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MODI GOVERNMENT CAUGHT IN ITS OWN WHIRLPOOL THREAT TO DEMOCRACY AMID ECONOMIC POPULISM

S. Sethuraman

Signs of desperation for the majoritarian Modi government, as the country moves closer to the May 2019 Lok Sabha poll, are becoming manifest at both political and economic levels. The abrupt manner of taking into police custody a group of civil rights activists, noted scholars among them, across the nation on August 28, without due processes has been widely condemned. It has drawn adverse notice in sections of global media and the highest court of the land.

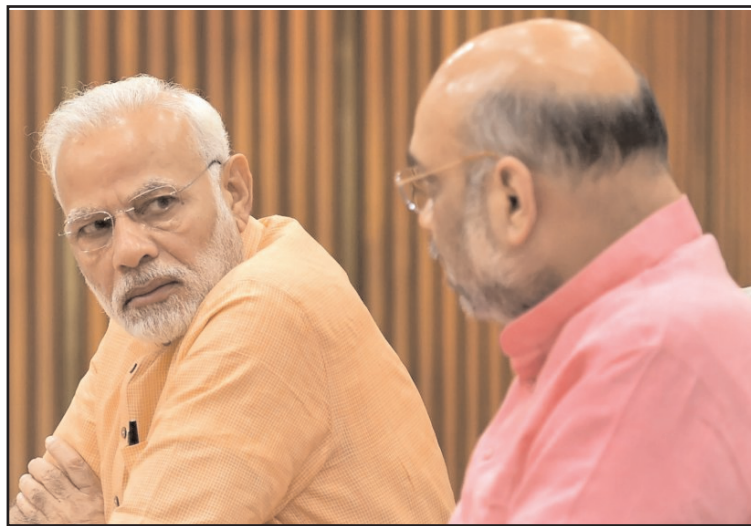
Opposition leaders from have expressed concern about such actions, which are suggestive of an "undeclared emergency" even while India would like the world to continue to believe that it is not only the world's largest democracy, where rule of law is observed, but also the fastest-growing economy. India falls far behind scores of poor and middle income nations in major social indicators, which are passed over here by the powers-that-be.

Denounced as attack on civil rights, and one of the critics wondering whether it is not opening the "road to dictatorship", opposition parties and eminent men see in it an underlying threat to citizens' democratic right to dissent.

The Supreme Court, now seized of one of the most serious developments since Independence (other than the 1975 Declaration of Emergency by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi) has remarked "dissent is the safety valve of democracy"

BJP spokespersons have justified the arrests as action directed against "urban Naxals" (Rights activists) having collusion with Maoists in the countryside. The Maharashtra police, launching the country-wide swoop on these intellectuals, contended that they were backers of the Naxalite movement with plots including one to assassinate the Prime Minister.

Government would be expected to produce before the apex court credible evidence incriminating all the five arrested activists. Primarily, action taken by the Pune police under the Unlawful Activities



(Prevention) Act, meant to be used against dangerous elements, like terrorists, has to stand scrutiny.

A sense of outrage prevails when the country is seething with discontent and mobilisation of farmers in distress, Dalits denied rights, and other sectional interests taking place amid the heating up of the election fever. How the Modi government would react with morchas and other demonstrations of grievance holders in the coming days would be watched with anxiety, given its none too gratifying record of governance thus far.

But the arrest of activists may also have been designed as a balancing exercise against the murder of four liberal intellectuals by Hindutva extremist elements in the Karnataka-Pune region over the last four years. Some suspects in that regard

have been taken into custody after a long drawn-out process. Apparently RSS concerns about the jailed Hindutva followers may have influenced the latest assault on civil rights defenders and to charge them with promoting "Maoism".

On the economic side, Modi's self-trumpeted demonetisation lay in tatters. Its disastrous consequences for the economy are still unfolding. Almost the entire amount of currency under the Note Ban of November 7, 2016 (86 per cent of currency in circulation) has returned to the banking system, which invalidates all claims of seizing black money hoards under demonetisation.

Finance minister Arun Jaitley has been on slippery ground trying to justify demonetisation on some pretext or the other. The only end-result could be an increase in tax assesseees

and revenues. That demonetisation failed to achieve the purpose for which it was clamped by the Prime Minister without adequate preparation, also turned to be the biggest failure of his government. The cruelty it was for a vast segment of poor and low income groups would not be forgiven when they go to the polling booths next year.

The Modi government has now clearly moved into populist

mode and all its policies and laws are sought to be marketed as promoting social justice while the poor are invoked in every speech of the Prime Minister. The structural reforms which IMF and RBI have called for as prerequisites for the economy to attain 7.5 to 8 per cent in the medium term stand as good as deferred till after next year's elections.

(IPA Service)

Kalindi College organizes a collection drive for Kerala flood victims



New Delhi: Kalindi College, Delhi University's SRC, NSS, NCC and Students' Union organized a rally for generating funds and relief material for Kerala flood victims on 31st August.

The rally was led by the Principal, Dr. Anula Maurya along with the entire teaching staff and a huge number of students who marched in and around East Patel Nagar and

Rajendra Place Metro Station. Besides, the NSS and Students' Union volunteers are also being sent across various areas in Delhi and Gurugram to collect funds and relief material for the cause. The relief material will be sent to Kerala Bhavan and the funds will be deposited to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund that will further be sent to the victims.

Country & Politics Tour of Amazing Thailand

Country and Politics and Newspapers Association of India delegation visited Thailand for 5 days tour. Often the name of Thailand comes in front of people, so they think that Thailand is a country famous for prostitution. Thailand is considered famous for its trade, but it is not that there is a problem going with the family. Thailand has progressed in all sectors, technology, tourism, education and import, export of textiles; even people from all over the world come here to see the coastline. In India too many garment traders buy goods from



Thailand. Food is very good in Thailand you can get Veg and Non-veg very easy anywhere in Thailand and see food is so yummy. We traveled several places in Thailand and then our team reached at Indian cultural

center. There we met Ramesh Chandra ji who is the head of Indian Culture Center Bangkok. The Indian Cultural Centre in Bangkok was formally inaugurated in September 2009 by Dr. Karan

Singh, President of the ICCR, and Mr. Teera Saluketch, the Minister for Culture in the Royal Thai Government. The Centre located on Rajadapisek road, Lake Rajada Office Condominium, 23rd Floor, Klongtoey, Bangkok. The centre has exhibition facilities and multi-purpose hall for dance and music recitals, exhibitions of painting and photography, illustrated talks and discussions on a range of cultural topics, Yoga and Vedanta workshops and regular screening of films, etc. Now more than 300 students

Contd. on page 7

सम्पादकीय

बजट के सहारे

राज्यव्यवस्था का संचालन बजट पर निर्भर होता है। विधि निर्माताओं से बजट पर गंभीर विचार विमर्श की अपेक्षा रहती है। इस बात से फर्क नहीं पड़ता कि पूर्ण बजट हो या अनुपूरक बजट। लेकिन उत्तर प्रदेश विधानसभा में अनुपूरक बजट पेश होने के दौरान विपक्ष की उदासीनता दिखाई दी। फिर भी सरकार अपने मकसद में सफल रही। उसने प्रदेश के विकास को गति देने का इंतजाम किया। जबकि विपक्ष जिम्मेदारी से बचता रहा। इस बार भी उत्तर प्रदेश विधान सभा में हंगामे के बीच अनुपूरक बजट पेश किया गया। मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने ठीक कहा कि कुछ लोग विधानसभा को हंगामे से बंधक बनाना चाहते हैं। जबकि हंगामे का कोई आधार नहीं था। इसके अलावा कैंग की रिपोर्ट पिछली सरकार पर सवाल उठाने वाली थी। हो सकता है कि इसीलिए भी हंगामा किया गया। उत्तर प्रदेश की योगी सरकार ने विकास का



विपिन गौड़

व्यापक रोडमैप पहले ही तैयार कर लिया था। अनेक योजनाओं पर तेजी से अमल भी चल रहा है। निवेश के रिकार्ड प्रस्तावों का शिलान्यास हो चुका है, अगले चरण की तैयारी है। इसी प्रकार प्रयाग कुंभ, किसानों को राहत, अटल जी पर योजनाओं, सड़क, डिफेंस कॉरिडोर, आयुष्मान योजना आदि सरकार की प्राथमिकताओं में शुमार है। वित्त मंत्री राजेश अग्रवाल ने चौतीस हजार आठ सौ तैंतीस करोड़ चौबीस लाख चालीस हजार रुपये का अनुपूरक बजट पेश किया। योगी सरकार का शुरू से किसानों पर फोकस बना हुआ है। कुल बजट का एक चौथाई हिस्सा किसानों के लिए आवंटित किया गया है। इससे गन्ना किसानों से लेकर कर्जमाफी से छूटे किसानों और बाढ़ प्रभावित लोगों को राहत प्रदान करने का प्रस्ताव है। सात हजार करोड़ से ज्यादा रुपये किसानों के लिए आवंटित किए हैं। गन्ना किसानों के बकाया भुगतान के शामिल हैं। गन्ना भुगतान में पांच सौ करोड़ रुपये सहकारी, निगम और निजी क्षेत्र पर बकाया के भुगतान के लिए है। यह रकम सरकार सीधे किसानों के खातों में डीबीटी के जरिए भेजेगी। सरकार किसानों के बकाए के भुगतान के लिए चार हजार करोड़ रुपये का सॉफ्ट लोन भी देगी। सहकारी चीनी मिल संघ के बकाया गन्ना मूल्य का भुगतान किया जाएगा। कर्जमाफी योजना से छूटे किसानों की कर्जमाफी की जाएगी। अटल जी के नाम पर अनेक योजनाएं शुरू की जाएंगी।

