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Editorial

The country celebrated the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose by installing his digital statue beneath the canopy at India Gate. Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha expresses heartfelt thanks to Prime Minister Modi for honouring Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose with a grand statue at India Gate on his 125th birth anniversary. It is a tribute to Netaji and the Indian National Army and the glorious legacy of India's revolutionary struggle for freedom, which was whitewashed by the court-historians of the Congress party and communist propagandists.

The people of India have risen in armed rebellion against the alien rule throughout the colonial rule. Netaji symbolises this tradition of defiance and Parakram in the face of all odds. The government has taken the initiative to commemorate the 75th year of independence as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to reclaim our history and celebrate the struggles and sacrifices of the unsung heroes. The Central Government has also instituted an annual award in his name, "Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Purskar," inspired by Netaji's selfless sacrifice and service. This award aims to recognise and honour the individuals and organisations that have rendered selfless service and have invaluable contributed to the field of disaster management.

The month of February will witness the keenly contested elections in the five states of Punjab, Goa, Manipur, Utrkhand and Uttar Pradesh in the best traditions of Indian democracy. These elections are a contest between competing visions of India where BJP represents forces of stability, inclusiveness and economic growth against the forces of anarchy, casteism and populism. A fine illustration of this would be the state of Manipur, which has witnessed massive growth and development in all aspects of life under the BJP government since 2017. Before 2017, the state suffered from maladministration, shutdowns and blockades, which posed a hurdle to its commerce and economy and severely impacted the lives of the common citizens.

Similarly, the states of Goa and Utrkhand have made rapid progress on roads and other infrastructure under the BJP government, which has improved ease of living and spurred economic growth. BJP has also made deep inroads in Punjab by winning the people's trust who are seeking an



alternative to corruption and nepotism. Drugs, radicalisation and stifling of the industry have derailed the growth story of Punjab under Congress, and only BJP, with its ideology of nationalism and politics of development, promises a better future.

The budget 2022 is the forward-looking & most tech-savvy budget ever. The future is digital & Prime Minister Modi is equipping India with the necessary digital infrastructure today to lead the world tomorrow. Blockchain-based Digital Rupee, 5G, expanding Optical Fibre Network, Digital University, Drone and battery as service, promotion of AVGC - (Animation, Visual Media, Gaming and Comic) and aggressive StartUp culture symbolises the futuristic vision of the BJP seeking to build a new India for 21st CE. It is a pro-India budget covering all sectors of the economy. It's a 25-year forward-looking plan with a special push on digitalisation & urban development. The massive increase in capital expenditure for building new-gen infrastructure and urban development while scaling up welfare schemes is a welcome move. By eschewing the populist measures despite elections in five states, BJP is scripting a new political culture where long-term goals are not compromised at the altar of short-term political gains.



“Rising Manipur” under BJP Government: A story from hopelessness to a bright future

One are those days when the name of Manipur used to strike fear in the hearts of many people, which earlier used to be a no-go zone in the North-East. From the early 1980s to late 2010, Manipur was marked with all sorts of civil disturbances and criminal activities such as extortion, kidnappings, killings, illicit trafficking of drugs and arms through the porous border of Myanmar marked the last four decades of the state. There have been more than 1528 fake encounters or extrajudicial killings by police and security forces between 1980 to 2010, and a large number of the youth either went outside the state for studies or employment or took up arms to join different insurgent groups as there was no alternative to employment or means of decent livelihood. At one point in time, there were almost 40 insurgent groups in the state and there was a total collapse in the law-and-order situation. People were getting used to living under bandhs, economic blockade and at one point in time economic blockade had gone over 150 days in one year. Vehicles used to be lined outside petrol pumps overnight for miles and miles just to get a few litres of petrol and diesel. Manipur under 15 years of Congress rule saw its worst. Former Chief Manipur Shri Ibobi Singh had come to be known as 10% Chief Minister. The harmonious relationship that was shared for many centuries between the hills tribals and valley-based Meitei communities saw its biggest divide which was created by Congress for political exploitation. Murder and mayhem have long been used in parts of Northeast and Manipur. People were getting fed up with everything wrong that

was happening. This was changing as people were desperately looking for a change of development and peaceful simple life.

It was at this crucial juncture that BJP formed its historic, first-ever government in Manipur in 2017 by riding on the popular wave of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji who had promised to end all the ills that were plaguing the State. For BJP Development was the mantra and the people were eager for change. With no footprint in the largely tribal north-eastern states, this election marked the entry of BJP by toppling a 15-year-old strong Congress rule. Newly chosen Chief Minister Shri N Biren Singh had many things to undo, and the expectations were exceedingly high from the people. Riding on these expectations, one of the first things that the N. Biren Singh administration did after having come to power, is to bridge this gap and smoothen over differences between

communities. He reached out to the Tangkhul communities of Ukhrol district by inaugurating the first-ever 'Shirui Lily festival.' The nearly weeklong festival was a landmark wherein thousands of brothers and sisters from the valley visited Ukhrol and reached out to the Tangkhul brethren, many for the first time in their lives. With the local populace welcoming the inflow of tourists by opening up several homestays, music festivals including renowned international music bands have started performing in Ukhrol, Manipur. The state administration started taking up many measures which were appreciated by many communities around Manipur and the Chief Minister would hold an occasional cabinet meeting in a hill district, ensuring that the Meitei dominated government (with 40 seats for Meiteis and 20 seats for tribals) were never seen as anti-tribal. The State government ardently tried to change the image of a government that was perceived repeatedly by Manipur's tribal population



as being anti-tribal, especially under the previous Congress CM Ibobi administration.

The government's image was further solidified by a slew of other measures that were taken up such as State-wide bandhs and economic blockades called by civil organisations (CSO's) which used to haunt the people of the state, were now outdated. The last 5 years has been a blessing for the people of Manipur since the Law-and-order situation has drastically improved, and violent protesters, stone pelting, teargassing and curfews seem to be outdated. The state has witnessed a ground-breaking increase in the economic and tourism sphere and there is a record increase of 222% in the inflow of international tourists since 2016. This is a testament to the improved tourism infrastructure and security in the state and destinations that were once feared to venture in the hills or the valley

became the most exciting adventure tourism destinations. In the last 5 years, Manipur has actually seen a 'reverse' brain drain with its people coming back to the state and driving the entrepreneurship ecosystem. The state is witnessing a massive growth in the hospitality industry with several resorts and homestays catering to the various needs of tourists and the locals are enjoying a lifestyle which they could have never thought of in the previous regime of the Congress party. Manipur's youth are bearing the fruit of this prosperity in the region. Manipur has proved innumerable times that the youths of this talented and tiny state can produce many Olympians and international sportspersons, and this will be further pushed with our Prime Minister setting up the National Sports University in Manipur and taking up initiatives to set up an Olympic Park in honour of the many Olympians Manipur has produced, the

future has never been this bright.

The state government administration's success has been that it has built an image of being accessible to the public by regularly holding 'Miyamgi Numit' (Jan Sabhas).

But the biggest victory and achievement of BJP is giving the people of Manipur its long-awaited demand of ILP (Inner Line Permit), a system that the people of Manipur have been demanding since the 1970's to the state without single bloodshed or protest unlike the previous era of Congress where any violent protest meant the death of innocent lives.

With the overall Law and Order situation improving, Manipur started seeing a positive wave of changes. Many young entrepreneurs started coming up with varieties of Start-Ups and businesses. Younger generations were eager to tap on this new change of peace and prosperity,



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especially with avenues and prospects blooming and a people-friendly govt. The BJP reached out to the people of the state with several schemes and yojanas where the people of the state have immensely benefited. Some popular and notable schemes such as Ayushman Bharat Health Scheme, Chief Minister Hakchelgi Tengbang, Ujjwala scheme, home for all, start-up schemes for the youths of the state, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana as well as free gas and COVID vaccinations and many other meant for the welfare of the people struck the right chords with the long-neglected people of the state. At the same time, the State administration's movements such as 'Go to hills' 'Go to the village' have gained strong momentum of trust and love of the people towards BJP.

The most notable changes that can be seen are the development in infrastructure and in Road Connectivity not just in Manipur but in the entire Northeast. The people of the entire region can vouch that they have never seen such rapid development in the last 5 years especially when it comes to road connectivity and infrastructure development. This can be seen from the fact that several supercars from Ferraris to Porsche and dozens of other supercars were seen enjoying the mesmerizing roads running alongside the breath-taking sceneries in Arunachal Pradesh. Likewise

in Manipur, the Development of the Asian Highway no 1 through Moreh in Manipur is set to become the main gateway to Southeast Asia via the land route which will propel Manipur to become an economic hub in the near future. Also, work is also in full swing for the rail connectivity which is set to reach Imphal by early next year. Completion of both Highway and railway projects will bring much-needed attention from investors and entrepreneurs alike. All these rapid changes are becoming a possibility through Prime Minister 'Act East Policy' from the then 'Look East Policy' coined under the Congress Govt.

Modi Ji during his recent visit to Manipur inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of as many as 22 development projects worth 4,800 crore rupees. These projects are seen as a major boost to the state spanning across diverse sectors including road infrastructure, drinking water supply, urban development, IT, skill development, art and culture, health, among others. Prime Modi Ji inaugurated the newly made steel bridge in the Barak River which is a vital bridge connecting Manipur at a cost of more than 75 crore which earlier was always in a dilapidated condition. He also dedicated 2,387 mobile towers to boost mobile connectivity at a cost of Rs 1,100 crores. Inauguration of water supply project will ensure that every

household in the state will get drinking water supply in the state through the Transmission system of Thoubal multipurpose project worth Rs 280 crore. Modi Ji also laid the foundation stone of a cancer hospital in Imphal worth around 160 crores which will greatly benefit the people of the state by reducing the expenditure as otherwise, people must incur a huge cost going outside the state. Modi Ji also laid the foundation stone of the Centre for Invention, Innovation, Incubation, and Training (CIIT) to be built at a cost of about Rs 200 crore. This project is the biggest PPP initiative in the state and will provide a boost to the Information technology sector, besides creating employment opportunities in the state. He also laid the foundation stone of Manipur Institute of Performing Arts at Gurgaon at the cost of Rs 240 crore which will promote the rich art and culture of the state. Ima Keithels (Women's Market) has been constructed in 7 hill districts of Churachanpur, Ukhrul, Senapati, Chandel, Tamenglong, Kangpokpi, and Jiribam at the cost of Rs 70 crore. As part of his efforts for the rejuvenation and transformation of Imphal city, he also launched the "Imphal Smart City Mission" at the cost of Rs 170 crore which includes the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC).

With several initiatives meant for the youths, women, etc and many welfares driven developmental projects being taken up in the state, the road ahead for Manipur under the BJP govt has never seen a brighter day and the public have wholeheartedly welcomed and applauded for the last 5 years of splendid governance of BJP under Modi Ji. The public is raring to hug the promising future and the better days to come and under BJP the folk echoes of our great grandparents' hymning 'Sanaleibak Manipur' or 'Golden Manipur' is not far away.

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BJP set to dominate the upcoming 2022 Uttarakhand elections



A unique but significant fact about Uttarakhand, also known as 'Devbhumi' (literally, 'Land of the Gods'), is that no political party, be it a national or a state party, has ever won a second successive term since elections were first conducted in the State in 2002.¹

The Election Commission of India (ECI), on January 8, 2022, announced the election schedule for Uttarakhand, with February 14, 2022, being the polling date and March 10, 2022, being the vote counting date.² With the polling date drawing near, a few political pundits and most opposition parties, referencing Uttarakhand's history of anti-incumbency, have contended that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will lose a substantive vote-share.¹

Other issues thrown up against the present government are the multiple top-leadership changes, healthcare (in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic), interstate migration, electricity, water supply, and roads.³ However, the incumbent BJP government in Uttarakhand has performed robust development work (policy enactment and operational execution) in all key parameters. The State population, being the best judge, is expected to provide a larger mandate than the one given in the 2017 Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly

election (57 out of 70 assembly seats)⁴, and thus create history in the process. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which will contest the upcoming elections by offering itself as an alternative to the two grand old parties, is not expected to make many electoral inroads according to several major poll surveys.²

Having said that, it must be emphasized that the BJP was not formed to gain power but to serve the nation and society.⁵ The party's election campaign theme perfectly encapsulates the stated sentiments; that it's the only party that has worked for the State, and shall continue to do so (*'Kiya hai, karti hai, aur karegi Sirf Bhajpa'*).⁶

Let us explain the reasoning behind our optimistic electoral assertions:

The rising popularity of the BJP: The BJP garnered a popular-vote share of 33.13 percent and won 31 seats in the 2012 Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly Elections. Comparatively, the Indian National Congress (INC) received a vote share of 33.79 percent and won 32 seats, slightly higher than what the BJP achieved.⁷ However, in the 2017 Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly elections, the BJP received a popular-vote share of 46.5 percent and won 57 assembly seats. Thus, it recorded a positive vote swing of 13.37 percent since 2012, underpinning the local population's dissatisfaction with the work done by the INC.

While the INC's vote share reduced only by 0.29 percent, the other parties' share; that is, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and 'Others,' which includes smaller regional parties and independent contestants, reduced by 5.21 percent and 7.9 percent, respectively.⁸

Going forward, in the 2019 Indian General Election, for the five seats from

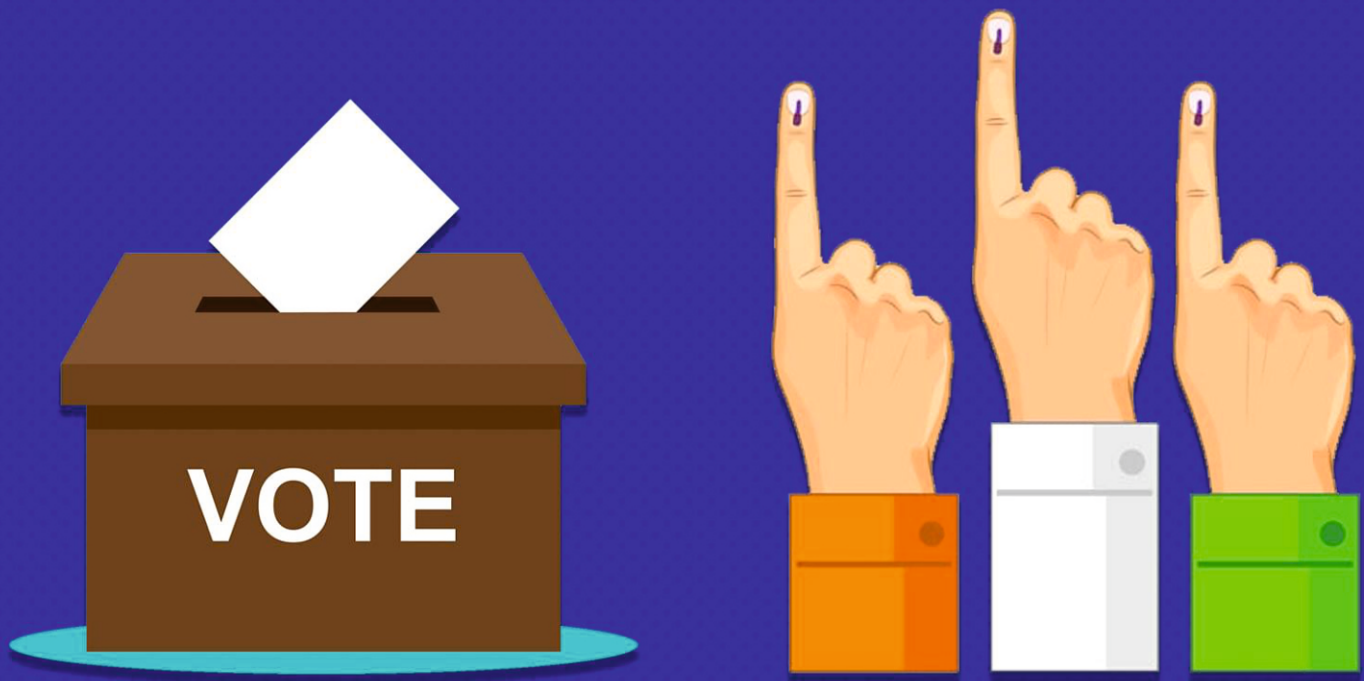
Uttarakhand, the BJP garnered a 61.7 percent vote share, nearly double that of the INC's vote share at 31.7 percent. Comparing this to the 2017 election's results, the BJP received an upwards vote share swing of 15.2 percent, while the INC saw the same metric decreasing by 1.8 percent. These statistics are proof that Uttarakhand's population was satisfied with the BJP's work over the years.

Achievement points.

Today the state is witnessing things no one ever even thought of. Earlier even the road network to hilly places was not up kept, and now two major Hilly railway projects, the Rishikesh-Karnprayag line, and Tanakpur-Bageshwar line are under construction in full swing. All-weather wide highways have been constructed for smooth, fast, and safe travel. Asia's longest suspension bridge, 'Dobra Chati' bridge has been constructed in Tehri which has cut short the travel time from Tehri to Pratapnagar from 5 hours to 1.5 hours and benefitted lacs of residents. Under the Udaan scheme, 14 helipads and two airports (one International airport) have been sanctioned.

Several efforts are being made by the state government to promote women entrepreneurs. In this context, the Chief Minister Women Entrepreneurship Encouragement scheme has been launched by our Hon. Chief Minister, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhama. To promote women's entrepreneurship, loans up to five lacs are being provided to women's self-help groups. The government is also providing Kiosks at distant places like Kedarnath, Badrinath, Mussoorie, Nainital, etc to promote the above schemes and sell their respective products. It is estimated that at least 4 women will be engaged in employment





through one Kiosk, totaling approximately 20,000 employment generation across the state. This will also lure women to take a step towards entrepreneurship rather than solely focusing on govt. jobs. Uttarakhand is also the first state to witness a reservation for Orphan children in Government services.

The government has taken a step to make half the population a co-ledger in their respective ancestral property. In this order, The Uttar Pradesh Land Abolition Act, 2021 has been implemented in the state. This move was implemented to empower women and make them independent. Across the state, the cooperative department is providing 'Ghasiari Kit' to women in rural areas.

Each kit comprises two drantis, rope, water bottle, two kudrail, thermos, one bag, etc. This will help women in hilly regions to secure food from farms and make a living. Our chief minister has also launched the '**Chief Minister Mahalaxmi Yojna**' to distribute kits at the time of pregnancy to at least 50,000 women across the state. Each kit will include 250 grams of almonds, chure, a warm blanket, 2 pairs of socks, 500 ml cooking oil, bathing soap, clothes washing soap, etc.

