissolution is called *Pralaya*. *Pralaya* is limitedly understood as waters or fire engulfing everything. *Laya* means to merge or dissolve into. Music that makes one forget everything and makes one blend with the music is said to have *Layam*. Blending and being with the rhythm is *Laya* – rhythm of music, rhythm of the cosmic cycles too – big and small.

The prefix *Pra* denotes special and *Pralaya* thus means the rhythmic, special dissolution or merging back into the ultimate natural form. In fact, there are four types of *Pralaya* defined in ancient Indian texts, they being:

1. *Nithya Pralaya* or daily *Pralaya* that comes every night
2. *Naimitika Pralaya* or occasional *Pralaya*,
3. *Avantara Pralaya* or Seasonal *Pralaya*,
4. *Maha Pralaya* or the Great *Pralaya*.

Shiva being the potential to manifest, is also the divinity for dissolution and regeneration. Hence the time one undergoes rejuvenation and regeneration that comes with a *Pralaya*, is associated with Shiva as Shivaratri.

## CHANGE THROUGH CELEBRATION

The change that comes with dissolution can primarily be accepted in two ways,

- With pain
- With celebration

When there is resistance to a change, there is pain. Where there is willful acceptance, there is no pain. When we understand and willingly accept that a dissolution is only for a regeneration, the dissolution or change ceases to cause pain.

Therefore, since time immemorial our ancestors have given this night of regeneration, a feeling of serenity through fasting and praying and have followed it with celebration through singing.

India has been rejuvenating itself for millennia by celebrating the night before *Amavasya* in the month of *Magha*, roughly around February as *Maha Shivaratri*. As a matter of fact, many Indians observe the night before *Amavasya* in every month as a Shivaratri too.

## PRADOSHAM

While Shivaratri is the night spent in the comfort of Shiva, being



Nandi, the bull - Vahana of Shiva

rejuvenated by the auspiciousness Shiva, the day before Shivaratri is the time one readies to surrender oneself to this process of rejuvenation.

The 13th phase of the moon, *Trayodashi*, in both the Waxing (*Shukla Paksha*) and Waning (*Krishna Paksha*) fortnights of the moon, is observed as *Pradosha* day.

*Pradosha* means dusk, the evening twilight. The hours before and after the dusk on *Pradosha*, is the most important period on *Pradosha*, wherein ardent worship, *puja* of Shiva is carried out across houses and temples.

As people go about their everyday life, they accumulate both positive and negative *karma*. *Pradosha* is the window dedicated every fortnight as a chance to wipe out the ill effects of these *Karmas* by observing the *Pradosha Vrat* so that the Shivaratri on the next night in case of New Moon can bring

about complete rejuvenation. This is like a spiritual detox.

Shiva is described as performing the *Ananda Tandava* at the time of *Pradosha*, between the horns of His *Vahana*, the bull, *Nandi*.

A bull is called a *Pashu*, which also means a living being. *Nandi*, the *Vahana* of Shiva, denotes the natural, physical body which needs to be in tune with the mind to stay in bliss. Once this union is achieved, then the body acts as a support through which the bliss of realisation can be experienced. *Nandi* then becomes the stage and Shiva is then said to dance between the horns of the *Nandi*.

On every *Pradosha*, every Shiva temple across India has been coming alive as a stage for Shiva. People come to pray to Shiva and bend down to watch the Shiva Linga from between the horns of the *Nandi* in front of Shiva with the hope of catching sight of Shiva's *Ananda Tandava*.

What a practice and hope, that has been uniting the people of this land across millennia!

## MAHAKALA

Who is *Kala*?

A product of Creation is Time and along with that, Space too, which was quickly filled up by *Rudra*, the body of the Universe.

*Kala* is understood with the concept of Time. Every moment as it passes by, time elapses.

So, *Kala* is not only for the word Time but also denotes the concept of time that is elapsing since the start of Creation.

This concept of not just time but elapsing time has been brought out beautifully in the *Skanda Purana*.

*Kalaha srujati bhutani*

*Time creates everything*

*Kalaha samharati prajaha*

Time takes away everything so created

*Sarve kalasya vashagaha*

Everything exists in the hands of time

This similar concept of *Kala* being elapsing time has also been brought out by *Veda Vyasa* in *Mahabharata* too.

"*Kala* or Time, destroys Creation" - *Mahabharata*, 4.2.

From this statement we can infer that *Kala* is not only time at our personal level, which we see in our clocks or in our calendar, but is the elapsing time of the earth, the sun, the whole solar system, the entire galaxy, all the galaxies and the entire Universe.

With every moment that elapses, a moment of the created Universe is elapsing and the life of this created Universe is getting that much shorter.

It is very ironic that just before the start of the creation, there is no time and just immediately on creation, there is maximum time. From then on with every passing moment, time and life of the created Universe only keeps getting shorter and shorter until the point when the entire created universe collapses and time ceases to exist.

Thus, Time eats time and the entire Universe. Hence *Kala* is also called Slayer of Time.

This *Kala* has been understood and revered in many ways across India across Times.

## KALA BHAIRAVA: A GUARDIAN

This concept of the slayer of time is highlighted in one of the attributes of Shiva called *Kala Bhairava*. He stands guard over the city of *Kashi* which is seen as the city that glows with the light and power to rejuvenate – rejuvenate people by taking them safely from one life to another or to a state of liberation, *Moksha* itself.

## A GLOWING CITY

*Kashi* as the name goes, is thus a city that glows with the knowledge of life and liberation.

*Kashi* also glows with all the funeral pyres burning here, of those who had come here to get rejuvenated, with *Kala Bhairava* standing there to guard and take them safely through the cycles of Lives, Births, Deaths and Time.

## VISWANATHA: A GLOWING TRUTH

If *Kala Bhairava* stands there to give solace that He will take and guard the souls through the process of rejuvenation, it is Lord *Viswanatha* of *Kashi*, in the form of the *Bana Lingam*, the formless form, who stands for another associated Truth. That, as *Kala Bhairava*, Shiva will guard the process of recycling and rejuvenation.

That, as *Viswanatha*, Shiva will enable the rejuvenated manifestation in the next cycle.

As a *Bana Lingam*, *Kashi Viswanatha* points to the state of manifestation of the gross from the subtle and of the manifestation of form, from the formless.

For the few deserving and ready, *Viswanatha* promises liberated consciousness that awaits.

For the others, still in the cycles of Births and Deaths, *Viswanatha* promises and assures a smooth passage as a refreshed and rejuvenated life into the next cycle.

For, as *Viswanatha*, He is one who delivers the Universe itself through its various cycles of Births and deaths. How can He leave anyone astray?



Kala Bhairava, the Kshetrapal, Guardian of Kashi, with His dog



# MAHASHIVARATRI

Kashi, with Shiva there as Kala Bhairava and Viswanatha, has therefore drawn people from all across India, across Millennia. Kala Bhairava and Viswanatha have been a source of comfort and reprieve for people through the last stages of their lives too.

## MAHA KALESHWARA

We have just seen how the ancients had understood the concept of Time from a cosmic perspective. They, however, did not limit themselves to that. They had also brought down the concept of Kala, Time to a global and human level.

Today, in the modern world we have the concept of Time Zones along with the Longitudes which are imaginary lines drawn on this globe to demarcate the Time Zones. The Longitude passing through Greenwich in the outskirts of London is considered as the Prime Meridian and the 0-hour time of the world today.

For many Millennia, until 1700s, it was Ujjain in India and the longitude that passed through this city, which was the Prime Meridian for all ancient civilisations. The Greeks referred to this city as Ozene and it was represented on their maps with the figure of a temple.

Who was this temple for?

It was for Shiva as *Maha Kaleshwara*, the Maker and Keeper of Time.

For, Ujjain does indeed lie on the latitude known as the Tropic of Cancer, the farthest point in the journey of the Sun northwards.

This temple of Maha Kaleshwar in Ujjain represented the reference mark for calculating and keeping track of time for the globe, in yester years.

The temple and the deity here seem to bear an apt name.

This city has seen a continuous tradition in astronomy. Since then, there has been an observatory in Ujjain, which can be visited even today.

The whole of India had looked up to Ujjain and Shiva, as Maha Kaleshwara in Ujjain, for keeping and tracking Time for Millennia.

## YATRA

How was all this common understanding and practices possible across such a diverse land?

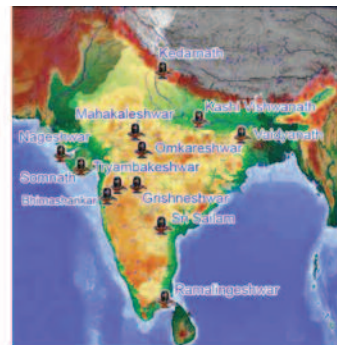
It is a myth that the common Indian did not travel much in times bygone. People, all across India have been busy criss-crossing the entire region of Bharatavarsha, travelling on specific circuits at different times of the year and stages of their lives. Such travels were called *Yatra*. By nature, *Yatra* from the root *Ya*, is one that bears the nature of spreading, moving.

The *Yatra* of Bharat were responsible for spreading culture,

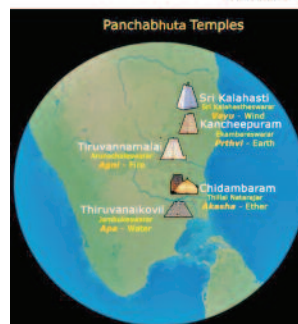
knowledge and practices all across the land through the people who undertook these *Yatra*, thereby bringing in a sense of unity in the diversity.

These *Yatras* were themed around different divinities, natural bodies, holy cities etc. and the different places in these circuits lay far-flung, all over the land.

Of the many *Yatra* on the land of Bharat, those to places connected with Shiva have been popular across times and still continue to be highly frequented by people from all over India such as:



The Jyotirlinga Circuit



- The Jyotirlinga circuit
- The Pancha Bhuta circuit
- The Pancha Kedar *Yatra* and many more.

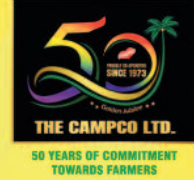
As people travelled, they honed their knowledge about the civilisation, cultural practices and *Shiva Tattva*, from the villages they passed through.

## REALISING THE VARIOUS CONNECTS

Shivaratri, a night full of Shiva, is a great opportunity to read about, hear about, sing about, contemplate about and realise the *Tattva* called Shiva.

It is a night that augurs well for embarking on a journey of realising oneself and through oneself, realising Shiva and all the goodness that lies in Creation as Shankara. For, without this goodness, nothing can ever be, *Bhava*. ■

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## OPINION



**DR DAVID FRAWLEY  
(VAMADEVA)**

Director of the American Institute of Vedic Studies and an expert on yoga and Vedic traditions

**S**hiva Mahadev, perhaps the most enduring Hindu *Devata*, is difficult for many people, particularly in the Western world, to imagine, much less to understand. The reality of Shiva is hidden in mystery, transcendence, enigma and paradox that cannot be confined to definitions, ideologies or beliefs. Shiva presents to us a vast yet indefinable reality beyond the mind and its limited perspectives of time, place and person. Shiva's complex symbolism, and the depths of Shaivite psychology and philosophy is meant to break down the hubris of the dualistic mind and the conflicts it has created in its efforts to control the world.

Shiva has a multidimensional existence at all levels of the universe, from our dense physical world to all the *lokas* of the cosmos and ultimately to the supreme Brahman beyond all possible manifestations. Everything in essence is pervaded by

Shiva, who is like boundless space and light.

Today, under the domination of the machine, our thinking and perception is becoming ever more linear, superficial and lacking in depth perception, trapped inside the screen of our shifting thoughts and biased opinions. This makes Shiva even harder for us to perceive and we tend to reduce him to one level only, as if He were but a physical form or mental image. Yet Shiva remains as the inscrutable power to take us beyond our preconceptions, conditioning and expectations. We live in the immutable reality of Shiva but with our inner eye closed as if we were our own reality, when we are but a transient play of artificial desires and borrowed imaginations, not seeing the real universe

# INFINITE AND ETERNAL

SHIVA REPRESENTS THE WHOLE UNIVERSE. HE IS CALLED RUDRA IN THE VEDAS, THE MAKER OF SOUND AND THUNDER, BUT HE IS ALSO SOMA, THE NECTAR OF IMMORTALITY, WITH WHICH RUDRA ARE OFTEN COMBINED



in which we truly live, which is full of the wonder of Shiva.

## MAHAYOGI SHIVA

Shiva is Mahayogi and Adi Yogi, the great Yogi and the original Yogi, though the scope of his all-encompassing Yoga is seldom comprehended. He is the most well-known Yoga deity and Yoga guru among all the *Devatas*. The Sanskrit language and all mantras arise from the sound of his drum, which reverberates through all of space. He holds the immortal unitary *Prana* behind the breath, which no poison or disease or body or mind can disturb.

All Yoga asanas reflect Shiva's natural movement, which is a dance of stillness leading to the *Tandava*, which dissolves all that is merely outward or apparent into the fire of pure consciousness. Samadhi is Shiva's natural state of awareness, untainted by thought, which holds the fullness of bliss, Purnananda. His state is Nirvikalpa, beyond any formations, conclusions or imaginations of the mind.