बलरामपुर में केजीएमयू लखनऊ के सेटलाइट सेंटर, बटेश्वर आगरा व अन्य स्थलों के विकास का विकास, अटल स्मृति सांस्कृतिक समारोह आयोजन, अटल स्मृति संकुल निर्माण, डीएवी कॉलेज कानपुर में सेंटर ऑफ एक्सीलेंस की स्थापना की जाएगी। जनवरी में प्रयाग कुंभ का गरिमा पूर्ण आयोजन योगी आदित्यनाथ की प्राथमिकताओं में है। काशी के प्रवासी भारतीय सम्मेलन को भी अहमियत दी गई है। कुंभ के लिए आठ सौ करोड़ और वाराणसी में होने वाले प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस समारोह के लिए भी सौ करोड़ रुपये का इंतजाम किया गया है। आयुष्मान भारत क्रांतिकारी योजना है। सरकार ने इसके सफल संचालन की व्यवस्था की है। सरकार ने प्रस्तावित बुंदेलखंड एक्सप्रेस-वे के साथ-साथ कॉरिडोर के विकास के लिए पांच सौ करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान कर दिया है। कॉरिडोर के लिए तीन हजार हेक्टेयर भूमि के अधिग्रहण की कार्यवाही शुरू की है। यह कॉरिडोर अलीगढ़, आगरा, कानपुर, लखनऊ और चित्रकूट बुंदेलखंड को जोड़ेगा। उच्च शिक्षा के लिए करीब नौ सौ निन्यानबे करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान किया है। शिक्षकों को सातवां वेतनमान दिया जाएगा। अनुपूरक बजट पेश होने के दौरान विपक्ष के हंगामे को उचित नहीं कहा जा सकता। शुरुआत में ही नेता प्रतिपक्ष रामगोविंद चौधरी ने देवरिया के मामले पर नियम तीन सौ ग्यारह के तहत चर्चा कराने की मांग की। विधानसभा अध्यक्ष ने कहा कि सदस्यों से शांत हो जाने की अपील करते हुए कहा कि पहले प्रश्नकाल हो जाने दें इसके बाद नियम 56 पर इस मुद्दे पर अपनी बात कही जा सकती है। लेकिन सपा सदस्य वेल में आकर नारेबाजी करते रहे। जबकि देवरिया कांड के दोषी गिरफ्तार हो चुके हैं। मामले को सीबीआई जांच चल रही है। ऐसे में हंगामे का औचित्य नहीं था, कैंग रिपोर्ट से भी सपा को परेशानी थी। सपा सरकार ने बड़े राजकोषीय घाटे व ऋण बोझ के साथ खजाना छोड़ा था। विधान सभा में पेश नियंत्रक महालेखा परीक्षक की रिपोर्ट में यह खुलासा हुआ। राजस्व व्यय का सत्रह व समस्त पूंजीगत व्यय का इक्कीस प्रतिशत से ज्यादा केवल मार्च महीने में खर्च हुआ। अनेक विभागों ने कुल बजट का चालीस प्रतिशत तक केवल मार्च में खर्च किया। हजारों करोड़ खर्च के बाद विभाग उसका उपभोग प्रमाणपत्र नहीं दे रहे हैं। जाहिर है कि विपक्ष का मकसद केवल हंगामा करने था।

शिवपाल-राहुल की सियासी दोस्ती

राजनीति यानी कि सार्वजनिक जीवन में कोई किसी का सगा नहीं होता। सभी अपने-अपने मतलब के पार होते हैं। लेकिन इन मतलबी लोगों को जो अपने पक्ष में साध लेते, वही सियासी तौर पर सफल हो जाते। अन्यथा विफलता की टीस बड़ी दुःखदायी होती है जो उन्हें जीने नहीं देती। निःसन्देह, रात-दिन की चोच छीन लेती है। अमूमन राजनीति की इस महत्वाकांक्षा-पीड़ा से जो भी राजनेता गुजरते हैं, एक न एक दिन अवश्य सफल होते। क्योंकि भारत की उदारमना जनता किसी को निराश नहीं करती। उचित वक्त आने पर वह नेतृत्व का मौका जरूर देती है। और जब तक नहीं देती तो यही समझिए कि आपकी काबिलियत की परीक्षा ले रही है।

हाल के वर्षों में यूपी की सियासत पर जब आप बारीक नजर दौड़ाएंगे तो पाएंगे कि नवगठित शसमाजवादी सेक्युलर मोर्चा के मुखिया शिवपाल सिंह यादव की मौजूदा हालात भी कुछ वैसी ही है, जो कभी उन्नीस सौ अस्सी-नब्बे के दशक में उनके बड़े भाई मुलायम सिंह यादव की हुआ करती थी। तब जनता दल और समाजवादी जनता पार्टी में वह सम्मानजनक स्थान पाने और उसे बचाने के लिए संघर्षरत थे। अंतर सिर्फ इतना कि मुलायम सिंह यादव के साथ उनके हनुमान शिवपाल सिंह यादव थे। लेकिन अब शिवपाल सिंह यादव का हनुमान कौन बनेगा, वक्त बताएगा। ऐसा इसलिए कि राज्यसभा सदस्य और शिवपाल के करीबी राजनेता अमर सिंह में अब वो दमखम नहीं बचा है जो कभी उनमें हुआ करता था। इसलिए शिवपाल के भावी हनुमान को लेकर अब तरह-तरह के कयास लगाए जा रहे हैं, जबकि शिवपाल सिंह यादव मन ही मन सिर्फ इतना गुनगुना रहे हैं कि बड़े बेआबरू होकर तेरे कूचे से हम निकले!

बता दें कि भोजपुरी समाज के ग्रामीण अंचलों एक कहावत प्रसिद्ध है कि शचाचा दुब्बर भतीजा पाजी, चाचा के सिर पर डंडा बाजी। इसके अलावा, अंगिका समाज में चाचा-भतीजा सम्बन्धों पर प्रायः कहा जाता है कि शछियों भतीजा, करबों नतीजा। देखे जाए तो ये दोनों कहावतें शिवपाल-अखिलेश सम्बन्धों पर बड़ी सटीक बैठती हैं। स्व बाल ठाकरे-राज ठाकरे विवाद भी इसी श्रेणी में आते हैं। इस बात में कोई दो राय नहीं कि यूपी के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री अखिलेश यादव ने अपने चाचा पूर्व पथ निर्माण मंत्री शिवपाल सिंह यादव के साथ जो किया, और चाचा ने भी जैसे-तैसे पलटवार किए, वह किसी भी नजरिए से उचित नहीं समझा जा सकता। क्योंकि सभी एक ही परिवार के लोग हैं जो मिलजुल कर रहते तो यूपी का कुछ भला हो जाता।

यह ठीक है कि चाचा-भतीजे के इस सियासी जंग यूपी के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री और सपा के मार्गदर्शक मुलायम सिंह यादव ने हमेशा अपने छोटे भाई शिवपाल सिंह यादव का पक्ष लिया ताकि पार्टी नहीं टूटे। लेकिन जब उसे तोड़ने की नौबत शिवपाल ने पैदा कर ही दी तो मुलायम ने भी शिवपाल से किनारा कर लिया। क्योंकि मुलायम सिंह यादव को इस बात का मलाल आज भी है कि यदि चाचा-भतीजा आपस में ही नहीं लड़ते-झगड़ते तो यूपी की सत्ता उनकी पार्टी के हाथ से 2017 में नहीं जाती। बता दें कि तब मुलायम भी भाई मोह में पुत्र अखिलेश की आलोचना गाहे-बगाहे कर बैठते थे जिससे

अखिलेश की पहले छवि बिगड़ी, फिर सत्ता गई।

अब जबकि अखिलेश यादव अपनी

हां, जब राजद के मार्गदर्शक लालू प्रसाद का गुप्त साथ और कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष राहुल गांधी का भरोसा मिला तो पलक झपकते



पार्टी सपा के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष होने के नाते नए सिरे से पार्टी में जान फूंकने की कवायद कर रहे हैं, यूपी में महागठबंधन को अंतिम रूप दे रहे हैं और सपा की धुर विरोधी रही बसपा को अपने पाले में लगभग कर लिया है तो फिर शिवपाल की छटपटाहट बढ़ी और वे केंद्रीय राजनीति में अपनी अहम भूमिका मांगने लगे, जहां उनके विरोधी डॉ रामगोपाल यादव पहले से ही सक्रिय हैं। लेकिन जब अखिलेश ने फिर से अपने उसी चाचा शिवपाल सिंह यादव की अनदेखी शुरू कर दी जो कभी उनके पिता मुलायम सिंह यादव की राजनीतिक महत्वाकांक्षा की पूर्ति के लिए तब बनाई गई सपा की मजबूती के लिए यूपी की सड़कों पर लाठी-डंडे खाय कर रहे थे।

