National Register of Citizens – Sovereignty vs Vote Bank

National Register of Citizens - A Fight for Indigenous Identity in Assam
“A nation is a group of persons who live with ‘A Goal’, ‘An Ideal’, ‘A Mission’ and look upon a particular piece of land as the Motherland. If either of the two—The Ideal and The Motherland-- is missing, then there is no nation.”

-Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya
EDITORIAL

● TRIBUTE TO SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE JI
  - Dr. Anirban Ganguly

PM MODI’S VISION

● Salient Points of PM’s address at the Outstanding Parliamentary Awards function at Central Hall of Parliament on 01 Aug, 2018
● Salient Points of PM’s address at the inauguration of World Biofuel Day-2018 on 10 Aug, 2018
● Salient Points of PM’s address at the 56th Annual Convocation of IIT Bombay on 11 Aug, 2018

SPECIAL ARTICLE

● National Register of Citizens – Sovereignty vs Vote Bank
  - ARUN JAITLEY

POLICY ANALYSIS

● गांव और किसान का प्रामाणीकता - हर्षवर्षन त्रिपाठी
● The reality of jobs: A data-driven perspective - Kishore Desai
● Why South Korea is Significant for India? - M. S. Prathibha
● Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act 2017-Coverage and Impact - Vatsala Bhusry
● India becomes the sixth largest economy in the world - Devika Chawla
● आर्थिक चुंबन से मात्रात्मक अर्थव्यवस्था - सतीश सशंक
● National Register of Citizens-A Fight for Indigenous Identity in Assam - Shubham Tiwari

POLITICAL COMMENTARIES

● एनआरसी: देश देख रहा जांघटक विपक्ष जी का संज्ञान
  - डॉ. नीलम महेंद्र
● तृणिवील जांघटक जी ने जीती धार से विवाद और सामरिक भारत का स्वनिर्देश
  - विधेयक मेघदुष्णि

स्मृति शेष: अटल जी

● मेरे अटल जी... - नरेंद्र मोदी
● भारतीय राजनीति के जीवन पुष्प भारत के अटल वंधिय हास्यपीये जी की निधि आपको देता रहेगा - अममत शाह

EVENT @ SPMRF

● SPMRF in Collaboration with Syama Prasad Janakalyan Samity organised a discussion session about the ‘Work and life of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee’ at Hooghly, West Bengal on Sunday, 29th July, 2018
TRIBUTE TO SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE JI

In the passing away of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee (Atalji to countless millions admirers and party workers), a Colossus has departed, leaving behind an irreplaceable void in the public and ideational life of India. A Hero of generations of Indian youth, who have been inspired and imbued with the spirit of nationalism, has left us, leaving behind pearls of memories and sparks of inspirations. To generations he gave voice to their aspirations of seeing an alternate political narrative emerge, a narrative that would be decisively nationalist, would think of India first and would act to safeguard India’s national interest.

Having founded the Bharatiya Janata Party in 1980, he led it, nurtured it, watered it and nourished it like an incomparable and unmatched guide, teacher and preceptor who eventually saw it expand and grow into the principal and dominant pole of Indian politics and of India’s public life. His triune Mantra – of Sanghathan (Organisation), Sangharsh (Struggle), Samrachana (Constructive Work) – inspired countless workers to struggle and sacrifice, through decades, and build the party as a formidable platform and instrument of societal transformation and of governance, a platform, a vehicle, and a movement that has altered the course and canvas of Indian politics forever.

The party’s decisive victory and its historic electoral mandate won under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, indeed showed the long and arduous journey of the party from those days, when as Vajpayee Ji once described it, “The benign presence of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee was no longer there. Neither was there a distinguished leadership, nor was there a wide mass base. Candidates were hard to find to fight the elections. There was none who was willing to spend his own money to face forfeiture of security deposit…”

Shri Vajpayee Ji, was one of our last links to Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, acting for a while as Dr Mookerjee’s secretary, he was witness to and participant in a very crucial and formative phase of the movement to create an alternate narrative in Indian politics of which Dr Mookerjee was the initiator. On his last journey, having entered Kashmir, Dr Mookerjee directed Vajpayee Ji to return and to let the entire country know that he had entered Kashmir without a permit.

It was at his initiative that Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation (SPMRF) was founded in the 1990s; he foresaw the necessity of research, of policy orientation and the imperativeness of constantly replenishing the ideological foundations of a party like the BJP.

While we mourn his loss, we also resolve to carry aloft and perpetuate the immortal flame of his legacy; a legacy and a life lived, every minute, every moment, in a ceaseless and unconditional service of Bharat.

While he mingles and unites with Bharat’s civilisational flow and quest, Shri Vajpayee Ji’s legacy and unparalleled contribution to our national life shall forever continue to guide and inspire us to action. It is those whom he nurtured, whom he selected and entrusted with organisational and governance responsibilities, who are today leading and articulating the vision and dream of a new India.
» Important for MPs to express the voice of the poor and the marginalised.

» Sadly, when there is noise and chaos in the House, MPs are not able to speak and the loss is of the entire nation's.

» Parliament is a forum to debate and even criticise the Government. The words spoken in Parliament are on record and they will be a part of the history books. That is why, it is important for Parliament to function effectively.

» Every MP has something or the other to say that is constructive.

» In a such a big nation, the MPs bring with them the dreams and aspirations of their constituents.

» It's the responsibility of everyone to ensure that the words of every Parliamentarian go on record. It's the responsibility of all of us to ensure that the issues related to the villages, poor and farmers, spoken by the Parliamentarians must compel the government to take action.

» We can create such a scenario in the House. The better the atmosphere is, stronger will be the force to carry our nation ahead.
Salient Points of PM’s address at the inauguration of World Biofuel Day-2018 on 10 Aug, 2018

» Biofuels can help reduce import dependency on crude oil. They can contribute to a cleaner environment, generate additional income for farmers & rural employment.

» Biofuels have synergies with various Government initiatives, including enhancing farmers’ incomes, and Swachh Bharat.

» As a result of the efforts of the Centre, ethanol blending in petrol increased from 38 crore litres in the ethanol supply year 2013-14, to an estimated 141 crore litres in the ethanol supply year 2017-18.

» The Government also approved the National Policy on Biofuels in June 2018.
Salient Points of PM’s address at the 56th Annual Convocation of IIT Bombay on 11 Aug, 2018

» The nation is proud of the IITs & what IIT graduates have achieved.

» The success of IITs led to the creation of engineering colleges around the country.

» They were inspired by the IITs and this led to India becoming one of the world’s largest pools of technical manpower.

» You have received what can be called the best that our education system has to offer.

» Students here represent the diversity of India.

» From different states, speaking different languages.

» From different backgrounds you merge here in pursuit of knowledge and learning.

» IIT की देश और दुनिया Indian Institute of Technology के रूप में जानती है।

» लेकिन आज हमारे लिए इसकी परिभाषा घोड़ी बदल गई है।

» ये सिर्फ Technology की पढ़ाई से जुड़े स्थान भर नहीं रह गए हैं।

» बल्कि IIT आज India’s Instrument of Transformation बन गए हैं।

» Start Up की जिस क्रांति की तरफ देश आगे बढ़ रहा है, उसका एक बहुत बड़ा Source हमारे IIT है।

» आज दुनिया IIT को Unicorn Start Ups की नर्सरी तक मान रही है।

» ये एक प्रकार से तकनीक के दर्पण हैं, जिसमें दुनिया को भविष्य नज़र आता है।

» Innovations and Enterprise are going to be the foundation stone for making India a developed economy.

» A long term sustainable technology-led economic growth is possible on this foundation.

» My appeal to youngsters is:

1. Innovate in India, Innovate for humanity.
2. From mitigating climate change to ensuring better agricultural productivity,
3. From cleaner energy to water conservation.
4. From combatting malnutrition to effective waste management.
erritory and citizens are the two most important aspects of a sovereign State. The principal duty of any Government is to defend the borders of the country, prevent any trespass and make the life of its citizens safe and secure. Independent India has faced a major challenge to protect its sovereignty in Jammu and Kashmir. At the time of Independence and partition of India, Assam was also a sore issue for Pakistan. They resented the fact that like Kashmir, Assam became a part of Independent India. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, in his book ‘Myth of Independence’ wrote:

“It would be wrong that Kashmir is the only issue that divides India and Pakistan, though undoubtedly the most significant. One at least is nearly as important as the Kashmir dispute, is that of Assam and some districts of India adjoining the East Pakistan. To these Pakistan has very good claims.”

Similarly, in the pre-1971 era, till he became more favourably inclined to India, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the then East Pakistan leader, in his book ‘Eastern Pakistan, its Population and
Economics’ had observed:

“Because Eastern Pakistan must have sufficient land for its expansion and because Assam has abundant forest and mineral resources, coal, petroleum etc., Eastern Pakistan must include Assam to be financially and economically strong.”

Ever since Independence, we had a significant influx of illegal migrants from East Pakistan. Because of ethnic and linguistic similarity and religious commonality, it was possible for these people together to avoid detection and find a shelter in Assam.

**Who are citizens of India?**

The citizenship of India is recognized from Articles 5 to 11 of the Constitution of India. No citizenship can be granted in violation of these provisions. The law relating to citizenship which regulates the grant of citizenship by birth, by registration, descent and naturalisation. Section 6(A) deals with the special provisions of citizenship covered by 1985 Assam Accord.

**Consequences of illegal migration**

Twenty-one years ago, on May 6, 1997, the then Home Minister Shri Indrajit Gupta, told Parliament that there were over 10 million illegal immigrants residing in India, of which 5.4 million were in West Bengal and 4 million in Assam. Needless to say that this figure has increased ever since. The consequence of this was analysed by the Hon’ble Supreme Court in a case filed by the present Chief Minister of Assam, Sarbananda Sonowal vs UOI (2005), where the court held:

‘The dangerous consequences of large scale illegal migration from Bangladesh, both for the people of Assam and more for the Nation as a whole, need to be emphatically stressed. No misconceived and mistaken notions of secularism should be allowed to come in the way of doing so. As a result of population movement from Bangladesh, the spectre looms large of the indigenous people of Assam being reduced to a minority in their home State. Their cultural survival will be in jeopardy, their political control will be weakened and their employment opportunities will be undermined. The silent and invidious demographic invasion of Assam may result in the loss of geostrategically vital districts of lower Assam. The influx of these illegal migrants is turning these districts into a Muslim majority region. It will then be a matter of time when a demand for their merger with Bangladesh may be made. The rapid growth of international Islamic fundamentalism may provide for driving force for this demand. In this context, it is pertinent that Bangladesh has long discarded secularism and has chosen to become an Islamic State. Loss of lower Assam will sever the entire land mass of North-East, from the rest of India and the rich natural resources of that region will be lost to the Nation.”