The government has initiated the '**Nanda Gaura Yojan**' to uplift and assist the development of female children in the state. According to this yojna, an amount of Rs.11,000 will be provided to the girl child's family upon birth and an amount of

Rs.51,000 will be provided after class 12th. On the occasion of International women's day, our chief Minister provided smartphones to 162 students of class 10th and 12th. He also announced that a mentorship program will be launched soon to encourage them for a better future.

Looking at the historic work that the double-engine government of Bharatiya Janata Party in Centre and State has accomplished in this hilly state, it can be ascertained that on the 10th of March 2022 we all will again witness BJP forming a strong government. As far as fulfillment of manifesto's promises, the efficiency of government's schemes, fuel prices, rate of education, health center development, etc. is concerned, the records clarify that in BJP's governed states all such parameters are met as per people's need.

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Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) Scheme: Assessing the growth of religious tourism in Uttarakhand

श्रेयान्द्रव्यमयाद्यज्ञाज्ज्ञानयज्ञः परन्तप | सर्वं कर्माखिलं पार्थ ज्ञाने परिसमाप्यते || 33||
Bhagavad Gita: Chapter 4, Verse 33

Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASAD)

The Government of India launched the PRASAD scheme in the year 2014-2015 under the Ministry of Tourism. The full form of the PRASAD scheme is 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive.' The scheme focussed on developing and identifying pilgrimage sites across India for enriching the religious tourism experience. It aims to integrate pilgrimage destinations in a prioritized, planned, and sustainable manner to provide a complete religious tourism experience. The growth of domestic tourism in Uttarakhand hugely depends on pilgrimage tourism. For tapping the potential of pilgrimage tourism, there is a need for holistic development of the selected pilgrimage destinations by the government along with the cooperation of other stakeholders. The Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation (PRASAD) scheme aims at paving the way for the development and promotion of religious tourism in India.

In the budget speech 2014-15, the Modi Government decided to launch the National Mission on Pilgrimage

Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive with an initial provision of 100 crores for the current fiscal year.

Religious tourism destinations are not like holiday/leisure tourism destinations, which are primarily targeted at the segment being inclined to travel and spend. In developing religious tourism, it is essential to build community participation at the given location/destination. Further, it is crucial to provide modern amenities at religious sites but also to see as to how the visitors interact and seek new experiences at such places. There is a need to identify core deficiencies, facilitate the provision of products, services and subsequently address the issues that are important for paving the way for the development and promotion of religious tourism in India.

The challenges which need to be addressed include inter alia, lack of infrastructure like budget hotels, all-weather roads, last-mile connectivity, solid waste management, hygiene, lack of awareness, development of code of religious etiquettes to be observed by the religious tourist.

Religious tourism in Uttarakhand

The central government has included Gangotri and Yamunotri in Uttarakhand under the central scheme of Pilgrimage

Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation (PRASAD).

According to the draft tourism policy 2017 of the Uttarakhand government, the number of tourists visiting Uttarakhand has consistently increased from around 11 million in 2000 to 28 million in 2012. Following the 2013 disaster, it saw a dip but by 2015 the number was near 25 million. In 2018, it is expected to break all previous records and cross 30 million tourist arrivals – almost three times the population of Uttarakhand itself. By 2026 the number of tourists is expected to touch a whopping figure of 67 million.

The analysis of tourists coming to the hill state also reveals that among the foreign tourists, nearly 58 percent of the visits were for holiday/sightseeing, 21.9 percent for health/yoga, and about 19.4 percent for pilgrimage/religious functions. But among domestic tourists, the main purpose remains pilgrimage as Uttarakhand is home to several pilgrimage sites like Char Dham – Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath – and Hemkund Sahib. The report noted that about 44 percent of the domestic tourist visits were for pilgrimage.

The Uttarakhand government also attaches huge importance to the tourism





sector as it considers it to be one of the major drivers of economic growth and livelihood for its people. Earlier this year, the government had even given 'industry' status to the tourism sector, enabling the sector to avail concessions and benefits usually extended to micro, small and medium enterprises.

Economic growth and development in Uttarakhand

The tourism sector is accepted as a growth driver for inclusive social-economic progress through its forward and backward linkages and the ability to create employment in the economy. The

state of Uttarakhand is considering the development of spiritual and religious theme-based circuits for tourism. Under the Swadesh Darshan scheme and PRASAD scheme of the central government, Uttarakhand is a site for eco-tourism and religious tourism. Other themes may involve treks/hikes/tours to view famous Himalayan peaks or treks along the course of the Ganga River, places of culinary interest, or villages where communities maintain traditional lifestyles that tourists may find interesting.

This scheme will harness pilgrimage

tourism for its direct and multiplier effect upon employment generation and economic development. It also seeks to promote local art, culture, handicraft, cuisine, etc

In order to develop sites of religious significance will require the dissemination and sharing of both intellectual and practical contributions to meet those needs in a planned and stakeholder-driven manner. The state must remember that the worshippers do not want to feel that they are part of a 'show', but are happy to share their religious space, and are proud of the architecture and history that attracts visitors to the site.

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Rashtranayak Netaji's Dharmic Vision

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose must be conferred the title of Rashtranayak (national hero) lickety-split. Unfortunately, Article 18 (1) of the Indian Constitution does not permit any titles to individuals, except when in an academic or military context. That is why Mahatma Gandhi has never officially been 'Father of the Nation' and lamentably, Netaji cannot be conferred the title of Rashtranayak. If there was ever an Indian hero in modern times, it must unequivocally be Netaji. After facing sustained opposition from the pro-Gandhi factions of the Congress within the party and severe restrictions from the British Raj that culminated in his house arrest in Kolkata, Netaji took a flight of imagination and vision and escaped in a most idiosyncratic manner to mobilize Indians abroad towards an armed struggle against the Britishers, to unshackle India from their hold. On 21 October 1943, he established the Azad Hind Government with Japanese support in Singapore, with its jurisdiction being primarily over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, even as it later struggled to make inroads into the North-East of India. The provisional government commanded a sizeable army comprising of Indian POWs (Prisoners of War) captured by the Japanese during the Malayan campaign in Singapore and had diplomatic relations with various countries, including Germany, Italy, Croatia, Thailand, Japan, Burma, Second Philippine Republic, and Manchukuo. If significant expanse and populace under jurisdiction coupled with international recognition were to be the barometer for the legitimacy of a government, Netaji was indeed the first Prime Minister of free (and, might I add, undivided) India. Technically, however, it took another couple of years for the official Indian

Independence Act [1947 c. 30 (10 & 11. Geo. 6.)] to be signed and for India to have its much-cited 'tryst with destiny'.

One often wonders how the country may have evolved, particularly in its infancy, had Netaji been at the helm of matters. Some say that he would have established a socialist authoritarian state, as he said he sought to do for about two decades to even out India's social and political problems before democracy could be installed, while others feel that Partition would never have taken place with Netaji as the national leader. Given that it was interestingly Bose who had placed Nehru as the chairman of the National Planning Committee (NPC) after Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore had intervened to convince a reluctant Nehru with the words

"There were only two modernists in the High Command—you and Subhas Babu"

Ref: Letter from Anil Kumar Chanda to Jawaharlal Nehru (1938).

It seems likely that he would have been the planned economy that Nehru established post-independence. Whether India would have lost the War of 1962 with China is anyone's guess. I, for one, do believe that Netaji would have prioritized realpolitik and pragmatism over the utopian positivism that the Panchsheel framework seems to present to a belligerent China, which had just annexed Tibet. What people, however, seldom know and realize is that Mahatma Gandhi was hardly the only prominent leader of the later stages of the Independence movement to have a strong Dharmic mooring and alignment. While Netaji was fairly against the activities of Veer Savarkar and the Hindu Mahasabha, given the famous criticism by the All India Forward Bloc of Veer Savarkar's speech in December 1939 against the A. K. Fazlul

Haq government of Bengal (back in the day, rather pretentiously, the British Raj had instituted the office of 'Prime Minister of Bengal', an office that Haq first occupied on 1 April 1937), he was a devout Hindu and believed in Dharmic ideas and principles. Not many know that Netaji always carried a copy of the Srimad Bhagavad Gita with him!

From a young age, Netaji was quite influenced by the teachings and lives of Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa and Swami Vivekananda. This is evident in his words

"How shall I express in words my indebtedness to Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda? It is under their sacred influence that my life got first awakened. Like Nivedita, I also regard Ramakrishna and Vivekananda as two aspects of one indivisible personality. If Swamiji had been alive today, he would have been my, my guru, that is to say, I would have accepted him as my Master."

Ref: A Patriot Monk Swami Vivekananda by Santa Kumara

Netaji was spiritual and ever committed to Dharmic ideals throughout his life. He found in Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa's teaching on the oneness and unity of all religions an inspiration for the diversity he later encouraged in his Azad Hind Fauj. Just like Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa, Netaji was an ardent follower of Ma Kali and kept a pictorial representation of the deity in his pocket. He believed that Swami Vivekananda preached the purest form of Hinduism, in which caste and creed had no relevance and bearing at all. Netaji highlighted the role Swamiji played in inspiring nationalism and encapsulating the very spirit of India in his writings, saying

"The foundation of the present freedom movement owes it's to origin to Swamiji's





message. If India is to be free, it cannot be a land specially of Hinduism or of Islam—it must be one united land of different religious communities inspired by the ideal of nationalism. (And for that) Indians must accept whole-heartedly the gospel of harmony of religions, which is the gospel of Ramakrishna-Vivekananda"

While Netaji was a student in Presidency College in 1913, he even considered joining the Ramakrishna Mission as a sanyasi. To that end, he met Swami Brahmananda, a direct disciple of Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa and the then-president of the Order. It is said that the apparently prescient Swamiji told Netaji that he was not meant to be a sanyasi. If the theories of Netaji having survived the plane crash in 1945 and returning to India as a seer named Gumnamī Baba are to be taken seriously, his childhood ambition may have had an avenue of expression!

This close association with the Ramakrishna Mission continued for years after. As per the reminiscences of Swami Shankarananda of the Ramakrishna Math, Swami Abhedananda, a direct disciple of Sri Ramakrishna, wanted to meet Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1939. Upon meeting the dynamic leader, Swamiji embraced Netaji with great affection and blessed him, saying, "Be thou victorious." During his time in Singapore, Netaji had a special relationship with the Ramakrishna Mission there, often meditating in the shrine late into the night and sharing a good rapport with Swami Bhaswarananda with whom he had many spiritual discussions. Swami Bhaswarananda was impressed with Netaji, saying that he had the grace of God and could move people with the force of his personality as well as the strength of his character. Netaji also donated to an orphanage run by the

Ramakrishna Mission there and contributed towards the Tithi Puja celebrations of Ma Sarada Devi.

Back in the day, Netaji would accompany his father Janiki Nath Bose to Hindu mutts in Cuttack in present-day Odisha, particularly one set up by Jagatguru Srimad Bhaktisiddhānta Sarasvatī Goswami, the famous Gaudiya Vaishnava Hindu guru whose student Sri Abhay Charanaravinda Bhaktivedanta Swami (Sri Prabhupada) established the world-famous ISKCON, in Cuttack. His respect and recognition of Dharma being the cement that held the nation together is seen in the words

"Though geographically, ethnologically and historically India represents an endless diversity to any observer—there is nonetheless a fundamental unity underlying this diversity [...] The most

important cementing factor has been the Hindu religion. North or South, East, or West, wherever you may travel, you will find the same religious ideas, the same culture, and the same tradition. All Hindus look upon India as the Holy Land."

Ref: The Indian Struggle by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

Netaji speaks of the spiritual dimension and the essence of his spirituality, evidently influenced by Vedanta and its conception of reality at its most fundamental, in the following words in his unfinished autobiography 'An Indian Pilgrim'

"Reality, therefore, is Spirit, the essence of which is Love, gradually unfolding itself in an eternal play of conflicting forces and their solution"

Ref: An Indian Pilgrim by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

When Rabindranath Tagore welcomes him to Santiniketan in January 1939, Netaji responded to him in a memorable extempore response, wherein he expressed his gratitude to the litterateur and luminary for speaking on the inner poverty of individuals, which must be addressed and resolved for true emancipation of Indians. Speaking on this, Netaji emphasized how it was indispensable that we must spiritually actualize to be able to accomplish our goals as individuals, saying

"We are today no doubt working tirelessly to attain national freedom, but our ideal is greater. We want complete fulfilment in personal and national life. We desire that every man and woman of the country and the entire nation may in every respect realize Truth. In this quest, in this Sadhana, political freedom is only a means."

One of the greatest attainments of Netaji on the spiritual and philosophical plane was his aversion to accepting anything without reasoning and evidence, which is the quintessential experiential and truth-

oriented approach of Vedanta and the Dharmic way of life. At the practical level, just like Sri Aurobindo, Netaji believed that political freedom is not possible until one has social and economic freedom. This comprehensive emancipation was something that made him realize that simply unshackling the colonial yoke would truly bring India to the point of realizing its potential and promise.

While Netaji was broadly spiritual in a Vedantic mould, he did not shy away from acknowledging and referring to a Saguna God, as is seen in his speech to establish the Azad Hind government,

"In the name of God, I take this sacred oath that to liberate India and the thirty-eight crores of my countrymen. I, Subhas Chandra Bose, will continue the sacred war of freedom till the last breath of my life."

For Netaji, the battle was as sacred and spiritual as it was political, and the emphasis always was to create a fundamental premise and foundation that comprised of key spiritual, social, philosophical, political, and economic dimensions. In doing this, Netaji placed emphasis on the Upanishadic concept of Tyaga (त्याग) - sacrifice and imbibed the ideal of renunciation for self-realization and actualization. At a very young age, he became determined to leave all else to work for his country, as seen in the words that he spoke in his youth

"I had a new ideal before me know which had influenced my soul to effect my own salvation and to serve humanity by abandoning all worldly desires and breaking away from all undue restraints."

and when the time came for mass mobilization, his call for sacrifice by all patriotic Indians was resonant with the ancient call of Dharmic seers and luminaries to use the power of sacrifice for the betterment of mankind. What was even more commendable and reflective of Dharma at its most fundamental was the focus on pluralism and cosmopolitanism.

Netaji always saw economic issues as cutting across communal divisions and barriers, and the movement towards political emancipation as being for all the children of the land of Bharatvarsh, cutting across schools of thought and theism. That had always been the Indic way.

Netaji also extended the Dharmic idea of emancipation cutting across constructs of identities and ideologies. One of the main areas where he was vocal on this front was that of breaking asunder one societal encumbrance that had arisen from the corruption of previously spiritual categorization - casteism. Caste had divided Indian society in ways that had institutionalized discrimination and exploitation, and that the colonial powers had used for their selfish interests at the expense of the Indian cause. He also spoke for gender equality and parity, and this was best seen in the much-celebrated Rani Jhansi regiment, one of the first all-female regiments in a modern army, in the Azad Hind Fauj. The fundamental spiritual way of looking at freedom and emancipation summarily is at variance with any form of physicalist or societal segregation and discrimination.

In conclusion, I would like to highlight and celebrate a seldom-seen aspect of Netaji: his Dharmic moorings and spirituality, which defined and guided his actions in service for the nation. His was the truly Dharmic way of inherent cosmopolitanism, universal brotherhood, emancipation, and dignity of the individual, as well as the importance of sacrifice. If there was a Mahatma who synthesized a novel conception of politics and society from ancient Indic and Dharmic ideas coupled with modern frameworks in a seamless way, it must be the brave son of Bengal who is undoubtedly our Rashtranayak: Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Jai Hind!

Author: Dr. Mrittunjoy Guha Majumdar



हर चुनाव में सरकार बदलने के मिथक को तोड़ सकती है उत्तराखंड की जनता

पिछले 21 सालों में उत्तराखंड ने एक राज्य के तौर पर तमाम उतार-चढ़ाव और प्राकृतिक आपदाओं को देखा है। इन सबके बावजूद भी आज राज्य विकास के नए कीर्तिमान लिख रहा है। विशेषकर बीते पांच वर्षों में भाजपा के कार्यकाल के दरमियान सूबे की सीरत और सूरत बदलने का काम किया गया। जिसकी परिणीति यह हुई कि आज उत्तराखंड राज्य एक विकसित राज्य की श्रेणी में आ खड़ा हुआ है। राजनीतिक दृष्टिकोण से देखें तो उत्तराखंड की जनता हर चुनाव के बाद सरकार बदल देती है, लेकिन इस बार जब 10 मार्च के दिन नतीजे आएंगे तो यह मिथक ध्वस्त हो सकता है, क्योंकि भारतीय जनता पार्टी के नेतृत्व में न सिर्फ देश आगे बढ़ रहा है, अपितु उत्तराखंड भी कंधे से कंधा मिलाकर आगे बढ़ रहा है। उल्लेखनीय है बीते पांच वर्षों में पहाड़ पर रहने वाले लोगों के जीवन में बदलाव आया है और इसे विपक्ष के चुनावी प्रपंच में उत्तराखंड की अवाम भूल जाएं। यह संभव नहीं?