लेकिन वक्त का तकाजा देखिए कि कभी अपने बड़े भाई मुलायम सिंह यादव के सियासी भविष्य के लिए शसमाजवादी पार्टी को अपने खून-पसीने से खड़ा करने वाले शिवपाल सिंह यादव ही अब अपने भतीजे अखिलेश यादव की सियासी दांव-पेंचों की वजह से उससे बाहर हो चुके हैं और समाजवादी सेक्युलर मोर्चा नामक दल गठित कर लिया है। उन्होंने घोषणा भी की है कि उनकी नई पार्टी यूपी की 80 लोकसभा सीटों पर अपने उमीदवार खड़े करेगी। स्वाभाविक है कि इससे अखिलेश कमजोर होंगे तथा बीएसपी सुप्रीमो मायावती और कांग्रेस आलाकमान राहुल गांधी को मजबूती मिलेगी।

दरअसल, पिछले कई सालों से चाचा-भतीजे यानी कि शिवपाल सिंह यादव और अखिलेश यादव के बीच एक दूसरे पर सियासी वर्चस्व स्थापित करने की होड़ में मची रार के बाद अब सपा से किनारा कर चुके शिवपाल सिंह यादव ने अपनी नई पार्टी समाजवादी सेक्युलर मोर्चा की यूपी में जड़ें जमाने के लिए उन्हें सींचना शुरू कर चुके हैं। लेकिन जिस शख्स ने कभी सपा को खड़ा किया, उसे तब इस बात का शायद एहसास नहीं रहा होगा कि जिस भाई और भतीजे को मुख्यमंत्री बनवा रहे हैं, वही लोग एक दिन उन्हें राजनीतिक बियावान में अकेला भटकने के लिए अभिशाप कर देंगे और बिल्कुल अकेला छोड़ देंगे। बहरहाल, सियासी गलियारों में यह सवाल उठ रहा है कि आखिरकार शिवपाल सिंह यादव में इतनी हिम्मत कैसे हुई और वह कहां से आई? क्योंकि जो फैंसला शिवपाल को 2016-17 में ही कर लेना चाहिए था, उसे 2018 के आठवें महीने में लिया। यह ठीक है कि बीजेपी से उनकी सांठ-गांठ की चर्चा तो शुरू से ही रही, लेकिन यूपी की सियासी तासीर को सरजमीन से समझने वाले शिवपाल ने बीजेपी के बूते सपा तोड़ने या छोड़ने की हिमाकत कभी नहीं की।

ही उन्होंने सपा छोड़ समाजवादी सेक्युलर मोर्चा बना लिया। वो भी तब जबकि सपा में उनसे जुड़े प्रायः हर विवाद में साया की तरह उनका साथ देने वाले मुलायम सिंह यादव भी उन्हें गच्चा दे चुके हैं!

यही वजह है कि शिवपाल सिंह यादव की समाजवादी सेक्युलर मोर्चा बीजेपी के साथ गठबंधन नहीं करेगी, बल्कि उसकी गुप्त रणनीतिक मदद लेगी! ऐसे स्पष्ट आसार नजर आ रहे हैं कि फिलवक्त वह कांग्रेस के पाले में खड़ी रहेगी ताकि सेक्युलर वोट नहीं छिटके।

इस बात के रहस्य से पर्दा उचित समय पर उठेगा। बता दें कि सपा नेता अखिलेश यादव ने जिस तरह से कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष राहुल गांधी को यूपी में कमतर आंकने की जुर्रत की है, शायद उसी का जवाब अब शिवपाल को मजबूत करके दिया जाएगा। ऐसा इसलिए कि बिहार की प्रमुख विपक्षी पार्टी राजद (राष्ट्रीय जनता दल) के मार्गदर्शक लालू प्रसाद यादव के एक दूत के कहने पर ही कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष राहुल गांधी ने शिवपाल यादव को आश्वस्त किया कि आप सपा से अलग होकर नई पार्टी बनाइए, फिर कांग्रेस आपको तरजीह देगी और मदद भी करेगी।

सूत्रों का कहना है कि उच्च शिक्षा प्राप्त अखिलेश यादव, (पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री उत्तरप्रदेश) की सियासी कार्यशैली से न केवल शिवपाल यादव बल्कि लालू प्रसाद यादव और राहुल गांधी दोनों खफा चल रहे हैं। इसलिए अखिलेश यादव को कमजोर करने की नीयत से ये सियासी चाल चली गई है।

सूत्र बता रहे हैं कि समाजवादी सेक्युलर मोर्चा के आलाकमान शिवपाल यादव शीघ्र ही बिरसा मुंडा जेल, रांची जाएंगे और वहां बन्द अपने पारिवारिक समर्थी लालू प्रसाद यादव से आशीर्वाद लेकर गुप्त सियासी मन्त्रणा करेंगे। गौरतलब है कि यूपी के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री मुलायम सिंह यादव और बिहार के पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री लालू प्रसाद यादव के बीच पारिवारिक रिश्ता करवाने में शिवपाल सिंह यादव की एक बड़ी भूमिका रही है, जिसके मुरीद लालू प्रसाद हैं। क्योंकि कभी पीएम बनने के खातिर लालू-मुलायम के बीच कभी छतीस का आंकड़ा हुआ करता था, जिसे बड़े ही मुश्किल से शिवपाल सिंह यादव ने बखूबी पाटा। यह बात दीगर है कि इस शादी के बाद दोनों शराजपरिवार अपने अपने सूबे की सत्ता से बेदखल हो गए। फिर भी शिवपाल सिंह यादव और लालू प्रसाद यादव के सम्बन्ध मधुर बने हुए हैं। इसलिए शिवपाल को इस बात की पक्की उम्मीद है कि लालू प्रसाद यादव के पद और कद का पूरा लाभ उन्हें और उनकी नवगठित पार्टी को मिलेगा।

LATEST SCAM IN MADHYA PRADESH IS ABOUT FOOTWEARS TO TRIBALS

L.S. Herdenia

While Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is continuing his Ashrivad Yatra, two controversial events have hit the headlines. One relates to the supply of shoes to tribals and the other about the dispatch of over one crore letters addressed to women voters of the state.

The state government had gifted shoes and chappals to tribals. It is alleged that a banned chemical has been used in these footwear. It is learnt that Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) has reported the use of azo, a banned chemical in the inner sole of the footwear, a local news report said, triggering a denial by the state government.

Tribals make up 21 percent of MP's population and a whopping 50 percent in some districts like Dhar, Jhabua and Mandla. Both BJP and Congress have been desperately wooing tribal voters and distribution of footwear was one of the recent sops announced by the state gov-

ernment.

Madhya Pradesh Laghu Vanopaj Sangh, a cooperative body involved in the distribution of the footwear, had sent samples of it for testing to CLRI, a wing of Central Science & Industrial Research (CSIR), after delivery, said sources.

Forest minister Dr. Gaurishankar Shejwar, however, said that the samples were tested before and after distribution by Footwear Development & Design Institute, Noida and an institute in Chennai but none of them detected any harmful chemical. "These shoes and sandals have been distributed to over 8.13 lakh tribals under the scheme and they are absolutely safe," he said. The government aims to distribute footwear to 10 lakh tendu patta pluckers.

Reacting to the finding, according to which the chemical may cause cancer, state Congress president Kamal Nath said in a tweet "this should be a cause of concern, after all no one has the right to play with lives of others.



Without proper investigation, how were these shoes distributed? Who is responsible for it?" Kamal Nath also issued a statement asking the government to recall all footwear distributed to the tribal tendu-patta collectors. "This is related to the lives of tribal brothers and sisters. To save their lives all distributed footwear should be recalled and a high-level probe should be ordered into the matter," Kamal Nath said.

The PCC chief also demanded an explanation from chief minister as to how these shoes with dangerous azo chemical content were

distributed to the tribal beneficiaries under the Charan Paduka Scheme. "This entire issue stinks of another scam because the state's finance minister is giving a different explanation, he said, adding that big functions were organised in the state to distribute footwear to the beneficiaries.

The other controversy relates to the dispatch of more than one crore letters to women voters of the state.

It is claimed that more than Rs. 4 crore has been spent in the printing and dispatch of these letters. It is alleged that government funds and machinery have been used in the printing and dispatch of these letters.

The letter gives details about various schemes implemented for the empowerment of women. It also seeks blessings of the women to give another five year term to the BJP and particularly to Chouhan himself.

The state government directed the postal department to ensure that the letters reach the addresses before

Rakasha Bandhan. Each letter carries the stamp of Rs. 4 and 70 paise.