Shiva is perhaps the most enduring Hindu *Devata* or that of the entire world, such as ancient stone formations reveal on every continent, as the sacred mountain, pyramid, obelisk, cosmic tree, pillar and the great Shiva linga, used to recognise and worship his supreme power to ascend over everything by the steadiness of his own being and fearlessness.

## SHAVITE YOGA TRADITIONS

Shiva represents the main Vedic deities going back to the oldest Rigveda and its Rishi mantras.

As Trinayana, his three eyes are the Sun (*Surya*), Moon (*Soma*) and Fire (*Agni*), the three main devatas of the Rigveda. Indra is his lightning form. Shiva is called Rudra in the Vedas, the maker of sound and thunder, but he is also Soma, the nectar of immortality, with which Rudra (who is also called *Agni*) are often combined. He is dramatically lauded in the famous Rudram chant of the Krishna Yajurveda, which resonates through all Shiva temples even today, thousands of years later.

The older Shaivite Vedic Yoga was based upon Rudra and his forces as the Rudras or Maruts, with Vishnu as *Evayamarut* and Indra a Marutvan. Maruts as the great Vedic Rishis who were *Mahayogis* and could travel freely over the Earth, its mountains and seas, and through all the lokas.

In the *Mahabharata* and before, Shiva is called Pashupati, which connects to the Pashupata Yoga attributed to the Rishi Lakulish.

Pashupati is not just the lord of animals, he is also the lord or ruler of what is seen, the seer of all.

Later, Shaivism developed as the Shaivite Nath Yoga of Gorakhnath and Matsyendra Nath, which included Hatha Yoga and Siddha Yoga. Yet Shiva and the Nath Yoga are mentioned by Adi Shankara, who knew their secrets as well. Adi Shankara was Shiva in manifestation as Dakshinamurti.

Most Yoga historically has been a Shaivite Yoga, yet not in any sectarian sense. Often it is Vishnu who teaches Shiva like Matsyendranath to Gorakhnath. It is Shiva who teaches Yoga to Parvati, his Shakti. Yet it is Parvati who holds the Yoga Shakti that brings about all transformations compared to which Shiva is but a silent, immobile witness in pure transcendence.

Shiva has his special forms, forces and expressions throughout nature. Shiva on Earth is first of all the mountain. All mountains in all countries are forms of Shiva. In the atmosphere, Shiva is thunder and lightning which sets in motion the seasons, life and movement through the winds and pranic forces. In the sky beyond is Shiva as both the Sun and the Moon, our prime luminaries. He rules over the *Nakshatras* of *Mrigashira* (Soma) and *Ardra* (Rudra), which mark what is called the constellation of Orion in western traditions, and the place of Osiris and immortality for the ancient Egyptians. Immortality is only possible when we return to our Shiva nature of silence, stillness, solitude and yet all encompassing Being, Consciousness and Bliss.

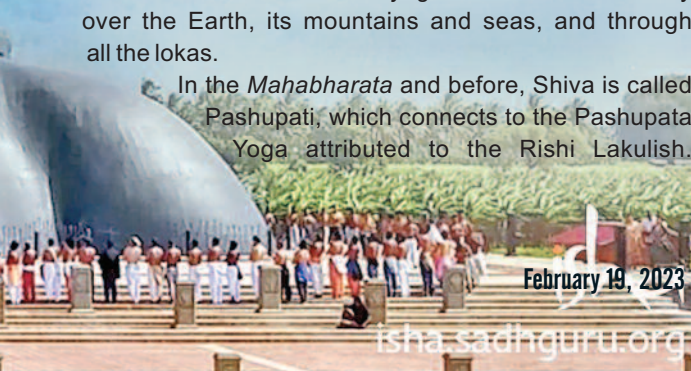
## AWAKENING TO THE REALITY OF SHIVA

In India today there is a great revival of *Shiva bhakti*, epitomised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's devotion to him, with the renovations of His temples in Kedarnath, Kashi and Ujjain. As Shiva is *Mahakala*, the lord of time in Ujjain, a new Shiva Yuga is slowly emerging for all.

The entire world and humanity as a whole needs to discover the presence of the infinite and eternal Shiva, inspiring an honoring of nature's vastness, the wilderness, and the boundless and uncharted realms of pure consciousness and light around and within us, which we are quickly losing our connection to.

Mahashivaratri is the sacred time of the Hindu year to worship Shiva Mahadev and draw in his awareness which takes us beyond all ignorance, duality, sorrow and death. The night of Shiva is the day for all the *Devatas*, the time of inner light which is self-illuminating beyond all horizons.

May Mahashivaratri awaken you to your eternal Shiva nature! *Om Nama Shivaya!* ■





MAHASHIVARATRI

# ABODE OF COSMIC ENERGY

THERE ARE ATTEMPTS TO MISINTERPRET THE MEANING AND SYMBOLISM OF SHIVALINGA. THE 129TH SHUKTA IN THE 10TH MANDAL OF RIGVEDA'S NARADIYA SHUKTA CLEARLY STATES THAT 'SHIVALINGA IS RELATED TO THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE'. IT IS THIS COSMIC ENERGY THAT HINDUS STARTED WORSHIPPING THROUGH THE SYMBOL OF A STAMBHA OR PILLAR. THUS THE TRADITION OF WORSHIPPING SHIVA AS A LARGE, ROUNDED PILLAR BEGAN. THE SHIVALINGAS FOUND IN ANCIENT TEMPLES ARE HUGE AND GRAND

OPINION



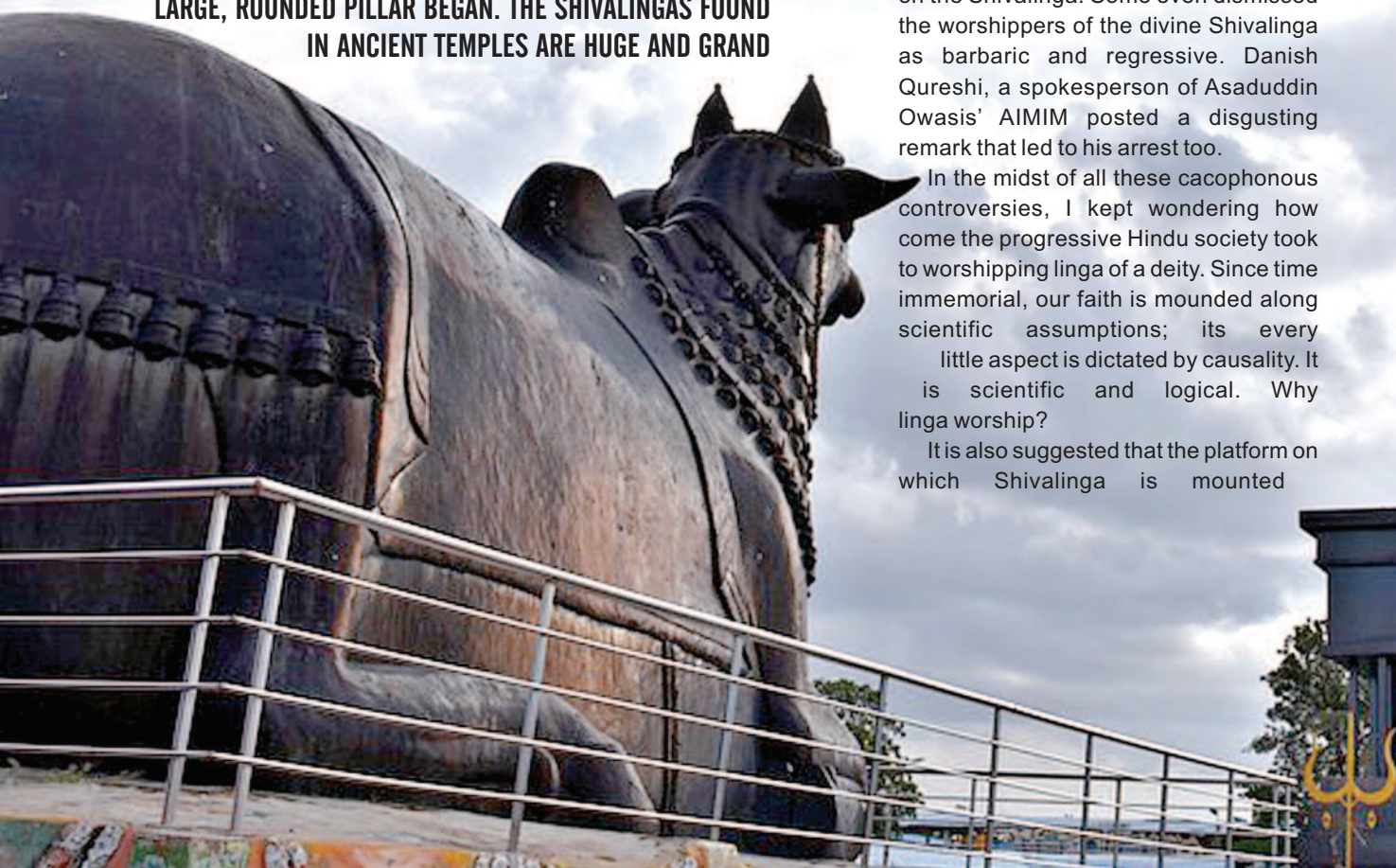
PRASHANT POLE

Author and Columnist

Last year in May when a survey was conducted through the precincts of Gyanvapi mosque, a Shivalinga was found. While the entire country rejoiced at the discovery, there were a few who made fun of it and passed offensive comments on the Shivalinga. Some even dismissed the worshippers of the divine Shivalinga as barbaric and regressive. Danish Qureshi, a spokesperson of Asaduddin Owasis' AIMIM posted a disgusting remark that led to his arrest too.

In the midst of all these cacophonous controversies, I kept wondering how come the progressive Hindu society took to worshipping linga of a deity. Since time immemorial, our faith is mounded along scientific assumptions; its every little aspect is dictated by causality. It is scientific and logical. Why linga worship?

It is also suggested that the platform on which Shivalinga is mounted



symbolises Devi Parvati's yoni. And that the structure enacts their union. For me, this suggestion too was quite unpalatable. It begs attention that Hindu dharma looks at things through symbols. Bhagwan Shiva is seen as a symbol of cosmic annihilation. And Shiva-Shakti union symbolises the very process of creation. Under the circumstances, a literal enactment of union appears unlikely; the aforementioned relationship between Shivalinga and the platform is thus wrong.

The question remains: what then is a Shivalinga?

As I explored the subject, I stumbled upon Swami Vivekanand's speech that he delivered in August 1900 during the 'Congress of Religion' in Paris. German scholar Gustav Opert, while delivering his opening remarks at the Congress, had described Shivalinga and Shaligram as representations of genitals. During his address, Swamiji launched a vociferous affront on Opert's observations, dismissing the latter's hypothesis as idiotic.

To establish the true origin of the Shivalinga, Swamiji invoked a shloka from the Atharva Veda that speaks of the Yupastambha. This shloka refers to a timeless cosmic stambha or pillar. This stambha, which is a manifestation of Brahman, becomes one with Shiva. It, therefore, becomes worthy of our worship.

The 35th shloka in the 7th sukta of Atharveda's 10th kanda says

स्कम्भो दाधार द्यावापृथिवी उभे इमे स्कम्भो दाधारोर्वन्तरिक्षम् ।  
स्कम्भो दाधार प्रदिशः षडुर्वीः स्कम्भ इदं विश्वं भुवनमा विवेश ॥

It means that it is the 'stambha that holds the swarga, earth and the earth's atmosphere. It supports all the six

**TO ESTABLISH THE TRUE MEANING OF THE SHIVALINGA, SWAMI VIVEKANAND INVOKED A SHLOKA FROM THE ATHARVA VEDA THAT SPEAKS OF THE YUPASTAMBHA. THIS SHLOKA REFERS TO A TIMELESS COSMIC STAMBHA OR PILLAR, THAT WHICH HOLDS THE SWARGA, EARTH AND THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE. IT SUPPORTS ALL THE SIX DIRECTIONS AND IT STRETCHES ACROSS THE UNIVERSE. THIS SUGGESTS THAT THE FORM IN WHICH WE WORSHIP SHIVA SYMBOLISES THE UNIVERSE. IT REPRESENTS BOUNDLESS ENERGY, BOUNDLESS POWER**

directions and it stretches across the universe. This suggests that the form in which we worship Shiva symbolises the universe. It represents boundless energy, boundless power. This cosmic energy can create life and erase it too, if it so wishes. The 129th shukta in the 10th mandal of Rigveda's Naradiya Shukta clearly states that 'Shivalinga is related to the creation of the universe.' It is this cosmic energy that Hindus started worshipping through the symbol of a stambha or pillar, and that subsequently came to be known as the Shivalinga. It must also be clarified that the word linga or lingam is not linked to human anatomy. In Sanskrit, the word linga connotes a mark.

Thus the tradition of worshipping Shiva as a large, rounded pillar began. The Shivalingas found in ancient temple are huge and grand. For example, in Andhra Pradesh's Dakshramam temple, located at a distance of 28 km from Kakinada, the Shivalinga stands tall at eight-and-a-half feet. Archeologists have found stone-inscriptions suggesting that the Dakshramam temple was renovated in the 9th Century. Clearly, this temple is of a much ancient antiquity. Two centuries later, Bhopal's monarch Raja Bhoj built a Shiva temple in Bhojpur. The Shivalinga installed in this temple is 18 feet tall, with a 7½-foot wide diameter. Another massive Shivalinga, dating back to 5th-6th CE, is found in Gadhnora, Chhattisgarh. Such massive Shivalingas are found all over India.

