



Ambedkar Times *Weekly*

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Freedom, Caste and Nation

Prem Kumar Chumber

Editor-In-Chief: Ambedkar Times & Desh Doaba
 Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar said that "He who is not a slave of circumstances and is always ready and striving to change them in his favour, I call him free. One who is not a slave of usage, customs, of meaningless rituals and ceremonies, of superstitions and traditions; whose flame of reason has not been extinguished, I call him a free man." On the freedom of India while expressing his joy he said "Independence is no doubt a matter of joy. But let us not forget that this independence has thrown on us greater responsibilities. By independence, we have lost the excuse of blaming the British for anything going wrong. If hereafter things go wrong, we will have nobody to blame except ourselves. There is a greater danger of things going wrong. Times are fast changing." The evil of caste system continues to stay with us even after sixty-eight years of India's Independence! We have to blame ourselves for this bad deed. But the first question is who are these 'ourselves'? Why they did not put the caste to an end? On the contrary, caste seems to be rather getting further strengthened given the distribution of tickets for elections to the state assemblies and the national legislature. Even grassroots electoral bodies are not spared. Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar views that "There is no nation of Indians in the real sense of the world; it is yet to be created. In believing we are a nation, we are cherishing a great delusion. How can people divided into thousands of castes be a nation? The sooner we realize that we are not yet a nation, in a social and psychological sense of the world, the better for us", sound perfect with the current ground realities in India.

To tackle the menace of caste and to put an end to it, Babasaheb struggled with full determination and courage. He did whatever possible within his reach to root out the caste system from the social soils of India. One of his seminal contributions in that regard is the drafting of the constitution of Independent India. In his own words, "I feel that the constitution is workable, it is flexible and it is strong enough to hold the country together both in peacetime and in wartime. Indeed, if I may say so, if things go wrong under the new Constitution, the reason will not be that we had a bad Constitution. What we will have to say is that Man was vile." He further said "On 26th January 1950, we are going to enter into a life of contradictions. In politics, we will have equality and in social and economic structure, continue to deny the principle of one man one value. How long shall we continue to live this life of contradictions? How long shall we continue to deny equality in our social and economic life? If we continue to deny it for long, we will do so only by putting our political democracy in peril. We must remove this contradiction at the earliest possible moment else those who suffer from inequality will blow up the structure of democracy which this Constituent Assembly has so laboriously built up."

Let us take a lesson from the warning of Babasaheb and join our hand to annihilate caste from India and usher in a new era of social democracy which facilitates the fulfillment of his dreams India: free from the evil of caste and vibrant with social justice and peace all around.

India Republic Day 2021: History, Importance, Significance and why is it Celebrate



Every year Republic Day is celebrated in India on 26th January with zeal and enthusiasm. Spectacular parades at Janpath, New Delhi, consisting the Indian National Army and national flag hoisting in various parts of the country are common practices followed on this day. It was this day in history in 1965 when Hindi was declared as the official language of India. This year it will be marked India's 72th Republic Day.

After attaining independence from the British rule, the new constitution was enrolled by the drafting committee under the deanship of Dr BR Ambedkar. The Indian Constitution came into effect on 26 January 1950, which declared India's occurrence as an independent republic. January 26th was chosen as the date because on this day in 1930, the Indian National Congress revealed Purna Swaraj, the declaration of India's independence from the colonial rule.

Republic Day signifies the right spirit of Independent and individual India. The important symbols of the festival include the exhibition of military equipment, the national flag and military equipment.

How's it celebrated?

Republic Day is celebrated all over India with great gratification and joy. It's a day to honour the Constitution of independent India. National flag hoisting in schools and colleges are regular. Cultural events advocating India's struggle for freedom is held countrywide. In New Delhi, the national flag is hoisted by the President of India at India Gate. The gloriest of parades takes place at Rajpath, New Delhi. The parade is conducted by the Indian President and is arranged by the Ministry of Defence. Other than displaying its military prowess, the event also promotes India's diverse culture. The event also colonizes to the martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the country. The Prime Minister of India honours the martyrs by putting a ringlet at the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate. It's followed by a 21-gun salute, national flag hoisting, and national anthem. Awards are presented to the brave soldiers in the form of Paramvir Chakra, Ashok Chakra, and Vir Chakra. Even children and general citizens who have displayed courage in times of adversity are honoured with awards.

The winners of gallantry awards salute the President in military jeeps. This is followed by India's display of its military power. March-past by

the armed forces, police, and National Cadet Corps also takes place with the President of India receiving the salute from different regiments. The parade comes to an end when the Indian Air Force fighter jets flypast Janpath. The celebration takes place all over the country, however, Delhi being the capital of India, witnesses the largest of Republic Day celebrations. Live Webcast of the Republic Day Parade is made accessible every year to millions of people who wish to view the parade over the Internet. After the event is over, the exclusive footage is made obtainable as 'video on demand'. Celebrations, though on a relatively smaller scale, are also held in all state capitals, where the Governor of the state unfurls the flag. Same celebrations are also held at district headquarters, subdivisions, talukas, and panchayats.