विपक्ष विशेषकर कांग्रेस कितना भी क्यों न कह

लें कि उसकी इस पहाड़ी राज्य में वापसी हो रही है, लेकिन विकास के पन्ने इस बात की गवाही देते हैं कि दस मार्च को जब रिजल्ट का समय आया फिर कांग्रेस को मुंह की खानी पड़ेगी। वैसे कांग्रेस के पूर्ववर्ती कार्यकाल को इस प्रदेश की जनता ने नज़दीक से देखा-समझा और विश्लेषित किया है। जब हम बात पूर्ववर्ती कांग्रेस सरकार के शासन की करते हैं, फिर कांग्रेस की जो छवि निकलकर बाहर आती है। वो काफ़ी दयनीय मालूम पड़ती है। ऐसे में उत्तराखंड की जनता यह कतई नहीं चाहेगी कि सूबे की सरकार एक ऐसे पार्टी के हाथ में जाएं, जो भ्रष्टाचार की जननी हो। जहां अंतर्कलह का बोलबाला हो। वैसे जब हम कांग्रेस के पिछले कार्यकाल को देखते हैं। फिर यही तस्वीर उभर कर सामने आती है।

इसके अलावा दूसरी तरफ़ समय की मर्यादा और जनता के मिजाज़ को समझते हुए भाजपा ने एक युवा मुख्यमंत्री के रूप में पुष्कर सिंह धामी का चेहरा सामने लाया और अब भाजपा इन्हीं के नेतृत्व में आगामी चुनाव भी लड़ रही

है। ऐसे में स्पष्ट है एक तरफ विजन है तो दूसरी तरफ कंफ्यूजन है। इसके अलावा जब बात आम आदमी पार्टी के अरविंद केजरीवाल की आती है। फिर मुफ्त वाली सस्ती राजनीति सबके सामने है। वैसे कहते हैं न कि काठ की हांडी बार-बार नहीं चढ़ती ऐसे में अरविंद केजरीवाल की हकीकत अब देश समझ चुका है। ऊपर से मुफ्त की सियासत को घातक अब सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने भी कह दिया है। ऐसे में इन दावों और वादों में अब उत्तराखंड के लोग नहीं आने वाले। ऐसे में भारतीय जनता पार्टी का पलड़ा भारी है।

वैसे भी विदित रहें कि विगत पांच सालों में उत्तराखंड ने सही मायने में विकास की परिभाषा गढ़ी है। फिर चाहें वह प्रदेश में भाजपा सरकार के कार्यकाल में 2,671 कि.मी. नई सड़कों का निर्माण हो या फिर 2,975 कि.मी. सड़कों का पुनर्निर्माण और 243 पुलों का निर्माण हो। सूबे में बीते पांच सालों में ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों से लेकर शहरों तक और दुर्गम क्षेत्रों में भी विकास की अवधारणा को जन्म दिया गया है। इतना ही नहीं आज उत्तराखंड ईको टूरिज्म के क्षेत्र में नए प्रतिमान स्थापित कर रहा है। वहीं पिछली कांग्रेस सरकार ने आपसी कलह और सत्ता लोलुपता में न सिर्फ़ एक स्थायी सरकार देने में नाकामयाब साबित हुई थी, बल्कि राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा और कनेक्टिविटी जैसे कई पहलुओं पर विफल भी साबित हुई थी।

गौरतलब हो कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी की एक ड्रीम परियोजना है, जिसका नाम 'ऑल-वेदर चार धाम रोड' है और इस परियोजना से उत्तराखंड की तस्वीर बदल सकती है और यह परियोजना अब लगभग आखिरी चरण में है। जो गंगोत्री, यमुनोत्री, बद्रीनाथ और केदारनाथ रूपी चार पवित्र स्थलों को जोड़ेगी। अब ऐसे में





एक सामान्य नागरिक भी यह समझ सकता है कि इस परियोजना से राज्य को क्या फायदा होने वाला है। इतना ही नहीं डबल इंजन की सरकार के नेतृत्व में पहाड़ पर रहने वाली महिलाओं के जीवन में भी नया सवेरा आया है और बीते कुछ वर्षों में 'प्रधानमंत्री उज्वला योजना' के तहत उत्तराखंड राज्य में कुल 3,57,696 गैस कनेक्शन जारी किए गए हैं। इतना ही नहीं जिस पहाड़ी प्रदेश में एक समय एक भी मेडिकल कालेज नहीं हुआ करता था। वहां आज के समय में अब दून, श्रीनगर और हल्द्वानी राजकीय मेडिकल कालेज चल रहे हैं। इसके अलावा हरिद्वार, रुद्रपुर और पिथौरागढ़ में यह प्रस्तावित है। ऐसे में एक बात स्पष्ट है कि स्वास्थ्य के बुनियादी ढांचे का विस्तार और आधुनिक चिकित्सा सुविधाओं का आकार बीते पांच वर्षों में इस पहाड़ी प्रदेश में बढ़ा है और दुर्गम पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों तक टेलीमेडिसिन के जरिये स्वास्थ्य सुविधाएं पहुंच रही है। इसके अलावा उल्लेखनीय बात यह है कि पांच लाख का मुफ्त इलाज देने वाला देश का पहला राज्य उत्तराखंड ही है और यह प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और भाजपा की डबल इंजन सरकार की ही देन है। आंकड़े के लिहाज से बता दें कि केंद्र

की अटल आयुष्मान योजना के तहत राज्य सरकार ने 23 लाख परिवारों को पांच लाख रुपए तक मुफ्त इलाज की सुविधा दी है। इसके अलावा अर्थव्यवस्था के नजरिए से देखें तो 20 वर्षों में इस पर्वतीय राज्य की अर्थव्यवस्था का आकार लगभग 14 गुना बढ़ा हो चुका है और इसमें इस बीते पांच साल का अहम योगदान है। आज के समय में राज्य शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य, पर्यटन सभी दिशा में आगे बढ़ रहा है।

वहीं एक वक्त ऐसा भी था। जब आजादी मिलने के समय देश अगर पिछड़ा हुआ था तो पहाड़ पिछड़ों में भी 'पिछड़ा हुआ क्षेत्र' था। इतना ही नहीं उस दौरान पौड़ी गढ़वाल जैसे स्थानों का हाल तो ऐसा था कि देश को आजादी मिलने की खबर भी वहां एक दिन बाद पहुंची थी। ऐसे में अंग्रेजों से लड़ाई लड़ने वाले पहाड़ी जनमानस ने आजादी के बाद भी खुद को हाशिए पर ही पाया और शुरुआती कालखंड में शासन किस दल का रहा। यह कोई बताने की बात नहीं, सामान्य राजनीति से जुड़ाव रखने वाला व्यक्ति भी इस बात को जानता और समझता है। ऐसे में यूपी के आठ सीमांत जिलों में समेट दिए गए वजूद को सरकारी झुनझुनों से मन बहलाना पड़ा था, लेकिन अब स्थितियां

बदल चुकी है और शासन सत्ता का दौर भी बदल चुका है। अब नीतियां सिर्फ बड़े-राज्यों के लिए नहीं बनती, बल्कि सम्पूर्ण भारत की बात होती है और ऐसे में उत्तराखंड उसका एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा और शायद इसीलिए प्रधानमंत्री की दृष्टि में उत्तराखंड काफी अहमियत रखता है। इसके अलावा जब उत्तराखंड विधानसभा चुनाव की बात होती है तो एक तरफ प्रचंड बहुमत के साथ सत्तारूढ़ भाजपा है। जो सूबे से लेकर देश भर में सांगठनिक रूप से काफी मजबूत है। इसके अलावा उसके पास प्रधानमंत्री जैसा कद्दावर स्टार प्रचारक। वहीं दूसरी तरफ कांग्रेस का कमजोर संगठन है। जो न सिर्फ गुटीय खींचतान से जूझ रहा। बल्कि पिछले दौर की यादें भी पहाड़ी लोगों के दिमाग में गूंज रही। ऐसे में निहितार्थ यही है कि सिर्फ अगर कांग्रेस और आम आदमी पार्टी इस आस में बैठी है कि सत्ता परिवर्तन हर पांच साल में उत्तराखंड की रवायत रही है और इसका फायदा उन्हें मिलेगा तो यह उनका ख्याली पुलाव से ज्यादा कुछ नहीं और यही कहीं न कहीं 10 मार्च को निकलकर सामने आएगा!

लेखक: महेश तिवारी, युवा स्तंभकार

The need of the hour: Anti - Conversion Law

Our country India is the largest democracy in the world and is called the land of 'unity in diversity'. Yet, the saddening fact is that we still have instances of communal disharmony, violence, and intolerance based on religion. Forced or coerced conversion is an excessively big problem in our country. The BJP government in the state of Uttar Pradesh under the able leadership of CM Shri Yogi Adityanath has taken several steps and implemented them effectively to tackle this problem. On November 28, 2020, the Uttar Pradesh government passed the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020. This act is the best example of the developmental and transformational work that has taken place in the state under the incumbent BJP government. The ordinance is aimed towards eliminating the problem of forced and fraudulent religious conversions and religious conversions solely for marriage. The ordinance imposes a maximum penalty of ten years in prison for violations of its provisions along with certain additional sanctions. Section 6 of the ordinance renders null and void marriages performed only for illicit conversion or vice versa. This act is something that has been in the limelight recently and has been opposed by many people with even a review petition being filed in the Supreme Court. The people opposing this law have either grossly misinterpreted it and need to be educated with regards to its intent, substance, and affectability or do not have the best interests of this nation in their hearts. Not to mention the fact that the review petition filed in the Supreme Court is completely baseless. We shall look into this from both the legal and public policy standpoints.

From a legal perspective this ordinance is

alleged to violate the Allahabad high court's recent judgement in the Sufiya case which abolished the mandatory publication of notice and invitation to object under sections 5, 6, and 7 of the Special Marriage Act, 1954 by declaring those provisions to be declaratory and not mandatory and thus in violation. This claim as shall be found is completely invalid and baseless. The Supreme Court has confirmed in landmark judgments like the Lily Thomas versus Union of India, 2000 (6) SCC 224 and Sarla Mudgal versus Union of India, 1995 (3) SCC 635 that religious conversions conducted without a bona fide belief and solely to obtain some legal benefits are illegal and invalid. These incidents involved Hindu men converting to Islam to consummate bigamous marriages. The legal principle established in these judgments applies to instances of religious conversion solely for marriage. Interfaith marriage is already permitted by the Special Marriage Act, 1954, which is a legal privilege that the Uttar Pradesh government cannot interfere with. Still, it imposes substantial succession repercussions on the participants to such a marriage. Thus, for a Hindu, the law automatically partitions the individual's undivided family, depriving them of any future accrual to such property, whereas, for a Muslim, the law requires inheritance to be conducted under the Indian Succession Act, 1925 rather than under Muslim personal law following an interfaith marriage; the latter being more advantageous. Thus, the act of converting exclusively for marriage to circumvent the Special Marriage Act confers discernible legal benefits and may potentially be thrown down by the Lily Thomas and Sarla Mudgal dicta. Furthermore, the Supreme Court has already concluded in the Rev. Stainislaus

vs State of Madhya Pradesh & Ors, 1977 AIR 908 that religious proselytization is not protected under Article 25 of the Constitution. As a result, it is impossible to establish that the UP legislation is unconstitutional since it prohibits religious conversions for the sole purpose of marriage. Additionally, it is reaffirmed by the continuous and uncontested existence of equivalent legislation in states such as Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Forcible conversions are expressly forbidden under the Indian Constitution. To protect citizens' freedom of thinking, faith, belief, and worship, as well as their equality of status, is the State's primary role as a secular state. A dread psychosis has swept throughout society, putting the community at risk of forceful conversion. In Rev. Stainislaus, it was noted that forced conversions and abuses of freedom of conscience were conducted by non-state actors but insufficient state machinery, as mentioned in the UN Human Rights Council working committee reports. Examples of coerced conversion include a Hindu who marries a Muslim and is forced to convert to Islam. Conversion is forced since interreligious marriages are illegal under personal law, and most such conversions occur under duress.

The BJP has backed anti-conversion legislation and views it as a critical component of their policy against forced religious conversions. The law has been criticised for being "communal" and anti-Muslim. However, these laws safeguard the country's secular nature by prohibiting coerced conversions. Anti-conversion laws apply to everyone, regardless of religion. The law makes it abundantly clear that anyone who coerces a woman into changing her religion on the pretext of marriage, whether Muslim, Hindu, or





Image credit: Proxima Studio

any other, will be prosecuted.

Shri Yogi Adityanath had accurately recounted how Dilshad changed his name to Amit, married a Hindu woman, and fathered an out-of-wedlock child as well. When his true identity was revealed, he forced his wife to convert to Islam. Later in life, he murdered his wife and daughter and buried them in his home. To protect women from such atrocities, an anti-conversion law was enacted. It is not a religious issue, but one of law and order.

From a public policy perspective, this is a much-needed policy that needs to be transformed into a proper act of firstly the state government and eventually the central government to give it the necessary legal foundation and authority to bring real change in the society. This ordinance is aimed at solving one of the biggest and most discerning issues of our country in modern times and is the root cause of many other larger issues present in our country. The anti-conversion law needs to be but a steppingstone for a much larger and required law that needs to come into place i.e., Uniform Civil Code (UCC). This is something that was the part of the vision of the framers of our constitution and as such, it has been enshrined in Article 44 of the Constitution as a Directive Principle of State policy. This simply explained is having a single

uniform set of rules for civil law for all citizens of our country irrespective of their religion. This presents a secularistic view towards the world and the basic civil law interactions we engage in. Currently, Goa is the only state in India to have this provision, but it is something that is much needed and should soon become an official act of the parliament of our country.

The anti-conversion law is the bridge that needs to be built to make this a reality, as first, we need to solve the problem at the micro level for particular symptoms and then after some time, initiate a carefully planned full-scale effort on the full problem at the macro level.

The policy recommendation on this derives its foundation from various sources, be it the intent of the constitutional framers, legal basis, or a socio-cultural basis of the public good. The policy does not violate any of the Fundamental Rights provided in the constitution and rather in a way protects an individual's right to freedom of religion covered under Article 25. The dismissal of the petition against the ordinance in the Supreme Court is of utmost importance as it would set a precedent for future anti-conversion laws. Active application of the anti-conversion laws enacted in states across India is another step that needs to

be taken to give effect to the various policies and efforts that need to be maintained to ensure their proper implementation. Every state should have anti-conversion legislation. Anti-conversion legislation, particularly in states with a BJP majority, should be enacted to ensure that action is taken against forced conversions. Anti-conversion laws already exist in many states across India and even where they do not, they are being discussed and brought in either in the form of ordinances or laws, a recent example of this is the state of Karnataka. The existence of similar provisions across different states strengthens the need for such provisions at the national level.

Therefore, the work and the ordinance currently in effect in UP, is a step forward for the entire country and we need to learn from it and take steps for the entire country. This also needs to become a proper law in the state of up itself. It truly represents the kind of work we need to be doing in our country and the vision for the kind of country we wish to live in in the future.

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शांति के साथ विकास की ओर तेज़ी से अग्रसर मणिपुर

महान आदिवासी स्वतंत्रता सेनानी रानी गैदिनल्यू की जन्मभूमि मणिपुर पूर्वोत्तर भारत में खूबसूरत पहाड़ियों और झीलों के बीच अवस्थित है। अपने सदाबहार प्राकृतिक नजारों के लिए आभूषणों की भूमि के नाम से जाने जाना वाला मणिपुर 21 जनवरी 1972 से एक राज्य के रूप में अस्तित्व में आने के बाद से 2017 तक राजनैतिक अस्थिरता, उग्रवाद, क्षेत्रीय संघर्ष के लिए ही जाना जाता रहा। केंद्र व राज्य में भारतीय जनता पार्टी के सत्ता में आने के पहले पूर्ववर्तियों ने मणिपुर की सत्ता पर किसी तरह बने रहने के लिए मणिपुर में क्षेत्रीय संघर्षों की आग में झोंके रखा नतीजतन ऊर्जावान मानवीय क्षमताओं और प्राकृतिक संसाधनों से भरपूर राज्य दिन-ब-दिन गरीबी के कुचक्र में फंसता चला गया और लोग पलायन करने को मजबूर हो गए।

मणिपुर के लिए हताशा से भरे उस दौर के समाप्ति माननीय प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी के सत्तासीन होने के साथ ही शुरू हो जाता है। 2014 में सत्ता संभालने के साथ ही पूर्वोत्तर विकास मंत्रालय का कमान अपने हाथों में लेकर माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी ने पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों के विकास के लिए 'एक्ट ईस्ट' की नीति को अपनाया जिसका प्रत्यक्ष सकारात्मक प्रभाव सभी के सामने है कि पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों में सबसे

अधिक उग्रवाद और हिंसा से प्रभावित मणिपुर अब विकास की नयी इबारत लिख रहा है। मणिपुर की ऊंची ऊंची नीली पहाड़ियों में जहाँ कभी सिर्फ गोलियों की तड़तड़ाहट सुनाई पड़ती थी वहाँ अब पक्षियों की मधुर स्वर लहरियों की गूंज सुनाई देती है, घाटी के बड़े बड़े घास के मैदान जो उग्रवादियों का बसेरा मात्र था वो अब सैलानियों के सबसे बड़ा आकर्षण का केंद्र है। और सबसे बड़ी बात की पिछले पाँच वर्षों से मणिपुर में एन बीरेंद्र सिंह के नेतृत्व में भारतीय जनता पार्टी की स्थिर सरकार भी है जिसे वहाँ की जनता ने ही मोदी जी के लोकतांत्रिक नीतियों में विश्वास व्यक्त कर चुना भी है। शांति एवं प्रगति की राह पर अग्रसर मणिपुर की मासूम जनता पूर्ववर्ती सरकारों के उग्रवाद को पोषित करने वाली नीतियों को याद करके ही सहम जाती है कि तुच्छ राजनीतिक हितों की पूर्ति के लिए कुछ राजनीतिक दलों ने किस तरह से वर्षों तक उनकी कई पीढ़ियों को विकास से कोसों दूर रखा।

जिस मोइरांग की पावन भूमि से नेताजी सुभाषचंद्र चंद्र बोस की आजाद हिंद फौज ने भारत वर्ष में प्रवेश कर तिरंगा फहराया और अंग्रेजों को भारत छोड़ने के लिए मजबूर कर दिया वो आजादी के 70 वर्षों के बाद भी

सड़क, बिजली, पानी, अस्पताल, विद्यालय, संचार जैसी बुनियादी सुविधाओं वंचित रही। मणिपुर के लोगों की सबसे बड़ी समस्या स्वच्छ पेयजल के उपलब्धता थी। दुर्गम भौगोलिक परिस्थितियों के बीच विशेषकर ग्रामीण इलाकों में साफ पीने के पानी के व्यवस्था में लोगों का पूरा दिन निकल जाता था। इस राज्यव्यापी समस्या के समाधान हेतु 'जल जीवन मिशन योजना' की शुरुआत मुख्यमंत्री एन बीरेंद्र सिंह के द्वारा की गई। जल जीवन मिशन योजना के तहत स्वच्छ पेयजल की आपूर्ति हर घर तक सुनिश्चित करने का लक्ष्य रखा गया। ये जलापूर्ति निर्बाध रूप से होता रहे इसके लिए 280 करोड़ की लागत से थाउबेल बहुउद्देश्यीय परियोजना मणिपुर राज्य को समर्पित किया गया। इससे इम्फाल ईस्ट एवं इम्फाल वेस्ट जिलों में स्वच्छ पेयजल की समस्या पूर्णतः समाप्त हो गयी। वहीं 65 करोड़ की लागत से तोमंगलॉंग जिले में और 58 करोड़ की लागत से सेनापति जिले में भी पेयजल के परियोजनाओं की शुरुआत की गयी। इन परियोजनाओं के शुरू होने के पहले मणिपुर में मात्र 6 प्रतिशत घरों तक पेयजल की आपूर्ति हो पाती थी और आज जल जीवन मिशन योजना के तहत 70 प्रतिशत घरों में चौबीसों घण्टे स्वच्छ पेयजलापूर्ति सुनिश्चित किया जा चुका है। जल्द ही शत प्रतिशत आबादी तक स्वच्छ पेयजल की पहुँच हो जाएगी।