The postal department made special arrangements for the distribution of the letters. It appointed nodal officers at state, division and district levels. Special bags containing one thousand letters each were prepared to carry the letters. It was a massive task undertaken by the postal department.

The BJP hopes that this unique feat will help in increasing the number of women voters in its favour. According to a newspaper analysis, in the 2013 assembly elections the voting percentage was 72.07. The total number of women who voted was one crore 54 lakh and 65 thousand. The BJP feels that women are the main beneficiaries of several welfare schemes of the government and, therefore, there is every reason to believe that the percentage of women voters will increase in the coming November Vidhan Sabha polls.

(IPA Service)

ARUN JAITLEY IS LOSING HIS BATTLE OF FACTS ON RAFALE DEAL

Nitya Chakraborty

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley is steadily losing his battle with the opposition, especially the Congress President Rahul Gandhi over the facts on Rafale deal. Right now, he is not the Defence Minister but he is taking the most active part in defending the Government decision on the new agreement on Rafale purchases against blistering attacks by Rahul Gandhi who has termed the deal announced by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Paris in April 2015 as the biggest scam in independent India's history,

Keeping aside the political slugfest between the BJP and the Congress in the final year of the NDA regime on the eve of the Lok Sabha elections in 2019, the deal has thrown up some issues which are of paramount importance in protecting the national interests of the country. Jaitley has not touched those issues in posing 15 so called questions to Rahul Gandhi.

The primary issue is what happened in the last fifty days before the announcement by the Prime Minister on the Rafale deal on April 10, 2015 that the deal was completely changed in its character and the public sector HAL was dropped to accommodate Anil Ambani led Reliance



Defence Ltd. The sequence of developments leading to the final announcement of the Prime Minister makes it apparent that the Prime Minister had one point agenda to change the deal scrapping the role of the public sector HAL and he did not mind, in the process, in sacrificing the interests of the country's leading public sector company in aircraft manufacturing. As the defence experts mention, the NDA government took power on May 26, 2014 and by that time, the final understanding with the UPA government was reached for the purchase of 126 Rafales which involved the outright purchase of 18 fighters and the manufacture of 108 more in India on the basis of transfer of technology. This is most important part as this helps in helping India through HAL to technologically upgrade the country's R&D since generally the big foreign defence

manufacturing companies are very reluctant on technology transfer. The UPA govt got this done in early 2014 and the French company Dassault Aviation signed a detailed work share agreement with HAL in March 2014 to have transfer of technology and production of Rafale in India.

Even in February 2015, eight months after Modi became the Prime Minister, there was no change as far as the French company was concerned. On February 19, 2015, fifty days before Indian PM's surprise announcement about new Rafale agreement, the CEO of Dassault Aviation Eric Trappier told pressmen that he was confident on completing the final negotiations and signing the deal for full complement. HAL was in the picture as the collaborator. Then again on March 25, 2015, Trappier said in the presence of the HAL officials "You can imagine my satisfaction to hear from the

HAL chairman that we are in agreement for the responsibilities sharing, considering as well our conformity with the REP in order to be in line with the rules of the competition. I strongly believe that contract finalization and signature will come soon".

Thus, even fifteen days before the PM's announcement scrapping the role of HAL and bringing down the number from 126 fighters to 36, HAL was actively involved as far as the French are concerned. But in Modi magic, things went in a different direction at the time of the announcement. The dropping of HAL and induction of Reliance Defence was the Indian decision and not the decision of the French company. PM announced his decision on April 10, 2015 but even two days ago on April 8, the Indian foreign secretary S. Jaishankar had no inkling that such an announcement would be made and HAL would be excluded. So all indications suggest that this monumental decision having prime importance to the future security of the defence forces of India, was taken by the PM without going through the normal procedures with checks and double checks in such vital security area.

Jaitley's question charg-

ing Rahul of giving contradictory figures make no sense as the former defence Minister Manohar Parrikar himself gave contradictory figures about pricing after the PM announcement. Parrikar was then the Defence Minister. This indicated that he himself was not in know of full details of the deal. The best course would be for the Government to disclose the prices. The experts are quoting the price of Rs.1611 crore per plane which is nearly three times more than the price allegedly agreed to by the UPA govt in negotiations in early 2014. If the Government is confident that the pricing under the Modi agreement is far more favourable compared to the pricing under the UPA govt draft, it will be desirable for the NDA government to officially disclose the prices and nail the Congress "lie". If Jaitley can prove that the Rafale deal has been in national interests and the Prime Minister has been able to extract a much better deal compared to the UPA, this is the best time to disclose the prices and nip in the bud all "propaganda" by Rahul Gandhi and the opposition. Will Jaitley and the Modi government take up this challenge?

(IPA Service)

असली संन्यासिन सुधा भारद्वाज



विनीत नारायण पिछले दिनों सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने लोकतंत्र के हित में एक बड़ा फैसला लिया जब सुधा भारद्वाज की पुणे पुलिस द्वारा गिरफ्तारी को नाजायज ठहरा दिया।

मैं सुधा को 1995 से जनता हूँ जब वे ज़िद करके मुझे दिल्ली से छत्तीसगढ़ ले गई थीं। जहाँ उनके संगठन ने अनेक शहरों और गांवों में मेरी जन सभाएं करवाई थीं। जिसका उल्लेख मेरी पुस्तक में भी है। उनका अत्यंत सादगी भरा मजदूरों जैसा झुगगी झोपड़ी का रहन सहन देखकर मैं हिल गया था। हालांकि मेरी विचारधारा सनातन धर्म पर आधारित है और उनकी वामपंथी। पर मेरा मानना है कि मनुष्य अपने सतकर्मों, सेवा व त्याग के प्रभाव से ही संत

कोटि को प्राप्त करता है। सुधा भारद्वाज को असली संत की उपाधि देना अनुचित नहीं होगा। उनके जैसा होना हमारे आपके बस में शायद ही संभव हो। आगे जो लिख रहा हूँ वो साथी महेंद्र दुबे ने भेजा है और मैं इससे शतप्रतिशत सहमत हूँ इसलिये ज्यों का त्यों जोड़ रहा हूँ।

सुधा भारद्वाज कोंकणी ब्राह्मण परिवार की इकलौती संतान हैं। जोकि पेशे से एक यूनिवर्सिटी, एक्टिविस्ट और वकील हैं। मजदूर बस्ती में रहने वाली सुधा भारद्वाज 1978 की आईआईटी कानपुर की टॉपर हैं। जो जन्म से अमेरिकन सिटीजन थीं और इंग्लैंड में उनकी प्राइमरी शिक्षा हुई है। कोई कल्पना भी नहीं कर सकता है कि इस 'बैक ग्राउंड' का कोई शख्स मजदूरों के साथ उनकी बस्ती में रहते हुए बिना दूध की चाय और भात सब्जी पर गुजारा करता होगा। जीवन के इस पड़ाव में भी अत्यंत साधारण

लिबास में माथे पर एक बिंदी लगाये मजदूर, किसान और कमजोर वर्ग के लोगों के लिये छत्तीसगढ़ के शहर और गांव की दौड़ लगाती यह महिला अपनी असाधारण प्रतिभा, बेहतरीन अकादमिक योग्यता के विषय में बताना और अपने काम का प्रचार करना कभी पसन्द नहीं करती हैं। सुधा की मां कृष्णा भारद्वाज जेएनयू में इकोनामिक्स डिपार्टमेंट की डीन हुआ करती थी। जो एक बेहतरीन शास्त्रीय गायिका थीं और नोबेल पुरस्कार प्राप्त अमर्त्य सेन की समकालीन भी थी। आज भी सुधा की मां की याद में हर साल जेएनयू में 'कृष्णा मेमोरियल लेक्चर' होता है। जिसमें देश के नामचीन शिक्षाविद् और विद्वान शरीक होते हैं। आईआईटी से टॉपर होकर निकलने के बाद भी सुधा को कैरियर का आकर्षण खूंट से बांधे नहीं रख सका और अपने वामपंथी रुझान के कारण वह 80 के दशक में छत्तीसगढ़ के 'करिश्माई यूनिवर्सिटी लीडर' शंकर गुहा नियोगी के संपर्क में

आयी और फिर उन्होंने छत्तीसगढ़ को अपना कार्यक्षेत्र बना लिया। पिछले 35 साल से अधिक समय से छत्तीसगढ़ में मजदूर, किसान और गरीबों की लड़ाई सड़क और कोर्ट में लड़ते लड़ते इन्होंने अपनी मां के 'प्रोविडेंट फंड' का सारा पैसा तक उड़ा दिया। उनकी मां ने दिल्ली में एक मकान खरीद रखा था, जो आजकल उनके नाम पर है मगर बस नाम पर ही है। मकान किराए पर चढ़ाया हुआ है जिसका किराया मजदूर यूनिवर्सिटी के खाते में जमा करने का फरमान उन्होंने किरायेदार को दिया हुआ है। जिस अमेरिकन सिटीजनशिप को पाने के लिये लोग कुछ भी करने को तैयार रहते हैं 'बाई बर्थ' हासिल उस अमेरिकन नागरिकता को वो बहुत पहले अमेरिकन एम्बेसी में फेंक कर आ चुकी है। हिंदुस्तान में सामाजिक आंदोलन और सामाजिक न्याय के बड़े से बड़े नाम सुविधा सम्पन्न हैं और अपने काम से ज्यादा अपनी पहुंच और अपने विस्तार के लिए जाने जाते हैं। मगर जिनके लिए वो काम कर रहे होते हैं, उनकी हालत