After all the celebrations are done the Beating The Retreat takes place which officially denotes the end of Republic Day festivities. All important Government Buildings are beautifully adorned with sparkly lights every evening from 26th to 29th. Beating the Retreat ceremony is conducted on the evening of January 29, the third day after the Republic Day. The drummers also give a solo performance (known as the Drummer's Call). The bands march back playing a popular martial tune Saare Jahan Se Achcha. At exactly 6 pm, National Flag is lowered, and the National Anthem is sung, bringing the Republic Day celebrations to a formal end.

Source Courtesy: The Times of India, January 26, 2021

Remembering Martin Luther King Jr.



On January 20th we remember Martin Luther King Jr. # MLK Day Remembering the profound impact of a man who impacted his generation, and still impacts us today, Dr. Martin Luther King. May we choose light over darkness and love over hate. #mlkday

The fight for justice through pioneering, peaceful, and very potent farmers protest going in India is exemplary and would find place in the annals of peaceful protests globally. Members in the group deserve commendation for their moral and intellectual support to the fight for justice. The justice shall prevail. The hubris shall loose.

International Migration from India: Gains and Losses

According to a report released by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) on January 15, 2021, 'International Migration 2020', India has the highest number of migrants in the world. In 2020, 18 million Indians were living abroad. India is followed by Mexico (11 million), Russia (11 million), China (10 million) and Syria (80 million). Between 2000-2010, 10 million Indians migrated internationally.

Human migration began with the beginning of human existence. At first humans migrated from one place to another in search of food for their livelihood. Humans began to raise livestock and grow crops to make their lives easier, and as a result, villages and towns gradually came into being. Humans migrated from village to village, from village to town, from city to city, and from city to village to earn their living. Due to the increase in population and the different levels of economic development of different countries, international migration came into being. There are many reasons for international migration, such as dreaming of a better life, living with family and avoiding the deadly effects of wars, conflicts or environmental degradation.

According to the latest UN report, the number of Indian international migrants is the highest amongst the different countries. There are two types of international migration from India: first, workers who fall into the unskilled and semi-skilled categories and migrate mostly to the Gulf countries and second, semi-skilled workers, professionals and students who migrate to the advanced capitalist countries.

International migrants from India have gained and lost for themselves and their country at the same time. During the freedom struggle, international migrants not only provided financial support but also gave birth to the Gaddarmovement. In this way, international migrants made their valuable and commendable contribution to the country's independence. Most migrant workers in the Gulf send money to their families. Even some of the first generation migrants settled in the advanced capitalist countries send money to their families but the trend is now rapidly declining.

With remittances earned from abroad, the families of international migrants prospered, while they contributed to the development of their

provinces and country. The knowledge gained by the international migrants from India about the economic progress made in different countries of the world, the socio-cultural and political values of those countries also benefited the country.

The list of what international migrants from India have lost and are losing more than what they have gained. Studies by Dr. Gurinder Kaur and colleagues, and other researchers have shown that most of the general category people in the country have migrated to the advanced capitalist countries and most of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes have migrated to the Gulf countries. Due to the high cost of international migration and the lack of land and resources for most of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, the participation of these families in international migration is relatively low. To cover the cost of international migration, the families of the migrants had to take loans from institutional and non-institutional sources and sell land, plots, houses, vehicles, farm machinery, jewelry, livestock and many more. In addition, household savings had to be used for this purpose and help or advance money had to be taken from relatives and friends and employers.

There is a gap between migration expenditure incurred and remittances made by international migrants, which directly brings to light the flow of capital out of the country. This is likely to increase in the near future. As a result, many families of international migrants are in debt.

The number of educated people among the international migrants is high and this number is steadily increasing. These individuals include +2, Graduate, Post-Graduate, M.Phil., Ph.D. degree holders. The international migration of these educated people clearly highlights the problem of Brain Drain from the country. The immense power and resources of the society have been used for the upbringing and education of these people, but it is benefiting the foreign countries. Of these international immigrants who go on student visas, most have a low level of education abroad and a large number of them do physical work that they would never do in their home country. Although some religious institutions and philanthropists in foreign countries help those who have left the

country, most NRI businessmen do not have the slightest mercy on their lives and behave with them like *Cuscuta Reflexa* (Amarbel vine).

Another downside of international migration from India that has come to light is the age of the migrants. The vast majority of international migrants are in the 15-45 age group. This is the age at which the energy to work is high. This age group is considered to be the Demographic Dividend of the country. If people of this age are to settle in foreign countries, where the progress of the country would be hampered due to lack of work efficiency of the rest of the people, there would be a decline in the participation of their families in various institutions. What is happening is clearly visible.

Among the various reasons for international migration from India, the most prominent is the lack of employment opportunities and the very low level of employment available. After the independence of the country, during the planning period (1951-80), public sector enterprises were established, expanded and developed, which resulted in good quality employment to many workers and reduced economic inequalities in the country. After 1980, planning was reversed and when the NDA government took over and established NITI Ayog in place of the Planning Commission. The 'New Economic Policies' of liberalization, privatization and globalization adopted in the country since 1991 have widened the economic disparities between the richest 1 per cent and the remaining 99 per cent, not only reducing employment opportunities for ordinary workers but also the quality of employment.