मणिपुर पहले देश के उन क्षेत्रों में शुमार था जहाँ सड़क मार्ग से पहुँच साल के बारहों महीने तक सम्भव नहीं था और इस गंभीर समस्या से अभिशप्त मणिपुरवासियों को निजात दिलाने के लिए डबल इंजन की भाजपा सरकार द्वारा एनएच 37 पर पड़ने वाली बराक नदी पर 75 करोड़ की लागत से इस्पात पुल का निर्माण



किया गया। यह मणिपुर की राजधानी इम्फाल को असम के सिलचर से जोड़कर ऑल वेदर कनेक्टिविटी प्रदान करता है। साथ ही प्रदेश में सड़क परिवहन एवं राजमार्ग मंत्रालय भारत सरकार के द्वारा 4148 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से 298 किलोमीटर लम्बाई वाले राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के निर्माण की प्रक्रिया भी शुरू हो गयी है, जो मणिपुर को देश के बाकी हिस्सों के साथ हर मौसम में कनेक्टिविटी प्रदान करेगा। वहीं इन्हीं परियोजनाओं के अंतर्गत भारत के प्रवेश द्वार के तौर पर निर्मित हो रहे इम्फाल-मौरे हाइवे यानी एशियन हाईवे वन का निर्माण कार्य भी अत्यंत तेजी से चल रहा है। ये हाइवे जहाँ साउथ ईस्ट एशिया से भारत की कनेक्टिविटी को मजबूत करेगा वहीं इसके चालू होते ही मणिपुर देश भर में व्यापार और निर्यात के प्रमुख स्थान के रूप में जाना जायेगा, जो मणिपुर के सामाजिक आर्थिक क्षेत्र में उन्नति का मार्ग भी प्रशस्त करेगा

एक समय मणिपुर के लोगों के लिए ब्रॉडगेज रेल किसी सपने से कम नहीं था, लेकिन 2014 में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी की प्रेरणा से पूर्वोत्तर विकास रेलवे के द्वारा मणिपुर को देश ब्रॉडगेज रेलवे नेटवर्क से जोड़ने का काम शुरू कर दिया गया और दो साल के भीतर ही असम के सिलचर से मणिपुर के जिरिबाम के बीच ही इस बहुप्रतीक्षित परियोजना को पूरा कर लिया गया। 27 मई 2016 को प्रधानमंत्री जी के द्वारा पहली ब्रॉडगेज पैसेंजर ट्रेन को हरी झंडी दिखाई गयी। जल्द ही मणिपुर की राजधानी इम्फाल भी देश के रेल नेटवर्क से जुड़ने जा रहा है जिसके लिए लगभग 13000 करोड़ की लागत से 111 किलोमीटर लंबे ज़िरीबाम-तुपुल-इम्फाल रेललाइन का निर्माण कार्य लगभग पूरा ही होने वाला है जिसमें दुनिया का सबसे ऊंचा रेलवे पुल(141मीटर) भी बनाया जा रहा है। जिरिबाम -इम्फाल रेलवे परियोजना प्रधानमंत्री मोदी जी की सबसे महत्वकांक्षी परियोजनाओं में से एक है। भविष्य में इस योजना का विस्तार पड़ोसी देश म्यांमार तक किया जाना प्रस्तावित है जिससे मणिपुर को अंतरराष्ट्रीय एक्सपोर्ट हब के रूप में विकसित कर आत्मनिर्भर भारत को और अधिक मजबूत किया जा सके।



तकनीक के इस युग में किसी राज्य को विकास के पथ पर आगे बढ़ने के लिए वहाँ बेहतर संचार व्यवस्था का होना अत्यंत आवश्यक है, जिससे कि मणिपुर काफी समय तक अछूता ही रहा। किसी भी देश की अर्थव्यवस्था को गति प्रदान करने के लिए उसके प्रत्येक हिस्से तक सुपर कनेक्टिविटी वाले इंटरनेट व्यवस्था का होना अत्यंत आवश्यक है, इसे ही आधार मानकर मणिपुर की दुर्गम पहाड़ियों के बीच भी बेहतरीन इंटरनेट और कॉलिंग की व्यवस्था के लिए प्रधानमंत्री जी ने 1100 करोड़ की लागत से 2350 मोबाइल टावरों की आधारशिला रखी है। कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स से लेकर ओलंपिक तक भारत के तिरंगे झंडे का मान बढ़ाने वाली बेटियों कुंजरानी, मैरीकॉम, मीराबाई चानू की उर्वर भूमि का नाम मणिपुर है जिनपर पूरा देश गर्व महसूस करता है। इन खिलाड़ियों से सीखने और खेल के क्षेत्र में बेहतर प्रशिक्षण देकर नई नई प्रतिभाओं को तराशने के लिए मणिपुर में देश के पहले आधुनिक स्पोर्ट्स यूनिवर्सिटी की स्थापना प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी के द्वारा की गयी है। अपने आबादी के अनुपात में सर्वाधिक खेल बजट पूरे देश भर में मणिपुर राज्य का है जिसका श्रेय मुख्यमंत्री एन बीरेंद्र सिंह की सरकार को जाता है, जिन्होंने राज्य का खेल बजट का आकार बढ़ाकर 100 करोड़ रुपये का कर दिया जिससे राज्य में खेल के क्षेत्र में अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर की सुविधाओं का विकास हुआ है।

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी द्वारा पूरे देश में चलाई जाने वाली कल्याणकारी योजनाओं से मणिपुर निवासियों को भी काफी राहत मिली है। इसका अंदाजा आप इस बात से लगा सकते

हैं कि राज्य में 6 लाख परिवारों को पीएम गरीब कल्याण योजना के तहत मुफ्त खाद्यान्न सुविधा का लाभ मिल रहा है, वहीं उज्वला योजना के तहत डेढ़ लाख परिवारों को मुफ्त गैस कनेक्शन भी दिया जा चुका है। साथ ही राज्य के गरीबों को पक्के मकान की सुविधा उपलब्ध कराने की दिशा में प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना के तहत लगभग 80 हजार घरों के निर्माण के प्रक्रिया भी तेजी से चल रही है। मोदी जी के स्वस्थ भारत मिशन के तहत संचालित आयुष्मान भारत योजना से अभी तक साढ़े चार लाख लोग मणिपुर में लाभान्वित हो चुके हैं। राज्य सरकार ने अपनी योजनाओं के साथ केंद्र सरकार की योजनाओं का क्रियान्वयन जिस गतिशीलता से किया है इसके लिए मुख्यमंत्री और उनकी टीम को भी सराहना मिलनी चाहिए।

ये प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी के आत्मनिर्भर भारत का आह्वान और उनके द्वारा किये गये पूर्वोत्तर भारत के विकास का संकल्पित प्रयास ही है कि मणिपुर के लाखों भटके नौजवान हिंसा और अलगाव की राह को छोड़ शांति और एकजुटता के मार्ग पर चल विकासशील से विकसित भारत के निर्माण में अपनी भूमिका सुनिश्चित कर रहे हैं। वहीं मणिपुर में जब से भारतीय जनता पार्टी की सरकार बनी है तब से शायद ही प्रदेश के किसी हिस्से में बंद, हड़ताल, नाकेबंदी जैसे शब्द कभी सुनाई दिया हो। ब्लॉकड स्टेट की नकारात्मक छवि से बाहर आकर मणिपुर वर्तमान समय में अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार का मार्ग प्रशस्त करने वाला राज्य बन चुका है।

लेखक: उत्पल कांत, लेखक पेशे से अधिवक्ता हैं तथा स्वतंत्र लेखन करते हैं।



Manipur, Modi and the Making of a Unified Bharat

What is a nation? Many philosophers and political scientists have weighed in on the subject but at its simplest, a nation can be defined as a set of people who have solidarity with each other, share common bonds and history, and see a common future together.

Gandhi is commonly called the father of the nation and Nehru is still seen by many as the one that shaped modern India. However, in the decades to come, with the benefit of hindsight, the real maker of a unified Bharat nation will be seen as Narendra Modi. While actions such as the revocation of Article 370 gather the spotlight, the work done by the Modi and the NDA governments in the Northeast including N Biren Singh's, are no less important. Independence gave us a country with a border but sadly, the neglect of states such as Manipur led to simmering discontent, disenchantment, and the creation of a chasm between the

order to appreciate the current, it is important to look back in time.

In 1891, the Anglo-Manipuri war brought the state under colonial rule. The colonial period degraded Manipur's internal economy by flooding the market with cheap consumer goods, causing native deindustrialization. However, by the time of independence, the state still had a strong agricultural base with surpluses, and transport linkages to Bengal, Assam, and other parts of the country. It is this relatively robust starting point that was fettered away by the policies post-Independence, specifically the five-year plans. Manipur merged with the Indian Union in 1949 and got hitched to a centrally planned economy. The five-year plans for Manipur from 1951 - 1972 focused on transport, communication, and social and community services at the expense of critical areas such as agriculture, industry, irrigation, and power - key drivers of any developing

Statehood in 1972 saw some attempts at industrialization but they largely failed. The state became dependent on doles from the central government and the share of the agricultural workforce declined without a corresponding increase in employment in secondary sectors (those also declined). This dissatisfaction also served as a catalyst for insurgency movements, and a vicious cycle of separatism and lack of development took hold. It is both of these shackles that the Modi and Biren Singh governments have broken.

The answer to the challenges faced by our brothers and sisters in Manipur rests in creating bonds - both the hard (physical infrastructure, social services) and soft (cultural and social).

Considering the first and the changes in the past few years that have brought about in Manipur. Pre-Covid between 2018 and 2020, under the Biren Singh government, Manipur's per capita income increased by 4.6%, much higher than the 3.5% growth achieved between 2013 and 2017 when the prior government was in power.

Households with access to sanitation facilities increased from 52% to 65% from 2015 to 2019. About 1.8 lakh Manipuri families were provided with a free LPG connection under the Ujjwala scheme. More than 22,000 houses were constructed under the rural and urban housing schemes. Per capita availability of power has increased from about 250 kilowatts per hour in FY2015 to 360 kilowatts per hour in FY21.

The state government's School Fagathansi Mission has improved student enrollment in government schools by more than 25%. The Jal Jeevan Mission is being executed with fervour and household coverage of drinking water has increased about 10-





fold - from 5.7% to more than 60% within the last 4.5 years. Organic cultivation has increased from about 345 hectares in 2014-15 to more than 37,500 hectares in 2021. Key highways running between Imphal and Jiribam and Dimapur have seen significant improvements and construction of Makru, Barak, and Irang bridges are underway.

As a complement to the social services and development agenda, the state and Centre governments have done much admirable work throughout the Northeast on the path towards social stability. In addition to the land border deal with the

Bangladesh border, the Bodo agreement, and the surrender of hundreds of militants, the BJP government also ended the 4-month long blockade of the two national highways in Manipur when it took power.

The good work of the past few years needs to be continued to maximize Manipur's potential and provide its people the opportunities to succeed, as well as bridge the gap that the Northeast has traditionally had with the 'mainland'. The PM announced a slew of initiatives in this regard including investment towards setting up a large-scale palm oil industry, continued high rate of construction of highways and rural roads, rail, and airport connectivity, the linking of Manipur to the national natural gas pipeline, and additional efforts to ensure clean drinking water supply to households yet to receive it. On the cultural and social side, a modern Sports University and the Manipur Institute of Performing Arts will be established in the state, as well as promotion of the state for domestic and international tourists.

The Manipuri identity is central to the Indian one. Manipuris are a brave, strong, and resilient people, from the freedom fighter, Rani Gaidinliu, who spent 14 years in prison for rebelling against the British, to Mirabai Chanu who filled each Indian's heart with pride with a silver medal this past summer in the Olympics. The ancient folk religion of the Manipuris, Sanamahism, is a beautiful thread in the fabric of Sanatan Dharma.

Just like much of the country that wasted its potential under decades of Congress rule, Manipur too had been the victim of mistreatment. The state and the Northeast, in general, are making giant strides to becoming a critical part of the Indian growth story. It is imperative that the Biren Singh government comes back with a majority to ensure the gains of the recent past are not washed away in the familiar tide of neglect.

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बदलाव के मुहाने पर खड़ा पंजाब

पंजाब में विधानसभा के चुनाव सर पर है। यहां की हर गली-मुहल्ले में राजनीति गरमाई हुई है। सभी राजनीतिक दल इस दंगल में अपने-अपने उम्मीदवार उतार रहे हैं। पंजाब को लेकर सभी पार्टियां अपनी-अपनी रणनीति से चुनाव लड़ रही हैं। भारतीय इतिहास में पंजाब की राजनीतिक परिपाटी को समझने के लिए हमें 200 साल पीछे देखना शुरू कर तो हम पाएंगे कि पंजाब की धरती सियासी तौर पर हमेशा गर्म लावे पर तपती रही है। यहां के राजनीतिक मुद्दे, समीकरण, सियासी दांवपेच अन्य राज्यों से हमेशा भिन्न रहे हैं। सीमावर्ती प्रांत होने के कारण यहां के मुद्दे हमेशा अहम और ज्वलंत रहे। पंजाब की राजनीति में बदलाव को जानने के लिए इतिहास के पन्नों में 200 साल पीछे झांकने से पता चलता है कि सन 1839 में उत्तर भारतीय महाद्वीप के अंतिम सिक्ख राजा महाराजा रणजीत सिंह की शहादत के बाद से सिक्ख साम्राज्य के अंत ने इस क्षेत्र की राजनीति को बदल दिया। इसके बाद 1947 में विभाजन के दुखद माहौल के बाद यहां की राजनीतिक पृष्ठभूमि में बदलाव आया। 1947 में ही पंजाबी सूबा बनाने के राजनीतिक आंदोलन के पीछे की स्वार्थ पूर्ण राजनीति का खामियाजा पंजाब ने कई सालों तक भुगता। 'भारत माता की जय' का जयघोष पंजाब की धरती पर 'खालिस्तान जिंदाबाद' के नारों में फीका पड़ गया। 1984 के दंगों ने यहां की राजनीति के रंग ही उड़ा दिए। इसके परिणाम यह हुए कि यहाँ की जनता जाति और धर्म आधारित राजनीति की शिकार हुई। कई हिंदू राजनेताओं के कल्ल के पीछे की सच्चाई आतंकी हमला ना होकर राजनीतिक मंशा ज्यादा थी। पंजाब के कुछ राजनेताओं ने व्यापक राष्ट्रीय व राज्यस्तरीय हितों के बारे में न सोचकर संकीर्ण मानसिकता से अपने-अपने राजनीतिक हितों को तवज्जो दी। इसका असर आज तक भी पंजाब पर दिखता है। 1984 के बाद से इस प्रांत में सिक्खों और नॉन सिक्खों (हिंदुओं) के बीच एक लकीर खिंच गई।

हालांकि यहां का हिंदू अपने आपको पंजाबी पहले मानता है बाद में हिंदू। परंतु कुछ कटरवादियों के कारण आज भी एक महीन रेखा सभी के दिलों में खींची दिखती है। यह आग धीमे-धीमे भीतर ही सुलग रही है। इसके बाद एक बार फिर पंजाब प्रांत की राजनीति में बड़ा बदलाव आया 1966 में जब पंजाब और हरियाणा राज्यों का बंटवारा हुआ। सियासी माहौल में गरमा गर्मी हरियाणा बनने के बाद और बढ़ती गई जिसमें सतलुज-यमुना-लिंग (SYL) के पानी और चंडीगढ़ पर आधिकारिक तौर पर हक जमाने की राजनीतिक विषय और जुड़ गए। 2000 के बाद पंजाब के स्थानीय मुद्दों में बदलाव आने लगे। पंजाब सीमावर्ती प्रदेश है। जिसके कारण यह राज्य केवल मूलभूत व्यवस्था के अभाव, विकास संबंधी समस्याओं के अलावा अन्य कई प्रकार के संकटों से भी घिरा हुआ है। पंजाब भौगोलिक परिस्थिति के अनुसार मालवा, दोआबा और माझा क्षेत्र में बटा हुआ है। राजनीतिक दृष्टिकोण के आधार पर मालवा को सबसे महत्वपूर्ण माना जाता है। यह 69 विधानसभा सीटों का बड़ा क्षेत्रफल का क्षेत्र है। माझा में 25 विधानसभा सीटें हैं और दोआबा में 23 विधानसभा सीटें हैं। शिक्षा और लिंगानुपात में सबसे पिछड़ा होते हुए मालवा का क्षेत्र अब तक 15 मुख्यमंत्री दे चुका है। पंजाब में निरंतर पूर्वाचलियों की बढ़ती जनसंख्या व अनुसूचित जाति की बड़ी तादात होने के बावजूद उनकी राजनीति भूमिका ना के बराबर रही। उन्हें अधिकारों से वंचित रखा। पंजाब सूबा के वासी पंजाबियत के भाव के साथ हमेशा खड़े हैं। परंतु पिछले कुछ वर्षों से जातीय आधारित राजनीति में असमानता का भाव यहाँ बढ़ता जा रहा है। किसान और दलितों के बीच की समस्याएं सामाजिक व राजनीतिक द्वंद पैदा कर रही हैं। जाति आधारित राजनीतिक भेदभाव आज पंजाब में दबे पांव अपने पैर पसार रहा है। इसे आज नजरअंदाज करना भविष्य में गलत साबित होगा।