में सुधार की कीमत पर अपनी विलासिता छोड़ने को कभी तैयार नहीं दिखते हैं। इधर सुधा हैं जो 'अमेरिकन सिटीजनशिप' और 'आईआईटी टॉपर' होने के गुमान को त्याग कर, गुमनामी में गुमनामों की लड़ाई लड़ते हुए अपना जीवन होम कर चुकी है। बिना फीस के गरीब, गुरबों की वकालत करने वाली और हाई कोर्ट जज बनाये जाने का ऑफर विनम्रतापूर्वक ठुकरा चुकी सुधा का शरीर अब जवाब देना चाहता है। 35-40 साल से दौड़ते-दौड़ते उनके घुटने घिस चुके हैं। उनके मित्र डॉक्टर उन्हें बिस्तर से बांध देना चाहते हैं। मगर गरीब, किसान और मजदूर की एक हलकी सी चीख सुनते ही उनके पैरों में चक्के लग जाते हैं और फिर वो अपने शरीर की सुनती नहीं। मगर यह कहा जा सकता है कि यदि उन्होंने अपने काम का 10 प्रतिशत भी प्रचार किया होता तो दुनिया का कोई ऐसा पुरस्कार न होगा जो उन्हें पाकर खुद को सम्मानित महसूस न कर रहा होता। सुधा होना मेरे आपके बस की बात नहीं है।

चिदंबरम की सरकार से अपील, पेट्रोल-डीजल को तत्काल जीएसटी के दायरे में लाया जाए

बिनोद कुमार सिंह

नयी दिल्ली। कांग्रेस के वरिष्ठ नेता और पूर्व वित्त मंत्री पी चिदंबरम ने पेट्रोल और डीजल के दाम में बढ़ोतरी को लेकर सोमवार को सरकार पर निशाना साधा और कहा कि इन दोनों पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों को तत्काल जीएसटी के दायरे में लाया जाना चाहिए।

चिदंबरम ने ट्वीट कर कहा, पेट्रोल और डीजल की कीमतों में लगातार बढ़ोतरी अपरिहार्य नहीं है, क्योंकि कीमत का आधार पेट्रोल और डीजल पर लगने वाला अत्यधिक कर है। अगर कर में कटौती कर दी जाए तो कीमतों में काफी कमी आ जाएगी।

उन्होंने कहा, शकांग्रेस मांग करती है कि पेट्रोल और डीजल को तत्काल जीएसटी के दायरे में लाया जाए। चिदंबरम ने कहा, शकेंद्र की ओर से राज्यों को जिम्मेदार ठहराना



बेतुकी दलील है। भाजपा भूल जाती है कि वह खुद 19 राज्यों में शासन कर रही है। पेट्रोल और डीजल को जीएसटी के दायरे में लाने के लिए केंद्र और राज्यों को मिलकर काम करना चाहिए। दरअसल, रुपये की विनिमय दर में गिरावट और अंतःराष्ट्रीय बाजार में कच्चे तेल के भाव में तेज उछाल के बीच देश में पेट्रोल तथा डीजल की कीमतें सोमवार को

अपने सर्वकालिक उच्च स्तर पर पहुंच गई। तेल कंपनियों की ओर से जारी अधिसूचना के अनुसार, दिल्ली में पेट्रोल का भाव 79.15 रुपये प्रति लीटर और डीजल 71.15 रुपये प्रति लीटर के नए रिकॉर्ड उच्च स्तर पर पहुंच गया है। दिल्ली में पेट्रोल के भाव में 31 पैसे और डीजल के भाव में 39 पैसे प्रति लीटर की नयी वृद्धि की गयी है।

टीएन कृष्णन, रतन थियम और सतीश गुजराल को लीजेन्ड्स ऑफ इंडिया लाइफटाइम अचीवमेंट अवार्ड्स 2018 मिला

नई दिल्ली। अपने-अपने क्षेत्र के तीन दूरदर्शियों शिल्प गुरु सतीश गुजराल, संगीत गुरु टीएन कृष्णन और नाट्य गुरु रतन थियम को इस साल का लीजेन्ड्स ऑफ इंडिया लाइफटाइम अचीवमेंट अवार्ड्स दिया जाने वाला है। पुरस्कार पाने वाला के नामों की घोषणा करते हुए अवार्ड्स समिटी के चेयरमैन और पूर्व विदेश सचिव, श्री लालित मानसिंह ने कहा कि यह पुरस्कार जाने-माने लोगों को विनम्र मान्यता देने की तरह है ताकि युवाओं को भारतीय कला की समृद्ध विरासतों से प्रेरित किया जा सके। शाम में (31 अगस्त) आयोजित एक रंगारंग कार्यक्रम में

विजेताओं को अंगवस्त्र के साथ स्वर्ण पदक और नकद पुरस्कार दिए गए। उपराष्ट्रपति श्री एम वेंकैया नायडू ने विजेताओं को ये पुरस्कार सौंपे। इस मौके पर श्री एम वेंकैया नायडू ने कहा, प्लाकैड यह गर्व के क्षण है क्योंकि लीजेन्ड्स ऑफ इंडिया लाइफटाइम अचीवमेंट अवार्ड्स, अब राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर जाना जाता है और सांस्कृतिक समुदाय में इसकी प्रशंसा भी है क्योंकि ये पुरस्कार उन कलाकारों के लिए प्रशंसा है जिसका थिएटर, संगीत और फाइन आर्ट्स के क्षेत्र में योगदान जाना पहचाना है। ना सिर्फ भारत में बल्कि पूरी दुनिया में। लीजेन्ड्स ऑफ इंडिया की

स्थापना दिपायन मजूमदार ने की है और यह युवा पीढ़ी को शास्त्रीय संगीत तथा देश की कला के अन्य रूपों से जोड़ता रहा है। इसके लिए देश भर में और विदेशों में भी 1999 से नियमित रूप से प्रदर्शन भाषण और प्रवचन आयोजित किए जाते रहे हैं। इसके साथ-साथ 2002 से संगीत, नृत्य, नाटक, दृश्य कला और अन्य संबद्ध क्षेत्रों की जानी-मानी हस्तियों को लाइफ टाइम अचीवमेंट अवार्ड्स दिए जाते रहे हैं। श्री मजूमदार ने कहा, "परंपरागत कलारूपों को बनाए रखने के लिए हम सभी लोगों को काफी कुछ करने की आवश्यकता है।

इजराइल के पर्यटन मंत्रालय ने नई दिल्ली में रोडशो का आयोजन किया

नई दिल्ली। भारतीय यात्रा व्यापार क्षेत्र के साथ वाणिज्यिक संबंधों को बेहतर करने के लिए इजराइल के पर्यटन मंत्रालय (आईएमओटी) ने राजधानी नई दिल्ली में 30 अगस्त को रोडशो का आयोजन किया। इस मौके पर इजराइल के 20 सदस्यों के प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने 200 प्रमुख ट्रेवल और टुर ऑपरेटर, माइस प्रदाताओं, अपमार्केट लीजर प्रदाताओं और मीडिया कार्मिकों से चर्चा की। इजराइल के प्रतिनिधियों में डेस्टिनेशन मैनेजमेंट कंपनीज (डीएमसी) के प्रतिनिधि शामिल थे। कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत एक प्रस्तुति से हुई जिसके परिणामस्वरूप एक इंटरैक्टिव कार्यशाला हुई। इसमें आईएमओटी टीम तथा ट्रेड पार्टनर्स ने हिस्सा लिया। रोडशो में इंटरैक्टिव बी2बी सत्र, शिक्षा कार्यक्रम और कार्यशालाएं शामिल थीं ताकि इस कारोबार के सदस्यों को सहायता दी जा सके जिससे वे भारतीयों के लिए इजराइल घूमने के कार्यक्रम बना सकें और ग्राहक के सवालों के जवाब दे सकें। रोडशो पर टिप्पणी करते हुए इजराइल के पर्यटन मंत्रालय में भारत और फिलीपीन्स के निदेशक श्री हसन मदाह ने कहा, "इजराइल में पर्यटन बढ़ रहा है और भारत से आने वाले पर्यटकों की संख्या पिछले कुछ वर्षों में प्रशंसनीय ढंग बढ़ी है। 2015 की समान अवधि की तुलना में छमाही रिकार्ड में 82% की वृद्धि हुई है। जनवरी से जुलाई 2018 तक के बीच 44ए000 से ज्यादा भारतीय पर्यटक आ चुके हैं। दिल्ली से तेल अवीव के बीच एयर इंडिया की सीधी उड़ान की शुरुआत होने से भी यात्रियों की संख्या बढ़ी है। नतीजतन राष्ट्रीय कैरियर ने उड़ानों की आवृत्ति बढ़ाई गई है और अब सप्ताह में चार उड़ान हैं।