Nobody could have put it better.

**The two accords by Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Mr. Rajiv Gandhi**

Subsequent to the creation of Bangladesh in 1971, the Indian and the Bangladeshi Prime Ministers entered into an arrangement in February, 1972. The Government of India, on 30th September, 1972, set out a circular that those Bangladeshi nationals who had come to India before 25th March, 1971 were to be detected but those who entered India in or after the said date were to be repatriated. This is what Mrs. Indira Gandhi’s commitment to India and the people of this nation was.

Under the Assam Accord signed on 15th August, 1984, the Rajiv Gandhi Government committed to three categories. Those who came prior to 1.1.1966 will continue to be on India’s electoral rolls and they would be regularised. Foreigners who came to Assam after 1.1.1966 but
before 24.3.1971 would be dealt with under the provisions of the Foreigners Act and Foreigners Tribunal Order 1964. If detected, their name would be deleted from the electoral rolls and they would have to register themselves as foreigners. Those who came on or after 25.3.1971 were to be detected, deleted and expelled in accordance with law. “Immediate and practical steps should be taken to expel such foreigners”.

Thus historically, both Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, through the Congress Government that they headed, committed to this nation that post 25th March, 1971 migrants would be detected, identified and deported.

Under the Foreigners Act, the onus of proof lies on the persons claiming to be a citizen. It would otherwise be impossible for the State to establish when the person surreptitiously entered the Indian territory. However, the Congress Government legislated the IMDT Act which remained silent on the issue of burden of proof. This virtually made detection, deletion and deportation impossible. The Supreme Court, on 12th July, 2005 struck down the IMDT Act and unconstitutional and, therefore, decided that the detection would be under the Foreigners Act and the rules made thereunder. It is, thereafter, that tribunals for preparing the register of members have been functioning in the districts of Assam.

West Bengal is not far behind

To put it in the words of the Trinamool Congress leader and the West Bengal Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee has stated in the Lok Sabha on 4.8.2005:

“The infiltration in Bengal has become a disaster now. You can see the Bangladeshi as well as the Indian names in the list. I have both the Bangladeshi and the Indian voters list. This is a very serious matter. I would like to know when would it be discussed in the House?”

India’s sovereignty is paying a heavy price because of the quality of its political discourse. Though Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Mr. Rajiv Gandhi took a particular position in 1972 and 1985 for the deletion and deportation of foreigners, Rahul Gandhi takes a contrarian position and his party turns turtle. Similarly, the BJP ally of 2005, Ms. Mamata Banerjee, took a particular position. As a federal front leader, she now talks to the contrary. Can India’s sovereignty be decided by such fickle minds and fragile hands?

The result of this has been that in the 50 years between 1961 and 2011, the majority community in Assam has grown 2.4 times; the minority has grown 3.9 times. This has caused a major demographic impact.

Difference between a citizen, refugee and an illegal migrant

There is a fundamental difference between a citizen and a refugee. Citizenship is regulated by the Constitution. Those who are compelled on account of certain circumstances to leave their country and take refuge in another country for fear of persecution, are refugees. The receiving nation can, on humanitarian ground, be considerate to these refugees in terms of providing them the basics of life. Refugees are not conferred citizenship. The refugees don’t become a voter. Some pre-1971 migrants may have moved for reasons of persecution, the same is not true of all post 1971 migrants who have illegally entered India. There is a third category who are neither citizens nor refugees, who come for reasons of economic opportunities. These are illegal migrants. Their entry is silent invasion in the country to which they move. One of the world’s most celebrated liberal judges, Lord Denning, in his book ‘The Due Process of Law’ has written as introduction to part 5 ‘Entrances and Exits’ where the opening paragraph reads:
“In recent times England has been invaded not by enemies nor by friends but by those who see England as haven. In their own countries, there is poverty, disease and no homes. In England there is social security, a national health service and guaranteed housing. All to be had for the asking without payment and without working for it. Once here, each seeks to bring his relative to join him: so they multiply exceedingly.”

Ironically even Lord Denning calls it an invasion. It must be remembered that citizenship does not accrue by illegal migration. It comes under the conditions prescribed in the Constitution and the Citizenship Act.

**Difference between fundamental rights under Article 19 and 21**

A desperate argument has been given that this is a human rights cause. A refugee on account of persecution may have a humanitarian consideration. Illegal migration does not have it. There is not fundamental right to any person to do so. The wise men who framed India’s Constitution made a clear distinction in the phraseology of Article 19 which guarantees the right to move freely throughout the territory of India and to reside and settle in any part of territory of India. It is a right available only to a citizen. However, the right to life and liberty and a protection against its deprivation under Article 21 is available to any person – citizen and non-citizen alike. A right of a citizen or a non-citizen to life and liberty can be taken away only by due process of law. That is a right available to him under India’s constitution. That is his human right. But the framers of the Constitution did not confer on a non-citizen the right to move throughout the territory of India or to reside or settle in any part or territory in India. While the constitution framers make Article 19 applicable to a ‘citizen’ only, the rights under Article 21 were made available to a ‘person’. There is a method in this distinction.

I reiterate what I have stated earlier. The Congress was the mainstream party on Indian politics. It has increasingly started taking fringe position. Siding with the ‘Tukde Tukde’ gang was one such illustration. It is now compromising the sovereignty of India. Leaders like Rahul Gandhi and Mamata Banerjee must realise that India’s sovereignty is not a play thing. Sovereignty and citizenship are the soul of India. Imported vote banks are not.
प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी अक्सर न्यू इंडिया बनाने की बात करते हैं, इससे कई बार यह भ्रम स्थिति पैदा हो जाती है कि, क्या इस सरकार की प्राथमिकता में भारत के गांव नहीं हैं। सरकार की दशकों बाद बनाने की बात करें तो, मेक इन इंडिया, डिजिटल इंडिया, स्मिल इंडिया स्टार्ट अप इंडिया, रेड अप इंडिया आदि भी इसी ओर इशारा करने लगते हैं। शायद यही सोच और आधार रही होगी, जिसने कांग्रेस के अध्यक्ष राहुल गांधी की उकसाया होगा कि, नरेंद्र मोदी की सरकार का नामकरण मुख्य बूट की सरकार कर दिया जाए। लेकिन, जब प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने कहा कि, उनकी सरकार का सबसे बड़ा लक्ष्य खरीद लेना कर्तना है तो, जवादादर लोगों का यही मानना था कि, ऐसा सम्भव नहीं है। वह सिर्फ एक बयान भर साबित होने वाला है।

लेकिन, इस तत्व पर चर्चा कम ही हुई कि, नरेंद्र मोदी देश के लोगों के पहले प्रधानमंत्री हैं, जिन्होंने इसने बड़ा खतरा मोल लिया है। क्योंकि, यह ताबो तूफानी हटाएं तो, जबूती के तौर पर इस्तेमाल करके जनता को समझाया जा सकता है कि, इसने गरीब हमने कम कर दिया लेकिन, किसानों की आमदनी दोगुना करने का कार्य 2022 में आयकर स्पष्ट तौर पर भर रहे होंगे कि, किसानों की आमदनी कितनी बढ़ी। भारी मोदी सरकार ने स्पष्टीकरण की फसलों की उपज का न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य लागत का डेड गुणा करके स्पष्ट कर दिया है। अपने लक्ष्य को लेकर सरकार कितनी गहरी है। क्योंकि, इस समय इस तत्व से न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य बढ़ाने का मतलब है कि, 2019 के चुनावों के ठीक पहले बढ़ती महंगाई को और बढ़ने का आधार मिल जाएगा। किसानों को इस न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य का कितना फायदा मिलेगा, इस पर बहस होगी लेकिन, देश में महंगाई बढ़ने और खाना खाने मध्यम वर्ग पर इसकी तगड़ी, दिखाई पड़ने वाली चोट पड़ेगी। फिर नरेंद्र मोदी ने इसने बड़ा खतरा कहा लिया है। उस पर सभी कृषि विशेषज्ञ और किसानों के नाम पर राज्य पीएम करने वाले किसान नेता एक सुर में कह रहे हैं कि, लागत को नहीं तरीके से सरकार ने नहीं
मापा है। यानी किसानों के बीच में पहले से ही न्यूनतम समाधन मूल्य को लेकर खासियत संदर्भ भेजा जा रहा है।

भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक की हालात मुद्रिक नीति में बदला गए 5 सबसे बड़े खर्चों में से एक न्यूनतम समाधन मूल्य का बढ़ा है। इसका सीमात्मक मतलब यह भी माना जा सकता है कि, एक अग्रसर की मुद्रिक नीति में रिजर्व बैंक फिर से दर्जा बदले कब तक के तौर पर लागत का डेरे सुनिश्चित नहीं हुआ है। इसके बावजूद नैंद्र मोदी ने न्यूनतम समाधन मूल्य अभी तक के तौर पर यौगिक पर लगाते डेरे गुना करने का केन्द्रित नहीं होता है। क्योंकि, इसके अलावा ग्रामीण योजना, ग्रामीण कोटोल योजना, यथायोग्य मुख्य बिंदु शासन, गांव और किसान को मजबूत करने की बड़ी कोशिश के तौर पर देखा जा सकता है। उजवला किसानों को और विस्तार दिया गया है।