पंजाब में दूसरी बड़ी चुनौती युवाओं के समक्ष है। वह है रोजगार, शिक्षा, नशा और पलायन। पंजाब कृषि व कृषि संबंधी उद्योग का क्षेत्र बन कर रह गया है। पिछले कई वर्षों से यहां के उद्योगों को बढ़ाने के कोई प्रयास नहीं किये गए। यहां रोजगार के नए अवसर, सरकारी व गैर सरकारी नौकरियों में कमी व व्यपारियों, फैक्ट्री मालिकों का पंजाब से पलायन में 1984 के आतंकी वातावरण ने अहम भूमिका निभाई। दूसरा बड़ा कारण यहां की स्वार्थ से भरी व भ्रष्ट राजनीतिक व्यवस्था रही। पंजाब को अब तक ऐसा कोई नेतृत्व नहीं मिल पाया जिसने यहां पर युवाओं के लिए रोजगार में बढ़ोतरी संबंधी कुछ ठोस कदम उठाए हो। पिछले साढ़े 7 सालों में केंद्र सरकार द्वारा चलाई जा रही स्किल इंडिया योजना, सक्षम योजना व अन्य युवाओं से जुड़ी योजनाओं का लाभ तत्कालीन कांग्रेस सरकार के नुमाइंदों ने पंजाब के युवाओं तक नहीं पहुंचाया। सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र होने के कारण पड़ोसी मुल्क के नापाक इरादों के चलते यहां के युवाओं को अलगाववाद और नशे की गर्त में धकेल दिया। पंजाब में फिर से अस्थिरता पैदा कर दी। आज पंजाब का शायद ही कोई ऐसा मुहल्ला होगा जहां नशे की लत में से किसी युवा भाई की मौत ना हुई हो और कोई माँ ने इस दर्द को ना सहा हो। पंजाब में शिक्षा के स्तर में निरंतर गिरावट आयी है। इन्हीं कारणों से यहां के युवाओं का अपना देश, अपना राज्य छोड़ स्वदेश जाने की होड़ पैदा हुई। आज पंजाब का युवा यहां की व्यवस्था से इतना हताहत है कि वह अपने संवैधानिक अधिकार, जिससे वह व्यवस्था परिवर्तन कर सकता है यानी वोट का अधिकार जैसे ढांचे के प्रति भी उदासीन हो गया है। 2022 के चुनाव में स्थिति इतनी गंभीर है कि प्रदेश का न्यू वोटर यानी 18 से 19 वर्ष के युवा वोटर्स की संख्या 9.3 लाख है जिसमें से 6.5 लाख युवाओं ने वोटर आईडी कार्ड बनवाने के लिए रजिस्ट्रेशन ही नहीं करवाया है। यह स्थिति काफी गंभीर है। और यह पंजाब

Image credit: Sawat



की वर्तमान कांग्रेस सरकार की एक बड़ी खामी है। पंजाब में स्वास्थ्य भी एक बड़ी चुनौती के रूप में पिछले कई सालों से सामने आ रहा है। कैंसर पीड़ितों की बढ़ती संख्या, दवाओं के जाल में उलझी जनता, पंजाब में पिछली सरकारों के भ्रष्टाचार व उदासीन रवैया को दर्शाती है। बिगड़ती कानून व्यवस्था, पर्याप्त पेयजल की समस्या, रेत माफिया, भू माफिया, रेत की बढ़ती कीमतें, मूलभूत सुविधाओं का अभाव, सरकारी तंत्र का भ्रष्टाचार आदि प्रमुख चुनौतियां पंजाब में मुंह बाए खड़ी हैं। वर्तमान में एक नई चुनौती कृषि बिल को लेकर हुए किसान आंदोलन की थी। आगामी चुनाव पर उसका असर दिखता नज़र आ रहा था। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी द्वारा बड़प्पन दिखाते हुए कृषि बिलों को वापिस लेने के फैसले से वर्तमान चुनावों में इसका असर धीरे-धीरे कम होता जा रहा है। 2022 के चुनाव में भाग ले रही प्रमुख राजनीतिक पार्टियों में शिरोमणि अकाली दल क्षेत्रीय पार्टी के रूप में बहुजन समाज पार्टी के साथ गठबंधन कर सामाजिक असमानता के भाव को कम करने में नाकाम नजर आ रही है

। शिअद की अंदरूनी राजनीति इस प्रांत को संभालने में नाकाम नजर आ रही है। इस पार्टी में परिवारवाद की राजनीति को अब जनता का प्यार इस बार मिलता नजर नहीं आ रहा। कांग्रेस के भ्रष्ट दृष्टिकोण, असमान विकास की नीति, राज्य कोष का अनियंत्रित खर्च, गुटबाजी और भ्रष्ट नेताओं के भरोसे माफिया राज इनके कार्यकाल में नजर आया है। कांग्रेस अपने कार्यकाल में जनता को नशे के जंजाल से निजात नहीं दिलवा पाई। आम आदमी पार्टी रिमोट कंट्रोल की सरकार पंजाब में चलाने के इरादे से कम्युनिस्ट विचारधारा के साथ पंजाब में अराजकता फैलाने के भाव से पंजाब में प्रचार प्रसार कर रहे हैं। चुनावी माहौल में सोशल मीडिया पर इसके प्रमाण भरे पड़े हैं। आप पार्टी के 117 प्रत्याशियों में 32 प्रत्याशियों पर आपराधिक मामले दर्ज हैं। भाजपा पंजाब लोक कांग्रेस व शिरोमणि अकाली दल (संयुक्त) गठबंधन के साथ पंजाब में राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा, क्षेत्रीय अखंडता, पाकिस्तान प्रायोजित आतंकवाद से सुरक्षा, माफिया राज से मुक्ति, नशे के खिलाफ कड़ी कार्रवाई, रोजगार के

शुभ अवसर के साथ डबल इंजन की सरकार बनाने की योजना के साथ आगे बढ़ती हुई नजर आ रही है। इसबात के प्रमाण भाजपा द्वारा प्रत्याशियों को चुनने की रणनीति से मिलते हैं। भाजपा गठबंधन के उम्मीदवारों में हर जाति, धर्म के नुमाइंदों को लिया है। इसमें डॉक्टर, वकील, महिला, युवा, रिटायर्ड आईएएस, किसान, अनुसूचित जाति सदस्य शामिल किए हैं। इस बार अगर भाजपा गठबंधन की सरकार बनाने में कामयाबी हासिल करती है तो पंजाब सूबे में सिक्ख-हिंदू भाईचारे की एक नई मिसाल कायम होगी। केंद्रीय सरकार की सुविधाओं से यहां की जनता सराबोर होगी। पंजाब की धरती पर फिर से भारत मां की जय का घोष गुंजायमान होगा। जातीय भेदभाव, असमानता के भेद से मुक्त, समान विकास के साथ पांच दरियाओं के सुंदर प्रदेश, गुरु की धरती पंजाब में खुशहाली लौटने की संभावनाएं दिखाई दे रही है।

लेखक: नेहा धवन,
प्रदेश सचिव भजयुमो हरियाणा



सामाजिक समरसता को प्रतिबद्धता से निभा रही है योगी सरकार

देश के सबसे बड़े राज्य उत्तर प्रदेश समेत पांच राज्यों में चुनावों की घोषणा हो चुकी है, और देश के सबसे बड़े तथा देश की राजनीति का केंद्रबिंदु उत्तरप्रदेश में सभी राजनैतिक दल तथा राजनैतिक विश्लेषक जातीय समीकरण पर आधारित चुनावी नतीजों की बात कर रहे हैं।

हमारे देश में जहां तक जाति का प्रश्न है, तो जाति हमारे देश का वो सत्य है जिसे हम दिखाना भी नहीं चाहते और मिटाना भी नहीं चाहते। किन्तु जब जातिगत आरक्षण की बात होती है तो हम जाति को नकारते हैं, किन्तु समाज व्यवहार में जाति देखकर अपना आचरणनिर्धारित करते हैं।

2017 के विधानसभा चुनावों में भारतीय

जनता पार्टी को ऐतिहासिक जनादेश के माध्यम से उत्तरप्रदेश का नेतृत्व करने का सौभाग्य प्राप्त हुआ और गौरतलब है कि उस विधानसभा चुनाव में प्रदेश के जनता सारे राजनैतिक विश्लेषकों के आकलनों के विरुद्ध जातिगत राजनीति से ऊपर उठकर प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी के जनहितैषी नीतियों एवं नेतृत्व में विश्वास तथा तत्कालीन भाजपा राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष श्री अमित शाह जी के सोशल इंजीनियरिंग तथा सामाजिक समीकरण और गठबंधन का सूत्रपात बनाकर विजयश्री प्राप्त की थी।

भाजपा ने श्री योगी आदित्यनाथ जी को प्रदेश का मुख्यमंत्री बनाकर भी अपने राजनैतिक सूझबूझ का परिचय दिया था। योगी

आदित्यनाथ जिस नाथ पंथ से आते हैं उसका वैचारिक अधिष्ठान 'सामाजिक समरसता ही राष्ट्रीयता है' के सूत्र वाक्य में स्थापित में है। समरसता भरे समाज के आधार पर राष्ट्रीय एकता और अखंडता की जिस अवधारणा की आधारशिला महायोगी गोरक्षनाथ ने रखी, उसे गोरक्षपीठाधीश्वर योगी आदित्यनाथ जी धार्मिक और आध्यात्मिक निरंतरता के साथ पूरी तरह स्थापित करने का हर संभव प्रयास किये हैं।

गुरु गोरक्षनाथ कहते थे कि मनुष्य मन की शक्ति से विकसित होता है और मन न तो हिंदू, न मुसलमान और न ही दलित इसे हम जितना सहज बनाएंगे, उतना ही मजबूत होते चले जाएंगे। सामाजिक समरसता के बिना विकास को गति नहीं मिल सकती, नाथ पंथ के इस मूल





मंत्र है। शिक्षा के माध्यम से समरसता लाने के नाथ योगियों के प्रयास समज के सामने है। नाथ पीठ के महंत दिग्विजयनाथ ने वर्ष 1932 में महाराणा प्रताप शिक्षा परिषद की स्थापना की और इसके आलोक में स्थापित शिक्षण संस्थाओं में दलितों, शोषितों और वंचितों के प्रवेश को प्राथमिकता दी। इससे जिस शैक्षिक क्रांति का सूत्रपात हुआ, उसने शिक्षा के द्वार सबके लिए खोल दिए। वर्ष 1948 में परिषद ने महिला डिग्री कॉलेज की स्थापना कर स्त्री-पुरुष विषमता पर चोट किया तो 1959 में वनवासियों के लिए शिक्षण संस्थान खोलकर समरसता को और अधिक मजबूत किया। इतिहास में यह भी अंकित है की समरसता के लिए मीनाक्षीपुरम् गांव में अपने संकल्प से महंत अवेद्यनाथ ने धर्म परिवर्तन करने वाले व्यक्तियों को इस शर्त पर पुनर्वापसी कराई थी, की उनसे रोटी और बेटा का रिश्ता पहले की तरह ही कायम रहेगा। साथ ही महंत अवेद्यनाथ जी ने समरसता को स्थापित करने के देश भर के धर्माचार्यों के साथ वाराणसी के डोम राजा के घर सामूहिक भोज में सहभागी हुए थे।

अपनी सामाजिक समरसता की प्रतिबद्धता को प्रतिपादित करने हेतु महंत अवेद्यनाथ जी ने राम जन्मभूमि के शिलान्यास की ईंट एक दलित से रखवाई थी। आज भी गोरखनाथ

मंदिर में दलित प्रधान पुजारी है और यहां तक कि वहां के भंडारे में भी दलितों की बड़ी संख्या में उपस्थिति होती है। वास्तव में गोरक्ष पीठ समरसता का एकात्म है। सहभोज और सहयज्ञ की परंपरा जिस पीठ की विशेषता हो और जहां का प्रधान पुजारी ही दलित हो, उस पीठ से सामाजिक समरसता का संबंध खुद-ब-खुद स्थापित हो जाता है।

अपने गुरुजनों की इसी परंपरा को योगी आदित्यनाथ ने अहर्निश आगे बढ़ाया है। सांसद के रूप से ही दलितों और अति पिछड़ी जातियों के घर सहभोज में सहभागी होकर सामाजिक समरसता का बड़ा संदेश देना उनकी जीवनचर्या का हिस्सा रहा है तथा मुख्यमंत्री बनने के बाद की व्यस्तताओं में भी उनका यह अभियान कभी रुका नहीं। ऐसे पीठ की परंपरा को आगे बढ़ने वाले योगी आदित्यनाथ जी ने आपने पांच वर्षों के सफल एव यशस्वी कार्यकाल में सामाजिक समरसता को उत्तरप्रदेश के राजनीति का केंद्रबिन्दु बना दिया है अन्यथा पूर्ववर्ती सरकारें फिर चाहे कांग्रेस, बसपा या समाजवादी पार्टी हो वे अपने-अपने परंपरागत वोटबैंक की वजह से सत्ता प्राप्त करती थी तथा पुरे समय उन्हीं जातिगत वोटबैंक की सुविधानुसार एव जातिविशेष की अनुकूलता को उनकी सरकारों में प्राधान्य होता था।

किन्तु आज उत्तरप्रदेश बदल चूका यहाँ सर्वसमावेशी विकास ही सरकार की प्राथमिकता होती है, हाल ही में एक दलित के घर सहभोज में सहभागी होने के बाद मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ जी ने कहा कि सहभोज सामाजिक समता की स्थापना का एक बड़ा और महत्वपूर्ण माध्यम है। भाजपा सामाजिक एकता के मिशन को लेकर सदैव आगे बढ़ी है। तथा विकास, सुशासन व राष्ट्रवाद को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए प्रधानमंत्री मोदी जी ने सबका साथ-सबका विकास का जो मंत्र दिया, उसे अंगीकार कर बाबा साहब डॉ भीमराव अंबेडकर के सामाजिक समता के सपने को भी पूरा किया जा रहा है।

वास्तव में उत्तरप्रदेश में वंशवाद और परिवारवाद की राजनीति करने वाले सामाजिक न्याय के समर्थक नहीं हो सकते और जमीनीस्तर पर भाजपा सामाजिक समरसता और न्याय की लड़ाई लड़ रही है। सामाजिक न्याय यह है कि शासन की योजनाओं का लाभ हर गरीब को मिले, हर तबके के लोगों को मिले, उनके साथ सामाजिक आर्थिक भेदभाव न हो। यही भाजपा का मूल मंत्र है। समतामूलक समाज की स्थापना, भ्रष्टाचार मुक्त, अपराध मुक्त व्यवस्था यानी सुशासन भाजपा की सरकार का प्रमुख हिस्सा है।

योगी जी की सरकार ने पिछले पांच वर्षों में प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के मार्गदर्शन में जनहितैषी कल्याणकारी योजनाओं का लाभ हर गांव, गरीब, किसान, मजदूर, महिला, नौजवान तक बिना भेदभाव पहुंचाया है। आज उसी का परिणाम है कि प्रदेश में 45 लाख गरीबों को आवास मिले। 2.61 करोड़ गरीबों के घरों में शौचालय बने। किसी भी दलित बस्ती चले जाइये, यह सब दिखेगा। कोरोना महामारी के दौरान लोगों को मुफ्त राशन दिया जा रहा है। आज उत्तरप्रदेश में योगी जी के नेतृत्व में भाजपा सरकार सर्वसमावेशी सामाजिक न्याय को अधोरेखित कर रही है।

लेखक: अजय धवले
लेखक कॉर्पोरेट लॉयर हैं

Road to a faster tomorrow- Gati Shakti

PM
Gati Shakti
National Master Plan for
Multi-Modal connectivity



If we go back to our second standard history lessons, we will most probably remember a line saying, “Roads are the first step towards the development of a region.” Growing up and living in a semi-developed nation, we all have come across roads- some made of cement, some of the pitch, while most others in rural areas were dusty paths.

As Hardeep Singh Puri states in one of his articles, Imperial rule did give us the gift of roads, ports, and connectivity, but it was for a vastly different reason. Transport was developed to financially exploit Mother India, ship off material, and import cheaper goods made in their country rather than building the nation.

It's not rare, in our country, to find well-made roads being broken down just so that water pipelines and optical fibre cables can be laid down. Under Congress rule,

infrastructure development was in a questionable state of affairs, which, coupled with chaotic execution of the plans resulted in a dilapidated state of affairs in the domain of not only roads and highways but also economic growth.

Plans like the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, building freight corridors, Jal Marg Vikas and Ude Desh ka Aam Nagarik, have already benefited industrial strongholds and given a boost to infra development. Even JAM (Jan-Dhan Aadhar Yojana) worked towards bringing in Direct Benefit Transfers to bank accounts. Several other policies that were taken, even during the Pandemic, under the BJP rule only aimed at simplifying life for the populace.

With the launch of Gati Shakti in October, the narrative of waiting in traffic due to sudden dug up roads will change. Another

major leap in the direction of accelerated growth of the country was taken by our Prime Minister with this 100 trillion master plan. This is a huge step towards multimodal connectivity.

According to our Prime Minister, the Gati Shakti plan “provides a holistic vision- from infrastructure planning to execution.” Headed by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade this plan brings together 16 departments for better coordination among the several ministries working towards the same goal- developing the nation's logistics.

This master plan will eliminate the lacuna in communication that used to exist so far in the government bodies. Now onwards, the different sectors will work concurrently within a stipulated period and with a common vision, thus leaving



no stone unturned to reduce the cost of logistics and bring it at par with those of the developed nations.

Gati Shakti is set to build 200,00 km of the national highway, augment power transmission by increasing cargo capacity of ports, boost renewable power sources and usage. Based on the development of logistics, certain other goals include setting up mega agro-processing centres, defence corridors, electronics manufacturing and several other clusters of textile and medical devices. Building the project with the vision of potential economic zones to holistically integrate all infra linkages and promote a well-oiled movement of services and service providers.

Coming to how it will help the economy grow, synergising projects from multiple ministries under one umbrella will be the pivot. Better coordination will not only

help improve multimodal logistics but will also reduce freight costs. This will, in turn, create competition and increase investment.

The BJP government wants to create a digital platform using geospatial mapping which will bring on board the several ministries of both the states and the central to collectively work on different projects. Providing a bird's eye view, all the concerned authorities will have a clear picture of what the other ministries are planning.

The increased transparency among the different authorities will also help the private investors. As the PM said, "Those who are our private players do not know whether the road is going to pass through here, or a canal is going to be built there, or a power station will come up somewhere. The solution to all these problems lies in Gati Shakti." Another advantage that goes



unsaid is the decrease in unnecessary government expenditure that would be saved when development is planned.

The plan is built in accordance with three time periods- the status of development as of 2014-15, activities have done till 2020-21 and the plans for 2024-25. This will provide an index to help view the completion of projects and allow ministries to plan their next step accordingly.

Under the able leadership of our Prime Minister, 11.5 lakh crores have been spent on the development of infrastructure of the country from 2014 to 2021 in contrast to only 1.5 lakh crore that was spent in ten years from 2004 to 2014. Metro rail has expanded over 700 km in 18 different cities as compared to only 250 km in 2014. Another 1000 km of it is under construction in more than 25 cities of our country.

In the domain of augmenting natural resource usage in the country, since 2014, the pipeline network has shot up to almost 19,000 km from a little over 14,000 km supplying gas to steel, thermal and fertiliser plants. Under the master plan of Gati Shakti, another 15,000 km of it will be built.