Therefore, it should not surprise us that a Shivalinga has been found at Kashi's Gyanvapi. Prior to the arrival of Muslim invaders, throughout the Indian subcontinent — from Kandahar and Peshawar to Philippines and





## MAHASHIVRATRI



Black stone Shiva Linga in the coils of a seven hooded serpent. Lepakshi, Andhra Pradesh

Indonesia — Lord Shiva was worshipped in the form of a towering Shivalinga. Last year, 1000 to 1200 year old huge Shivalingas were discovered in Vietnam and Indonesia. This reaffirms the tradition of Shiva worship in India and beyond.

Things changed after the Muslim invasion. It was no longer possible to worship and install huge Shivlingas in temples. History tells us that whenever Muslims invaded a settlement, the priests hid the sacred statues installed in temples, lest they would be vandalised or desecrated. However, given their size, it wasn't possible to hide the Shivlingas. That is why after the 10th-11th Century, people started installing smaller Shivlingas in their homes. A similar practice can be seen in the temples too; the temples too took to installing smaller Shivlingas. Because of their reduced size, and because the original meaning of the Sanskrit word linga was gradually lost on the people, the figure that once represented cosmic energy acquired a distorted meaning and symbolism.

While we may understand the literal meaning of the Sanskrit word Shivlinga and even appreciate, to some

extent, its symbolic significance, the abiding mysteries of Shivlingas, Jyotirlingas and Shiva temples remain inscrutable. Why do the modern day atomic reactors resemble the shape of a Shivlinga? What explains the absolute straight line between (South Pole) Antarctica and Somnath Shivlinga, with no land in between? All these questions remain unanswered.

In the form of Shivlinga, a profound symbol of Brahma and brahamand was handed down to us by our ancestors. It's our sheer misfortune that we mistook it for male genitalia. Almost 125 years ago, Swami Vivekanand had debunked this pathetic misinterpretation and explained the meaning of the Stambha. However, we idiots refused to admit the light of wisdom. Hereafter, whenever you step into a Shiva temple, do remember that you are bowing to the entire cosmos, to Brahma, the infinite energy. Bear it in mind that you are worshipping as the adherent of the Sanatan Hindu faith that is scientific in its conceptualisation. Do not forget you are the proponent of a scientific, timeless and Sanatan culture. ■

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# PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF MINORS

**DUE TO HIGH RATE OF MATERNAL AND INFANT MORTALITY, WITH CHILD MARRIAGE BEING THE PRIMARY CAUSE, THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT IS TAKING ACTION AGAINST THOSE WHO ARE VIOLATING THE LAW. NOTABLY, ASSAM'S TOTAL FERTILITY RATE(TFR) IS 1.9 PER CENT, BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF 2. HOWEVER, THE TFR AMONG MUSLIM WOMEN IS 2.4, WHICH IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE COUNTRY**

## ■ **DIBYA KAMAL BORDOLOI**

**E**very year, when Assam tops the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in the country, Opposition parties like Congress and AIUDF never wait to criticise the State Government. But the Opposition does not try to visualise and analyse the root cause of the high MMR in this North Eastern State. It has been proven that child marriage and teenage pregnancy are prime reasons for the high MMR in the State.

### **SAVING DAUGHTERS**

On January 23, 2023, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma-led

Assam Government had decided to act against the social evil of child marriage. According to the 2011 census, 44 per cent of women in Assam were married before 18, most of whom were illegal Muslim migrants.

Justifying the ongoing legal drive against child marriage in Assam, Dr Sarma said, "Shall I allow my daughter to get married at 12-13? A generation will have to suffer this pain to save lakhs of girls from the evil of child marriage."

The trigger behind the Assam Cabinet's decision was the State's poor performance in certain health indicators,

# ASSAM/CRACKDOWN AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGE

as revealed by the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5) and Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report by the Registrar General of India (RGI). Child marriage has been identified as a prime factor behind this. The NFHS-5, carried out between 2019 and 2020, showed that 31.8 per cent of women aged between 20 and 24 years in Assam got married before the legal age of 18 years, which is higher than the national figure of 23.3 per cent. What was more alarming was that 11.7 per cent of married women aged between 15 and 19 years were already mothers or pregnant during the period of the survey, compared to the national average of 6.8 per cent.

## HIGHEST FERTILITY RATE

There is another reason why the Sarma Government wants to curb child marriage. The NFHS-5 revealed that Assam's total fertility rate (TFR), "the average number of children born per woman", is 1.9 per cent, below the national average of 2. But the TFR among Muslim women is 2.4 per cent, one of the highest in the country, although the TFR among Muslims in the State has considerably dropped from a high of 3.6 per cent in 2005-06.

## CHANGE OF DEMOGRAPHY

There has been a massive concern among the people of Assam about the possible change of demography in the State because of illegal immigration from Bangladesh and the high fertility rate among Muslims. Between 1971 and 1991, Muslims in Assam grew to 77.42 per cent while Hindus grew to 41.89 per cent. The Muslim growth rate during this period was higher than the national average of 55.04 per cent. At the same time, the Hindu growth rate is lower than the national average of 48.38 per cent.

The fear of demographic change can be explained by the population growth rates in two adjacent districts of Dhubri and Kokrajhar. In Dhubri, where nearly 80 per cent of the inhabitants are Muslims, the decadal growth rate between 2001 and 2011 was 24 per cent. In neighbouring Kokrajhar, mostly dominated by the Bodo tribe, it is 5 per cent.

The NFHS-5 showed that 50.8 per cent of all women in Dhubri got married before they turned 18. South Salmara, another Muslim-dominated district, at 44.7 per cent, recorded the second-highest number of child marriages. Contrast this to the tribal-dominated district of Dima Hasao, where the number is just 16.5 per cent. The Government claims the crackdown has been neutral and secular, and no particular community has been targeted. In fact, in Biswanath district, where maximum arrests have been made, more than 80 per cent of the population is Hindu.



Police arrest men allegedly involved in child marriages, in Guwahati during Assam Government's statewide crackdown on child marriages

**THERE HAS BEEN A MASSIVE CONCERN AMONG THE PEOPLE OF ASSAM ABOUT THE POSSIBLE CHANGE OF DEMOGRAPHY IN THE STATE BECAUSE OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION FROM BANGLADESH AND THE HIGH FERTILITY RATE AMONG MUSLIMS. BETWEEN 1971 AND 1991, MUSLIMS IN ASSAM GREW TO 77.42 PER CENT WHILE HINDUS GREW TO 41.89 PER CENT**

The Assam Police have arrested over 2,528 people so far in a massive crackdown on child marriage. The highest number of 139 arrests has been made in the Biswanath Chariali district. This is followed by 128 in Muslim-majority Dhubri, 123 in Baksa, 127 in Barpeta, 117 in Bongaigaon, 101 in Nagaon, 92 in Hojai, 89 in Kokrajhar, 79 in Karimganj, 76 in Goalpara, 71 in Cachar and 60 in Morigaon district.

## ENDING MENACE OF CHILD MARRIAGE

The Assam Police had registered 4,074 cases of child marriage based on complaints and data provided by competent authorities. All these cases had been reported in less than a fortnight since the Cabinet decided on January 23 to take stern action against child marriage, with the arrest of offenders and a simultaneous launch of an extensive awareness campaign against the dangerous impact of child marriage on a girl's life and on society as a whole.

Throwing light on the entire exercise, DGP GP Singh



Islamic priests arrested for involvement in child marriages

## THE NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY REPORTS SAY THAT ASSAM HAS A HIGH RATE OF INFANT MORTALITY AND AN AVERAGE OF 31 PER CENT OF MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN THE STATE ARE IN THE PROHIBITED AGE

made it clear that the intention behind the crackdown and registration is not to harass any community. "We want to completely stop the evil of child marriage in the State in the next 2 to 3 years. But now, our biggest challenge is to file chargesheets within 60 to 90 days."

The Assam Government instructed its Police to act as per law against illegal child marriages across the State. As per the Cabinet's decision, men having married girls below 14-years will be booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and those having married girls between 14-18 years of age will be booked under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. These offenders will be arrested as per the provisions of the law, and these marriages will be declared illegal and unconstitutional. If the boy is also below 14 years of age, he will be sent to a reform house, as minors cannot be tried in court. The priests, Kazis and family members involved in the conduct of such marriages will also be booked.

In a press briefing after the Cabinet's decision, Dr Sarma's tweeted, "Assam Government is firm in its resolve to end the menace of child marriage in the state. So far Assam Police has registered 4,074 cases (of child marriage) across the state and more police action in coming days. I request all to cooperate."

Of the 4,074 cases of child marriage registered recently, the highest was reported in Muslim-majority districts of Dhubri (370) and, Hojai (255), Morigaon (224). There were

a large number of cases registered in Udalguri (235), and Kokrajhar (204) districts which have a substantial number of Muslim population.

Assam also has a high rate of infant mortality and as an average of 31 per cent of marriages registered in the state are in the prohibited age, according to reports of the National Family Health Survey.

## APPREHENSIONS

Professor Jnanendra Barman opined that child marriage has assumed an alarming proportion in the immigrant Muslim-dominated districts of Assam like Dhuburi, Goalpara, South Salmara-Mankachar. "The fertility rate is also higher in these districts. When the fertility rate of Hindus in Assam is 1.6, the fertility rate of immigrant Muslim is more than 3.4. The rate of women, who are already mothers or pregnant at 15-19 years, is comparatively higher in the immigrant Muslim-dominated districts. This has resulted in demographic imbalance in the state. Forcing a girl child to marry and then to motherhood at an age when she should be in the school is a crime. The UN has also described child marriage as human right violation. We have a law against child marriage but was not implemented; it remained like a tiger without teeth," said Prof

Assam Government under the able leadership of Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma has addressed this sensitive and critical underlying issue and seems determined to curb this menace. Social leadership should also play a vital role to address the issue

## ARREST OF KAZIS

In the massive drive against child marriage, Assam Police have, so far, arrested 2,528 offenders, including 75 Kazis. The arrests were mostly made from central and lower Assam districts with maximum illegal migrant Muslim population.

More than 8,000 accused were named in the 4,074 cases registered which includes numbers of Islamic Kazis and Maulanas and a few Purohits. Most of these child marriages took place in the lower Assam districts of Dhubri, Barpeta, Darrang Biswanath Chariali, Chirang, Bongaigaon, Goalpara and central Assam district of Nagaon and Morigaon. All these districts have a large population of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants.

Summing up, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said, "Our drive against child marriage is for public health and public welfare as teenage pregnancy ratio in Assam is quite alarming - 16.8 per cent. We are determined to continue this drive until we fulfil our objective. I urge the people to cooperate with us in controlling this harmful trend."

# ASSAM/CRACKDOWN AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGE



Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, while talking to SPs through Video conference in the presence of state DGP, GP Singh, regarding State-wide police action against child marriage

According to Government of India, teenage pregnancy rate in the illegal migrant Muslim populous district of Barpeta is 28.7 per cent, Dhubri is 27.9 per cent, Goalpara is 24.1 per cent, Goalpara is 22.3 per cent, Kokrajhar is 21.9 per cent, Darrang is 21.1 per cent and Morigaon is 20 per cent. Teenage pregnancy is one of the major factors of high mother and newborn mortality rate in the State.

Giving her response to the Government's crackdown, Chairperson of Assam state commission for protection of child right (ASCPCR) Sunita Changkakoty said that the move by the Government was much awaited. "It will send a strong message to society against the menace of child marriage," she said.

## BASELESS CRITICISM

It is not that the brave step against the menace of child marriage is welcomed by everyone. Opposition parties like Congress, AIUDF and even AIMIM are opposing the move. Congress State President Bhupen Bora wants the State Government to show humanity to the men who commit crimes like child marriage.

Defending his community, Badruddin Ajmal-led AIUDF said the BJP Government is targeting the Muslim population in the State. However, parties like AIUDF never accept the truth that more than 70 per cent child marriage happens amongst the Muslims in the State. Asaduddin

**ASSAM POLICE HAVE SO FAR ARRESTED 2528 OFFENDERS, INCLUDING 75 KAZI'S. THE ARRESTS WERE MOSTLY MADE FROM CENTRAL AND LOWER ASSAM DISTRICTS WITH MAXIMUM ILLEGAL MIGRANT MUSLIM POPULATIONS**

Owaisi said that the government should have tried to improve the literacy rate amongst Muslims before taking the step on child marriage. But the same Owaisi criticised the Assam Government when it converted nearly 4,000 madrassas to regular schools to give the Mohamden students modern education in Assam.