दिल्ली बनी "जल भराव की राजधानी" - अजय माकन

आम आदमी पार्टी की दिल्ली सरकार और निगम की भाजपा सरकार एक दूसरे पर छीटाकशी करते हुए नूरा कुश्ती करते दिखाई देते हैं जबकि दोनो ने दिल्ली में

भराव के कारण न सिर्फ जाम की समस्या के कारण लोगों को घंटों सड़कों पर गुजारने पड़ते हैं बल्कि करोड़ों रुपये का ईंधन भी बर्बाद हो रहा है।



बारिश के दिनों में जल भराव की समस्या का स्थाई हल निकाला होता तो आज दिल्ली जो कि देश की राजधानी है, पानी में डूबी नहीं दिखाई देती।- अजय माकन दिल्ली के हालात ऐसे बने हुए हैं कि पानी न सिर्फ सड़कों पर भरा हुआ है बल्कि गलियों, पार्कों तथा लोगों के घरों तक में पानी भरा हुआ है। जल

दिल्ली सरकार की वेबसाइट पर मौजूद आंकड़ों के अनुसार दिल्ली सरकार के अन्तर्गत आने वाले पीडब्लूडी विभाग द्वारा नालों की गाद निकालने का काम 15 जून 2018 तक हो जाना चाहिए था परंतु 15 जून 2018 तक केवल 17 प्रतिशत सड़कों के साथ लगे नालों की गाद निकालने को पूरा हो पाया था, इसके पश्चात दिल्ली सरकार ने 30 जून 2018 तक की समय सीमा बढ़ाई परंतु 29 जून 2018 तक सिर्फ 37 प्रतिशत ही गाद निकालने का काम पूरा हो सका और 27 जुलाई 2018 तक केवल 39 प्रतिशत सड़कों से सटे नालों की गाद निकाली गई।

TIME TO ACT AND SAVE HEALTH IS NOW

Dr Arun Mitra

For the last several years dense smog engulfs large part of north India, including Punjab, Haryana, western UP, parts of Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and NCR Delhi. This happens during the months of October and November when summer has ended and winter is about to set in. During the summer season the air tends to go up in the atmosphere. But during October and November because of fall in temperature the particles do not rise, but get suspended and mix with the vapours. Source of these particles are mainly vehicular emissions, industrial effluents and smoke coming out of burning of paddy straw in the fields. Low wind speed during this period and dry weather aggravate the problem.

As a result there is a drop in the air quality some times to dangerous levels. Air quality is measured as Air Quality Index (AQI). As per the Environmental Protection Agency (US), the AQI is calculated on the basis of five major pollutants - the ground level ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide. The AQI levels have been graded in the range of 0-500. AQI level from 0-50 are satisfactory and pose little or no risk. Moderate AQI is from 51-100. This poses risk to a very small number of people, particularly those who are sensitive to ozone. The levels from 101-



150 can be harmful to persons who are already suffering from respiratory problems or heart diseases; children and elderly are at higher risk. From 151-200 are unhealthy levels for every citizen while the sensitive groups may experience more serious effects. Levels between 201 and 300 are health alert for more serious effects. AQI levels beyond 300 are an emergency situation. In this context the levels which went up to 999 in the Punjabi Bagh area of Delhi on 8th November 2017 is a cause of extreme concern.

Smog causes a feeling of suffocation, which occurs due to relative lowering of oxygen level in the surrounding air. The pollutants in the smog can irritate respiratory system, causing coughing, feeling of irritation in throat. One may experience an uncomfortable sensation in chest. The ozone in the

smog can reduce lung functions and make it more difficult to breathe deeply and vigorously. There is aggravation of asthma, which may require medication. Ozone makes people more sensitive to allergens, which are the most common triggers for asthma attacks.

Ozone may aggravate chronic lung diseases such as emphysema and bronchitis and reduce the immune system's ability to fight off bacterial infections in the respiratory system. Repeated short-term ozone damage to children's developing lungs may lead to reduced lung function in adulthood.

Particulate matter includes microscopic particles and tiny droplets of liquid. Because of their small size, these particles are not stopped in the nose and upper lungs by the body's natural defences but go deep into the lungs, where they may become trapped and cause irritation. Exposure to particulate matter can cause wheezing and similar symptoms in people with asthma or sensitive airways. Particulate matter can serve as a vector for toxic air pollutants. Carbon monoxide affects oxygenation of hemoglobin by forming carboxy hemoglobin.

As a result of all these there is loss of mandays because the working capacity of people goes down. Children are not able to attend schools. Since the medical advisory is to avoid outdoor activity, the productivity falls. In addition,

the health problems are aggravated as a result of accidents.

Every year when the smog level goes high, there is debate on the issue but it dies down after some time. Urgent remedial measures have to be taken. Industry needs to be regulated firmly to reduce the effluents. Vehicular emissions have to be brought down, paddy straw burning needs to be checked. It is not correct to put the whole blame on farmers without addressing their grievances.

The time gap between harvesting of paddy and sowing of wheat crop is less. Therefore, the easiest method the farmers find is to burn the straw and then plough the field for the next crop even though the high temperature over the soil because of burning of straw residue destroys useful microorganisms, causing huge loss of nitrogen, phosphorous, potash and many beneficial micro nutrients. As per estimates, there is loss of macro and micro nutrients to the tune of Rs.1,000 crores in Punjab alone per year due to burning of wheat and paddy straw. The paddy cultivable area in Punjab is about 65 lakh acres. On an average there is 30 quintal of yield per acre, which means 19.50 crore quintal of paddy is produced in the state. As per the NGT guidelines, different agricultural machinery required for management of straw in the state costs around Rs1,600 crores. It is not possi-

ADVERTISEMENTS ON HEALTH MISLEADING AND MUST BE BANNED MEDIA ALSO HAS A DUTY NOT TO HIGHLIGHT UNFOUNDED CLAIMS

Dr. Arun Mitra

Treating a patient involves history taking, examination of the patient and diagnostic investigations as per the need before forming an opinion about the illness of the patient and the differential diagnosis. Only then can a doctor prescribe the treatment, medical or surgical as the case may be. There are set protocols for this methodology and for specific diseases. These protocols may change from time to time. This change is effected after thorough deliberations among the academics of a particular subject. Telemedicine is still in a developing stage to meet the above criteria. Many a times patients seek telephonic advice from the doctor. This is generally discouraged because of the possibility of missing several issues. But these days one finds increasing advertisements on various types of media highlighting their achievements and encouraging patients to get treatment from them.

Modern system of medicine does not permit advertisements to entice patients. The Medical Council of India framed a code of ethics, the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, to fix some norms for this. Any such practice is considered unethical. It is presumed that advertising is for luring the patients. The clause 6.1.1 of the code prohibits soliciting of patients directly or indirectly, by a physician, by a group of physicians or by institutions or organizations. The code says that a physician shall not make use of him / her (or his /



her name) as subject of any form or manner of advertising or publicity through any mode either alone or in conjunction with others which is of such a character as to invite attention to him or to his professional position, skill, qualification, achievements, attainments, specialties, appointments, associations, affiliations or honours and/or of such character as would ordinarily result in his self aggrandizement.

The Punjab Medical Council had issued notices to several such violators in 2015-2016. That had led to a check on such practices.

A similar code exists for the Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices termed as Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP). According to it, companies cannot make claim for the usefulness of a drug without up to date evaluation of all the evidence. Stating categorically that a drug is safe and has no side effects, toxic hazards or risk of addiction is not permitted. Even the comparison of drugs has to be factual, fair and capable of substantiation. Products of other companies cannot be disparaged

either directly or by implication.

Unfortunately such code does not seem to exist for other systems of medicine. The electronic media keeps projecting advertisements like 'cure of retinal diseases in eyes with guarantee' while belittling the modern medical system. There are also advertisements of treating head ache 'with guarantee' with some oils. Similarly we watch claims of treating all the diseases in the body by clearing the stomach. Yoga is projected as panacea for all diseases. There are several advertisements for converting grey hair to black.

Advertisements also appear for hair transplants. Treating sugar for sure is also advertised. About sexual issues, advertisements can be seen in plenty on walls, posters and print media.

Many of these advertisements are given by celebrities. They give a wrong impression and are misleading. It is time that such business is stopped. Media must realize its duties. Health cannot be left to be exploited by business interests and unproven methodologies. The government must enact a law in this regard instead of overlooking these issues. (IPA Service)

Nehal Chudasama gets crowned as Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva Universe 2018

Mumbai / Delhi, The prestigious beauty pageant of the year was concluded with the handsome Sushant Singh Rajput announcing the winners of Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva 2018 with the reigning winners Shraddha Shashidhar Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva 2017 - Miss Universe Indiacrowning Nehal Chudasama the Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva Universe 2018, Peden Ongmu Namgyal, Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva Supranational 2017 crowning Aditi Hundia as Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva Supranational 2018 and Apeksha Porwal: Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva 2017 - 2nd Runner-up crowning Roshni Sheoran as Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva 2018 - Runner Up / 1st Runner Up / 2nd Runner-up at NSCI Dome in Mumbai. The winner of

Yamaha Fascino Miss Diva 2018 will represent the country at Miss Universe. The night came to a standstill when the winner was announced marking an end to this beautiful journey of 19 gorgeous divas. The esteemed panel of judges included the likes of the Miss Universe 2000 and Actress Lara Dutta, Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters - Miss Universe 2017, Designers DuoFalguni and Shane Peacock, renowned actor Sushant Singh Rajput, sensational Shilpa Shetty and soon to be mommy Neha Dhupia.