हाईबैंक और दूसरी बुनियादी सुविधाओं में तेजी इतनी चर्चा में है कि, मध्यम वर्ग को बात आ जा सकता है कि, उसके द्वारा दिए गए टैक्स का इस्तेमाल सही तरीके से कर रही है। लेकिन, बदलावों में पड़ेगा-किसान को चौड़ी सड़कें, हाईबैंक और चमचमाते हवाओं अहंकारु लुप्त के बजाय प्रतिक्रियावादी बनाए हैं। सूची भावना के भागों की कोशिश राहुल गांधी का सूत्र बुट की सरकार था लेकिन, सीधे गांव-किसान तक पहुंचने वाली मोदी सरकार की योजनाओं ने ढोंढा बहुत ही ऐसी लेख, गांव-किसान को यह अहमान दिलाया मुक्त कर दिया है कि, दिल्ली में बैठी सरकार उनके लिए सोच रही है और कर भी रही है।

इसलिए, प्राइवेट भूमी पर सर्वेक्षण और कर्ज मारी की विरोधी नैंद्र मोदी और भारतीय जनता पारty की सरकार के बाजार मारे माफिक की केन्द्रीयता के तौर पर देखा जा सकता है। भारतीय जनता पारty ने 2014 के चुनावों के प्रभाव में प्रमाणित किए जब भी किसानों का उपार लागत का डेरे गुना न्यूनतम समाधन मूल्य देने की बात की थी। इसी तरह, इसके लिए यह दिखा पाएगा।

अब दो तरह की आंक एवं समाने आ रही है। पहले-इससे सरकार की खातने पर अतिरिक्त साहग है एवं किसानों के पास उसका विनियम बना हुआ है। इसके लिए, सामने आए शीर्षकों के इलाज की भावना है। हालांकि, इसके अनुसार भी कर्ज मारी की राजनीति के माध्यम से कया जा सकता है। इसीलिए, इस कारण बाजार में इन्हें देखा जा सकता है।

हाईबैंक और दूसरी बुनियादी सुविधाओं में तेजी इतनी चर्चा में है कि, मध्यम वर्ग को बात आ जा सकता है कि, उसके द्वारा
The Central Statistics Office (CSO) recently released the provisional estimates of fourth quarter (Q4) GDP for the year 2017-18. At constant prices (2011-12 base), the GDP grew at a rate of 7.7% that quarter, one of the fastest rates across the world for a comparable economy. The trend showed a consistent acceleration of GDP growth rates quarter-wise for 2017-18, with Q1 growth recorded at 5.6%, Q2 at 6.3% and Q3 at 7.0%. CSO release also noted that, employment intensive sectors such as manufacturing and construction recorded a rapid growth, with each growing at 9.1% and 11.5% respectively.

Now, the above pieces of data are solid economic facts. So, when critics argue that no jobs are being created and that youth across the country remain jobless, I find this assertion quite unjustified; in fact, spurious and without any basis. This probably could be mere perception of a few. Far more likely, this seems an attempt to spread false narrative. Such critics easily escape counter challenge as they exploit the data void related to job creation. Three major loopholes help these
critics. One, informal employment far outweighs formal employment. Infact, estimates suggest that informal jobs accounts for as much as 80% of all jobs. Second, tools for measuring informal jobs do not exist. Third, even for tracking formals jobs (both in organized and unorganized sector), we do not have robust systems that track job creation situation.

So, effectively as things stand, significant portion of job creation pretty much goes undetected. That said, there is ample evidence otherwise (from macro-economic data trends and other data releases such as payroll reporting etc.) that can be reliably used to assess the jobs situation. While these data may not give the precise quantum of the numbers of jobs created, they can provide reasonable idea about the broader jobs situation. Given this context, the paragraphs below provide some relevant data-driven perspectives to the jobs debate.

First, data points towards a sharp jump in key output metrics of select employment intensive sectors. Let’s now look into some specific data trends of sectors such as infrastructure and construction space which are known to be employment intensive. Meaning growth in outputs of these sectors is known to generate direct and indirect employment through the multiplier effect. Consider the following. The average annual expenditure on highways construction has jumped from around INR 32,500 crore in 2013-14 to around 1,16,000 crore in 2017-18. The pace of highways construction increased from 12 kms/day in 2013-14 to 27 kms/day in 2017-18. In rural roads, the pace of construction jumped from 69 kms/day in 2013-14 to 134 kms/day in 2017-18.

Under Railways, the capital expenditure is on track to increase from INR 2.3 lakh crore over 2009-14 to INR 5.30 lakh crore over 2014-19. That’s a jump of around 230%. The pace of railway renewals and commissioning of new railway lines recorded more than 50% increase as compared to their average levels of 2009-14. In the housing sector, the government has already constructed more than 1 crore rural houses during 2014-18 as compared to 25 lakhs during 2009-14. The average time for construction of a house also went down from 314 days in 2015-16 to 114 days in 2017-18.

While the data above mainly pertained to infrastructure and construction space, the trends are similar for manufacturing space as well. Domestic production of cement increased from around 248 million tons (MT) in 2013 to around 280 million tons in 2017. That of coal increased from around 565 MT in 2013-14 to 676 MT in 2017-18. Similarly, in the automobile sector, the number of passenger vehicles manufactured in India jumped from around 31 lakh in 2013-14 to 40 lakh in 2017-18 and two-wheelers from 1.68 crore in 2013-14 to 2.32 crore in 2017-18. The above facts clearly point out that growth in infrastructure, construction, manufacturing etc. had been quite robust over the last 4 years. Given the nature and basic dynamics of these sectors (intensive involvement of manpower), it is natural to assert that such strong levels of growth in these segments cannot be supported without addition of multiple jobs – both in the informal and formal space.

Second, the above observations are also consistent with other evidences and findings of some independent studies. Using the recently released payroll reporting data (Employers provident fund organization (EPFO)), a recent analysis by independent researchers estimated that more than 70 lakhs jobs may have been created in the formal sector in 2017 alone. The number of accounts/ number of loans sanctioned as part of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) during 2015-16 to 2017-18 was around 12.30 crore. Out of this, around 3.50 crore beneficiaries were new entrepreneurs who got collateral free loan for
their ventures. On a conservative basis, one can easily expect that most of these entrepreneurs would have added at least job each in the country. Add to these, unofficial news reports suggest that new age digital technology ventures such as Ola, Uber, e-commerce logistics delivery players etc. may have created more than 10 lakh informal jobs. Finally, the Prime Minister recently stated that professionals such as chartered accountants, doctors and lawyers, are estimated to have created about 6 lakh jobs in 2017 alone. He also added that, in the informal sector, the sale trends of automobiles (auto, trucks, commercial vehicles, passenger vehicles etc.) suggest that about 20 lakh jobs may have been created last year in this space. These pointers hence further substantiate the fact that the narrative of jobless growth has no merit.

Finally, perspectives related to the lack of reliable statistical framework to capture jobs data. For this purpose, the government earlier relied on three different sources: a) Labour Bureau’s Quarterly Report on Employment Scenario (QES); b) National Sample Survey Office’s (NSSO) Employment-Unemployment surveys and c) Employment – Unemployment Survey by Labour Bureau. Each of these had different data sources, study methodology and release frequency. For instance, QES was based on surveys of non-farm establishments which employed 10 or more workers for a limited set of sectors. Other two were household based surveys. NSSO survey had a frequency of 5 years while that of Labor Bureau was 1 year. Even these household surveys collated different aspects of job creation. Such multiplicity of sources and methodologies created huge confusion and inconsistency. Hence the government decided to institute a new approach with an objective to disseminate reliable and robust jobs data on a high frequency basis. NSSO is currently administering the same and is likely to release its first findings sometime soon.

The above perspectives clearly show that the narrative that the economy is not adding jobs has no basis. Infact, quite the contrary, sectoral data trends, other quantitative evidence and independent studies all suggest that significant jobs are being created. Critics have deftly leveraged the void in jobs related data framework to spread this false narrative. The good news is that this void is temporary. Very soon we should have a robust reliable assessment of the on ground situation related to jobs. Till such time, assessment pertaining to job creation or the lack of it, must be backed by analysis of related data trends (some of which have been briefly presented in this article) to have more meaningful dialogue on this matter of national importance.

(OSD, Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM))
South Korea’s diplomacy has always been predominantly focused on four major powers - the United States, China, Japan and Russia who are considered stakeholders in the security of the Korean peninsula. In particular, China, the US and Japan remain South Korea’s major trading partners and markets for South Korean exports. However, after facing tough trade and economic fallouts with two of its largest trading partners, China and the US, South Korea is seeking to reduce its dependence on them by looking for alternative markets. Moreover, South Korea had believed that it can successfully leverage its relationship with both the US and China for its benefits and favourable economic and security relations based on the G2 concept. However, with the intensifying strategic competition between US and China South Korea was unable to cope up and worse, was faced with unintended consequences.

For instance, on the one hand, its relations with China worsened as it faced trade retaliations over its decision to deploy Theatre High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system in Korea. Since China remains the largest importer of South Korean goods, it affected its trade relations immensely.

**Why South Korea is Significant for India?**

*M. S. Prathibha*
On the other hand, as the US resets its discourse from American decline to ‘America First’ policy, measures are taken mainly at containing further US technology transfer to China for its ‘Made in China 2025’ initiative and regaining US dominance through improving its market access. In this regard, South Korean exports are expected to decrease due to US-China trade war because it supplies many of the components to the Chinese goods that are exported to the US. South Korea also had to renegotiate its trade deal that allows for US to export automobiles to South Korea in order to be exempted from US trade tariffs regarding South Korean steel exports to the US.

Consequently, to enable South Korea to expand its strategic space as well as diversify its market presence, it aptly named its new diplomacy as ‘New Southern Policy’.

**India in New Southern Policy**

New Southern Policy has made India an arch of South Korea’s diplomatic endeavour. In this context, South Korea’s President Moon Jae-in’s bilateral visit to India between 8 July to 11 July 2018 came with specific purposes. Changes in South Korean perception are crucial and timely for India. First, South Korea aims to elevate its relationship with India to that of four major powers. South Korea has been resetting its diplomacy to play a more prominent role on the global stage as a “middle power”. Because of its alliance with the US, there has been discussions between the two countries over its role in the Indo-Pacific strategy. However, unlike Japan, it has not endorsed the strategy due to its perceived alliance-type containment angle against China.