Not only political parties in India, foreign media including propaganda websites patronised by Muslim countries and Left wing are describing the move by Assam Government as anti-Muslim. These are the same people who want the Muslim population to educate only in Madrasas. Neither Left nor Congress talk about the need to increase awareness of modern education among Muslims, but if the Government wants to bring some reform for good, they are always ready to oppose it in the name of minority rights, said Professor Hirok Jyoti Sarma. ■



# SOARING IN THE SKY

AT A TIME WHEN THE DEMAND FOR INDIA'S DEFENCE EQUIPMENT, ESPECIALLY INDIGENOUS LCA TEJAS, IS GROWING ACROSS THE WORLD, THE 14TH EDITION OF AERO INDIA HOLDS SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE COUNTRY AND ITS DEFENCE SECTOR

Spectacular display by IAF Sarang Helicopter

## ■ R GURU PRASAD FROM BENGALURU

**B**engaluru is now all set to host the 14th edition of Aero India from February 13, 2023. Aero India, one of the biggest aero shows in Asia, is a biennial aero show and aviation exhibition to be held in Bengaluru at Yelahanka Air Force Station from February 13 to February 17, 2023. The show is organised by the Ministry of Defence. As manifested by its theme "The Runway to a Billion opportunities", Aero India provides a platform for various national and international aerospace and defence companies to showcase their advanced products and capabilities to explore business opportunities.

### FILLIP TO MAKE IN INDIA

As per reports, more than 550 companies from across the globe have registered through the official website, and the numbers are expected to go up. The show has received an incredible response due to the initiatives of the Ministry of Defence in the last few years. The five-day event will combine a major trade exhibition of the aerospace and defence industries and an aerial display by the Indian Air Force. Besides global leaders and big investors in the aerospace industry, the show will also see the participation of various think-tanks. This show will also provide a unique opportunity for the participants to exchange information, ideas, and new

developments in the aviation industry. Furthermore, to give a fillip to the domestic aviation industry, it would advance the cause of Make in India.

### DEFENCE MINISTERS' CONCLAVE

This time, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh will host Defence Ministers' Conclave on February 14, 2023, on the show's side lines. The conclave will comprise Defence Ministers of friendly countries. The conclave would address aspects related to deepening cooperation for capacity building, training, space, AI, and maritime security to grow together with the broad theme of 'Shared Prosperity through Enhanced Engagements in Defence' (SPEED). The conclave is an opportunity for Defence Ministers of all countries and India to engage with each other to carry forward Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Make in India, Make for the World' for a secure and prosperous future for generations.

Notably, the Narendra Modi Government has launched a campaign for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India), in the defence sector, which is aimed at increasing indigenous defence manufacturing and production capability to develop a self-sufficient defence ecosystem. It involves like-minded nations in developing a reliable supply chain free of exploitation

and disruptions by certain players and providing affordable and robust defence equipment to friendly countries.

## PROMISING GROWTH DESPITE PANDEMIC

The Indian defence sector has shown promising growth despite the disruptions caused by COVID-19. India is shifting its focus towards defence innovation and technology incorporation to design and develop future weapon systems. While the domestic requirements are large enough to sustain the indigenous industry, India would like to partner with friendly countries to take defence production to the next level and share the benefits to ensure shared prosperity. The growth in the aviation sector has been impressive, and other sectors are also poised well for massive expansion. The aerospace market is expanding in India with the exponential rise in demand for military equipment by defence forces. The aerospace industry is also gearing up to cater to the need for aircraft (fixed and rotary wings), UAVs, and communication systems. The opportunities in the aerospace industry for the Indian industries will enhance favourable defence policies with the other countries by creating an ecosystem in India. Satellite-enabled technologies such as Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI), chip manufacturing, and communication technology are areas where a massive scope for cooperation exists.

## LCA TEJAS AT THE CENTRE STAGE

A full-scale LCA-Tejas aircraft in Final Operational Clearance (FOC) configuration will be at the centre stage of the "India Pavilion" at Aero India 2023. The 14th Edition of Aero India will have a separate "India Pavilion" based on the theme of 'Fixed Wing Platform' to showcase India's growth in the fixed wing area, including the future prospects for the same. India Pavilion will further showcase the growth of India in developing an ecosystem for Fixed Wing platforms which includes the demonstration of various structural modules, simulators, systems (LRUs), etc., of LCA-Tejas aircraft being produced by private partners. There will also be a section for Defence space, new

**THE INDIAN DEFENCE SECTOR HAS SHOWN PROMISING GROWTH DESPITE THE DISRUPTIONS CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. INDIA IS SHIFTING ITS FOCUS TOWARDS DEFENCE INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY INCORPORATION TO DESIGN AND DEVELOP FUTURE WEAPON SYSTEMS**

technologies, and a UAV section which will give an insight into the growth of India in each sector.

## HIGHLY AGILE MACHINE

LCA Tejas is a single-engine, lightweight, highly agile, multi-role supersonic fighter. It has a quadruplex digital fly-by-wire Flight Control System (FCS) with associated advanced flight control laws. The aircraft with a delta wing is designed for 'air combat' and 'offensive air support' with 'reconnaissance' and 'anti-ship' as its secondary roles. Extensive use of advanced composites in the airframe gives a high strength-to-weight ratio, long fatigue life, and low radar signatures. Tejas is equipped with state-of-the-art features like a glass cockpit, zero-zero ejection seat, inflight refuelling probe, Jam proof AESA Radar, UEWS with SPJ, CMDS, HMDS DashV, BVR missile capability, and many more, which make the aircraft more lethal. LCA has come a long way in terms of development and is presently available in Air Force fighter & twin seater and LCA Navy fighter and twin seater. Other variants like LCA LIFT (Lead in fighter trainer) and MK-2 are being developed for LCA Tejas. Some of the uniqueness of the aircraft is that it is one of the smallest and lightest aircraft in its class. It has an excellent flight safety record, available in all four variants to meet all customer needs, composite constituting 90 per cent by area and 45 per cent by weight. It is supersonic at all altitudes with minimalistic RCS. It is a quad-redundant fly-by-wire aircraft with a payload carrying capacity of up to 30 per cent of AUW (all up weight). Its open architecture enables customised weapon integration and is maintenance-friendly with low operating costs. ■

According to the Ministry of Defence, Aero India 2023 will combine a major trade exhibition of the Aerospace and Defence industries as well as aerial display by IAF and others



# VAANI JAYARAM'S TALENT WAS AWE INSPIRING

VAANI JAYARAM SANG OVER 10,000 SONGS IN MANY INDIAN LANGUAGES AND A LOT OF DEVOTIONALS. SHE WAS HONOURED THRICE WITH NATIONAL AWARDS AND ALSO A FEW STATE AWARDS. THIS YEAR SHE WAS SELECTED FOR 'PADMABHUSHAN' FOR HER INVALUABLE SERVICE TO THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

■ S BAALI

“**H**umko Man ki Shakti Dena ...” The mind goes back to the 1970s. Yes, pray to God to give enough strength to bear this shocking and irreparable loss to all the connoisseurs of music in general and Vaani Jayaram’s fans in particular. Still unable to reconcile her departure from this eternal world, felt like penning a few words about this Gana Saraswathi who left us all, all of a sudden, creating a void...

Born into a traditional Iyengar family on November 30, 1945 as the fifth daughter of Smt. Padmavathy and Sri Duraiswamy Iyengar, in Vellore, she was actually given the name ‘Kalaivaani’. Since the family had a good musical background, it was natural for Kalaivaani to pursue music – learning Carnatic Classical under the able guidance of Cuddalore Sreenivasa Iyengar, TR Balasubramaniam and RS Mani. Her first



recording in the AIR was when she was eight years old. Even as she continued with music, she completed her degree from Queen Mary’s College,

Madras (today's Chennai).

Later, listening to Radio Ceylon inspired her to get involved with Hindi film music, sowing the seeds of interest to become a film playback artiste, memorizing and reproducing all the songs to perfection.

Her educational qualification landed her a job in the State Bank of India in Chennai. In 1967, she was transferred to Hyderabad. One of her colleagues in the branch remembers Duraiswamy Kalaivaani as fair and good looking, but very silent and hard working. One day, during a get-together to celebrate a colleague's promotion, the other lady employees sang a few songs. The manager requested Kalaivaani also to sing. Her voice left everyone spellbound and awestruck when she sang *O sajna, barkha bahaar aayee* and *Aajaare pardesi*. They were amazed also because she sang the Hindi songs to perfection, though she hailed from Tamil Nadu. After this, such instances became regular at office functions, creating a friendly atmosphere at the workplace.

In 1969, she got married to Jayaram, who was with the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Bombay. Thus, Duraiswamy Kalaivaani becoming Vaani Jayaram. On her request, she was transferred to Bombay (today's Mumbai). Being in Bombay and duly encouraged by Jayaram, she pursued her love for music and started taking lessons in Hindustani Music.

When Hrishikesh Mukherjee and Vasanth Desai were looking for a fresh voice, during a voice test they found her voice suitable for playback singing in Hindi. Thus she came to sing "Humko Man ki Shakti Dena..." and "Bole re pappihara" for Jaya Bhaduri's debut film "Guddi" released in 1971. There was no stopping thereafter (for some time)! When Pandit Ravishankar was looking for a fresh voice, he approached Vaani for his music for the film Meera. Vaani Jayaram sang all the songs in Meera, indirectly paving the way for her being sidelined in the Hindi film industry. It so transpired that eventually she had to look to the South.

In 1974, ace music director of the Tamil film industry M.S. Viswanathan gave her the first Tamil song "Malligai en Mannan mayangum" for the film Deerghasumangali, which became an instant hit and a rage all over Tamil Nadu. Later on "Ezhu swarangalukkul ethanai paadal" again by MSV for KB's Apoorva Raagangal, "Naane nana Yarodaana" for Ilaiyaraja, "Meghame meghame" for

Shankar Ganesh and umpteen number of songs in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya, Marathi—over 10,000 film songs in many Indian languages and a lot of devotionals.

In Kannada, she was most favourite to music directors Vijaya Bhaskar and M. Ranga Rao. Who can forget that most melodious meaningful Kvempu's "Teredide mane O baa atithi" sung by her with S. Janaki? Usually the first song to be performed on stage by any troupe — "Priyathama" "Sadaa Kannali" "Shraavana maasa bandaaga" "Endendoo ninnanu marethu" "O thangaaliye" "Malnaadin moolenaage" "Haadu haleyadaadaraenu" "Hodeya doora O jothegaara" "Savi nenapugalubaeku" and more... the list is long!

**SHE USED TO LISTEN TO THE MUSIC DIRECTOR JUST ONCE AND TAKE NOTES, THEN WHEN SHE SANG IT USED TO BE FLAWLESS! ON THE STAGE FOR A PERFORMANCE, SHE WAS PERHAPS THE ONLY PLAYBACK SINGER WHO COULD PERFORM IN THE SAME KEY AS WAS IN THE ORIGINAL RECORDING**

As a musician who has worked with her in studio recordings and shared the stage with her, I can say her talent was awe-inspiring. I used to see her listening to the Music Director only once and writing the song and notes flawlessly to repeat without a mistake... then when she sang, there was hardly any correction to be made. On the stage for a performance, she was perhaps the only playback singer who could perform in the same key as was in the original recording.

Soft spoken and highly dignified, Vaani Jayaram's husband expired in 2018 and she was living alone in her apartment in Haddow's Road, Chennai.

She was honoured thrice with National awards and also a few State awards. It's really unfortunate that she is not here to receive the prestigious 'PADMABHUSHAN' conferred on her for her invaluable service to the Music Industry.

My humble pranaam to the departed soul. ■



Thousands of Tibetans gathered in Himachal Pradesh's Dharamshala in March, 2019 to commemorate 60 years of the Tibetan uprising against Chinese rule that drove the Dalai Lama into exile

# COUNTERING CCP'S FALSE NARRATIVE

**SINCE THE CHINESE INVASION OF TIBET IN 1951, TIBETANS HAVE BEEN LIVING IN EXILE ACROSS THE GLOBE AND CONTINUE TO RAISE THEIR VOICE AGAINST THE RUTHLESS AND AGGRESSIVE COMMUNIST REGIME. TIBETANS, DWELLING IN EXILE SINCE 1959, OBSERVE THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF A 'FREE' AND 'INDEPENDENT' TIBET, ON FEBRUARY 13, THERE IS A NEED TO COUNTER FALSE CLAIMS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA**

## ANALYSIS



**VIJAY KRANTI**

Veteran China watcher and Chairman, Centre for Himalayan Asia Studies and Engagement

On February 13, this year, the 14th Dalai Lama and his fellow Tibetans, living in exile since 1959, will observe the 110th anniversary of a 'free' and 'independent' Tibet. It was on this day in 1913 when the 13th Dalai Lama made the historic 'Declaration of Independence' from a two-year-long occupation of Tibet's capital Lhasa by the Manchu army, which itself was on its last legs after a 296-year-long rule over China. Tibetans and their supporters across the world have made it a tradition in the last seven

decades to hold demonstrations outside Chinese embassies and call for world support to rehabilitate Tibet as an 'independent' country. At Dharamshala in India, the Tibetan refugees celebrate the historic day with colourful Tibetan dance and music while their government-in-exile issues formal statements to the world community for support.

In many parts of the world, especially at the Capitol Hill in Washington DC and the European Parliament, voices in



Original China in 1912

support of Tibet too are surely going to be raised. The Beijing government too is expected to issue strong objections to these events and warn the US Congress and some EU MPs against interfering in the 'internal matters' of China. Beijing is sure to assert once again that Tibet is "an inalienable part of China" with the argument that "Tibet has been always a part of China in history". This annual war of words may not shake the world but it surely calls for a relook at the reality behind China's loud claims, especially its claims of Tibet, Xinjiang, Southern Mongolia and Hong Kong as its 'internal matters' or its insistence over 'One China' policy.