The grand finale night was a visual treat which saw sizzling performances by beautiful actress Sonakshi Sinha, heartthrob Tiger Shroff and the crowd swayed to the songs sung by Mansi Scott.

MODI WAS THE FIRST TO CRITICISE CONGRESS ABROAD RAHUL ONLY FOLLOWED HIM IN HIS RECENT VISITS

Harihar Swarup

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was first to break the rule of not raking up domestic matters abroad and criticizing opposition parties. His narrative of demonizing Congress, beginning with his 2014 address to Indian diaspora in New York's Madison square garden, drew the battle lines for a bitter confrontation. Attacks against domestic rivals in foreign countries do not sketch a happy portrait of India abroad. Former External affairs Minister Yashwant Singh, a BJP rebel, is possibly a sane voice who appealed to all leaders "to refrain from discussing our internal issues abroad. The Prime Minister broke the rule first. Others need not follow his example".

Mainline parties taking domestic battles off-shore is a low without precedence in our polity. It is difficult to recall instances of past leaders washing dirty linen on alien territory and in front of foreign hosts. Barring the odd case, such as the Indian Peace Force in Sri Lanka in late 1980s, there was a broad consensus on foreign policy during the regimes of Rajiv Gandhi, P V Narasimha Rao, V P Singh, I K Gujral, Atal Behari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh.

Very much part of the diplomatic lore is Rao's 1994 decision to send Vajpayee, then opposition stalwart, to defend India's case on Kashmir at United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva. The high powered team led by the BJP leader, and including Farooq Abdullah and Salman Khurshid returned



triumphantly.

When Prime Minister criticized Congress abroad, the Congress leaders were up in arms against Narendra Modi and the BJP. Now that Rahul Gandhi, speaking in Germany and UK, stepped up attack on PM, BJP and RSS, the ruling party leaders ferociously hit out at the Congress President.

Rahul, reportedly comparing RSS with the Muslim Brotherhood, has raised eyebrows. The comparison is interesting. A closer look will reveal that the two organizations do operate along similar lines. Both see themselves as socio-cultural organizations and are fronted by political parties. Both view their respective religions as the ideal basis for organizing

the affairs of the state and society. Both engage in considerable charity works at grass-roots. And both organizations subscribe to an exclusivist vision where one religio-political ideology dominates, diminishing pluralism and secularism.

Rahul's comparison appears to underline that either an organization is secular or it isn't. Secularism can't be a half way house where one professes to be secular yet flirts with fundamentalist elements. In this frame, both the Congress and the BJP have failed the secularism test. For Congress secularism has become deferring to sentiments of minority religious communities so that they become captive votes for the party. This has allowed BJP to accuse the Congress of pseudo-secularism, a charge that isn't without merit. But the BJP is out and out a political party with a majoritarian world view.

The Rahul gambit is an interesting one moving the debate forward. It indicates that the contest between various religious identities adhered to in a fundamentalist way, where secularism takes the side of minority fundamentalist, but rather between religious fundamentalism itself against those championing a secular openness. In the latter outlook there are no "good" or "bad" religious fundamentalism—all are to be eschewed. But while Rahul may have started a conversation on the right track, what Congress observers do on the ground can be a different matter. (IPA Service)

JAITLEY DESERVES A NEW PORTFOLIO TO EXCEL

K. Raveendran

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley's portfolio must be redesignated as minister for defence of Modi. This is what he does mostly these days either because he has not fully got over his sabbatical mood or he has nothing much else to do in the finance ministry.

He shamelessly defended demonetisation even on a day when the Reserve Bank published its most damning report on the patently ill-conceived move. Even Modi does not refer to demonetisation these days, probably because there is nothing that he can talk positively about it. His most recent major reference to demonetisation was on the first anniversary of the 'monumental blunder' last year, when he "bowed to the people of the country for steadfastly supporting the several measures taken by the government to eradicate corruption and black money." Some small mercy to them. He could not have forgotten his promise to the people to "hang" him if he failed. So, he has left the task of defending 'note bandi' to Jaitley, whose performance in the finance ministry was any way nothing to set store by.

Despite a hundred reasons to the contrary, Jaitley continues to insist that demonetisation was good as its larger purpose was to move India from a tax non-complaint society to a tax compliant society. But he does not cite one tax compliant country which achieved compliance with demoneti-

sation. Tax compliance and demonetisation are two different issues. There are other more effective ways to ensure tax compliance and you do not need to destroy an economy to make it compliant. That can only be the height of short-sightedness. He claims that post demonetisation about 1.8 million depositors have been identified for enquiry. Is it such a big deal in a country with 1.3 billion people? Does he mean to say that these people did not have bank accounts before demonetisation and opened them only to deposit demonetised notes? In the age of modern banking, which can track even mood changes of customers, there can't be a more specious argument that you have to close down everything and start afresh to collect details about depositors and their compliance levels.

Jaitley feels gargantuan delight at the latest Central Statistical Organisation GDP growth figures, which show that India's economy grew at 2-year high of 8.2 per cent in the April-June quarter of 2018-19 on strong performance of manufacturing and agriculture sectors, increasing its lead over China to remain the world's fastest growing major economy. Thankfully he stopped short of attributing it to demonetisation, by only saying "reforms and fiscal prudence are serving us well". In an otherwise environment of global turmoil this represents the potential of New India, he said in a tweet.

The 8.2 percent growth is definite-

ly positive. But it shows the huge opportunity loss caused by demonetisation. India has lost several quarters of high GDP growth, which would have taken the country to maybe double-digit growth by now, but for the most outlandish decision to disrupt the economy. That this has been achieved despite the retrograde move and the faulty and hasty implementation of GST shows the inherent strength of the Indian economy.

Mahindra Group executive chairman Anand Mahindra has likened the April-June quarter GDP growth data to news of a new medal for India at Asiad. True, some of the Indian boys and girls have shown splendid performances at the Jakarta Asiad, but these have been individual performances anchored on dedication and hard work. Modi's and Arun Jaitley's 'New India' was nowhere to be seen at Jakarta.

As of Saturday morning, India was only at the eighth place in the medal tally for gold and sixth position overall. In the overall tally, it was way behind China, Japan, Korea and Indonesia and was even trailing Thailand. India had only 13 gold, compared to 118 for China, the two countries that are often bracketed in terms of growth, population size and economic profile. It is not at all comforting that Japan has won more gold medals than India's total tally.

If the Modi government wants to claim credit for the country being set to surpass the UK to become the

world's fifth largest economy next year, as Arun Jaitley has done in a recent tweet, it also has to take the blame for India's lacklustre performance in the Asiad. In fact, the performance of a country in premier sporting events like Olympics, Asian and Commonwealth Games has more to do with the overall economic development of that country rather than the calibre of their sports people. Performance at these championships is a more perfect index of economic progress, compared to many other data sets.

For instance, all the countries that are ahead of India in the medal tally in Jakarta Asian Games have a higher per capita GDP in terms of purchase price parity (PPP), which is a comparable value calibrated against the US dollar and calculated on the basis of the exchange value of a particular country and using a basket of consumer goods. Even Uzbekistan, which has won more gold medals than India, enjoys a higher per capita income than Indians. In terms of comparable figures, if India's PPP per capita income is 6,490, that of China is 15,500 and of Japan 42,870. Even Iran has nearly three times per capita GDP compared to India. No wonder that Iran has won 19 golds, compared to India's 13. So the medal tally has a deeper meaning than merely the sum total of individual achievements and amounts to another ominous commentary on the performance of the Modi government.

(IPA Service)

Country & Politics Tour of Amazing Thailand

Contd From page1

are learning Kathak and Classic dance , Yoga , Harmonium , Tabla and Indian Language said Mr Ramesh head of Indian Culture Center Bangkok.

Want to tell through the newsletter some good info about Thailand. Tiger PARK is a newly open attraction in Pattaya, founded by Mr.Navaphol Chakchuan and other executives. With an initiative of conserving Panthera tigers in Thailand and also to let the customers have exciting and wonderful moment with tigers.

You can relax and look around in the coffee shop, gift shop, and snack bar zone. Feel free to walk around and take a picture with the tigers from our free area. You could bring yourself into the tiger's enclosure with our confidence that you will be happy and enjoy the time being in our enclosure with our staff. The confidences they have come from our expert experience in raising tiger more than 30 years so that there lovely tigers are familiar with people. However, they offer you an extraordinary experience for you touch and get close to our tigers. Do not miss that! once in your life time. You can have nice and cool pictures with tigers taken by professional photographer with some additional cost. After all activities you do with tigers inside.