While acknowledging that its New Southern Policy shares some similarities with the Indo-Pacific strategy such as importance of India, and enhancing strategic cooperation with Southeast Asian countries, it is clear that it is comfortable with a balanced approach. As a result, the New Southern Policy is combined with its New Northern Policy, which is aimed at improving relations with Russia and consequently, North Korea. In fact, South Korea seeks more policy convergence with India’s Act East policy. This perception will allow both countries to expand on strategic areas of cooperation without overt containment strategies, and as partners could take measures to lessen the pressure to participate in the Indo-Pacific strategy.

Secondly, South Korea intends to improve its trade relations with India. Some apprehensions in India over favourable trade deficit towards South Korea have led India reluctant to open its market further. Although both countries had signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and achieved the target of increasing their bilateral trade to 20 billion dollars, they have been reticent to go further. Nonetheless, there are signals that the bilateral relationship could benefit from the New Southern Policy. For instance, it is imperative for India to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) consistently to improve its infrastructure. Already, South Korea had agreed to investment 10 billion dollars in India’s infrastructure sectors in 2017. In the recent visit, as part of Make in India initiative, Moon opened an expanded Samsung Electronics Mobile Factory in Noida worth over 720 million dollars. In addition, both countries also signed an Early Harvest package for an upgraded CEPA including 10 other agreements in areas such as biotechnology and bio-economics, scientific and technological research, ICT and telecommunications.

South Korea’s increased focus on India also gives the opportunity for the latter to extract favourable trade deals. For example, as President Moon proposed his intention to strengthen the ‘Special Strategic Partnership’, both countries
seek to improve their bilateral trade to 50 billion dollars by 2030. Given that India’s concerns has been that the trade deficit is disproportionately favouring South Korea, under its New Southern Policy, it gives India an opportunity negotiate much more market access for Indian goods and services. Already, it is visible in the newly agreed Early Harvest project. For instance, according to Vikram Doraiswami, the Indian Ambassador to South Korea, one of the agreed chapters in early harvest are ‘services’.

India’s Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific Strategy

Prime Minister Modi had revamped India’s Act East policy to create a greater synergy between India and ASEAN and East Asia. Apart from realising the economic potential of the region, it is also aimed at improving India’s strategic and security cooperation in the region, in particular with Vietnam and Japan. India has been willing to expand its strategic cooperation with the US and Japan, and wishes to cooperate on an Indo-Pacific strategy that operates on inclusivity. Prime Minister Modi espoused this view in the Shangri-La summit, where he established that ASEAN remains the central to any security cooperation, and that India supports an inclusive arrangement.

Therefore, South Korea’s New Southern Policy offers a significant avenue, which does not alienate either China or Russia or limits India’s involvement into a geo-political arrangement. Rather it gives India and South Korea an opportunity to develop a regional arrangement that focuses on issues that are central to India – scientific and technological research in fourth industrial revolution, improving India’s defence industries, and cultural and trade policies. This is reflected in both countries understanding that they would cooperate in defence and strategic areas, in particular ‘military exchanges, training and experience sharing, and research and development including innovative technologies for mutual benefit.’ They also agreed to further cooperation in defence shipbuilding such as enabling Hindustan Shipyard Limited to upgrade and modernise its facilities.

Conclusion

India faces an uncertain global environment. The competition between the US and China has intensified. Due to its centrality to the Indian Ocean region and potential manpower and resources, India has once again become a significant actor in great power competition. While India’s growth and expanding influence has enabled it to negotiate these challenges better, it is imperative that alternate avenues are created, where India can express its views and play greater role without being drawn into rivalries. At the same time, India’s developmental needs and South Korea’s desire for regional space means that both countries can effectively combine the strategic goals of India’s Act East Policy and South Korea’s New Southern Policy.

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Since inception of Indian society, women have been treated with dignity and respect, though at times we do find that they have been deprived from their basic human rights. They are known as transformers of organizations, society and mother of the race. Women have advanced in every walk of life right from invading male dominant sectors or breaking out from the confinement of the household chores and family duties. They seek employment mainly for economic independence, necessity, some are qualified enough to work for a sense of achievement and to provide service to the society. Commonly hired on short-term contracts or with no contract, all women are working at high

Vatsala Bhusry
speed for low wages in unhealthy conditions. They are forced to put in long hours to earn enough to get by. Modi Government made an initiative to give them their basic employee rights by Amending the Maternity Benefit Act.

The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act 2017, passed by the Indian Parliament increases the maternity leave available to working women from 12 weeks to 26 weeks for the first two children. Maternity leave for children beyond the first two and to mothers adopting a child below the age of three months as well as the commissioning mothers (surrogate mother) will continue to be 12 weeks. Along with this, every establishment with more than 50 employees will have to provide for crèche facilities for working mothers and they will be permitted to make four visits during working hours to look after and feed the child in the crèche.

According to various research studies and psychologists’ women are known to be great administrators and have a capability to perform multiple tasks. They are preferred in work roles where consistency and multitasking are required apart from their professional training. But what creates an obstruction in getting them their employee rights in a work space, is the changes in their life cycle. The Amendments in the existing Act were taken up so that working woman gets exclusive time to breast-feed her child for 6 months after the birth. It not only secures them financially but also gives them time to recoup after pregnancy. Creche’ facility for working mothers in their office premise has been a great factor in making them more entwined towards their job roles by putting them in the centre. It helps in achieving healthy pregnancy and avoiding miscarriages or premature birth. India is considered the third most progressive country after Norway and Canada to have moved in the direction of providing maternity benefits. This has been a big step forward to reduce the gender gap and has brought them closer to the workplace. Women working in the organized sectors have been known to be overworked, invisible,
unrecognized, unremunerated and displaced by men. The benefit of the Amended Act has been the first step forward in empowering working women with their employee rights.

It is estimated that the workforce participation rate at all India level is 25.51% for females. The amendment in the Maternity Benefit Act safeguards the needs of these women while they are nursing a new born. Previously their perilous financial position, compelled them to return to work sooner than they should due to job insecurity, invariably jeopardizing their own and the infant’s health. This affected the health of the child and deprived them from having proper nourishment at an early age. Most of the women working on contractual jobs faced huge exploitative work conditions and were nowhere recognised under the purview of labour law, so the question of availing any employee benefits was farfetched, the Amended Act facilitated their basic rights irrespective of their rank and type of employment.

Currently, women employed in small scale establishments with 10 or more employees are eligible for paid maternity leave up to 12 weeks under the Maternity Benefit Act. There are various other labour laws providing for maternity benefits, one such being the ‘Employees State Insurance Act, 1948’. This provides for payment of wages to an insured woman, during her 12-week maternity leave. Women employed in newspapers or working as journalists are entitled to similar maternity leave under the Working Journalists (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955. Central government provides their women employees about 24 weeks of paid maternity leave and additional child care leave up to a period of two years.

In India women represent only 24% of the paid labour force, as against the global average of 40%, according to a recent gender parity report. The Amended Maternity Benefit Act has helped to minimize the gender gap of women’s participation in national work force. The economic loss of non-participation of women has adverse impact on the economy therefore this was initiated to give work space benefits. The Act further requires an employer to inform a woman worker of her rights and benefits at the time of her appointment.

The main objective of the Act has been to regulate employment for women during the period of child birth, while falling in line with the international best practices such as the Maternity Protection Convention, ILO 2000(No183). An awareness drive needs to be taken nationwide in order to impart the knowledge of the Act and its benefits as not much has been done. There is a constant need for monitoring the implementation of the law in various sectors for insuring the access of the benefits to pregnant women. The Amended Act is undoubtedly well-intentioned, changing the mindsets of the employers is what needs to be worked on.

(Research Fellow SPMRF)
India becomes the sixth largest economy in the world

According to a World Bank report released on 11th July 2018, India has surpassed France to become the sixth largest economy in the world, pushing France to the seventh spot in 2017. The updated World Bank Report mentions that while France's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in late 2017 amounted to $2.582 trillion, the Indian GDP stood at $2.597 trillion during the same period.

The feat is all the more significant as it not only silences the critics of the present Modi government's economic reforms, be it Demonetization or the Goods and Services Tax (GST), but also comes after several quarters of economic slowdown faced by the Indian economy,
owing to the ‘teething’ effects of such large-scale reforms. Barring these select transitional quarters, the Indian economy has consistently delivered 7%+ growth ratings, an achievement rarely matched by other world economies. The report cites strong manufacturing and higher consumer spending as the main factors driving India’s economic growth in 2017 and these factors continue to play crucial role in sustaining the rise in our GDP.

“India has doubled its GDP within a decade and is expected to power ahead as a key economic engine in Asia, even as China slows down,” the report noted.

The report also mentions the top five economies of the world being the United States, China, Japan, Germany and Britain respectively. Furthermore, a London-based think-tank, Centre for Economics and Business Research, had earlier estimated that India would soon surpass Britain also and might as well become the third-largest economy in the world by 2032. This also comes in the context of a recent International Monetary Fund report projecting India’s growth rate at 7.4% in 2018 and 7.8% in 2019. Such growth rates when compared to the current world average of 3.9% stand as a testament to the strong fundamentals of the Indian economy.

However, it must also be observed that despite its upward trend, the Indian economy has plenty of scope to further improve its fundamentals. Highlighting the demographic differences between India, at 1.34 billion people and France at 67 million people, the report says that the per capita income of the French is still 20 times higher than that of Indians. This fact must motivate the Indian people and act as a goal to achieve in the future and with the strong pace of India’s economic rise, this goal doesn’t seem a distant one.