## REALITY BEHIND CHINA'S CLAIMS

China's ultra-sensitivity about its colonies, namely Tibet (occupied: 1951), East Turkistan (renamed as 'Xinjiang' and occupied in 1949), Southern Mongolia (termed as 'Inner Mongolia' by Beijing and occupied in 1919) and Hong Kong (prematurely overwhelmed with the Chinese communist constitution in 2020 instead of 2047 as promised to Britain and the people of Hong Kong) is itself an indication of Beijing's guilt conscience. It is interesting to note that in Manchuria, the fifth colony of China (occupied in 1945) the original Manchu race has been so effectively overwhelmed, dissolved and digested into the Han Chinese' identity that there is hardly anyone left now to raise their

**IN TODAY'S CHINA, WHICH PRESENTS ITSELF PROUDLY AS A 'FAMILY OF 56 SISTER NATIONALITIES', THE HANS ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 92 PER CENT OF PRC'S POPULATION WHILE THE REST '55 SISTERS' HAVE BEEN GRADUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY REDUCED TO JUST ABOUT 8 PER CENT**

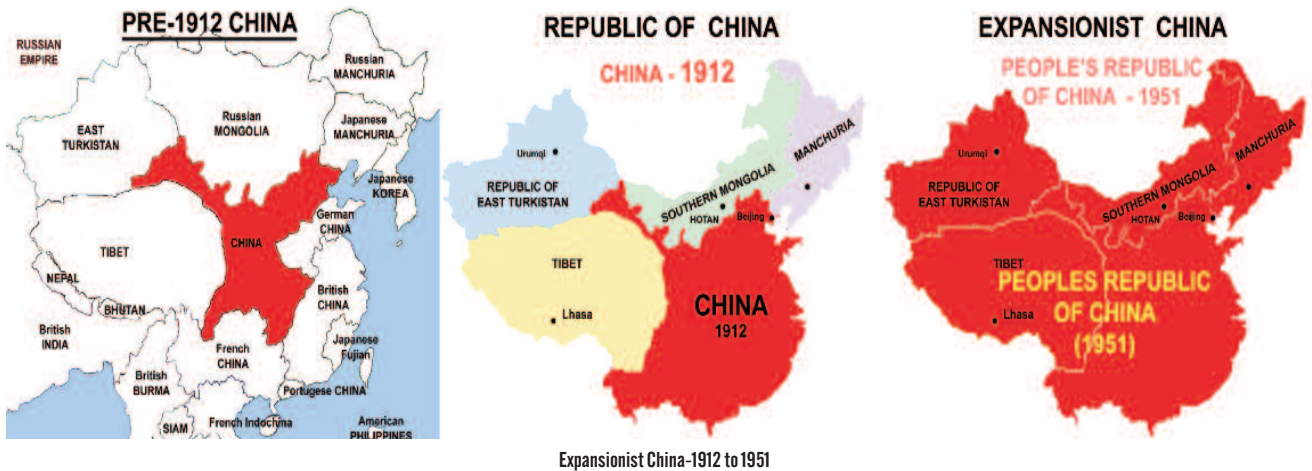
national voice unlike the Tibetans, Uyighurs, Mongols and the Hong Kongers who still have the capacity to make noise and win international attention.

The official demographic statistics of People's Republic of China (PRC) also reflect this enormous digestive power and the expansionist skills of its Han population, which happens to be the real 'Chinese' race. In today's China, which presents itself proudly as a 'family of 56 sister nationalities', the Hans account for about 92 per cent of PRC's population while the rest '55 sisters' have been gradually and collectively reduced to just about 8 per cent over decades since the 'Republic of China' came into existence since 1912. What is amazing is that despite the near total annihilation of its colonial subjects, the communist regime of today's China starts throwing tantrums and demonstrates its ultra-sensitivity even when microscopic sections of its subjects try to assert their independent identity.



Expansionist China in 1912 Original-Republic of China

# TIBET



Expansionist China-1912 to 1951

## BOYCOTTING BEIJING

This 'culpa-mia' nature of Beijing took a comic dimension (literally) in May 2001, when a Chinese government's sponsored publisher released the world famous comic book *Tintin In Tibet* in Beijing. Fanny Rodwell, the widow of Tintin's Belgian creator Herge, simply boycotted the release ceremony in Beijing because the Chinese edition bore a new title "*Tintin in China's Tibet*." Louis Michel, a loud champion of democracy and the Foreign Minister of Belgium who had especially flown to Beijing to hog the limelight, too had to raise his hands in despair when international media challenged him to justify the blatant politicisation of an already internationally famous literary work. The only defence he could dish out to hide his embarrassment was that "I am not a translator or publisher and I don't speak Chinese". However, the Chinese government and the publisher wondered over this 'uncalled for sensitivity,' demonstrated by their critics, and decided to go ahead with the book.

## APPROPRIATING GENGHIS KHAN

In a demonstration of the true communist art of appropriating history, just to support its immediate goals, the Chinese government released an ambitious 40-episode long epic TV series *Genghis Khan* in 2004 on its CCTV national network of television. The main purpose behind this entire exercise was to appropriate Genghis Khan as a 'Great son of China' who had founded the vast Mongol Empire in the 13th century (1206) and his dynasty had ruled over China for more than 300 years. Beijing tried to persuade other governments to run this epic on their national TV networks but could not succeed beyond its two willing friends North Korea (KBS network) and the Turkish

state (TRT). Genghis Khan and his descendants ruled over the erstwhile China along with many other countries of larger Asia. It was the Qing dynasty of Manchuria which later replaced the Mongols to subjugate the Ming Empire of the Han China. This makes a 706-year-long history of subjugation and foreign occupation of China.

Interestingly, China's communist historian rewriters are now on an overdrive to establish that, like the Ming Empire the Mongol Empire, and the Manchu Empire too were 'Chinese' Empires and that the present day PRC is a product of 'seamless transition of history'. The real purpose of Xi Jinping's new army of Chinese historians is to prepare a logical ground to finally assert that all areas, ruled by the Mongols and the Manchus over past eight centuries, legitimately belong to today's China. The immediate goal of this Chinese narrative is to let the world forget that it was not China which was ruled by these empires, but it was China who ruled over vast areas of Asia and adjoining regions through these 'great sons of China'. Once established, this narrative is surely going to give a historic base to not only legitimise its colonial occupation of Tibet, East Turkistan and a part of Mongolia but it will also open doors for establishing China's claims over many parts of Russia, Europe and many countries of Central and South-East Asia.

It's evident that if the newly emerging superpower, under President Xi and his communist party, succeeds in imposing its new narrative on the world community, it can open a new Pandora's box for other countries too. Then India could easily claim Australia as a 'part of India' or even New Zealand too could claim India as its own 'inalienable part' because all of them were once occupied and ruled by Great Britain. ■



# TECTONIC DISASTER

Crushed cars underneath a collapsed building in Hatay, southern Türkiye, following a devastating earthquake

**A POWERFUL EARTHQUAKE FOLLOWED BY A SERIES OF AFTERSHOCKS, THREE OF THEM ABOVE 6.0 MAGNITUDE, HAVE CAUSED MAJOR DEVASTATION IN TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA. INDIA HAS EXTENDED IMMEDIATE HELP TO DEAL WITH THE DISASTER AND SENT IN RELIEF AND RESCUE TEAMS, EQUIPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BOTH COUNTRIES**

■ **BHUPENDRA KUMAR SULLERE**

**E**arthquakes of devastating proportions occurred in the southeast of Türkiye, near the border with Syria on February 6, 2023. Data from seismometers, which measure the shaking of the ground due to an earthquake, suggest the powerful event (seismic waves) was caught by sensors around the world. You can witness the seismic waves ripple across Europe, encompassing affected places as far away as the UK.

The tremors have had dire ramifications, devastating the people and the infrastructure in the region. More than 11,000 people are confirmed dead and thousands of

buildings have been dashed to the ground in Türkiye and Syria till the time of writing. Also, there are reports of gas pipelines catching fire.

## **PRONE TO EARTHQUAKES**

This region of Türkiye is prone to earthquakes, because it lies at the intersection of three tectonic plates—that make up the earth's crust. The Anatolian, Arabian, and African plates. Arabia is moving north towards Europe, causing the Anatolian Plate (on which Türkiye is located) to be pushed West. The movement of tectonic plates exerts



People and emergency teams rescue a person on a stretcher from a collapsed building in Adana, Türkiye

**THE FIRST EARTHQUAKE ON FEBRUARY 6 AT MAGNITUDE 7.8 WAS PARTICULARLY VAST AND DESTRUCTIVE BECAUSE IT WAS SO ENERGETIC. IT WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LARGER THAN ANYTHING THIS REGION HAS EXPERIENCED BEFORE, RELEASING AND DISCHARGING MORE THAN TWICE THE ENERGY AS THE LARGEST EARTHQUAKE PREVIOUSLY RECORDED IN THE REGION. ACCORDING TO THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS), ONLY THREE EARTHQUAKES LARGER THAN MAGNITUDE OF 6 HAVE OCCURRED WITHIN 250 KM OF THIS LOCATION SINCE 1970**

pressure on fault zones at their boundaries. It is the sudden occurrence of this pressure which causes earthquakes and the unprecedented shaking of the ground.

The latest earthquake is likely to have occurred on one of the major faults marking the boundaries between the Anatolian and Arabian plates: either the East Anatolian Fault or the Dead Sea Transform Fault. These are both "strike-slip faults", meaning that these accommodate some of the motion of plates moving past one another.

## **BIGGER THAN THE PAST**

While many earthquakes occur every year due to the ongoing movement of tectonic plates in the region, this earthquake

was particularly vast and destructive because it was so energetic. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) states that only three earthquakes larger than 6 magnitude on the have occurred within 250 km of this location since 1970.

At magnitude 7.8, the event of February 6, 2023, is significantly larger than anything this region has experienced before, releasing and discharging more than twice the energy as the largest earthquake previously recorded in the region. Modern seismologists apply the moment magnitude scale, which represents the amount of energy released by an earthquake (the Richter scale is older, though sometimes incorrectly cited in the news).

We think of seismic energy as coming from a single location or epicentre, but these are actually caused by movement in the area of a fault. The bigger the earthquake, the bigger is the fault area which would have moved and shaken. An object as large as this magnitude 7.8 is expected to move in a region of about 190 km long and 25 km wide. This means that the tremors must have been felt over a much larger area. Terrible shaking (enough to cause horrendous property damage) is estimated to have affected 610,000 people in the surrounding area about 80 km to the northeast along the tectonic plate boundary. Mild tremors were felt by as far as Türkiye's largest city Istanbul (about 815 km away), as well as by Baghdad (800 km) in Iraq and Cairo (950 km) in Egypt.

## **AFTERSHOCKS**

Large earthquakes are followed by many smaller earthquakes, known as aftershocks, as the crust readjusts

## “A FRIEND IN NEED IS A FRIEND INDEED”

- As soon as reports of the massive devastation in Türkiye and Syria started coming in, India immediately extended all possible help to the affected countries.
- Union Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan visited Turkey's embassy on 6 February itself, and conveyed PM Narendra Modi's message of sympathy & humanitarian support. He underscored India's readiness to send relief material, as well as NDRF & medical teams to assist Türkiye.
- Fırat Sunel, Ambassador of Türkiye to India, replied to India's gesture in a Tweet: "Dost" is a common word in Turkish and Hindi... We have a Turkish proverb: "Dost kara günde belli olur" (a friend in need is a friend indeed). Thank you very much



A team of the NDRF personnel with a specially trained dog squad along with necessary equipment, including an array of medical supplies, advanced drilling machines, and other crucial tools required for the aid efforts, departed for Türkiye for search and rescue operations

### OPERATION DOST

India has launched 'Operation Dost' to provide necessary support in terms of Search and Rescue (SAR) efforts as well as medical aid. India has deputed more than 250 personnel, dedicated equipment and other relief material, aggregating to more than 135 tonnes, to Türkiye on 5C-17 IAF aircrafts.

The assistance includes three self-sustained teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) numbering more than 150 specially trained personnel, along with dog squads, specialized equipment, vehicles and supplies. Their equipment allows for detection, location, access and extrication of people trapped under collapsed structures.

Besides, personnel and equipment have been sent to set up a 30-bed self-sustained field hospital of the Indian Army. This comprises a team of 99 specially trained personnel, with essential medicines, advanced equipment, vehicles and ambulances. The hospital provides a fully functional operation theatre, and facilities such as X-ray, ventilators, etc.

To Syria, more than 6 tonnes of emergency relief assistance has been delivered through a C130J IAF aircraft to Damascus. The consignment includes medicines for emergency use, fluids for hydration, protective gear, general use medicines and medical equipment such as ECG machine, patient monitor etc.

to the change in stress. These may persist for days to years after the initial event. Three more earthquakes of magnitude above 6.0 occurred in the first 12 hours after the initial tremor in southeast Türkiye.