The Cabinet secretary will head a team of special secretaries who will look into the proposals for any changes that might be brought about in the plan. Only they can approve the proposals and change the master plan if required.

There has been no attempt in the past to collaborate the functioning and execution of the different ministries or even the state and centre in our country in any field. Gati Shakti is a one-of-a-kind project which will herald a revolutionary path in the field of infra-development in India. Even though it is in its foetal stage, the meticulousness and intricacy that has been maintained to draw up the plan have birthed high hopes in our hearts.

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The University of Delhi. Word Count: 987

Troops cut not feasible India must increase defense spending

The news about the Indian Army cutting its troop strength by 1 lakh of its 13.50 lakh strong army has not been much debated. The downsizing includes cutting down the authorized number of officers by around 4500. The decision was taken by the union govt. vis-a-vis our main adversary, China by 3 lakhs and some other countries also have reduced the numbers. The Indian armed forces have a unique culture and are one of the best-armed forces in the world.

Recently, China has put into service its much-touted lightweight battle tanks which the military seeks to deploy in mountainous regions like Tibet, to boost its combat capabilities in the high-altitude areas. The new generation Tank, identified as Type-15 by the People's

Liberation Army has a 105 mm gun its main weapon that can fire armor-piercing shells and launch guided missiles. Type-15 is equipped with a hydro-pneumatic suspension system that ensures good maneuverability and survivability in mountainous regions also launched an unmanned warship that is going on combat trials in an undisclosed location is a cause of concern for us.

We need to take a balanced view of Chinese President Xi-Jinping's order to the PLA to continue strengthening its combat capabilities and always be ready for battle and on other hand to cut its troops' strength. This is a kind of message that leaders all over the world are expected to give to their militaries. So, it should not be taken to mean that the PLA

is about to embark on a new wave of aggressive behavior. Although probably aimed elsewhere there is a message, therefore the Indian military, which confronts China across a 4000-km disputed border and is learning to cope with the PLA Navy movements across the Indian Ocean. As, the PLA's strategic support Force (PLASSF) has been set up to integrate capabilities in space, cyberspace, and the electromagnetic spectrum into the PLA's combat arms. Its goal is to meet the PLA's military-strategic guidelines of being ready to fight and win wars. China plans to build four nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and develop new carrier-based fighter jets as Beijing tries to boost its naval prowess and space war capabilities to catch up with powerful US armed forces. PLA plans to have its military modernized by 2035.

The mass killings of Indians in terrorist strikes organized by IS and other groups have been a continuous feature of Pakistan's policy. Yet, within a few months, we were back to 'composite dialogue with Pakistan after SHARM AL SHIEKH summit, where the focus of attention was not the terror strikes in India, but unfounded allegations of Indian involvement in the freedom struggle in Baluchistan. This was a manifestation of Indian diplomacy as its worst.

The Balakot airstrike was marked by the use of precision-guided Israeli Spice-2000 bombs that function with deadly accuracy. What will, however, please our Russian friends, is the fact that an upgraded frontline American F-16 equipped with highly sophisticated AAM-RAM missiles was shot down by a vintage



old MIG-21. Pakistan should be made to realize that India's airstrike marks only the beginning of a new approach, which India will now undertake. It is time for decision-makers in New Delhi to realize that our covert actions on foreign soil will need to be upgraded. The global political, diplomatic and economic scenario has changed.

In 305 B.C Chandragupta Maurya and his Mentor, Chanakya defeated Seleucus Nikator the then, viceroy of Alexander's armies, and unify small confederacies into a strong India. At that time no country dared to invade India during the Maurya dynasty. After Chanakaya's times, India has been a soft target to foreign invaders and there has been no change in the situation so far. This is only because of our internal strife and quarrels, neglect of frontiers, weak diplomacy, meek leadership, failure of spying agencies, and lack of strategic thinking. Indian Govt. had relinquished claims on its territories many times. After independence Britishers want Coco Island to be a part of India but our leaders ignore it, saying it has no importance. A part of a Country whether it is of Strategic importance or not, cannot be given to another country. Now China has set up its Naval Base in Coco Island which was a part of Myanmar and has tracking capability of our Missile technology tests and ISRO's space programs. Pakistan claims over Siachen Glacier and the Chinese claims Leh-Ladakh region and the whole Arunachal Pradesh Area of our motherland. They also made inroads, undermining Indian influence in Bhutan, the Maldives, Bangladesh, and Nepal.

India has been constantly under threat of clandestine wars, so our borders should be adequately manned and equipped with sophisticated devices of telecommunications as well as

ammunition. As our opponents are increasing their defence expenditure, India should also scrutinize its defence budget. India's defence policy aims at promoting and sustaining durable peace in the Asian subcontinent and equipping the defence forces adequately to counter external aggression. It does not include Geo-strategic interests. There is also a need to review India's defence strategy.

The troops cut in our country are not feasible for some reasons. First, India is a highly impregnable country surrounded by many enemies and soft targets for centuries due to its religious, socialist, racist ethnicity. Secondly, our growing population has been a curse, but the military gives opportunities and makes our society unique and thinking of oneness spreads among people which is a powerful force that binds our country.

Thirdly, As if our govt. curtails the troops only due to Chinese troops cut again this is disastrous as there is no proof China is actually doing this or whether its diplomacy to encourage India to do so and what is Govt. of India's stand on Arunachal Pradesh, Leh-Ladakh, and Sikkim's routes which Chinese used for trade and military purposes. Fourthly, if our politico-bureaucratic leadership wants India to be a powerful country to be reckoned with world-class armed forces. We have to think again to do so. Rather do our troops-cut govt. has to make India a highly mechanized and modern agricultural country with a food surplus and to create job opportunities in other sectors also.

Last year, all three services complained that they were not even provided money to



Image credit: Niyazz

pay for the ongoing acquisitions, leaving alone new ones. Indeed before the budget, there were few announcements declaring that the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) cleared the 'Project 75I' submarines in January for the third time in last decade and of course, we have the controversial Rafale deal for which we have yet to receive the fighters and have begun the payments in few months, compared with other militaries given the threats we confront the overall numbers are ok. However, there is considerable room to redistribute the personnel-not to reduce the Army, enhancing the Air Force, navy, and specialized forces who can service the new military, which needs to be better networked and supported by the ministry of defence. There can be huge savings through the integration of the three services.

The big question is for India to push through any significant reforms and reorganization of our defence system. Meanwhile, our leaders boast about the defence capabilities which they do not have. We are not ready for the new generation of space and electromagnetic warfare. Even our naval capabilities are not enough. Time has come to do something for new generation warfare systems. So, our enemies cannot wage war against us, and no war will be fought. As India is a country in the world, it does not want to wage war against anyone.

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Dimensions of discrimination against religious minorities in Pakistan

The everyday instances of discrimination against religious minorities are not only the result of Islamic extremism but many repugnancy provisions in the constitution of Pakistan actively embolden and institutionalize these discriminations.

The recent incident of mob lynching of a Sri Lankan national summarises the constant fear under which non-Muslims particularly Hindus and Sikhs are forced to live in Pakistan. Apart from the constant threat to their lives via false blasphemy charges, there exist discriminatory legal, institutional, and constitutional provisions which force religious minorities in Pakistan to live a life of second-class citizens. This article makes an attempt to show the many ways in which Hindus and Sikhs of Pakistan are being discriminated against and their human rights are violated with impunity albeit with State support. This article is an aggregation of the facts that are already in the public domain. Inputs have also been taken from the various reports of a Delhi-

based Centre for Democracy, Pluralism, and Human Rights headed by Dr. Prerna Malhotra Ji.

Rampant violations of rights of religious and other minorities are reported from Islamic countries on a daily basis. In this context, Pakistan is a living hell for religious minorities. Pakistan, the so-called land of pure, is literally on its way to becoming 'Pure' i.e free of Hindus and Sikhs. The 2017 census data shows that Muslims have become 96.47% of the total population and on the other hand religious minorities have shrunk. Hindus, for example, are at their all-time low at 1.73% of the population. Similar is the situation for other religious minorities. Religious minorities are not treated as equal citizens and this fact is even boasted by the constitutional heads of the country. For

example, Khawaja Nazimuddin, the 2nd Prime Minister of Pakistan, had said, "I do not agree that religion is a private affair of the individual nor do I agree that in an Islamic state every citizen has identical rights, no matter what his caste, creed or faith be".

In Pakistan, there lies religious merit in converting Non-Muslims to Islam, and whole state machinery is found complicit in such activities against minorities. According to their own human rights commission, around one thousand young Hindus and Christians are forced to convert to Islam every year. Atrocities on Hindu minorities, particularly on Scheduled Caste Hindus and women are particularly worse. These atrocities started with the very birth of Pakistan in 1947. Then Scheduled Caste leader of Bengal, Jogendranath Mondal (1904-68), who made a so-called common cause with the Muslim League, had to come back to India just after a few years. His letter is a historic document indicating the abysmal status of minorities in the then just born Pakistan. Also, it is a lesson for today's so-called Ambedkarites who are seeking a common goal with such Islamic fundamentalist forces in India.

Constitutionally, Pakistan being an Islamic state, its present constitution has many repugnancy clauses which discriminate against religious minorities. For example, sections 298-B and 298-C of the Pakistan Penal Code restrict religious groups from freely practicing their faith,



and Clauses 295-B and 295-C on blasphemy can endanger the very life of the accused individual. Blasphemy laws perpetuate dehumanizing discrimination against minorities. They live under a constant threat of Islamic vigilantism. Since 1990, scores of Pakistanis hailing from religious and linguistic minorities in Pakistan have been killed over claims of blasphemy. Even Muslims who speak against these inhuman laws are killed. The minorities' minister, Shahbaz Bhatti, was assassinated in 2011 for speaking against the blasphemy laws. Also, Asia Bibi languished in jail for many years. After calling the blasphemy law a 'black' law, Salman Taseer, the governor of Punjab, was shot dead by Mumtaz Qadri, his bodyguard, in 2011. As recently as in 2020, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet called out this draconian law and stated, "Religious minorities in Pakistan continue to face violence and repeated attacks on their religious places of worship and government's failure to amend the blasphemy law led to violence against them".

Legally also, Pakistan State discriminates against religious minorities in many ways. Take the example of the "Hindu Marriage Act, 2017" for the constitutional recognition of Hindu Marriages. However, a major loophole in it is used in the forceful conversion of Hindu women. It is section 12 (iii) which stipulates "...the marriage may be terminated on the basis of either the husband or the wife converting to some other religion". This section annulled any imaginary protection provided to women. Abduct a married woman, force her to convert, force her to say it is voluntary and her marriage is annulled. Similarly, Ahmadis live in constant fear of harassment or assault either to themselves or their homes, workplaces, and places of worship. For instance, under Section 298-B of the Pakistan Penal Code, Ahmadis are prevented from using any Islamic epithets



that might result in them being mistaken as Muslims. In addition to this, Section 298-B (2) criminalizes the use of the word "Azan" for the call to prayers by Ahmadis.

In a country infested with Sunni Islamic radicalization, there are no security and freedom for women and even other ethnic and linguistic Muslim minorities. Women belonging to religious and ethnic minorities face double marginalization. Though Pakistan is a signatory to the Convention on the elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) yet crime against women continues to abate. Hatred is being fomented in society through an inappropriate representation of minorities and particularly women folks in society and also in the educational curriculum. The judicial system has also failed to prevent the occurrence of the crimes and give justice to the victims. Punjab-dominated military-politician complex violates the human rights of Balochs, Hazaras, Sindhis, Ahmadis, and the people of Gilgit-Baltistan. Violent attacks on their social gatherings or religious places by Sunni extremists groups and people are quite common. Shias, Ahmadi Muslims, Christians, and Hazaras are targets of these attacks. In 1974 Ahmadis were officially denied even the legal rights to be considered Muslims. The Gojra riots were particularly harrowing in which several Christians, including women, were killed. Baluchistan's independence movement is violently suppressed by the Punjabi-dominated

military here. Forceful abductions, rape, enforced disappearances, and extra-judicial killings of the detainees by the military are frequent in the case of the Baloch and Pashtun minorities. Though Pakistan adheres to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is a signatory to several international human rights treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). However, these ethnic and linguistic minorities along with religious minorities remain disenfranchised in society and are not fully included in the political life of the country.

Thus, every basic norm of human rights is being grossly violated in Pakistan by legal institutions, society, and non-state actors. Hence, it is a mandate on the international community concerned with the protection of human rights to take necessary measures. This is high time that international agencies, like the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), must intervene effectively before it is too late, and minorities are completely wiped off from the country. Pakistan is a signatory to many humanitarian covenants however gross violations of rights of religious minorities go unnoticed internationally. The UN and the other concerned agencies must give up their partisan behaviour and speak up vocally for religious minorities of Pakistan.

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Atmanirbhar Bharat, Swayampurna Goa

Goa means nature & tourism, but today it also means a new model of development and a reflection of collective efforts. Goa means solidarity for development from Panchayat to Administration.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi praised the state of Goa with these words while interacting with the changemakers in the state, under a unique initiative of the state government. The new, innovative initiative of the Government of Goa is in line with the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan by Prime Minister Modi. The Govt believes that this initiative is its contribution to the grand Abhiyan of Atmanirbhar Bharat which is aimed at building New India. The unique and innovative initiative is Swayampurna Goa.

The Swayampurna Goa initiative was launched on 1st October 2020 by Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant. At the launch of the initiative, the Chief Minister stated, "Every village Panchayat needs to adopt various sustainable measures to gain economic empowerment. The initiative is the endeavor of Govt. of Goa to transform Goa into an ideal State, and the Govt. has embarked upon the theme 'Vision 2020-2025 to initiate efforts to revamp state administration & make it deliver better and transparent government to people."

The Program includes the 10 Point program to ensure -

(1) Tap Water for All (2) Electricity for All (3) Shelter (Home) for all (4) Sanitation for All (5) Krishi Card, PM Kisan, Kisan Credit Card, Health Care for All, (6) Eligible Aid for Divyangas (7) Health Security for All (8) Social Security for All - Deen Dayal Samajik Suraksha Yojana



Image credit: Alamy Stock Photo

(9) Financial Security for All - Bank A/C, PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima, PM Suraksha Bima Yojana (10) Senior Citizen Card

The skill mapping of population, resource identification of villages to ensure that every village becomes self-sustainable, and the primary aim is to focus on the eradication of poverty with the participation of locals. The study for Economic Revival of for village panchayat was undertaken by the Directorate of Higher Education and Goa Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development and individual reports of 191 Village panchayats were prepared and released by Chief Minister.

To implement the program, the Government of Goa produced another unique approach of governance known as 'Swayampurna Mitra', who are state government employees that are to be appointed at the village and municipality level. Accordingly, Swayampurna Mitras

for 191 Gram Panchayats and 14 Municipalities in the state were appointed. They have not been offered any special concessions, special allowances for the program. Nodal officers were appointed at Taluka level, i.e., twelve nodal officers.

The Swayampurna Mitras were tasked to coordinate with the Sarpanch, Municipal Chairman, Panchayat Members, Councilors & Panchayat Secretaries, and they were asked to visit their respective village, Municipality on holidays. This was done so that the benefits of welfare schemes implemented by the State and Centrally Sponsored schemes reach the needy people whom it is meant for, and this was done to ensure the effective implementation of the schemes.

The Swayampurna Mitras were also tasked to identify the needs and requirements of village-specific initiatives and projects for the betterment

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AATMA-NIRBHAR BHARAT

of the village in terms of employment generation, entrepreneurship development, etc. A grant of Rs.50 Lakhs was sanctioned for innovative projects under the Swayampurna Goa scheme, and this included projects such as Panchayat Ghar, Community Hall, Crematorium, and other initiatives certified by the Swayampurna Mitras.

The Swayampurna Mitras did indeed visit their respective villages during their holidays, and they took notes on issues of the villagers persisting in their villages. Subsequently, they worked to resolve the issues under the 10-point program rapidly, and the implementation of this program was nothing short of taking the government to the doorstep of the people. However, the most challenging and innovative task was to identify and implement unique projects for self-reliant villages, municipalities.

The below-mentioned are some fine success stories related to the unique and innovative projects that have been implemented under Swayampurna Goa - Assonora village in Bardez taluka in

North Goa district. The village panchayat, Swayampurna Mitra, Under Women Development Program of the Govt., coordinated with the Rotary Club of Mapusa. The Rotary Club donated twenty-one sewing machines to the women for self-sustenance, entrepreneurship development at the village level. The state faced the wrath of Tauktae Cyclone and unprecedented floods. To diversify and make the disaster management system more inclusive, thirty-eight women were trained as 'Apada Nari' with the basics of disaster relief, First Aid, etc.

The region is the beneficiary of the Tilari canal for water supply for irrigation, drinking water. However, the canal project has caused flooding in the fields of many farmers. The farmers came together, identified an alternative farmland, with the help of Swayampurna Mitra started farming on the said land. They took harvest of Tomatoes, Chillies, Cucumbers, and Brinjals. On one hand, the villagers came together for an alternative source of livelihood, while on the other hand, the Swayampurna Mitra

took the issue of flooding of fields to the State Water Resources Department.

Kirlapal Dabhal in Dharbandora taluka, North Goa. The region has a substantial tribal population. The Swayampurna Mitra took initiative under the 'Adivasi Vikas Yojana' of the Goa Tribal Welfare Department and build a community hall for the village. The Mitra coordinated a meeting between the villagers of Karmane affected by irregular water release in the canal and the Water Resource Department and resolved the issue by chalking down the specific pattern for the water release and sharing pattern.

Four youth from Rumbrem and Bandoli villages took up a property to develop an Eco-Tourism project. The Swayampurna Mitra supported and encouraged the venture with clearances and other procedures. The project is based on the 'Tribal Village Life' concept. A local Self Help Group prepares and provides food for the tourists. The project undertakes organic farming and sells those products at the site. This project has helped fifteen families go Swayampurna.

Morpirla Village, Qupem, South Goa District. Seventy-two students from the Tribal community took Computer training under the 'Short Term Professional Training Scheme' for tribal youth of the State Tribal Welfare Department. It has helped them to seek jobs, start their business venture to become Swayampurna.