While we must cheer at this huge milestone for our economy, one must not forget at this instance the unproductive criticism that the political opposition of the country leveled upon the transformational economic reform policies pursued by the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. While constructive opposition to any and every government policy works in the spirit of democracy, unfortunately, the Indian opposition has played an entirely conflicting role in this regard. The opposition, political and otherwise, rendered upon the government’s policies at the economic front, are not only unconstructive but also proved to be inaccurate with the statistics on Indian economy recently published by international institutions like the World Bank and IMF. What would rather be expected and appreciated of them is to play a complementary role in the policy-making and reform processes by suggesting practical alternatives to specific issues, constructively engaging with the government on their grievances and ensuring that the system of checks-and-balances in the Indian democracy is used to benefit the country in the long-run.
As a mature and vibrant democracy with the fastest growing economy in the world, India stands at a critical juncture of history. Now, more than ever, it needs a stable, responsive, committed and accountable government that can ensure a long-term, sustainable development of its economy. In its past four years, the current government has time and again proved its credentials on all major fronts, particularly the economy. Enacting long-due reforms in a time-bound, transparent and impact-driven manner has been the primary approach of this government, which has now started showing its results and India has started to emerge as a major economic actor at the global stage. Be it Indian PM Modi addressing the World Economic Forum summit in Davos as the Keynote speaker earlier this year or international economic institutions putting their weight behind India's economic prospects, the instances to prove the above claims are plenty. India, under this government, has reiterated its faith and commitment to multilateralism, mutual trade benefits and sharing of economic prosperity for all, as the pillars of its economic policy. The widespread consensus at the national and international level about the India's renewed engagement on the foreign policy and economic fronts confirm the government's approach and initiatives while also ensuring high domestic public support favoring these measures. By playing the lead role in active involvement in regional and international multilateral institutions like the BRICS, SCO, G20, SAARC etc, India continues to assert that it has always opposed trade protectionism and will continue to do so even in times of adverse economic uncertainties arising from the West.

Finally, India as a country, must strive towards achieving long-term prosperity by following an inclusive, sustainable approach that works in tandem with its social and cultural values. India is being headed by a stable, accountable, active and transparent government after a long span of time and thus it must make its future choices wisely. The fastest and sixth largest economy of the world needs to ensure that its economic growth and social development reaches out to the last of its individuals without compromising on its environmental commitments. Such an approach would ensure that India surpasses other major economies and also sustains its growth in the decades to come.

(Intern, SPMRF)
आर्थिक सुधारों से भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था

तराटिय मुद्रा कोष (आईएमएर) ने हाल ही में मोदी सरकार द्वारा आर्थिक मोचन पर किये गये सुधारों की सराहना की है। इसके अनुसार भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था दुनिया में सबसे तेज गति से आगे बढ़ने वाली अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में से एक है। आईएमएर ने कहा कि आर्थिक सुधारों का फायदा अब दुःखोंच होने लगा है।

आईएमएर द्वारा जारी एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार पराशर पैरिटी (पीपीपी) के आधार पर भारत की वैश्विक विकास में 15 प्रतिशत की हिस्सेदारी है। इस रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक भारत की विकास दर वित्त वर्ष 2018-19 में 7.3 प्रतिशत और वित्त वर्ष 2019-20 में 7.5 प्रतिशत रहेगी। आईएमएर का कहना है कि मोदी सरकार द्वारा किये जा रहे आर्थिक सुधारों के कारण भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था सुधार की राह पर आगमर है।

बैतौ, आर्थिक सुधार की राह में कुछ मुस्किलें अभी भी सरकरार हैं, लेकिन सरकर धीरे-धीरे समस्याओं का समाधान निकाल रही है। जीएसटी का बड़ा लाभ दीर्घचक्र में मिलेगा। हालांकि, इसके फायदे दृष्टिगोचर होने लगे हैं। आईएमएर ने कहा कि 29 राज्यों और कुछ केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों की जटिल सरचना वाला देश होते हुए भी इतने बड़े देश में जीएसटी लागू करना एक बड़ी उपलब्धि है। अन्य कई देश अभी भी ऐसी
व्यवस्था को लागू नहीं कर पायें।

इनमें पूर्ववर्ती एंड बैंकरप्ती कोड (आईबीकी) को लागू करने के लिए आईएमएफ ने एक अहम उपचार बताया। रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा मुदाम्पत्ती को नियोजित करने में मिली सफलता की भी आईएमएफ ने प्रशंसा की है। कारोबार में सुधार करने एवं एकडीआई को और अधिक उदार बनाने के लिए सरकार की तारीफ करते हुए आईएमएफ ने कहा है कि बैंकों और कॉर्पोरेट सेक्टर के खातों को दृष्टि बढ़ाने के काम जारी रहने से भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में और भी सुधार आयेगा।

आईएमएफ के अनुसार भारत को अपने युवा कार्यवाल का सही संतान बनाने की जरूरत है। युवाओं को विकास की कमांड में हिस्सेदार बनाना जा सकता है। आईएमएफ के मुताबिक जनसंख्या दर में शिक्षा अभाव और लागू संरक्षण का लाभ भारत को मिलता रहेगा। आईएमएफ का कहना है कि एक असर माना जाना चाहिए। भारत के पास मोजूद मानव संसाधन की पूर्वी तीन दशक या इससे लंबे समय के लिए भारत एवं वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था में वृद्धि का स्रोत बना रहेगा, ऐसे उम्मीद की जा रही है।

इंटरनेशनल लेबर ओर्गनाइजेशन (आईएलओ) के अनुसार वर्ष 2018 में बेरोजगारी की दर भारत में 3.5% प्रतिशत रहेगी, जबकि चीन में वह दर 4.8% प्रतिशत रहेगी। सरकार के लिए विचार यह है कि वह में 77 प्रतिशत उच्चतम रोजगार असंगठित क्षेत्र में है। हालाँकि, चीन में यह प्रतिशत 33 है। आईएलओ द्वारा जारी रिपोर्ट “द वर्ल्ड एंथ्रॉपमेंट एंड सोशल आउटलुक-ट्रेंड्स 2018” के अनुसार वर्ष 2018 में एशिया और प्रशांत क्षेत्र में 5.5 प्रतिशत का आर्थिक विकास जारी रहेगा। दक्षिण एशिया में आर्थिक गतिविधियों को बढ़ाने में भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था का अहम योगदान है।

आईएलओ की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक पिछले 1 से 2 दशकों में भारत के सेवा क्षेत्र में बड़ी संख्या में रोजगार सुराग हुए हैं। इसके अनुसार भारत, बांग्लादेश, कंबोडिया और नेपाल में असंगठित क्षेत्र में करीब 90 प्रतिशत आमराग हैं, जिसमें क्रृषि क्षेत्र का योगदान सबसे अधिक है। इन देशों में क्रृषि के साथ-साथ शिक्षा स्वरूप, धरोहर और खुदरा कारोबार में बड़ी संख्या में रोजगार सुराग हुए हैं।

कहा जा सकता है कि मोदी सरकार की सुधारात्मक आर्थिक नीतियों के कारण भारत विकास के पथ पर आगर है। कुछ समस्याएं हैं, लेकिन सरकार उन्हें दूर करने के लिए संयोजन की जा रही है। सरकार की कारणों की पुष्ट अंतर्राष्ट्रीय जीडीपी है, लेकिन इसके साथ यह सच है कि रोजगार असंगठित क्षेत्र में सुराव हो रहा है, लेकिन इसके साथ यह भी सच है कि रोजगार मिलने से देश में समावेशी विकास हो रहा है, जिसकी पुष्ट जीडीपी के आंकड़ों से क्षेत्र की जा सकती है। उदाहरण के तौर पर 2018 में भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के 7.4 प्रतिशत की दर से बढ़ने का अनुमान है।

(लेखक भारतीय स्टेट बैंक के कॉर्पोरेट केंद्र मुंबई के आर्थिक अनुसंधान विभाग में कार्यरत हैं। ये उनके निजी विचार हैं)
National Register of Citizens-A Fight for Indigenous Identity in Assam

Assam, the land of Srimanta Sankardeva which had never been taken over by invaders in history, is now fighting a battle for its identity against disguised invaders in the form of immigrants. This decade old struggle seems to be reaching to its deserved destination. With the publication of second draft of National Register of Citizens (NRC) on 30th July, 2018, where by nearly forty lakh people have been left out to find place in the draft. People left out still have a chance to make claim and objections till 30th August, 2018. Since this “external aggression” is a cause of great concern for demographic and economic disturbances not only for Assam but for unity, integrity and security of India, it is pertinent to excavate the truth of this illegal Bangladeshi infiltration in eastern Indian states and the driving forces behind it to demolish the discourse of ‘Human Rights of Refugees’ and the vicious theory of ‘Economic Migration’ constructed by some passionate Indian liberal intelligentsia and those vested with interests of votebank politics to dent our national interests.

On May 16, The 1946 Cabinet Mission Plan arbitrarily announced to group British Indian
states in A, B & C categories. Assam was kept in Group C with Bengal, creating a predominantly Muslim zone in eastern India like the one proposed to be setup in western India. Actually, Muslim League always had a devilish eye on Assam, Jinnah himself declared in a meeting in Guwahati way back in 1940 that Assam was in his pocket. It was Gopinath Bardoloi who exposed these intentions of League and its leader Syed Saadullah, Prime Minister of Assam (Chief Minister) and toppled his government. He rose to become the Chief Minister and rejected this scheme of Cabinet Mission Plan and fought to retain the indigenous character of Assam and prevented it from being a part of Islamic State of Pakistan with the support of Mahatma Gandhi. In a report submitted to the President of India on 8th November, 1998, Lt. General SK Sinha, the then Governor of Assam has, after a detailed analysis, stated that a concerted effort was made to encourage the migration of Bengali Muslims into Assam for political reasons during Syed Saadullah’s Muslim League Ministry. To this effect Lord Wavell wrote in his Viceroy’s Journal, “The chief political problem is the desire of the Muslim ministers to increase this immigration into the uncultivated government lands under the slogan of “Grow More Food” but what they are really after is “Grow More Muslims”.

In pursuance of this problem Rohini Kumar Chaudhary, Constituent Assembly member from Assam, on 12th August, 1949 vehemently argued against granting citizenship to those who have infiltrated in Assam. He quoted newspaper reports in the Constituent Assembly as documents specifying Muslim League’s confession of at least 3 lakh Muslim infiltrators in Assam; he urged the political establishment to take greater care of Assam due to infiltration.