Families can Enjoy on Thailand's beautiful beaches

Thailand is known for its abundance of beaches and islands. The seaside offers many opportunities for children of all ages to have fun ... build a sandcastle together, fly a kite, join in with a friendly game of beach volleyball, collect shells and go hunting in rock pools, paddle in the sparkling ocean, and have fun in the water with inflatable toys. There really are so many options! Older kids might like to have a go at various water sports, such as snorkeling or bouncing off the waves on a banana boat.

Many beaches do not have lifeguards. It is, therefore, imperative, that you keep a close eye on your children when on the beach. For added security and safety you might want to relax on beaches that are privately operated by hotels and resorts, as these generally do have lifeguards on duty throughout the day. Many of the busier beaches have parasols available to rent, perfect for keeping your kids out of the blazing sunshine. Be aware that on quieter beaches it may be more difficult to find shaded spots.

Explore national parks



and go nature spotting

Thailand boasts many glorious national parks. Filled with interesting wildlife, offering amazing views, and usually home to other natural attractions, such as caves or waterfalls, have heaps of family-fun outdoors. Whether you want to hire a vehicle and explore independently or join a specialist tour that caters for families, some of Thailand's national parks might be more accessible than you may think. There are many other places where you can see wild animals; you don't always have to venture into the jungles!

Numerous operators in Chiang Mai and Phuket can organise private guided jungle treks for families, tailoring trips to the age of your children and experience levels of the whole family. Trips may also include other activities, such as rafting and elephant riding, depending on your interests.

Go wild at animal attractions

Thailand has numerous zoos and attractions geared around animals, from places where your kids can touch a tiger and ride a mighty elephant to crocodile farms, snake farms, aquariums, and lush open zoos.

Keep in mind, however, that the care and treatment of animals may not be what you are used to back at home. Seeing animals in tiny cages can be quite distressing for some children, not to mention supporting industries that thrive on mistreating animals.

Chiang Mai Zoo is popular with kids, and animal welfare is generally a high priority. It is home to many animals including adorable giant pandas, cute koalas, lumbering hippos, majestic elephants, and fearsome lions and tigers.

If you want to get up close and personal with beautiful elephants, Chiang Mai's Elephant Nature Park is a great option. Working with rescued elephants and carrying out extensive rehabilitation work, welfare of the animals is at the heart of how they operate.

Whilst you won't find tourists riding around on the back of these incredible creatures, your kids can learn more about elephants and their important role through Thai history, and help with feeding and bathing the mighty beasts. There are plenty of hands-on activities available that treat the elephants with respect and dignity. The park is also home to a variety of other rescue animals, including buffaloes, cats, dogs, and birds. Crocodiles are used in shows, but it may be quite upsetting to watch how they are dragged around by their tails etc. If seeing chimps dressed in clothes, stroking tigers, watching birds perform tricks, and seeing animals in small cages is appealing, you may like Samut Prakan Crocodile Farm. There are many farm attractions around Thailand where your children can learn more about agriculture and see an array of farming animals.

Explore bustling markets

Wander around lively markets and watch as your children's eyes light up on seeing the colorful sights all around. You could also take the family to an unusual floating market for something completely different.

Damnoen Saduak Floating Market attracts many visitors, including families. Whilst you probably won't have the feeling of being at an authentic Thai floating market, you can all have fun with a boat trip along the waterways and see-

ing a wide assortment of goods and food for sale from other boats and from along the edges of the water. You can choose between motorized boats or ones that you row yourself. The costs vary widely. Watch as tasty Thai meals and snacks are cooked right in front of you, and perhaps sample some local cuisine. Pad Thai (fried noodles) is often a good option for kids as it doesn't contain huge amounts of chilly and is really tasty!

Electronic Markets are there Like :-

Originally named Mahbookkroong, MBK is one of Asia's oldest shopping malls. It opened in 1995 and since then it has become of the most well-known in Thailand.

Imagine a HUGE maze of tiny little stalls selling all sorts of tiny little electronics and accessories. We ended up buying phone cases - which we didn't even need - some cables to charge my iPhone and a couple of accessories for the GoPro. Everything haggled at laughable prices.

The 5th floor is more dedicated to digital cameras - Nikon and Canon have official shops here.

Bottom line is: you won't find Zara or Mango in here. MBK is packed with small independent shops, mostly Thai brands and designs and is very popular with the younger crowds. This was definitely the most packed of all shopping spots we've been, the teenage

Thai shopping frenzy can be exhausting!

Chinatown :-

Chinatown is the great option to indulge in a more local and traditional shopping experience. It's the perfect contrast to the mega malls that are pooping out like mushrooms elsewhere in the city.

Apart from the absolute cheapest prices in Bangkok - haggling is necessary - what I like about Chinatown is that you're exploring such a lively and rich area at the same time. Wandering around the lively alleys is a timeless experience by itself!

The whole thing is kind of all over the place, but there are specific sections for some stuff. Head to Yaowarat Road to check the gold vendors, Balanna Plaza for all kind of shoes (beware of fakes!) and Itsaraphap Lane for food items. Chinatown can be too frugal, hot and busy for some, but it's definitely worth a visit!

Chatuchak Market

With over 15,000 booths and stalls, Chatuchak Market is one of the biggest markets in the world. Happening every Saturday and Sunday, it attracts both shopping-craving tourists and local Thais.

The market is divided into 27 huge sections. You can find the most varied things such as souvenirs, independently-design clothes, live animals and wood carving items in well signalled corridors and stalls.

I found this place to be too big. Not big. I mean, HUGE. You'll need lots of time and patience. Despite the good will and organisation, it's very difficult to find the correct section you're heading while managing the crowds. After all, 200,000 people come here on the weekends!

Having that said, it's a GREAT place for shopping souvenirs, clothes and other typical Thai items. We saved a visit to Chatuchak for our last day in Thailand and glad we did, otherwise we'd have to carry a lot of things around during our island hopping itinerary. It's impossible to leave this place empty handed!



TERRORISTS NOT MILITANTS GO AFTER FAMILIES

Aditya Aamir

Things have slipped so far out of New Delhi's hands in four and a half years, Srinagar has become the frontier. It's as if the LoC has shrunk and today cuts through Lal Chowk. A change of Governors made no difference. Terror has taken on a new face but the Press continues to call gun-toting Kashmiris 'militants' as if it militates against liberal-progressive sensibilities to call the spade a spade.

The Kashmiri cop is a sitting duck, the members of his family flightless birds; pick one up here, pick another there, bargaining chips in an ongoing war with terror not militancy driving the narrative.

A missing family member, who was here this morning but cannot be found at noon is a worry that eats into the vitals. And, when the afternoon drags to evening, but the boy or bro is still not accounted for, it's not the fear of the unknown but that of the known that

jumps out of the shadows.

It dawns at dusk that the 'militants' have the policeman



by the short hair. 'My son; my brother', the cop can't get out of his uniform soon enough. But the moment has passed and the camel is a ship in the desert, where to go to find him – the kidnapped son, the abducted brother?

To the militant's hideout not the terrorist's den, says the national newspaper, which circulates in the morning and by evening is a dead rag – lifeless looking for news that the '11'

have returned home, relieved they will still make a cricket team, a football eleven. 'Let's Play Handball' is elected headline.

"With whom?" asks the resident stag, used to watching the daily 'thandav' from the sidelines of the dance-floor! "The militants, the militants, of course" replies the editor-in-chief, veteran of many headlines. "Our dictionary has no words such as terror, terrorism or terrorist; keep that in mind, on your fingertips, and you'll go places." The 'sub' returns to workstation, reads the pile of words: "Alarm and despair spread among the Jammu and Kashmir policemen and their families after a series of abductions of relatives of policemen in south Kashmir by suspected militants on Thursday night, the abductions triggered by police detaining for questioning family members of some Hizbul Mujahideen militants."

Words beat him daily, the

sub-editor. Militancy or terrorism? Isn't killing policemen on furlough terrorism? Aren't abductions of the innocent children of policemen by men with guns terrorism, why play down terror by picking a word so effete? What's on display in the Valley these days is terrorism.

The bearded idiots who take on the army and the police, the paramilitary, are cross-border terrorists, armed and dangerous, for whom the mission matters more than the people they want to 'liberate', and if now they are going after their own, it's because they are terrorists even before they are home.

The families of policemen are vulnerable because the J&K policeman is from the same social and religious milieu as the "local militants" and for that born-to situation are "isolated in society." Also vulnerable because their families do not live in protected camps like those of army and the paramilitary. Modi's effete policy doesn't strike terror where it hurts. Where's the 'nationalism', where the fervour of the nationalist, what good the tag of 'Hindu nationalist party'? At least be the 'nationalist party' if coy of the 'Hindu' prefix? Don't forget, ISIS is in the game and the jobless are prone to join the gang. The war is with an idea, not with a state – the 'Islamic' beats the 'State' hollow.

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