Surla, Bicholim, North Goa. The villagers with the support of Swayampurna Mitras identified a barren land of 50,000 sq.m. not cultivated for more than 12 years. Forty farmers took initiative and collectively brought it under cultivation under community farming. The project was implemented with the support of the 'Atal Gram Development Agency'

These are a few of the many unique and innovative projects taken under the Swayampurna Goa scheme with



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coordination of Swayampurna Mitras, Villagers, Sarpanch, Panchayat members, Municipality chairman, councilors, etc. A system of 'Swayampurna Parikshak' was set for the monitoring and coordination of Swayampurna Mitras. Moreover, to review the projects, initiatives, works of Swayampurna Mitra, Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant produced another innovative program to take the Govt. to the Doorstep of the people i.e., 'Sarkar Tumchya Dari' (literally meaning Govt. at Your Doorstep)

The Sarkar Tumchya Dari program was a unique program where on a given day, all the Govt. machinery from District Collector to various department heads, went to the village for a day. Where CM interacted with the Swayampurna Mitras, Sarpanches, Panchayat Members, etc. took a review of the projects undergoing, listened to the issues raised, and directed the authorities to resolve those. The Sarkar Tumchya Dari served multiple purposes. The common people got the knowledge of the available schemes for their benefit. They got to know whom to be approached for what sort of work to be done. And most importantly, it assured the people that this is the Govt. that works, reach to the last mile.

The Prime Minister took note of the unique and innovative approach of governance. On 23rd October 2021 PM virtually interacted with the

Swayampurna Mitra, Sarpanch, Beneficiaries of the Swayampurna Goa program. Prime Minister praised the program saying, "State means a new model of development and a reflection of collective efforts. when people get the support of the Govt. and the hard work of the people, how change comes, self-confidence comes, we all experienced during our discussion with beneficiaries."

The Swayampurna Goa is not just limited to the 10 Point program, innovative projects for the development and making villages Swayampurna. The State Govt. has been working towards formulating policies towards making the state Swayampurna in true sense. The best tourist destination in India is dependent upon neighboring states for meat, milk, food grains, many other things. The Govt. has formulated a Start-Up policy that creates a robust environment for Start-Ups aimed at Swayampurna Goa.

The Govt. has taken up a project to build dairy clusters and dairy estates. It is encouraging youth for dairy farming. Farmers are being supported for the enhancement of average milk production. Many villages have taken up projects for dairy farming and distribution with the support of Swayampurna Mitras. Govt. has formulated the 'Goa Marine Culture Policy 2020' for the development of the Fisheries sector. Notification of minimum legal size, conservation of fishing

resources, leasing of platform for drying of fish has been done. The Fisheries department conducted more than 110 programs with 3948 participants. With the aim of Swayampurna Goa.

Earlier there were very limited facilities of Multi-Specialty Hospitals. The patients had to be shifted to Bengaluru or Mumbai for treatments of critical ailments. The Govt of Goa supported, encouraged private hospitals to enhance their capacity and robustness. The State Govt. enhanced the capacities, established specialty facilities at the District Hospitals, Health centers in Goa. The COVID-19 pandemic turned out to be a tough test. But the Govt. turned the crisis into an opportunity to enhance the resources and capacities. Established the Oxygen generation plants under the PM-CARES. With all the efforts, the state is on the path of Swayampurna Goa.

Goa is gearing up with the implementation of a New Education Policy, with Coding and Robotics Education in Schools scheme, institutions like National Forensic Science University are in Goa. The introduction of new, entrepreneurship development-oriented courses aimed at the goal of Swayampurna Goa. The Govt. is committed to the Swayampurna Goa in every sector. Its aim is not limited to just self-reliance but also contributing to the nationwide ambitious program of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The last 10 years were of development of the state, The next 5 years are committed to the prosperity of the state by the Bharatiya Janata Party. With rapid infrastructure development, future-oriented policies, adoption of digital governance, unique initiatives the state of Goa shall achieve the goal of Swayampurna Goa.



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The torch - bearers of 'Ajanaabha Varsha.'

This blessed land was one of the most celebrated centres of knowledge and trade in ancient times. This is although, a known fact, yet we are to discover and unearth the true meaning of the buried pearls of wisdom and guidance that was long lost to the modernization of Indian society. As mentioned in the title, this land was once known as Ajanābha Varsha. Aja Nabha Varsha is one of the most initial names given to this land, where “Aja” is another name for the creator, Lord Brahma, “Nabha” meaning centre or navel, and “Varsha” meaning the space occupied, referring to the subcontinent.

Our country as we know it has witnessed a wide range of invasions and various reforms through the ideologies and practices of the ones foreign to this land. Our centuries-old wisdom slowly lost its light and was soon greatly influenced by western culture. As we understand, our wisdom withheld great power and unimaginable capacity. What truly happened to these texts will always be an unfortunate painful truth in the shadows, but some evidence shows an attempt may have been made to erase these from our history. The British colonized our land and were soon exposed to the vastness of the diversity and culture the land bore. Many prominent personalities of the British Rule, aimed at reforming our scriptures from the root. They replaced the education system with their ideals and rendered the ancient system of education illogical and termed our ancient works as 'baseless' and as a 'figment of imagination. All the Vedic texts were converted and categorized as mythology.

We notice, the textbooks that are being used in Indian secondary and higher secondary education currently are

majorly based on the British reforms and demeans the ancient ideologies of Bharat. It mentions the great ruler of Jambudveepa, Manu even says he discriminated against women and was a propagator of patriarchy, this thought glorifies the British and downplays the greatness of our system to the young minds who are victims to the severely partial statements partaken from the biased education, but it was proved otherwise recently, on research they justified the quotations of maharishi Manu, one such quote is,

यथैवात्मा तथा पुत्रः पुत्रेण दुहिता समा
|तस्यामात्मनि तिष्ठन्त्यां कथमन्यो धनं हरेत् ॥
130 ॥

yathavātmā tathā putraḥ putreṇa duhitā
samā |tasyāmātmani tiṣṭhantyaṃ
kathamanyo dhanam haret ॥ 130 ॥

This can be interpreted as, an offspring reflecting one's own self, and every daughter is equal to that of the son, they claim a fair share in property if they are in real character.

The recidivation of modern Indian society can be starkly observed in today's world, where there is a requirement to prove this well-established wisdom at every step, most of which is misinterpreted or has reached this age through various biased opinions and assumptions.

Understanding the society through some outshining examples of our past, helps us connect better to the point of discussion. Samvat Lalitaditya Muktapida, the last known Digvijay samvat, was known for reigning during the golden age of Kashmir, where art, architecture, and learning joyously flourished. Peshwa Bajji Rao, the undefeated Hindu warrior, is widely known for his innovative warfare techniques and bilateral relations.

Chhatrapati Maharaj Shahu is a fitting example of immaculate human qualities and morals. Rani Naiki Devi, the valiant queen who defeated Mohamad Ghori, in the year 1178 kept him from launching an attack on India until the year 1191. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was a brilliant spark, who paved the way for innumerable lessons for humanity. Taradevi empowered women by training them in martial arts in the year 1947.

Not only were they leading role models who portrayed excellence and grace throughout their lives, but they also accomplished many architectural achievements, that further promulgated the exceptional principles of these inspiring personalities. The prestigious Somnath temple stood for the 18th time after being destroyed seventeen times by invaders. Another architectural marvel, Chau sat yogini temple, and traces of the design can be noticed in the design of the Indian Parliament House. The Great wall of India, built by Maharana Kumbha, is known to be the second-largest continuous wall after the Great wall of China. Maharana Kumbha has also contributed to the building of 360 temples.

King Vikramaditya, the first Chakravarti emperor of India, was widely celebrated for being generous, righteous, these are some striking examples from the time of the monarchy in India. But even as we advance through time and note some selfless personalities, they leave us in wonder and awe of their dedication and zeal to achieve higher motives.

Veer Savarkar, a visionary who left us with great lessons of patience, resilience, pragmatism, bravery, and the incessant passion to obtain knowledge. There is no dearth of praise for this torchbearer of true





love and devotion to one's motherland and its values. Another eminent reformer, Hanuman Prasad Poddar, the founder of Gita press, is the finest long-running publisher of some of the most celebrated religious and spiritual books, and he has also devoted his entire life to bringing light to the re-establishment of Rama Janmabhoomi and its savings trust.

Another remarkable initiative to be noted is the Kashmiri Self-defence corps, a true example of sheer courage, where young pandit girls took up arms to defend Kashmir against the invasion of Pakistan in 1947. These examples of leadership and togetherness, when applied in the modern world with the right perspectives and true actions can slowly, but steadily contribute towards the recuperation of our ancient wisdom which is truly eternal.

Let us consider a different aspect now, the field of ancient Indian medicine, which saw the rise of various pioneers who enlivened the science not only in times of peril but also instilled its core principles

and practices into our daily lives. Some notable Acharyas or practitioners of the science were, Sushruta Acharya, Charaka Acharya, and much recently Vagbhatacharya, who has directed the entire world with their illustrious works. Stating the example of Cowasji, whose nose was ordered to be cut off as a punishment by Tipu Sultan, had his nose restored by a traditional medicine practitioner, Kumar in 1794 C.E. This is the world's first documented plastic surgery. Mr. Lucas, a British, observed the whole action and documented every detail of it. The surgery was performed based on "Rhinoplasty in Sushruta Samhita". Using the same details and techniques, Joseph Constantine, known as the father of Plastic Surgery, performed the modern Rhinoplasty 20 years later. Their works, referred to as 'Samhitas', are yet relevant and bear a vast expanse of knowledge and learning.

We all unanimously believe that life is a

series of experiences. This is agreed upon by both materialists and spiritualists. Ours is now an 'Age of Science' as they call it. From time immemorial, ours has been the land of spiritualism and the universe has always been looking up to us to teach them the right ways of living and the true moral standards of behavior. Even today, the world views India with fruitful respect and adoration, not for her material wealth, manpower, popularity, or even literature, but for being pioneers in contributing to the world the great 'Science of Living.' Here, one learns to rehabilitate oneself as a better social being.

We, as a country, are losing the strength that our culture and heritage offer, there is disturbingly more hatred, misunderstandings, and rifts created within the walls that house us. In the name of secularism, and protecting our religion, we are losing what this land stands for eternally, Unity in Diversity. True Religion is not something that divides us, it is what glues us back together, even when the fabric of the world tears apart. We have a long journey to make together before we get there, but on the way, let us remember our clear motto, "to drag Man's boat of hope out of the sinking sands, and set it afloat on the stream of Existence is the main function of True Religion."

Concluding with a comprehensive prayer or rather an appeal,

ॐ पूर्णमदः पूर्णमिदं पूर्णात्पूर्णमुदच्यते । पूर्णस्य
पूर्णमादाय पूर्णमेवावशिष्यते ॥ ॐ शान्तिः ॥

'We are wholeness, manifested from wholesomeness (the outer universe). Even when the wholesomeness is removed from the Whole. The wholesomeness yet remains.'

Let us educate, learn, and respect each other as easily as we can hate. When we all start following the path paved by the Unsung heroes, we will notice ourselves becoming heroes in Life and beyond.

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Digitization of courts, Technological outreach, and Delay of justice

Introduction

“Delay of Justice is Denial of Justice” - A legal maxim that depicts the need to have speedy trials in order to grant justice to the injured person. The modern world is that which is technology-led. The transactions we enter into, one way or another, are centered around technology and its development. In this fast-growing technology-driven world, the common man is the one who is directly or indirectly affected by such massive shifts.

When the government initiated the process of computerization of Indian courts around two decades back, we have seen the age-old system of documentation and storing of case files being broken down into a seamless form, that is stored or is processed by a computer.

Our court procedures are complex, time-consuming, and expensive. The common man has always hesitated in the pursuit of justice through litigations. This tiresome loop of court processes has always made him take a step back from inviting such inconveniences that will lead to an era of lifelong headaches. With the advent of computerization of the Indian courts, the litigants will not have to run back and forth in the name of justice. This made the common man think that the courts bearing lakhs of pending cases, causing delay will no longer be a huge headache to him.

Although the advent of imparting such modernized aspects to the Indian courts did boost the judiciary to deal with a speck of pending cases, the common man's plight doubled as there are cases pending

in the courts coupled with the unavailability to access the same through technology. This article discusses the importance of public reach to the technology available in the Indian Courts.

The Process of Upgradation

Even though the Supreme Court of India and High Courts have upgraded to an efficient technology-driven administration, the lower courts are still in the process of upgrading. The technological advancement in the courts fastens the entire process of the administration of justice. But the outreach in and among the common people and lack of knowledge or expertise in the use of these systems have led them to stay secluded within the cocoon of traditional processes.

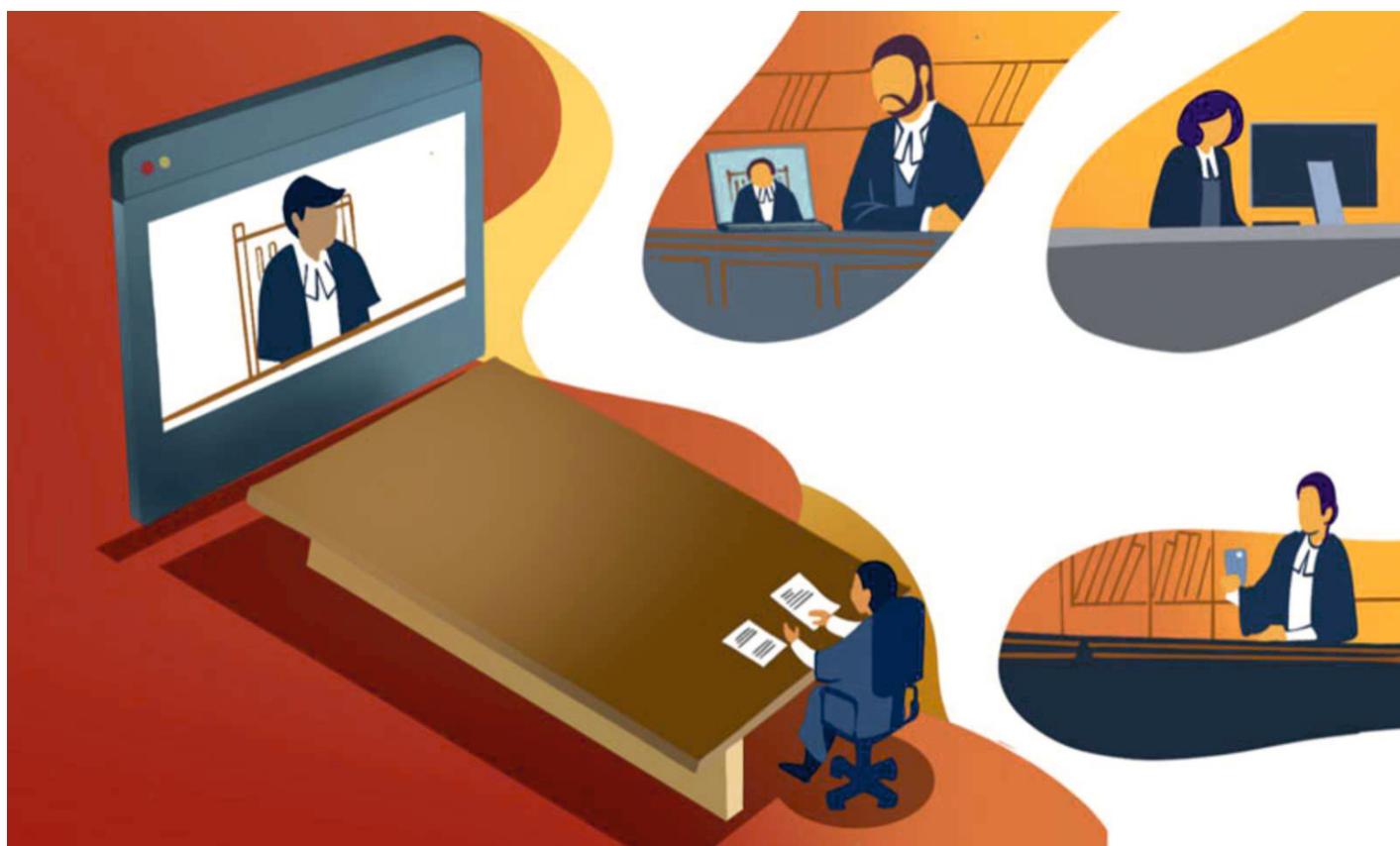




Image credit: Panuwat

Tracking down the traditional methods put in use by the courts and following the same in the litigation is a time-consuming and expensive deal. The lack of use of technology drags the entire process of litigation. The ignorance and unawareness of facilities available to the common man such as access to information regarding the status of the pending case, e-filing, e-court fees, etc. hinder the smooth process of delivering justice as the persons fail to reach the court due to inconvenience caused through transportation or other life experiences.

Indian Courts follow very strict and complex procedures, the computerization of the same will extravagantly consume the time. The process of going paperless and computerizing the lower courts should be initiated so that the rate of pending cases in the courts is handled coherently.

Significance of Computerized Court Processes.

- **Transparency** - Easy and clear access

to information and the current status of the cases pending before courts and those which have already been dealt with are easily available to the litigants.

Examples

- COURTNIC provides Supreme Court pending case status information to litigants
- E-Court India services provide designated services to litigants, lawyers, and the judiciary.
- **Convenience** - If the outreach regarding these technology-related services is prevented and is made easily available to the common man, the litigants will not have their precious time wasted in vain running behind the cases.
- **Cashless Transactions** - Through online payment portals, e-filing, e-pay, and verification of e-court fees mechanisms, the litigants can transfer the money in no time which will

prevent any default from happening as in the case of direct payment of the same through courts. In order for the courts to implement this, the common man must be educated about the opportunities of online payments. Still, a substantial number of people are hesitant about online payment modes. This is either due to lack of knowledge or due to lack of trust and confidence regarding secure payments. The governments must ensure safety and enlighten the common man about the ease of online or cashless transactions. After the 2016 demonetization, several free workshops were initiated by the government in educating the common man about the possibilities of going cashless.

- **Paperless Processes** - In June 2020, The Supreme Court three-judge bench led by Justice Chandrachud held the first paperless proceedings. It was an experiment towards the reform, which is to go paperless, which was the goal of the e-committee headed by Justice

Chandrachud.

Going paperless is an initiative that is environment-friendly, productive, inexpensive, and safe. Moreover, the documentation and storage are easily done with secure data storage. Paper production and manufacturing kill the trees leading to deforestation, climate change, and emission of greenhouse gasses.

The Supreme Court is now intending to initiate a more feasible way of e-filing process with no time restrictions as in the case of offline filing.

- **Monitoring performance and Court Management** - With digitization, the court management, clerical tasks, and monitoring of the same have become easily palpable. Robust court

management, document management, and information sharing, and unification of such shared information are possible through digitization.