On the same day, Dr. Ambedkar assured the house that Parliament in its wisdom would look into the illegal migration in Assam and secure the right of the native Assamese. Later on, the interim Parliament passed a law called “The Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950” to protect the cultural and social interests of native Assamese which empowered central government to remove any person who had come into Assam from outside India, and whose “…stay in Assam is detrimental to the interests of the general public of India or of any section thereof or of any Scheduled Tribe in Assam”, but it excluded those Hindu Refugees who came amidst riots in Bangladesh seeking refuge.

Then, the large-scale migration during the 1971 war made the situation worse; in 1978 Mangaldai Parliamentary Constituency in Assam registered an increase of 70,000 new voters in just one year. This triggered an agitation in the entire state, All Assam Students Union (ASSU) and Assam Gan Sangram Parishad led this movement; it took more than 800 sacrifices of native Assamese to compel the Union Government to sign Assam Accord on 15th August 1985 at 3 AM in the morning. In order to incorporate the Accord in the Indian Citizenship Act, 1955 an Amendment in the form of Indian Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 1986 was brought to add Section 6A in the Act. As per this amendment those persons who came after January 1, 1966, but before midnight of March 25, 1971, were to get citizenship upon registration at the expiry of 10 years after their...
detection as foreigners and those who entered after March 25, 1971, upon identification under the “Illegal Migrant (Determination by Tribunal) (IMDT) Act, 1983”, were to be deported.

The IMDT Act, 1983 replaced The Foreigners Act, 1946 in the state of Assam, but technically it provided a cushion to Bangladeshi immigrants by altering the conditions of detection of foreigners in Assam. The IMDT Act, shifted the burden of proof on the complainant himself to prove that an individual against whom he has complaint is an illegal immigrant, stipulations such as only neighbors within 3 km radius can complain, 10 rupees fee, production of a ration card to prove his Indian citizenship as sufficient etc., made the Act helpful for Bangladeshi immigrants and resulted in less than 0.1% convictions. Actually, the IMDT Act was nothing but one more attempt to protect the interests of the infiltrators by the then Congress regime in power with a sheer vote-bank motive.

Ultimately, the Hon’ble Supreme Court has struck down this Act in 2005 due to its arbitrary nature and being violative of Article 14 of the Constitution in Sarbananda Sonowal vs Union Of India & Anr, on July 12, 2005, expressing great concern over demographic changes in Assam. Further, in 2007, the court quashed “The Foreigners (Tribunals for Assam) Order, 2006”, which put the onus of proving a person a foreigner on the complainant as well (Sonowal II, December 5, 2006).

In the spirit to detect, delete and deport the Union Government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2003 enacted “The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003” which in Section 4 of the Act provided for a National Register of Citizens (NRC). In pursuance of this, Assam Public Works (NGO) filed a writ petition in Supreme Court demanding upgradation of NRC and deportation of illegal migrants in Assam. In December, 2014 by an interim order, the Hon’ble Supreme Court has directed for updating NRC in a time-bound manner under its supervision, taking 25th March, 1971 as a cut-off date. This marathon exercise resulted in the release of first draft on midnight of 31st December, 2017 and second draft on 30th July to move towards achieving the objective of Assam free from illegal immigrants.

Now, even today there is a continuous attempt to derail this entire NRC exercise by giving it a religious and linguistic angle, a subtle defense is being created for illegal Bangladeshi immigrants by making it an issue of Bengali and non-Bengali speaking people, firstly no Bengali speaking people or Hindi-speaking Bihari laborers are required to give proof of their citizenship in Assam before 1971, they are only required to get a verification from their respective home states, any Indian citizen from any part of the country can live anywhere in India so can a Bengali speaking individual in Assam. This is not at all a linguistic issue. Secondly, an argument is raised that proposed “Citizenship Amendment, Bill 2016” will give citizenship to Bangladeshi Hindus in Assam, it is against the secular credentials of India, excludes Muslims and is unconstitutional because if Hindu Refugees from Bangladesh can be given citizenship they why can’t the Muslim Bangladeshis be accepted in Assam.

First of all, many prominent Constituent Assembly members like Pt. Thakurdas Bhargava, Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man, Prof. Shibban Lal Saxena on 11th and 12th August, 1949 raised their voice for giving citizenship to Hindus and Sikhs across the globe considering India as their only homeland quite similar to “Israeli Law of Return” though the idea failed the “secular” litmus test and was vetoed by Pt. Nehru. Secondly, it will
be pertinent to refer to “Nehru-Liyaqat Pact” signed on 8th April, 1950 which ensures the rights of minorities in both the countries.

All of us know that the first Law Minister of India was a Dalit but very few of us know that the first law minister of Pakistan was also a Dalit, his name was Jogendra Nath Mandal and it is tragic that same Mandal who helped Muslim League getting districts like Sylhet in Assam by mobilizing his support in their favor died as a refugee in the Indian state of West Bengal. The death of first law Minister of Pakistan as a refugee in India is a testimony to the failure of Pakistan (either in East or in West) in fulfilling its responsibilities towards its minorities. In the case of failure of Pakistan to ensure the rights of its minorities, they become a responsibility of Indian state and cannot be left to die or convert, since there is a difference in being an illegal immigrant and a refugee, Bangladeshi Hindus are an unfinished agenda of partitioning and questioning Indian secular credentials in this issue is irrelevant.

Many people think that Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee resigned from Nehru cabinet on the issue of Kashmir but he resigned due to “Nehru-Liyaqat Pact” on 8th April itself, when we see today that Hindu/Sikh population in Pakistan is less than 1% which was almost 20% at the time of partition we find that Dr. Mookerjee was very correct regarding this pact, this is how Hindu/Sikh minorities have been treated in East and West Pakistan. In such circumstances the people of Assam will definitely welcome their share of refugee brothers with open arms, to help them in difficult times and will embrace them because there is a difference between an infiltrator and a refugee, infiltration is nothing but an external aggression and Assamese resistance is against illegal infiltration and not against persecuted minorities begging shelter.

More importantly at this crucial juncture of our economic journey we are already burdened with a population explosion, it will be detrimental to future prospects of India to welcome immigrants because average population density in India is 378 per square km considerably high in comparison to world average of 46 per square km and being a democratic country, it is impossible for her to impose measures like “One Child Policy”. Since population is the biggest problem of developing third world India, its future lies with Emigration, not with Immigration.

Secondly, refugees come with a predominantly different culture it becomes difficult for native citizens to adapt this change in their public life, share their livelihood and moreover the demographic changes give rise to violent strife and a struggle of dominance in occupying public spaces.

Thirdly, and most importantly the Indian geographical position compels it to be a neighbor of two nuclear powers which are enemy countries to it and were in a state of war in the past and continue to have a border dispute. In today’s era of proxy wars, India cannot afford to accept any more refugees to make its border areas volatile.

As the Hon’ble Supreme Court stated in the Sarbananda Sonowal case, illegal Bangladeshi infiltration in India and particularly in Assam is nothing but an external aggression and in that case the protection of Right to Life, Livelihood, Culture and Identity of Indians Citizens is an obligation on the Indian State. National Register of Citizens (NRC) is nothing but an exercise to fulfill that obligation after all native Citizens are also human beings they also have human rights, in fact they have every right to fight for their identity so as in this last battle of Saraighat.

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एनआरसी: देश देख रहा कांग्रेस सहित विपक्ष का रवैया

ज राजनीति प्रायः सत्ता हासिल करने मात्र की नीति बन कर रह गई है, उसका राज्य या फिर उसके नागरिकों के उत्थान से कोई लेना देना नहीं है। कम से कम असम में एनआरसी ढाप जारी होने के बाद कांग्रेस समेत सभी विपक्षी दलों की प्रतिक्रिया तो इसी बात को सिद्ध कर रही है। चाहे तृणमूल कांग्रेस हो या सपा, बसपा, जद-ए-स, तेलंग, देशम मो फिर आम आदमी पार्टी। आज जो कांग्रेस असम में एनआरसी का विरोध कर रही है, वो सत्ता में रहते हुए पूरे देश में ही एनआरसी जैसी व्यवस्था चाहती थी।

2009 में, युविए सकार सेंचुरियन रुहमंत्री आदिवासी नेताओं की रोकथाम के लिए इसी प्रकार की एक व्यवस्था की सिफारिश भी की थी। उन्होंने एनआरसी के ही समान एनपीआर अर्थात राष्ट्रीय जनसंघ रिजिस्टर की तलाश करते हुए 2011 तक देश के हर नागरिक को एक बहु उदार राष्ट्रीय पहचान पत्र दिया जाना की सुझाव दिया था ताकि देश में होने वाली आतंकवादी घटनाओं पर लगाने लग सके।

यही नहीं, इसी कांग्रेस ने 2004 में राज्य में 1.2 करोड़ अवैध बांग्लादेशी होने का अनुमान लगाया था। वह भी तब जब आज की तरह भारत में रोहिंग्या मुस्लिम मानी फूसपैट नहीं हुई थी। लेकिन आज वही कांग्रेस उन लोगों के अधिकारों की बात कर रही है जो कि इस देश का नागरिक होने के लिए बचाव रखने भी नहीं दे पाए। कांग्रेस का यह आचरण न तो इस देश की सभी पुरानी राजनीतिक
पाटजीकिेनातेउसचतहैऔरनहींइिदेशकिेएकिसजममेदारसिपक्षी दलकिेनाते।यहिमस्यादेशकिीिुरक्षाकिेसलहाजिेबहुतहीगंभीर है,कयोंसकिइिबातकिाअंदेशाहैसकिनौकिरशाहीकिेभ्रष्टआचरणकिे चलतेयेलोगबड़ीआिानीिेअपनेसलएराशनकिाड्फ,आधारकिाड्फ औरिोटरकिाड्फजैिेिरकिारीदस्तािेजहासिलकिरचुकिेहों।