The first was of magnitude 6.7, which occurred only 11 minutes after the first shock, followed by hundreds of smaller magnitude aftershocks. The second, of magnitude 7.5, occurred farther north on a separate but adjacent fault system: The Sergu Fault. Technically this was powerful enough to count as a separate earthquake in its own right,

although it is likely triggered by an earlier earthquake. And it will generate its own series of aftershocks. While aftershocks are usually much smaller than the principal shock, these can have equally devastating consequences, further damaging infrastructure destroyed by the first earthquake and thereby hampering rescue efforts. As the aftermath of these massive earthquakes is being felt by people living in the region, we can only hope that Türkiye and Syria are aided and helped by the international community as early as feasible to supplement with the ongoing rescue efforts. ■



# 'MAPPING OUR ROADS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE'

MapMyIndia is a deep tech company, which with its state-of-the-art mapping, navigation, geospatial analytics and IOT, is one of India's leading companies working towards an Aatmanirbhar Bharat. Organiser representative **Deepti J Verma** talked to **Rohan Verma, CEO** of MapMyIndia, about what it takes to navigate the start-up ecosystem and its breakthrough from 15 years of Digital Colonisation. Excerpts:

■ **Tell us how your parents started the company and when did you decide to join it ?**

MapMyIndia was started in 1995 by my parents. They are IIT Roorkee and BITS Pilani graduates. They believed that someday 80 per cent of all Indian data will have a location component to it, and digital maps will play an important role in our lives – whether individuals, businesses, Government or society. At that time, there were no digital maps available in India. Now people call them visionaries but at that time they were defamed, made fun of and called 'crazy'. In that interregnum, they went walking, running and driving through millions of miles across the country, collecting and assembling data and saving it digitally. Since then, it's been their conviction, and mine too, that there are infinite utilities and cases of maps – whether it's food delivery, e-commerce, Government infrastructure planning or just our daily

routine affairs or personal lives.

- **From coming close to selling the company at one point to getting it listed in 2021 and then having been accredited and declared as an Indian Unicorn, it has been quite a leap forward. What happened in your favour in this interregnum?**

We realised along the way that we had built a digital platform and an institution. It was obviously natural for other big players to be interested in its strategic or management buying, and on our part, a temptation to sell emerged, but as the realisation set in that we have built something concrete and sound foundation to last, a floatation of an IPO was the most logical step. As you might observe, MapMyIndia is a unique entity in its concept. There's no company matching its features and characteristics in the world, leave alone India, as it is a company that has covered a country as vast and complex as India. It has created a digital asset of such a colossal volume. It has also created a robust technological platform besides asset base to deliver other services for consumers and enterprises.

- **MapMyIndia has spoken against "digital slavery of 15 years" caused by the Google ecosystem, with Google Maps being a pre-loaded option on phones. Let us talk about that. What have been some of the biggest challenges and wins for a homegrown deep tech company in the last couple of years?**

In 1700s, India's GDP was 27 per cent of the world market. After the British and the East India Company left India after 200 years of ruling, looting and plundering, it was down to only 3 per cent. Everything that India had to offer in terms of resources and market was abused and misused for the gain of the British. However, at that time very few people could have realised what was happening. In fact, many among the Indian public still favour that imperialistic mindset and believe the British administered us well, imparted great education and provided us infrastructure. This is a deep-rooted colonisation attitude. Similarly, in the last 15 years, very few people have realised and questioned why, with all our technical talent and

The PM has already christened this decade as India's 'techade', and it's exciting to see how we can work together to help and enable Indians – like using geospatial technology for infrastructure development, deciding where roads, schools, and hospitals should come up

entrepreneurial expertise, India remains a market for global digital and tech giants and India has not become a market leader. Indians, without questioning, are using all foreign big tech products. The reason for that is, as very rightly investigated by the Competition Commission of India, and upheld by the Supreme Court, that Google has digitally colonised India in such a manner that people don't know about indigenous apps. All we are asking for is to extend to us a level playing field and then Indian consumers will benefit from it.

- **That brings us to the question of how consumers benefit from this app. How uniquely Indian is it? You have spoken of the product market fit; what makes it perfect for the Indian consumers?**

It has about 20 features, which are unique and dedicated to the Indian consumers. For example, Google Maps only show you a 2D view of the roads, which becomes absurd and confusing, especially when there's a flyover. The MapMyIndia app, on the other hand, displays a 3D view so that you can have an added and informed decision. The 2D view was one reason attributed to car crashes and accidents. This also resulted in the fatal car accident of Cyrus Mistry. The MapMyIndia app could've averted that. We also tell consumers about curves, potholes, or speeding cameras, which help prevent rash driving and accidents. Our expertise doesn't end here. We are now guiding virtual tours of religious places and other cultural heritage spots. Our 3D views not only give a real-time feel

## INTERVIEW/ ROHAN VERMA, CEO OF MAPMYINDIA



Ramayana Map on canvas by MapMyIndia

of the place, for a tourist or targeted consumer but can also help the authorities during disaster management, emergency response or counter-terrorism.

- **Let's talk about your collaboration with the Government. How is the current government helping in leveraging a homegrown company? And how is an indigenous deep tech company, in turn, helping the Government and public service initiatives? Take us through your collaboration with the CoWIN app as well as ISRO?**

When COVID-19 struck, our first response was how to use the knowledge and technology of maps to improve the situation for ordinary people. This also happens to be our mission statement. We wanted to help people know in real time about the nearby testing centres, vaccination centres, COVID-19 centres and containment zones. The Government put us on the CoWIN app. With ISRO, the idea is an entirely indigenous full-stack solution, from ground-based maps to leveraging ISRO satellites for earth observation mapping. When ISRO and MapMyIndia work in unison, there's no need for a third party or foreign player, which has been a fantastic association.

- **What is the Unique Location Identity pin? Please help our readers understand.**

We call it the Mappls pin. In India, addresses can be complex. It's not easy to explain sometimes, such as such floor, building and gate. So with this six-digit pin, you can make someone easily reach your doorstep. Now, we have tied this pin to apps like Grofers and Phone Pe and are quite sanguine that

more and more people use it for their unique home and office addresses.

- **How did you come up with the Ramayana Map? What is its significance beyond being a collector's item?**

The Ramayana Map was my father's idea. During the pandemic, he thought that we should use our mapping technology for something that could touch the heart of all Indians, that could combine our expertise with our cultural heritage. Our team has made a work of art map of ancient *Akhand Bharat*, mapping Bhagwan Rama's journey from Ayodhya to Lanka, using accurate scale and ancient distance units on antique paper canvas. We have also given interesting trivia associated with every place, so the children can consume this knowledge in an interesting bite-sized way. Some schools have already ordered these, and we hope that more and more people, especially Indians living abroad, would keep these in their homes.

- **What are your future plans and new additions to your brand stack? What are some of the AI trends that you are excited about?**

We stand for cutting-edge technology and are going to keep making headway there, but we are also excited about the government's attitude towards tech. The Prime Minister has already called this decade 'techade', and it is exciting to see how we can work together to help Indians – like using geospatial technology for infrastructure development and deciding where roads, schools, and hospitals should come up. This can, in turn, be monitored with drones and the IOT. All of it can be well-planned and not random.

- **Let's talk about the Start-up ecosystem in India. How exciting is it? If you were asked, what would be your three big tips to share with younger entrepreneurs and how to navigate the markets?**

It would be best if you look to make a positive dent in the world. Look for a user base which is troubled by something, and then provide a solution in a cost-effective, unique and scalable manner. The third would be to run your business transparently and fairly. ■



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# वर्ष प्रतिपदा

## विशेषांक

‘नववर्ष’ नवचेतना और स्फूर्ति से भारतीय जनमानस को हर्षोल्लसित करता आया है हम पञ्चजन्य और **Organiser** राष्ट्रीय साप्ताहिक पत्रिका के माध्यम से भारत के विकास के सारथी कृषकों पर आधारित एक विशेषांक ला रहे हैं जो नववर्ष एवं नवीन फसल को समर्पित है। यह विशेषांक किसानों और कृषि को आधुनिकता प्रदान करने वाले उद्यमियों पर केंद्रित है जिनका मानना है की उन्नत कृषि से किसान समृद्ध होगा जो एक राष्ट्र के निर्माण की रूपरेखा तैयार करेगा।

**Issue Date** : 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023

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**वर्ष प्रतिपदा विशेषांक (कृषि विशेष) में विज्ञापन हेतु संपर्क करें**

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**Engineering Social Change:** Speakers at an event titled “Lead The Future”, in which Delhi University and Samarth Bharat launched Career Development Centre at Convention Hall of DU

# AN ECOSYSTEM FOR CHANGE-MAKERS

**THE DELHI UNIVERSITY AND SAMARTH BHARAT HAVE COME TOGETHER TO LAUNCH A CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (CDC), WHICH SEEKS TO CREATE A START-UP SUPPORT ECOSYSTEM IN COLLEGES THAT WILL ENCOURAGE YOUTH TO BECOME JOB PROVIDERS RATHER THAN JOB SEEKERS**

■ **MADHUR TANKHA**

It was while working for the Indian public during the COVID-19 pandemic that it dawned upon Bharat Bhushan Arora, MD of Bharat Prakashan, that something concrete needs to be done on a fast track mode to mitigate the suffering of such a large number of people. The result was that Samarth Bharat was born. Samarth Bharat is an organisation engaged in expanding skill development efforts by creating a result-oriented implementation framework for employers. In a way, it is working for the 360-degree development of the economically weaker and socially deprived classes.

Throwing light on how *karyakartas* worked round-the-clock to help people, especially economically marginalised families, during the COVID-19 crisis, Shri Bharat Bhushan, who is also the Patron of Samarth Bharat and Prant Karyavah, RSS, said: “During the pandemic, we ran kitchens for two months to feed the public. It was a difficult phase yet we succeeded in distributing food to 1 crore people and gave rations to 2 lakh families. However, I asked myself how long we can keep distributing food? We need to do something more

as a lot of people have become jobless. Many sectors, including hospitality, were badly affected.”

Pointing out that many who lost their livelihood in that phase are now earning good money, Shri Bharat Bhushan said: “We laid emphasis on skill development. Thanks to this approach, Kiran, a girl who lost her father, is now earning Rs 20,000 per month. These children are before my eyes.” Many such children are earning Rs 15,000 to Rs 50,000, he said, while articulating how social engineering was necessary to bring about a change in society. He was speaking at an event titled “Lead The Future”, in which the Delhi University and Samarth Bharat launched Career Development Centre (CDC) at the Convention Hall of DU on February 7.

The CDC seeks to create a start-up support ecosystem in colleges, which will include guidance for start-up ideation and launch, incubation centre connect, pitch development and investor tie-ups.

The event saw a large turn-up of prospective entrepreneurs dreaming of their own startups. They

# REPORT/DU & SAMARTH BHARAT

listened with rapt attention to the success stories of entrepreneurs, some young and others with plenty of experience. All of them gave valuable lessons on how to climb the ladder of success.

Describing the event as an important one, Prof Yogesh Singh, Delhi University Vice-Chancellor said the Career Development Centre started by Samarth Bharat will introduce young minds to skill development. Noting that this is the centenary year of Delhi University, Prof Singh welcomed everyone. "Your presence influences young minds," he said.

Recalling a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor of Yale University in 2011, Prof Yogesh Singh said, "I was invited by the Vice Chancellor. He was worried about the future of young entrepreneurs in the US as the manufacturing units had shifted elsewhere. I thought if America was having a problem, then we too need to give equal importance to manufacturers. We need to imbibe originality, creativity and imagination." He stressed the importance of skill development and having the right mindset to bring about a change.

Sanjeev Bhikhchandani of Naukri.com, an alumnus of Delhi University, said he began working after graduating in 1984. "Looking back, I can say it has been 39 years of evolution. During my time, there was no IT sector, no Internet. Telecompany or mobile apps were non-existent. Fortunately, we have now witnessed tremendous growth." In his speech, he sought to break the myth that an entrepreneur needs to have a lot of money before embarking on any project. "No venture capital is needed. Take the case of Zomato, which started its business with a motorcycle but is now a listed company." His advice to the young audience was to dream big but start small.

Challenging the traditional way of earning livelihood, speaker after speaker emphasised the need for youngsters to become job providers rather than job seekers.

Underlining the need for running one's own private venture, Ruchi Kalra, co-founder of Oxyzo, said, "Apna Kam" is the theme today. She called upon young entrepreneurs to work with conviction and not be a prototype of somebody. Ending on a pragmatic note, Ruchi said, "Once you start running your start-up, not everything will be well defined. So you have to define things. In three years, you should be raising capital. Only then, growth can be exponential. Remember, it is not about you but about others."

Abhishek Sinha, co-founder and CEO of Eko India Financial Services, urged young entrepreneurs to keep



their creativity alive. "If I become a 20-year-old again, I would like to devote my whole day to creative indulgence. So, the youth has to break norms and be fearless," he said.

Anubhav Dubey, CEO of 'Chai, Sutta Bar', explained how his *pitaji* (father) pinned high hopes on him after his aggregate in Class VIII was 96 per cent. "Pitaji wanted me to crack the UPSC, but I couldn't fulfil his dream," said the young entrepreneur, who has created a sort of revolution in expanding his tea-chain to offshore destinations. Amidst loud laughter from the audience, Anubhav said in cities children call their paterfamilias as Dad or Papa, but in our part of the world (in the interiors) we call him *baap*.