The e-committee of the Supreme Court functioning for the conceptualization of the national e-governance process in the courts is moving towards the implementation of digitization in the lower courts as well. This will lead to the unification of information and connectivity among the courts in India.

Concerns of Digitization and Remedies Available

Safety and protection of data in case of e-filings, e-court fee payments, and so on. The concerns raised by the Judiciary, the lawyers, and the litigants focus primarily

on the safety and protection of their privacy and sharing of data.

The judicial system cannot be a playground for trial and error as it deals with the rights of the people and the rights of the nation as a whole. Therefore, the implementation of the same must be done after ensuring safety regarding privacy, sharing of data, and other cybersecurity issues.

- The outreach of technology among the common men and the lack of knowledge regarding the same has led to the disutility of digitization. The same can be prevented by providing awareness programs and sharing of possibilities through digitization, slowly shifting towards complete



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digitization of courts within a time span of 50 years.

- Another concern is the lack of knowledge in the case of using these technologies. The clerks working in these courts have limited knowledge and confidence as to the use of the same. They still prefer using the age-old complex mechanisms disregarding the feasibility of the online mode of the same. Similarly, when it comes to virtual court hearings, some lawyers find it difficult to cope with the delivery of arguments as they are not conversant with the online platforms providing video conferencing facilities. As stated above proper guidance is to be provided for all of them as to the usage of these technologies. They should be properly equipped to make use of

these e-court facilities, to exploit the same for their advantage and in imparting justice.

In Imtiaz Ahmad Vs State of Uttar Pradesh 3 SCC 658 2017 SCC OnLine SC 7

; The Supreme Court held a National Court Management Systems Committee (NCMSC) and E- committee to formulate a scientific technology-based mechanism for easy disposal of cases. This case sprouted when there was an inadequacy of judges in District Courts as a result of which there was a delay in rooting out the pending cases. NCMSC was required by the Supreme Court to initiate a scientific endeavor that determines the computing of the required judge strength of the district judiciary.

Conclusion

The Indian Judicial System is in need of reforms. We believe in the age-old traditions but for the development of the nation and in the administration of justice, the modern world requires modern facilities. When the world is moving forward, our judiciary is still behind with a handful of pending cases, corruption, and a lack of judicial capacity and infrastructure. The digitization of judicial processes and the use of technology in courts can provide a boost to the judicial system as a whole. It will help in dealing with the pending cases and in speedy trials. Although we cannot root out other inadequacies of our judicial system, we can surely do some justice by proper implementation of the technology in the court and court proceedings and the same must be done in a way so that the common man is benefitted. Therefore the need is to make them aware of the use of technology.

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देव भूमि का अमृत महोत्सव : आध्यात्मिक दर्शन का जागृत्तिकरण

“अब पहाड़ के काम आएगा पहाड़ का पानी और पहाड़ की जवानी” हमारे प्रधानमंत्री श्री आदरणीय नरेंद्र मोदी जी का ये कथन अब सत्य प्रतीत होता दिख रहा है क्योंकि उत्तराखंड के विकास की धारा कल-कल बहने लगी है। एक महत्वपूर्ण बात प्रधानमंत्री मोदी जी ने कही है कि उत्तराखंड के लोगों का सामर्थ्य इस राज्य को आधुनिकता की ओर ले जाएगा। आजादी के बाद से ही, यहां के लोगों ने दो धाराएं देखी हैं। एक धारा है- पहाड़ को

विकास से वंचित रखने की और दूसरी धारा है- पहाड़ के विकास के लिए दिन-रात एक करने की।

उत्तराखंड का विकास आज नई उंचाई पर है कहे तो सामाजिक और आर्थिक चेतना का पुनरुद्धार हुआ है जैसे उत्तराखंड में आधुनिक इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर, चारधाम महा परियोजना, रेल के सभी रूट्स, नए हाईड्रो प्रोजेक्ट, होम स्टे, पर्यटन, औद्योगिक क्षमता, उत्तराखंड वृद्धा

पेंशन योजना, गौरा देवी कन्या धन योजना, विधवा पेंशन योजना, अटल आयुष्मान योजना, फ्री लैपटॉप योजना, मुख्यमंत्री सोलर स्वरोजगार योजना, उत्तराखंड 01 रू पानी कनेक्शन योजना, विवाह-शादी अनुदान योजना, घसियारी कल्याण योजना, उत्तराखंड सौभाग्यवती योजना आदि, हाल ही हमारे यस्वशी प्रधानमंत्री जी ने हल्द्वानी में 17500 करोड़ से अधिक की योजनाओं से कुमाऊं क्षेत्र विकास को सिंचित करने का काम किया है।





देवों के देव महादेव बाबा केदारनाथ धाम, देव भूमि, ऋषियों की भूमि, तपोभूमि आदि अनंत नामों वाली उत्तराखंड का सांस्कृतिक व धार्मिक जीर्णोद्धार निरंतर चल रहा है, जिसकी दशा और दिशा व विजन सभी प्रदेशों के लिए अकल्पनीय व अनुकरणीय है। भारत विविधताओं और कई दर्शनीय आकर्षणों से भरा हुआ देश है। इस देश में, आध्यात्मिक विश्वास, सांस्कृतिक मूल्य और विरासत के चमत्कार कुछ ऐसे महत्वपूर्ण धरोहर हैं जो तीर्थयात्रियों व पर्यटकों को अपनी रुचिकर योजना बनाने के लिए प्रभावित करते रहते हैं। बहुत सारे पवित्र स्थलों के साथ मंदिरों की भूमि, भारत निस्संदेह शांति और आध्यात्मिकता के साधकों के लिए एक स्वर्ग ही है। भारत के सभी राज्यों में विशेषकर उत्तराखंड में इन धरोहरों व विश्वासों को सबसे अलग तरजीह दी जाती रही है।

उत्तराखंड राज्य प्राकृतिक संसाधनों, विशेष रूप से जल और जंगलों में कई ग्लेशियरों, नदियों, घने जंगलों और बर्फ से ढकी पर्वत चोटियों के साथ बहुत ही समृद्ध है। उत्तराखंड एक दुर्लभ जैव-विविधता से संपन्न राज्य है,

राज्य में सुगंधित और औषधीय पौधों की औसतन 175 दुर्लभ प्रजातियां पाई जाती हैं। जो इसे बागवानी, फूलों की खेती और कृषि में विभिन्न प्रकार के व्यावसायिक अवसरों के लिए उपयुक्त बनाता है।

देव भूमि के अंतर्गत यहाँ अनेक वन्दनीय स्थल एवं तीर्थ मौजूद है। इन्हीं तीर्थों में से, बद्रीनाथ, केदारनाथ, गंगोत्री और यमुनोत्री ये चार सबसे पवित्र और पूजनीय यही पर स्थित हैं। परस्पर इन चार तीर्थों को चार धाम के नाम से जाना जाता है। उत्तराखंड राज्य में चार धाम यात्रा को सबसे विशेष दर्जा प्राप्त है, हमारे लिए तीर्थ यात्रा के रूप में और भगवान शिव का वास के रूप में वर्णित करते हैं। हिंदू पौराणिक कथाओं में, यह माना जाता है कि प्रागैतिहासिक हिंदू दार्शनिक श्री आदि शंकराचार्य ने सर्व प्रथम 'चार धाम' शब्द गढ़ा था। इस शब्द का शाब्दिक अर्थ भगवान के चार निवास स्थान हैं। ये चार तीर्थस्थल बर्फ की मोटी परत से घिरे मनोरम पहाड़ों और एक शुद्ध वातावरण के क्षेत्र में हैं स्थित है।

चार धाम यात्रा को धार्मिक मान्यताओं के

अनुसार मोक्ष प्राप्त करने के लिए सबसे जरूरी तीर्थ यात्रा माना जाता रहा है। मान्यता है की चार धाम यात्रा यहाँ आने वालों के सभी पापों को धोकर मोक्ष को प्राप्त होते है। यह भी माना जाता है कि यह यात्रा जीवन में कम से कम एक बार अवश्य करनी चाहिए। हमारे धर्म में पौराणिक कथाओं में इन चार तीर्थों का बहुत महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है। इस पौराणिक कथा के अनुसार श्री आदि शंकराचार्य जी को श्री बद्रीनाथ धाम में पुनर्जन्म के चक्र से मुक्ति मिली थी। इस चार धाम यात्रा का प्रारंभिक बिंदु यमुनोत्री (माँ यमुना देवी का मंदिर) है इसके पश्चात अगला गंतव्य प्रसिद्ध गंगोत्री मंदिर (माँ गंगा देवी का मंदिर) है। इसके बाद तीर्थयात्रीओं को श्री केदारनाथ धाम के दर्शन करने होते हैं और अंत में श्री बद्रीनाथ धाम की यात्रा के साथ यह चार धाम यात्रा संपन्न मानी जाती है।

दिसंबर 2016 में, जब प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने सरकार के चारधाम महामार्ग विकास परियोजना की आधारशिला रखी थी तो हिन्दुओं के मन में विश्वास व धार्मिक मर्म ने एक ऊंचाई विकसित कर ली, गत कई सताब्दियों से जब सभी राजनितिक दल उत्तरखंड को पिछड़ता छोड़ रहे थे, और २०१३ के भयंकर आपदा से त्रासित हो चुके थे उस समय में यह आधारशिला अंत्यंत ही महत्वपूर्ण हो गयी थी, यह विकास परियोजना राज्य में हिंदू तीर्थयात्रा के चार प्रमुख शहरों को जोड़ने वाले 900 किलोमीटर के राजमार्ग नेटवर्क को कवर करने वाली एक परियोजना है। 12,000 करोड़ रुपये की परियोजना को गंगोत्री से बद्रीनाथ तक एक राजमार्ग के पुनर्निर्माण के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया था, जो 2013 में उत्तराखंड बाढ़ में नष्ट हो गया था।

चार धाम परियोजना के बारे में मोदी जी ने दावा किया था कि यह केदारनाथ, बद्रीनाथ, गंगोत्री और यमुनोत्री के चार हिमालयी मंदिरों की यात्रा को इतना आसान बना देगी कि लोग परियोजना के माध्यम से किए गए कार्यों को अगले सौ सालों तक याद रखेंगे। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा की "देश भर के इतने सारे लोग जो अपने वृद्ध माता-पिता को चार धाम ले जाना चाहते थे,

वे अब ऐसा कर सकेंगे। अगर अच्छी सुविधाएं दी जाएं तो देश का कौन सा परिवार देवभूमि पर नहीं आना चाहेगा?

प्रधान मंत्री ने अपने भाषण की शुरुआत यह कहते हुए की कि वह "आश्चर्यचकित और अभिभूत" हैं कि इतनी बड़ी संख्या में लोग, विशेष रूप से महिलाएं रैली के लिए आई थीं - इससे पता चलता है कि उत्तराखंड विकास के लिए तैयार है। जब मैं 2014 में आया था तो मैंने कहा था कि पहाड़ का पानी और पहाड़ की जवानी पहाड़ में नहीं रहते हैं। अब मैं इस कहावत को मोड़ रहा हूँ- हम राज्य को ऐसा बनाएंगे जहां पहाड़ियों का पानी और युवा-दोनों का उपयोग पहाड़ियों के विकास के लिए किया जाए। चार धाम राजमार्ग उत्तराखंड के उन हजारों युवाओं के पसीने से बनेंगे जिन्हें इस पहल से रोजगार मिलेगा। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि अगर भाजपा राज्य में सत्ता में आती है, तो वह "ग्रेड 3 और ग्रेड 4 की नौकरियों की नियुक्ति में कोई साक्षात्कार नहीं होने" के प्रावधान को भी लागू करेगी ताकि सभी नियुक्तियाँ योग्यता के आधार पर हों, आधारित और अनुचित पक्षपात के आधार पर नहीं।"

मोदी जी ने कहा की "अटलजी ने हमें उत्तराखंड दिया था। हम उनके आभारी हैं, लेकिन इसके साथ ही उत्तराखंड को बेहतर बनाना हमारी जिम्मेदारी है। वर्तमान में इसके लिए एक डबल इंजन की आवश्यकता है - एक दिल्ली में और दूसरा देहरादून में - जो यह सुनिश्चित करेगा कि उत्तराखंड उस गर्त से बाहर आए और बहुत ज्यादा उन्नति करें।" प्रधान मंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने अब तक उत्तराखंड को 18,000 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक की विकास परियोजनाओं को उपहार में दिया है और इसके साथ ही यह भी कहा कि उनकी सरकार सभी के अन्तोदय विकास में विश्वास करती है, न कि किसी विशेष समुदाय, जाति या धर्म की सेवा करने और उन्हें "वोट बैंक" के रूप में उपयोग करने में।

वर्ष 2007 से 2014 तक सात वर्षों में उत्तराखंड में केवल 288 किलोमीटर राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग थे, जबकि केंद्र की भाजपा सरकार ने 7.5 वर्षों में राज्य में 2,000 किलोमीटर से भी अधिक राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग बनाए हैं। मुख्य चारधाम परियोजना का उद्देश्य पहाड़ी राज्य के यमुनोत्री, गंगोत्री, केदारनाथ और बद्रीनाथ के

चार पवित्र मंदिरों को हर मौसम में जोड़ना है, इसलिए पहले इसका नाम 'ऑल-वेदर रोड' प्रोजेक्ट था। चार धाम परियोजना लगभग 900 किमी लंबी है और इसे हर मौसम में विकसित करने में लगभग 12,000 करोड़ रुपये खर्च होंगे। इस परियोजना के पूरा होने के बाद हर मौसम में चार धाम यात्रा की जा सकती है।

सबसे महत्वपूर्ण हमारी सेना के लिए भारत-चीन सीमा तक पहुंचना आसान हो जाएगा। तिब्बत में चीन की भारी सैन्य लामबंदी को देखते हुए 1962 जैसी घटना का करारा जवाब देने के लिए सेना को उत्तराखंड में चौड़ी सड़कों की जरूरत है। ड्रेगन के बढ़ते प्रभाव और मनमानी को देखते हुए, कि चीन से लगी पूरी वास्तविक नियंत्रण रेखा (एलएसी) पर राजमार्गों, सड़कों और अन्य बुनियादी ढांचे को सही स्थिति में रखना अनिवार्य है।

उत्तराखंड का ओवरऑल इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर के विकास के लिए पानी, सीवरेज, सड़क, पार्किंग, स्ट्रीट लाइट सभी जगह पर अभूतपूर्व सुधार होगा। डबल इंजन सरकार का फोकस उत्तराखंड का दशक बनाने के लिए तेज गति से ऐसे ही विकास कार्यों किया जा रहा है।





उत्तराखंड में बढ़ रहे रोड कनेक्टिविटी, हेल्थ इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर मोबाइल कनेक्टिविटी, नए हाइड्रो प्रोजेक्ट्स, उत्तराखंड में बढ़ रही औद्योगिक क्षमता, इस दशक को उत्तराखंड का दशक बनाएगी।

दिल्ली-देहरादून आर्थिक गलियारा (Eastern Peripheral Expressway Junction से देहरादून तक) शामिल है। जिसे लगभग 8300 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से बनाया जाएगा, इसके चलते अब दिल्ली-देहरादून यात्रा करने वालों को छह घंटे बजाय अब सिर्फ 2.5 घंटे लगा करेंगे। ये रास्ता हरिद्वार, मुजफ्फरनगर, शामली, यमुनानगर, बागपत, मेरठ और बड़ौत से कनेक्टिविटी के लिए 7 प्रमुख इंटरचेंज होंगे। इसमें अप्रतिबंधित वन्यजीव आंदोलन के लिए एशिया का सबसे बड़ा वन्यजीव गलियारा (Wildlife Corridor 12 किमी) होगा, जो की परिस्तिताकी तंत्र के साथ विकास का पूरा ध्यान रखा जायेगा।

पवित्र माँ गंगा नदी हमारी आस्था से आर्थिक क्षेत्र से जुड़ा विषय है मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में गंगोत्री से गंगासागर तक मिशन चलाया जा

रहा हैं। गंगा की सख्खता हो, स्वच्छ भारत अभियान हो, बेहतर सीवरेज सिस्टम हो और पानी के ट्रीटमेंट की आधुनिक सुविधाओं हो। मोदी जी ने कहा कि आज दिल्ली और देहरादून में सत्ताभाव से नहीं, सेवाभाव से चलने वाली सरकारें हैं।

उत्तराखंड राज्य में भाजपा द्वारा किए गए विकास कार्यों की सूची काफी लम्बी है और इन परियोजनाओं ने व्यापक प्रगति और विकास भी किया है। उत्तराखंड को मोदी सरकार के तहत कई संस्थान मिले हैं, जिसके बाद विभिन्न विकास परियोजनाएं, स्वास्थ्य योजनाएं, किसानों के लिए कल्याणकारी पहल, गरीब और पिछड़े वर्ग और भी बहुत कुछ है।

इन सब के बावजूद देश में भाजपा की लोकप्रियता बरकरार है, भाजपा 'डबल इंजन' मंत्र पर सवार है केंद्र और राज्य में एक ही पार्टी की सत्ता है और इससे वह सभी तर्क को तोड़ने के लिए आश्वस्त है। मुख्यमंत्री पुष्कर धामी के अनुसार, 'भाजपा सरप्राइज देने के लिए जानी जाती है। हम आगामी चुनाव जीत रहे हैं... रुको और देखो, उत्तराखंड भाजपा को एक और

मौका देकर इतिहास रचेगा।

ये शब्द और मोदी जी का विजन को दर्शाते हैं "उत्तराखंड तेज़ विकास की रफ्तार को और तेज़ करना चाहता है। आपके सपने, हमारे संकल्प हैं; आपकी इच्छा, हमारी प्रेरणा है; और आपकी हर आवश्यकता को पूरा करना हमारी ज़िम्मेदारी है" प्रदेश के लोगों का सामर्थ्य है की इस दशक को उत्तराखंड का दशक बनाएगा। केंद्र और प्रदेश की सरकार का नया ट्रेडमार्क रहा है वह है गुड गवर्नेंस, एंड होलिस्टिक डेवलपमेंट, इन्ही आधारों पर जनता जनार्दन आने वाले चुनावों में भारतीय जनता पार्टी (भाजपा) को 2022 आशीर्वाद देने का मन बना चुकी है

उत्तराखंड का सामाजिक-आर्थिक और सांस्कृतिक क्षेत्रों पुनरुद्धार होना, अन्तः देव भूमि, शंकराचार्य, ऋषिगण, महान संत परंपरा की भूमि पूरे देश का मार्ग प्रशस्त करेगी, ऐसी आशा और आकांक्षा है

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