ममताबैनजजीनेतोदोकिदमआगेबढतेहुएदेशमेंगृहयुद्तकिकिा खतराजतासदयाहै।अभीकिुछसदनोंपहलेिेनाप्रमुखजनरलसिसपन राितनेभीएकिकिाय्फकममेंअिममेंबढरहीबांगलादेशीघुिपैठकिो लेकिरसचंताजताईथीजोइिबातकिोपुखताकिरताहैसकियहमुद्ा राजनैसतकिनहीं,देशकिीिुरक्षािेजुडाहुआहै।

खाितौरपरतबजबअिममेंबाहरीलोगोंकिेआकिरबिनेकिा इसतहािबहुतपुरानाहो।यहइसतहाि1947िेभीपहलेिेशुरूहो जाताहै।लेसकिनयहिरकिारोंकिीनाकिामीहीकिहीजाएगीसकि1947 किेसिभाजनकिेबाद,सरर1971मेंबांगलादेशबननेकिेबादऔरसरर आजतकिभीभारीिंखयामेंबांगलादेशशयोंकिाअिममेंगैरकिानयूनी तरीकिेिेआनेकिासिलसिलालगातारजारीहै।

यहीकिारणहैसकिइिघुिपैठिेअिमकिेमयूलसनिासियोंमें अिुरक्षाकिीभािनाजागृतहुईसजिने1980किेदशकिमेंएकिजन आकोशऔरसररजनआनदोलनकिारूपलेसलया।खाितौरपर तबजबबडीिंखयामेंबांगलादेशिेआनेिालेलोगोंकिोराजयकिी मतदाताियूचीमेंस्थानदेसदयागया।

आंदोलनकिाररयोंकिाकिहनाथासकिराजयकिीजनिंखयाकिा31- 34%सहस्िागैरकिानयूनीरूपिेआएलोगोंकिाहै।उनहोंनेततकिालीन किेनद्रिरकिारिेमांगकिीसकिबाहरीलोगोंकिोअिममेंआनेिेरोकिने किेसलएिीमाओंकिोिीलसकिया जाएऔरउनकिीपहचानकिर मतदाताियूचीमेंिेउनकिेनामहटाएजाएं।

आजजोराहुलएनआरिीकिासिरोधकिररहेहैं,िेशायदयह भयूलरहेहैंसकिउनकिेसपता,ततकिालीनप्रधानमंत्रीस्ि.राजीिगांधीने 15अगस्त,1985किोआनदोलनकिरनेिालेनेताओंकिेिाथअिम 15अगस्त,1985किोआनदोलनकिरनेिालेनेताओंकिेिाथअिम
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नहींहै।उनहोंनेकिहासकिभाजपाकिास्िण्फकिालतबआयेगाजबिह
तृणिूल िांग्ेस िी बंगाल िें दरिती जिीन
कशवाननद कविवेदी
पिछले माल उत्तर प्रदेश में विधानसभा चुनाव
साहित कई अन्य राज्यों में मिली प्रवृत्ती जीत के बाद
अप्रैल 2017 में ओडिशा में हुई भाजपा की राष्ट्रीय
cार्यकारिणी बैठक में अमित शाह ने एक बयान दिया था, जो उस समय
सूर्खियों में छाया रहा। भाजपा कार्यकर्ताों से उस समय अमित शाह
ने कहा था कि यह जीत बड़ी है, लेकिन यह भाजपा का स्वर्णकाल
नहीं है। उन्होंने कहा कि भाजपा का स्वर्णकाल तब आयेगा जब वह
पक्षीं बंगाल और केरल जैसे राज्यों में सता में आएगी। इस तथ्य
से ज्यादातर लोग सहमत होंगे कि अमित शाह आगे कुछ बढ़ते हैं
tो उसके पीछे उनकी घोष रणनीति होती है। भाजपा अभियान के उस
बयान को पक्षीं बंगाल की वर्तमान रणनीतिक परिस्थितियों के बेदङ्र
में रखकर समझने की जरूरत है।

पक्षीं बंगाल की रणनीति में गत एक एड वर्ष में सबसे बड़ा
परिवर्तन यह आया है कि सतार्थी पृथ्वीराज कृष्ण आदित्य राजस्थान के राज्य की रणनीति में उन्होंने साहित्य, विज्ञान, न्युज समाचार जैसे विभिन्न प्रांकों को बनाया है। उन्होंने इसकी मांग की कि इस विभिन्न प्रांकों को बनाया जाए।

पालित बंगाल की रणनीति में भाजपा की भूमिका प्रभावी दल के रूप में 2014 के आम चुनाव से पहले नहीं मानी जाती थी। वर्ष 2014 के लोकसभा चुनाव में भाजपा को बंगाल से न केवल दो लोकसभा सीटों पर जीत मिली बल्कि 17 फीसद से ज्यादा वोट हासिल हुए। इसके बावजूद भाजपा को चौथे पायदान की पारी ही माना गया।
दशकों के कम्युनिस्ट शासन को उखाड़कर ममता बनर्जी ने बंगाल की सतर्कता पर कब्जा किया, लेकिन उनके धार्मिक राजनीतिक विरोधी कम्युनिस्ट बने रहे। कंप्युनिस्ट के राजनीतिक में में कांग्रेस लंबे समय से सतर्कता से बाहर थी और तृणमूल कांग्रेस के उमर के बाद तीसरे पायदान पर खिसक गयी थी। इसके पीछे मूल वजह कांग्रेस की अवस्थावर्जी और अस्थायी राजनीति रही। आगे देखा जाए, तो गठबंधन की स्थिति में कांग्रेस कभी तृणमूल कभी बाहर रहे। बंगाल के में हर बार नगर आई। साल 2011 के बंगाल विधानसभा चुनाव के दौरान राजनीति में दूसरे पानी की निंदा दी गई करता थी, लेकिन बांग्लादेश का साथ गठबंधन में लड़ी। 2014 में लोकसभा चुनाव के बाद जब युवीक तीनर थे के संबंध में नहीं रहें और 2016 में बंगाल विधानसभा चुनाव हुए तो कांग्रेस कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी के साथ खड़ी नजर आई। हालाँकि, इन चुनावों में कम्युनिस्ट-कांग्रेस गठबंधन का हार का सामना करना पड़ा।

कांग्रेस की बाहर रहे। तृणमूल की इस नीति ने बंगाल में उसकी विजयशान्ति और जनता को और कम कर दिया। इस बीच भाजपा अपनी सरकारी स्थिति को मजबूत करने में सफल थी। 2014 के बंगाल चुनावों में भाजपा को लगभग 87 लाख मतदाता ने चुनाव दिया था। मतदाता ने यह बताया कि वे कांग्रेस की सियासत से बाहर रहना चाहते थे। भाजपा के में सियासत की मदद कर रहे थे।

राज्य में हाल ही में हुए इंटरव्यू नुसार में जिस शासन से पश्चिम बंगाल की सतर्कता ने चुनाव को प्रभावित करने और हिंसा को बढ़ावा देने का अपनी ओर से भयापूर्ण प्रश्न किया, उससे इस धारणा को और बल मिला कि बंगाल में भाजपा के बढ़ते दरार और प्रभाव ने ममता की चिंता बढ़ा दी है। बंगाल में हुए हाल के इन चुनावों में जिस दंग से सत्यांत दर तृणमूल कांग्रेस ने धन-बन और हिंसा के साथ विरोधी पार्टी को चुनाव के हिस्से बनाने के लिए अपने अनेक प्रभाव लगाए। इस प्रवास में उनके पुल, गलियारा, गांव किसान, कांग्रेस के पक्ष, प्रतिबंध वर्ग सहित अनेक लोगों से संपर्क किया।

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स्मृति शेष: अटल जी

मेरे अटल जी....

मैं खुद को बार-बार यकीन दिला रहा हूँ कि अटल जी अब नहीं है, लेकिन ये विचार आते ही खुद को इस विचार से दूर कर रहा हूँ। क्या अटल जी वाकई नहीं हैं? नहीं। मैं उनकी आवाज अपने भीतर गुजरते हुए महसूस कर रहा हूँ, कैसे कह दूं, कैसे मान लूं, वे अब नहीं हैं।

वे पंचतत्त्व हैं। वे आकाश, पृथ्वी, जल, अग्नि, वायु, सबमें व्यास हैं, वे अटल हैं, वे अब भी हैं। जब उनसे पहली बार मिला था, उसकी स्मृति ऐसी है जैसे कल की ही बात हो। इतने बड़े पेटा, इतने बड़े चित्ता। लगता था जैसे शोरों के उस पार की दुनिया से निकलकर कोई सामने आ गया है। जिसका इतना नाम सुना था, जिसकी इतना पढ़ा था, जिससे बिना मिले, इतना कुछ सीखा था, वो मेरे सामने था। जब पहली बार उनके मुंह से मेरा नाम निकला तो लगा, पाने के लिए बस इतना ही बहुत है। बहुत दिनों तक मेरा नाम लेती हुई उनकी वह आवाज मेरे कामों से टकराती रही। मैं कैसे मान लूं कि वह आवाज अब चली गई है। कभी सोचा नहीं था, कि अटल जी के बारे में ऐसा लिखने के लिए कलम उठाने पड़ेगा। देश और दुनिया अटल जी को एक स्टेट्समैन, धारा प्रवाह
स्मृति शेषः अटल जी

वक्ता, संवेदनशील कवि, विचारवाद लेखक, धारदार पत्रकार और विज्ञानी जनता के तौर पर जानती है। लेकिन मेरे लिए उनका स्थान इससे भी ऊपर का था। सिर्फ़ इसलिए नहीं कि मुझे उनके साथ बससीं तक काम करने का अवसर मिला, बल्कि मेरे जीवन, मेरी सोच, मेरे आदर्श-मूर्ध्यों पर जो छाप उन्होंने छोड़ी, जो विश्वास उन्होंने मुझ पर किया, उसने मुझे गढ़ा है, हर स्थिति में अटल रहना सिखाया है।

हमारे देश में अनेक ऋषि, मूनि, संत आत्माओं ने जन्म लिया है। देश की आजादी से लेकर आज तक की विकास यात्रा के लिए भी असंख्य लोगों ने अपना जीवन समर्पित किया है। लेकिन स्वतंत्रता के साथ लोकतंत्र की रक्षा और 21वीं सदी के साक्षात्, सुरक्षित भारत के लिए अटल जी ने जो किया, वह अभूतपूर्व है।