Explaining how he has succeeded in creating employment generation, Anubhav said, "Two thousand five hundred families are now making *kulhars* for us. We have 470 shops and five lakh *kulhars* are made. We have a daily turnover of Rs 50 lakh. So, you have to respect the market and start young."

Ramesh Agarwal, Chairman, Agarwal Packers & Movers, devoted most of his speech to why and how he made the switch from being an Airman to an entrepreneur.

Balasubramaniam, of Ken 42, said today it is not about employability but also deployability. ■



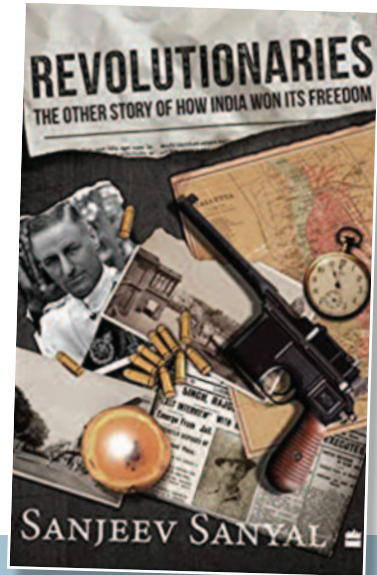
# A THRILLING NARRATIVE OF FREEDOM STRUGGLE

THE BOOK 'REVOLUTIONARIES: THE OTHER STORY OF HOW INDIA WON ITS FREEDOM', PENNED BY SANJEEV SANYAL, CHRONICLES TALES OF OUR NATIONALIST ANCESTORS, WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE FAMOUS THAN THE ONES WHOSE CAREERS HAVE BEEN UNREASONABLY AMPLIFIED

■ **SHARMI ADHIKARY**

**B**y the time one reaches the last chapter of *Revolutionaries: The Other Story of How India Won its Freedom*, it is difficult to explain the myriad emotions Sanjeev Sanyal's storytelling evinces from the reader. While these are lesser-known tales of how our country emerged free from the clutches of the British imperialists, the amount of lies we have been subjected to so that we do not know these embedded truths about our history leaves you numb. While you assimilate the detailing of events, incidents and the journeys of our revolutionaries, it is hard to shake away anger or disgust at the abject torture our ancestors and their families faced, the diabolical betrayals of our own and yet feel inspired by the dashing bravado of their deeds or monumental sacrifices they selflessly made.

In a book that hooks you with its thrilling narrative, emotional crests and pacy style, I assure you there will be times when you will pause to think how systematically these chapters were scrubbed off from public conscience and discourse lest we 'fathom' how Bharat's freedom was earned through pitched and passionate battles. We emerged from the cruel shackles of



**Title:** *Revolutionaries: The Other Story of How India Won Its Freedom*, **Author:** Sanjeev Sanyal, **Publisher:** HarperCollins India, **Pp** 364, **₹** 499.00

colonialism because of the blood our heroes split. The license to live an unfettered life wasn't gifted via an amicable resolution. It was earned through decades of armed resistance and fierce pushback by young nationalists, whose sagas got swept amidst the cloud of chapters, carefully crafted, to present a story that is anything but true. As you flip through the pages of Sanyal's important work, delivered with a rare sensitivity and balance (objectivity in observation has always been a high in Sanyal's repertoire), you are bound to feel a lump in your throat from that gut-wrenching realisation. Such is the pathos in our tumultuous past.

There are revelations galore in our years of colonial slavery. For instance, who exactly was Sri Aurobindo and what brought him to the path of spirituality. Yet, even while the reader is regaled by the story of his emerging as one of the most prominent personalities to steer the national movement in its early days (to think that the foundation of Jadavpur University, a

hotbed of Left-centric student politics now, was laid by Sri Aurobindo, a staunch believer in *Sanatan Dharma*, a proud Hindu and *Bharatiya* who decided to re-establish civilisational moorings of the nation later), it was perhaps the few lines on Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki that will leave a lasting imprint on the mind. "Khudiram walked all night to reach the railway station in Wani. Two local police constables noticed something suspicious about him and grabbed him before the tired boy even had the chance to take out his revolver. He was later sentenced to death by hanging... Prafulla pulled out his revolver and fired wildly at the pursuers, but realising that he was trapped, he turned the gun around and killed himself with the last bullet." No movie or book has rubbed this fact so blatantly as *Revolutionaries* has. That the British were being driven up the wall by daring acts of men as young as 18-19 years of age (the list of names is endless). More importantly, they gave up their lives to secure *azaadi* for the nation without batting their eyelids!

Instead of dwelling much on the duplicitous decisions and unhinged temperament of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (and the loyalists) related to the Moplah Hindu Genocide, the Chauri Chaura incident and various other political and sociological happenings of those years, Sanyal has invested more on bringing lesser known, rather circulated names, to the forefront, armed with exhaustive research and an extensive canvas that establishes how our Indian revolutionaries operated not in just some pockets of undivided India but their network was strong globally. This is proved citing several global affairs and significant international characters that brushes away the suggestion that the armed struggle was not just some mere freak incidents taking place but were results of strategic planning and execution. That doesn't discount the flaws in fine print, the follies, or the impulsiveness of those who had best interests in their hearts but were misguided at times. Neither are the backstabbers spared, who grovelled before the colonisers, either out of fear or for personal gains.

Reigning in the melodrama, or should we say, knowing just where to stop, Sanyal's dwelling on Kalapani is a hard-hitting reminder of the psycholog-

ical, mental and sexual depravities the British unleashed on our freedom fighters. Similarly, the author carefully debunks the tag of 'terrorists' which the revolutionaries were stamped with on purpose. The sinister agenda to divide and destroy the nation based on religious differences is reflected on, too, through various citations. And then of course you have the portions on the racial abuse by hypocritical fiends such as Winston Churchill and the deconstruction of the many man-made famines, including the horrible one in Bengal, that showcases the outright discrimination and abject cruelty (read about how prostitution was sanctioned) of the imperialists against Indians. These are difficult chapters to navigate through, albeit extremely important ones.

**THE AUTHOR CAREFULLY DEBUNKS THE TAG OF 'TERRORISTS', WHICH THE REVOLUTIONARIES WERE STAMPED WITH ON PURPOSE. THE SINISTER AGENDA TO DIVIDE AND DESTROY THE NATION BASED ON RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES IS REFLECTED ON, TOO, THROUGH VARIOUS CITATIONS**

However, despite the extremely unnerving nature of the subject, Sanyal's objective is never to let the depressive air hover around. Interspersing the torrid truth of turmoil with tales of honour, bravery and relentless desire to free India, the initiative was after all to get the nation to know what exactly happened. "These are thrilling stories of our heroes, some of whom have never been spoken about. The idea was to familiarise them with the India of today," says Sanyal. No wonder, he has included love stories as well, which will make you shed silent tears as you feel poignancy in them. What the author has so beautifully achieved through his labour of love is the recognition of personalities who instil in us yet again a profound pride for our country. The book hits the raw nerve in every conscious *Bharatiya* so that they persistently imbibe what the nationalists fought for and why must their indefatigable valour and heroic sacrifice never ever be forgotten. And their unmitigated love for the Motherland. ■



## PRIME MINISTER DEDICATES TO THE NATION HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LTD HELICOPTER FACTORY

ON February 6, 2023, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Helicopter Factory at Tumakuru in Karnataka. The factory is India's largest helicopter manufacturing



facility and will initially produce Light Utility Helicopters (LUH). The LUH is an indigenously designed and developed three-ton class, single engine multipurpose utility helicopter. Initially, this factory will produce 30 helicopters / year and can be enhanced to 60 and then 90 / year in a phased manner. The Prime Minister expressed delight that hundreds of arms and defence equipment are being manufactured in India which are being used by the Armed Forces. The Prime Minister also pointed out that the investment made in this sector in the last 8-9 years is five times the investment made before 2014 plus 15 years prior. The Prime Minister underlined that Made in India arms are not just supplied to the armed forces but the defence exports have also grown manifold when compared to the years before 2014. In his address, the Raksha Mantri lauded the Prime Minister's visionary leadership, saying that it has fuelled the rise of a 'New India' which has the ability to illuminate the world with its light.

The Greenfield Helicopter Factory is planned with a vision to become a one-stop solution for all helicopter requirements of the country. After initially producing LUHs, the factory will be augmented to produce other helicopters such as Light Combat Helicopters (LCHs) and Indian Multirole Helicopters (IMRHs). It will also be used for Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul of LCH, LUH, Civil Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) and IMRH in the future.

## MAIDEN LANDING OF LCA NAVY AND MIG-29K FIGHTER AIRCRAFT ONBOARD INS VIKRANT



LCA (Navy), the Naval variant of the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft carried out its maiden landing onboard INS Vikrant on February 6, 2023. This successful deck landing by LCA (Navy) would pave the way for development and manufacturing of deck-based fighter aircraft for the Indian Navy by the HAL. Reports indicate that MiG-29MK aircraft also undertook its maiden landing on board INS Vikrant.

## INDIA'S NDRF TEAM DEPARTS FOR EARTHQUAKE-HIT TURKIYE AND SYRIA

INDIA has dispatched its NDRF teams with special equipment including 54 members of the medical team with a field hospital as a part of the Humanitarian aid to Turkiye and Syria. India is extending its support to Turkiye and Syria in the ongoing crisis after the devastating earthquake jolted the region on February 6, 2023. Six C-17 Globemaster III of IAF have ferried the teams along with the requisite equipment.



## ACQUISITION OF FUTURISTIC INFANTRY COMBAT VEHICLE



(Pic Tata Motors - Prototype of FICV)

**DEFENCE** Acquisition Council has approved an 'Acceptance of Necessity for the procurement of the Futuristic Infantry Combat Vehicle (FICV) for the Indian Army under 'Buy (Indian)' category. The FICV should be amphibious and equip a manned turret with the future combat system, and fire-and-forget top-attack anti-tank guided missiles.

## PROCUREMENT OF 41 INDIGENOUS MODULAR BRIDGES



(Pic <https://theindia.tv/>)

MoD has approved the proposal for indigenous manufacture of 41 sets of Modular Bridges for the Indian Army at a cost of Rs 2,585 crore. These bridges have been designed and developed by DRDO and shall be produced by Larsen & Toubro as DRDO-nominated production agency.

## REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL PROPOSAL FOR 850 NANO DRONES



(Pic <https://arcatoscana.org/>)

**MoD** has issued a RFI to procure 850 Nano with complete accessories through fast-track procedure under emergency procurement under 'Buy India' category. The existing volatile situation prevailing along the northern borders and in hinterland in disturbed areas mandates urgent procurement of Nano Drones for enhancing immediate situational awareness of the troops.

## IAF INITIATES PROCESS TO ACQUIRE NEW TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT UNDER 'MAKE IN INDIA' INITIATIVE

**THE** has initiated the process of acquiring Medium Transport Aircraft to replace its old AN-32 aircraft, which are to be manufactured in India. IAF currently has over 90 AN-32 aircraft. The RFI requires the vendors to provide details on establishing dedicated manufacturing line in India, including design, integration and manufacturing processes either through their own subsidiaries or in joint ventures. They should also consider making India a regional or global hub for manufacturing as well as maintenance, repair and overhaul of the aircraft.



## DEFENCE PENSIONERS REQUESTED TO COMPLETE ANNUAL IDENTIFICATION BY FEBRUARY 20, 2023

**ALL** the Defence Pensioners drawing Pension through System for Pension Administration (Raksha) or SPARSH are required to complete Annual Identification by February 20, 2023. MoD had earlier approved the extension of pension payment for three months for banks' pensioners, who migrated to SPARSH and whose identification was due in November 2022. 3,19,366 Defence pensioners drawing pension through SPARSH have not yet completed their Annual Identification, as per the information currently available with the Defence Accounts Department.



## VISIT OF LT GEN HUN MANET, DEPUTY COMMANDER IN CHIEF, ROYAL CAMBODIAN ARMED FORCES

**LIEUTENANT** General Hun Manet, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and Commander of Royal Cambodian Army visited India from February 2nd to 4th, 2023. During the visit, he called on the Vice President of India, Raksha Mantri, External Affairs Minister, Deputy National Security Advisor, Chief of the Army Staff and the Chief of Defence Staff. During the meeting, General Manoj Pande reaffirmed India's support to Cambodia by offering them customised training modules and Lt Gen Hun Manet announced the schedule for the conduct of first Army to Army Staff Talks in Cambodia. ■



# TREATING SANSKRIT WITH REVERENCE

**SANSKRIT MAY BE AN ANCIENT LANGUAGE, BUT IT HAS CONTEMPORARY RELEVANCE. IT IS HIGH TIME THAT THIS LANGUAGE IS PROMOTED, AS IT CAN BRING ABOUT COMPASSION AND DEEP PEACE AMONG THE ENTIRE HUMANITY**

**A**lphabets are symbols conveying universal meaning among the knowers/users of the language to which those very alphabets belong. This universality in the meanings comes into being and becomes universally accepted through cultural continuity.

Values are the source of obtaining meaning in life. Therefore, for preserving values, language becomes very important. Our language mirrors our approach to Supreme Consciousness; that's how the role of culture becomes of utmost importance. Essentially, it is from the Supreme Consciousness that the language and the values come into being. Connect your dots properly and you will know the reason behind our subconsciously getting attracted to value the Supreme Being on priority. Manifestation of Supreme Consciousness (Being) always happens in the form of vibhutis (attributes/virtues/qualities /dimensions...) which are unexceptionally feminine in nature. Language itself is addressed as the feminine attribute of Supreme Consciousness.

Currently, there are more than seven thousand languages spoken across the world. Sanskrit is one of them. Sanskrit has all the

common qualities which other languages have. The grammar of Sanskrit language, devised by Panini, still stays as the most scientifically arranged among all the languages that humanity knows till date. But that's not all, it has something more to offer that no other language can offer. Sanskrit is the Mantrik language. Have you asked yourself how a language attains the status of becoming a Mantrik language? If you haven't asked so far, then now is the time to ask it. As it is only after knowing Mulya (value) of something that a thing is valued. The keen pursuit of enquiry has always been the key factor in the field of glorious Indic knowledge traditions. Unfortunately, spoiled and governed by the invaders, our education system stayed neglected from its real roots for hundreds of years. Invaders' aim was to infect us from a sense of inferiority and colonise our mind so that they could rule over us. Invaders' education system took away the spirit of enquiry which was a key component of indigenous Gurukula system of education. It was imposed on us to give us a sense of subservience. And, more or less the same education system continued even after we snatched our political freedom from invaders. Fortunately, currently we are witnessing a global surge in curiosity, people all across the nations want to know the truth about Indic traditions and Indian history through Indic narrative, instead of looking at it from the pejorative Western gaze. This is an opportunity for India to present before all earthlings assertively what it so painstakingly preserves for the welfare of all. What is that? Please ponder over this question. But, when seen from another perspective then this opportunity appears as the challenge before the Rashtra, the Government, society and the intellectuals, to design our narrative before the world and curriculum for our Rashtra in such a way that not only India but all other nations, too, align with the eternal spiritual values and the genuine spirit of enquiry.

If the spirit of enquiry among human beings doesn't marry the eternal spiritual values then it turns self-destructive. That is the challenge. It stays on the right track only by being in tune with eternal spiritual values.

Languages consist of alphabets. Alphabets exist

## **SPOILED AND GOVERNED BY THE INVADERS, OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM STAYED NEGLECTED FROM ITS REAL ROOTS FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS. INVADERS' AIM WAS TO INFECT US WITH A SENSE OF INFERIORITY AND COLONISE OUR MINDS SO THAT THEY COULD RULE OVER US**

on the basis of various sounds which are produced when wind moves inside our mouth during our activity of speaking, touching various parts such as uvula, throat, tongue, palates, teeth and lips. Well, all of you know this, don't you? Then, why am I mentioning it here? Because Sanskrit goes a bit deeper even in this respect. Also there are letter-sounds which emanate from the heart (urasya) and stomach (visarga). The origin points of alphabets are verifiable by observing their pronunciation by anyone who is interested in observing and verifying. Only clarity of mind and sensitivity to feel and capacity and willingness to perceive is needed to verify it.

Mantrik language has a unique special quality. When its alphabets are arranged in a certain way and repeatedly pronounced (chanted) then human consciousness begins to vibrate with universal consciousness. This arrangement is devised by the seers. Richas (Vedic compositions) are examples of such arrangements. If their pronunciation (uchchaaran) is mastered through continuous practice under the spiritually attained capable master then it begins to vibrate with cosmic consciousness. In this process, human cognition begins to experience deeper peace and we become compassionate. None can uphold higher values without becoming compassionate and deeply peaceful. Should we as responsible earthlings not promote/practice/learn the language which has the potential to bring about compassion and deep peace among us?

*(Writer is the propounder of Sahaj Smriti Yog System of Self-Realisation. Founder Darpan Foundation @Bengaluru, Karnataka and Darpan Ashram@ Krishnagiri Tamil Nadu)*



**Dr UJWALA CHAKRADEO**

Vice Chancellor  
SNT Women's University



# A TEMPLE FOR ALL

**THE LOTUS TEMPLE IN DELHI HAS BEEN DESIGNED IN A MANNER TO STRIKE A BOND WITH DEVOTEES CUTTING ACROSS ALL FAITHS. UNLIKE OUR ANCIENT TEMPLES, THIS ONE USES LIGHT AND WATER AS ORNAMENTATION IN PLACE OF STATUES AND CARVINGS**

**L**otus temple, located in New Delhi, is not an ancient Hindu temple of Bharat. But the temple has many similarities with the ancient temples. The planning of the temple is radically different from that of the ancient temple. It does not have the *Garbha Griha* where the idol of Bhagwan is placed.

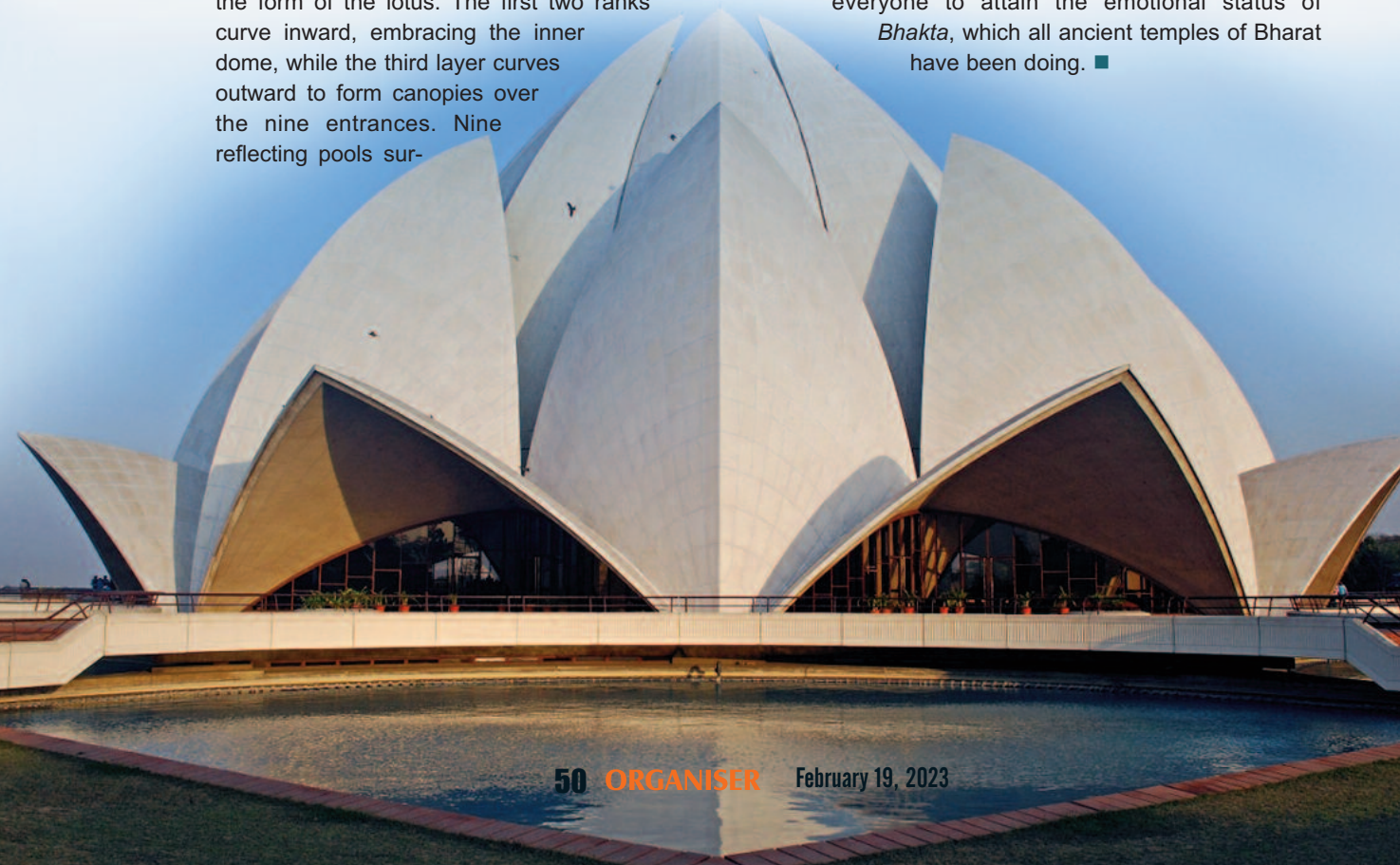
The architect has attempted to make this building familiar and acceptable to the Indian people without imitating any of the existing architectural elements of the ancient temples of India. Two fundamental elements - light and water - have been used as ornamentation in place of the statues and carvings normally found in Indian temples.

The structure is composed of three ranks of nine petals each, springing from a podium which elevates the building above the surrounding plain to give it the form of the lotus. The first two ranks curve inward, embracing the inner dome, while the third layer curves outward to form canopies over the nine entrances. Nine reflecting pools sur-

round the building, their form suggesting leaves of the lotus. External illumination has been arranged in a manner to make the lotus structure appear floating on water. Interestingly, water, light and lotus - the salient symbols of temple architecture - have been creatively used here by the architect of the lotus temple.

Ample light and appropriate ventilation have been ensured. The entire temple structure and the site have successfully created the ambience where the feeling of calmness and peace percolate down the mind and the body of the person entering the temple.

Symbolism plays an important role in arousing the sense of *Bhakti*. Prerequisite of *Bhakti* is the calm feeling of tranquility. The Lotus temple helps everyone to attain the emotional status of *Bhakta*, which all ancient temples of Bharat have been doing. ■





**Shri Narendra Modi**  
Hon'ble Prime Minister



**Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister

## NAVA KARNATAKA FOR NAVA BHARAT

# Karnataka In The Forefront Of Development And Social Justice With Projects Worth Over Rs.10,800 Crore

### Distribution of Title Deeds to 52,072 nomads in five districts of North Karnataka

A revolutionary step by the State Government

#### Benefits

- To provide a permanent roof to the nomads of Lambani Tanda, Hatti, Haadi, Gollarahatti and Vaddara Hatti, title deeds will be distributed to 52,072 people in 5 districts - Kalaburagi (27,267), Bidar (7,500), Raichur (3,500), Yadgiri (11,200) and Vijayapura (2,605).
- These Tandas have already been declared as Revenue Villages by the state government.



### Laying the foundation stone for Yadgiri Multi-Village Drinking Water Project under Jal Jeevan Mission - Rs. 2,004 crore

- A 117 MLD Water Treatment Plant is being built under the project.

#### Benefits

- Treated water from Narayanapura Dam for 15.84 lakh people
- Sustainable and pure drinking water for 710 rural habitations (2,32,470 households) and 3 towns (Kakkera, Kembhavi and Hunasagi)
- The entire district of Yadgiri will benefit from the project.



### Dedication to the nation of ERM works of Narayanapura Left Bank Canal - Rs. 4,699 crore



The canal extension, rejuvenation and modernization works of the Narayanapura Left Bank Canal was taken up to ensure equal water distribution to the farmers in the Narayanapura Left Bank Canal command area and provide water to areas deprived of irrigation facility.

#### The Project

- The Narayanapura Left Bank Canal has a capacity of 10,000 cusecs. It provides irrigation facility to 4.50 lakh hectares of area in Vijayapura, Kalaburagi and Yadgiri districts through the Hunasagi Branch Canal, Shahapura Branch Canal, Indi Branch Canal and Indi Lift Irrigation project.



SCADA based automated system

#### Works involved in the project

- Rejuvenation of Narayanapura Left Bank Main Canal
- Rejuvenation of Hunasagi, Shahapura, Mudbal, Indi and Jewargi Branch Canals
- Rejuvenation of Distributary Canal, Lateral and Sub Canals
- Installation of SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) based automated gates for Head Regulator, Cross Regulator, Distributary, Lateral and Sub Canals

#### Benefits

- Equitable, fair and effective distribution of water to the farmers coming under the canal command area
- Farmers of the tail-end region now have access to irrigation.
- Water leakage has been reduced and Water Use Efficiency has been increased from 31.75% to 51%.
- More than 3 lakh farmers are benefitted from the project.

### Laying the Foundation Stone for Access Controlled Greenfield Highway (Surat-Chennai)

- Yadgiri (km 97 to km 162.50), Total Length 65.50 km - Rs. 1,999.24 crore
- Kalaburagi (km 26 to km 97), Total Length 71 km - Rs. 2,110.52 crore

#### Socio-Economic Benefits

- The project opens up hinterlands for development.
- Acts as a catalyst for the under-developed and undeveloped regions.
- Better connectivity between ports on the East and West Coasts
- Saves travel distance of 330 km and a travel time of about 8 hours
- Eliminates delay in passing through major towns and congested areas

- Boost to agricultural and industrial production in the regions along the Greenfield Highway





# SAAKSHAR

“ADDRESSING THE CORE ISSUE OF  
INACCESSIBLE AND UNAFFORDABLE EDUCATION”

LAYING THE ACADEMIC FOUNDATION OF



CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY GIRLS.

Foundational  
Literacy and  
Numeracy



**5.2 LAKH**  
STUDENTS

Digital  
Literacy



**20,000**  
STUDENTS

Science on  
Wheels Initiative



**2,200**  
STUDENTS

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## Our Programmes



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