उनके लिए राष्ट्र सर्वोपरि था- वाकी सब का कोई महत्व नहीं। इंडिया फर्ट -भारत प्रथम, ये मंत्र वाक्य उनका जीवन ध्वेय था। पोखरण देश के लिए जलविटी था तो चिंता नहीं की प्रतिबंधों और आलोचनाओं की, क्योंकि देश प्रथम धार्मिक कुशलता नहीं मिले, क्राइमजनिक इंजन नहीं मिले तो पत्ताह नहीं, हम बुढ़ बनाएं, हम बुढ़ अपने दम पर अपनी प्रतिभा और वैज्ञानिक कुशलता के बल पर असंभव दिखने वाले कार्य संभव कर दिखाएं। और ऐसा किया भी दुनिया को चकित किया। सिर्फ़ एक ताकत उनके भीतर काम करती थी- देश प्रथम की जिद।

काल के कमाल पर लिखने और मिटाने की ताकत, हिम्मत और चुनौतियों के बादलों में विजय का सूरज उगाने का चमकाव उनके सीने में था तो इसलिए क्योंकि वह सीना देश प्रथम के लिए धड़कता था। इसलिए हार और जीत उनके मन पर असर नहीं करती थी। सरकार बनी तो भी, सरकार एक बोट से गिरा दी गयी तो भी, उनके स्वरों में पाराजय की भी विजय के ऐसे गणन भेदी विश्वास में बदलने की ताकत थी कि जीतने वाला ही हार मान बैठे।

अटल जी कभी लीग पर नहीं चले। उन्होंने सामाजिक और राजनीतिक जीवन में नए रास्ते निकाल और तय किए। “आधिवेशिकों में भी दीये जलाने” की क्षमता उन्हें थी। पूरी बेबाकी से वे जो कुछ भी बोलते थे, सच्चा जनमानस के हृदय में उतर जाता था। अपनी बात को कैसे रखना है, कितना कहना है और कितना अनकहा छोड़ देना है, इसमें उन्हें महारत हासिल थी।

राष्ट्र की जो उन्होंने सेवा की, विश्व में मां भारती के मान समान को उन्होंने जो बुलंद थी, इसके लिए उन्हें अनेक समान भी मिले। देशवासियों ने उन्हें भारत रत्न देकर अपना मान भी बढ़ाया। लेकिन वे किसी भी विशेषण, किसी भी समान से ऊपर थे।

जीवन कैसे जीवा जाए, राष्ट्र के काम कैसे आया जाए, यह उन्होंने अपने जीवन से दूसरों को सिखाया। वे कहते थे, “हम
स्मृति शेष: अटल जी

अटल जी का प्रारंभिक शिक्षा और अटल रामनाथ अटल के स्मृति का वर्णन है। उनके पिता संबंध है। उन्होंने अपने जीवन के अंतिम दिनों के दौरान भारतीय राजनीति में अपने स्थायी समर्थन दिया। उन्हें भारत के प्रथम प्रधानमंत्री के रूप में चुना गया था। उन्होंने भारत के नये राष्ट्रीय समाज के नवीन संस्कार में अपने सहभाग दिया।

अटल जी का प्रारंभिक शिक्षा और अटल रामनाथ अटल के स्मृति का वर्णन है। उन्होंने अपने जीवन के अंतिम दिनों के दौरान भारतीय राजनीति में अपने स्थायी समर्थन दिया। उन्हें भारत के प्रथम प्रधानमंत्री के रूप में चुना गया था। उन्होंने भारत के नये राष्ट्रीय समाज के नवीन संस्कार में अपने सहभाग दिया।
स्मृति शेष: अटल जी

भारतीय राजनीति के शिखर पुरुष
भारत रत्न अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी
को विन्यास श्रद्धांजलि

अमित शाह

अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी इस देश की राजनीति का प्राणतल्य था। भारत क्या है, अगर इसे एक पंक्ति में समझना हो तो अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी का नाम ही काफी है। वे लगभग आधी शताब्दी तक हमारी संसदीय प्रणाली के बेजोड़ नेता रहे। अपनी वकृत्त्व क्षमता से वे लोगों के दिलों में बसते थे। उनकी वाणी पर सरस्वती विराजमान थी। वे उदारता की प्रणेता थे।

समता समर्थन की अलख जगाने वाले साधक थे। वे एक ऐसे युग मनीषी थे, जिनके हाथो में काल के कपाल पर लिखने, मिटाने का अमरत्व था। पांच दशक के लंबे संसदीय जीवन में देश की राजनीति ने इस तस्वीर को सदैव पतनों पर बिछाए रखा। एक ऐसा तस्वीर जो आजीवन राग-अनुराग और लोभ-द्रेश से दूर राजनीति को मानव सेवा की प्रयोगशाला सिद्ध करने में लगा रहा।

अटल जी का जीवन आदर्शमय प्रतिभा का ऐसा इंतज़ार था जिसके हर रंग में मोलित्का की छाप थी। पत्रकार का जीवन जिया तो उसके शैक्षित्र रचनाओं के हर खाने पर कँदन की तरह खोए उतरे। राष्ट्रपति, बीर अरुण, पांचजय जैसे पत्नों को उनकी
प्रमाणिकता और लोकप्रियता के शिखर तक पहुंचवाया। कवि की भूमिका अपनाई तो उपर्युक्त चलन की समस्या उपयमें बोली कर दी। अंतःकरण से गाया। शायद से निम्बाया। कवि कुछ मांगा भी तो बस इतना।

“मेरे प्रभु! मुझे इतनी ऊँचाई कभी मत देना गरेंगे को गले न लगा सकूं। इतनी रखाई कभी मत देना।”

उनके भीतर का राजनेता हमेशा शोषितों और वंचितों की पीड़ा से तड़पता रहा। उनके राजनीतिक जीवन की बस एक ही दृष्टि रही कि एक ऐसे भारत का निर्माण कर सकें जो भूख, भ्रष्ट, निरोधकता और अभाव के मुख हो। वे इतने आदर्शों के लिए जिज्ञसी। इसी की खासियत में। जीवन में न क्षति निकाला, न घटाई। तिसरे सथ में कही नहीं सीखा हो। कवि ने भी निःशुद्ध रहा है। डॉ. स्वामी प्रासाद मुखर्जी और परिवर्तित दीन द्वारा उपाधिके अठारह प्राचीन के जो अजय सोपण गए वो आज ऐसी तकीर बन जूँके हैं जिन्हें पर रचना के लिए स्वास्थ्य व्यवस्था के पास भी नही।

देश के सवा सी करोड़ से व्यापा लोगों के ‘अटल जी’ कारण इस राजनीति में इस नामित के कहीं ऊपर थे। देश के सवा सी करोड़ से व्यापा लोगों के ‘अटल जी’ कारण इस राजनीति में इस नामित के कहीं ऊपर थे।

परिवर्तित दीन द्वारा उपाधिके अठारह प्राचीन के जो अजय सोपण गए वो आज ऐसी तकीर बन जूँके हैं जिन्हें पर रचना के लिए स्वास्थ्य व्यवस्था के पास भी नही।

टिप्पणी: निवेदन प्राप्त में अनिश्चित वाजपेयी भारत में भारत का भविष्य देखा था। परिवर्तित दीन द्वारा उपाधिके अठारह प्राचीन के जो अजय सोपण गए वो आज ऐसी तकीर बन जूँके हैं जिन्हें पर रचना के लिए स्वास्थ्य व्यवस्था के पास भी नही।

भारतीय राजनीति के स्वयंचक्षर नायक ने ब्रजनाथ यानी अबतक तभी के बाद में अपने प्रधानमंत्री के सम्बन्ध में रहे। वो शुरुआत में कांग्रेस निर्धारित राजनीति की धूम में परिवर्तित नेहरू के बाद वे अकेले ऐसे प्रधानमंत्री थे जिन्होंने मानाता तीन जनादेशों के बाद प्रधानमंत्री का पद पाया।

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अटल जी के शासनकाल में भारत के स्वयंचक्षर नायक ने उन ताकतवर देशों में शुरुआत हुआ, जिनका समस्त लोग मानने लगे। पोखरण में परमाणु विस्फोटों की सूक्ष्मता से हम दुनिया के समान सीना तान सका। प्रधानमंत्री रहे उन्हें ‘भारा’ और ‘भूख भीं’ भारत का सम्पन्न देखा था। अटल जी के जीवन भर इस घटना को अपने सबसे मुख्य खान नामस्ते रहा था। इसके के उस अवसर के आज भी भारतीय तीन रुतबित की भाषा मानता है जब भारतीय प्रतिनिधि महोदय के नेतृत्व में यूएस भारत भारतीय टीम पांडे जी के मानाता को भात तथा कराला कर उनको और भाषा को चार वाजपेयी ने पास किने दिया था।

छायांग के रूप में भारतीय राजनीति की धूम में परिवर्तित नेहरू के बाद वे अकेले ऐसे प्रधानमंत्री थे जिन्होंने मानाता तीन जनादेशों के बाद प्रधानमंत्री का पद पाया।

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(साभार: amitshah.co.in)
SPMRF in Collaboration with Syama Prasad Janakalyan Samity organised a discussion session about the ‘Work and life of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee’ at Hooghly, West Bengal on Sunday, 29th July, 2018
EVENTS @ SPMRF

August 2018 | 42
भारतीय जनता पार्टी के संस्थापक,
जनप्रिय नेता, पार्टी के करोड़ों कार्यकर्ताओं के
प्रेरणास्रोत एवं पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री
श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी
को श्रद्धांजलि
(1924-2018)
“The dream, of an Indian nationhood which would comprise within itself men and women professing different religion, who regard India as their common motherland, had fired the imagination of generations of political thinkers and workers in this country. I believe that its consummation, if ever be achieved, will be all to the good of our country.”

-Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
Convocation Address delivered at Gurukul Kangri Viswavidyalaya, Haridwar, 1943