Governments and the corporate world in many parts of the world are promoting the market as a lifeline to alleviate economic woes. The Great Depression of the 1930's and the events that followed at various times prove that the unbridled market system is causing the most economic problems. About 50 per cent of India's population is dependent on agriculture for their livelihood, which gets about 16 per cent of the national income. Due to the government's agricultural policies, almost all marginal and small farmers, farm labourers and rural artisans are dying due to the unbearable burden of debt and extreme poverty, or starvation, or even committing suicide when all hopes for their lives are dashed. Due

to these reasons, a large number of children of farmers are migrating to foreign countries. The three laws passed by the Union Government related to agriculture will further increase the international migration of families dependent on the agricultural sector.

Employment opportunities in the industrial sector are steadily declining. Mechanization and increasing use of automated machinery are the major reasons behind the decline in employment opportunities in this sector. There are few employment opportunities in the services sector, but the quality of employment for most workers in this sector is very low.

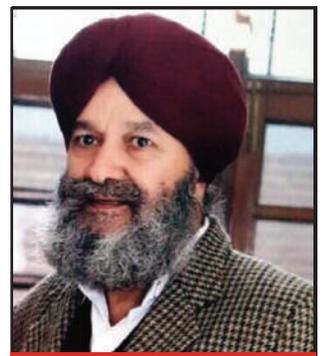
Given the Brain Drain, Capital Drain, Loss of Demographic Dividend and other problems in relation to international migration from India, the need of the hour is to adopt the pro-people and pro-nature economic growth model in place of corporate economic model.

In order to do so, it is necessary to raise taxes on the richest 1 per cent and ensure that their income is collected and used for the benefit of the people.

In order to adopt a pro-people economic development model, it is necessary to expand and develop the public sector and ensure monitoring and control over the functioning of the private sector.

All forms of employment and its quality should be enhanced in the country and the best performing units in this regard should be encouraged in various ways.

In order to raise the level of Demographic Dividend, major reforms in education and health services are needed. To do so, all citizens have to be provided free quality education and health services by the government. The government has to expand the scope of social security measures to ensure that every citizen of the country can live a happy and respectable life.



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Matrimonial

Suitable Match # Sikh Ahluwalia Girl
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स्वतंत्र भारत का प्रथम मंत्रिमण्डल गवर्नर जनरल के साथ

बैठे हुए (बायें से दायें)—श्री जगजीवन राम, डॉ० जॉन मथाई, राजकुमारी अमृत कौर, सरदार वल्लभ भाई पटेल, गवर्नर जनरल श्री सी. राजगोपालाचारी, पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू, मीलाना अबुल कलाम आजाद, सरदार बलदेव सिंह, श्री रफी अहमद किदवई।

खड़े (बायें से दायें) — श्री जयराम दास दीलत राम, श्री गोपाल स्वामी आयरंग, डॉ० श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी, डॉ० भीमराव अम्बेडकर, श्री के.सी. नियोगी, श्री एन.टी. गाडगिल

How to Control Rise in Global Temperature



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According to the data released on January 14, 2021 by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 2016 is the hottest year on record since 1880, with an average temperature rise of 1.00 degree Celsius. With an average temperature rise of 0.98 degree Celsius, 2020 got the second place pushing 2019 to third place. The average temperature rise of only 0.02 degree Celsius in 2020 is lower than the 2016 temperature rise and 0.03 degree Celsius higher than 2019. The first ten years with highest temperature since 1880 are all in the 21st century, recorded in 2016, 2020, 2019, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2014, 2010, 2013 and 2005 respectively.

According to NOAA's data, 2011-2020 has been the hottest decade ever and the average temperature of the land and sea has risen by 0.82 degree Celsius in this decade compared to a rise of 0.20 degree Celsius above normal average temperature in the decade of 2001-2010. The average temperature of earth began to rise only after the Industrial Revolution. Until 1980 the annual average rate of rise in temperature was very low, a mere 0.08 degree Celsius, but since then it has risen to 0.18 degree Celsius.

According to NOAA's report the average temperature rise in the Northern Hemisphere in 2020 was the highest in 141 years. The Northern Hemisphere recorded 2020 as the hottest year on record with an average temperature rise of 1.2 degree Celsius, while the Southern Hemisphere recorded a rise of 0.77 degree Celsius and 2020 was the fifth warmest year. In 2020 the average temperature of almost all the countries of the world increased. This year has been the hottest year ever in Europe. The average temperature in Europe and Asia has risen by 2 degree Celsius. Temperature in Australia, South America, the southern parts of North America and the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans has also been above average. The Arctic temperature is three times higher than the rest of the world while the average temperature of the Arctic is five times higher than at the time of the Industrial Revolution. Siberia, once known as the coldest part of the world, has recorded an increase of 30 degree Celsius in temperature in June 2020. In addition, rising temperature has led to wildfire in California, Siberia and Australia.

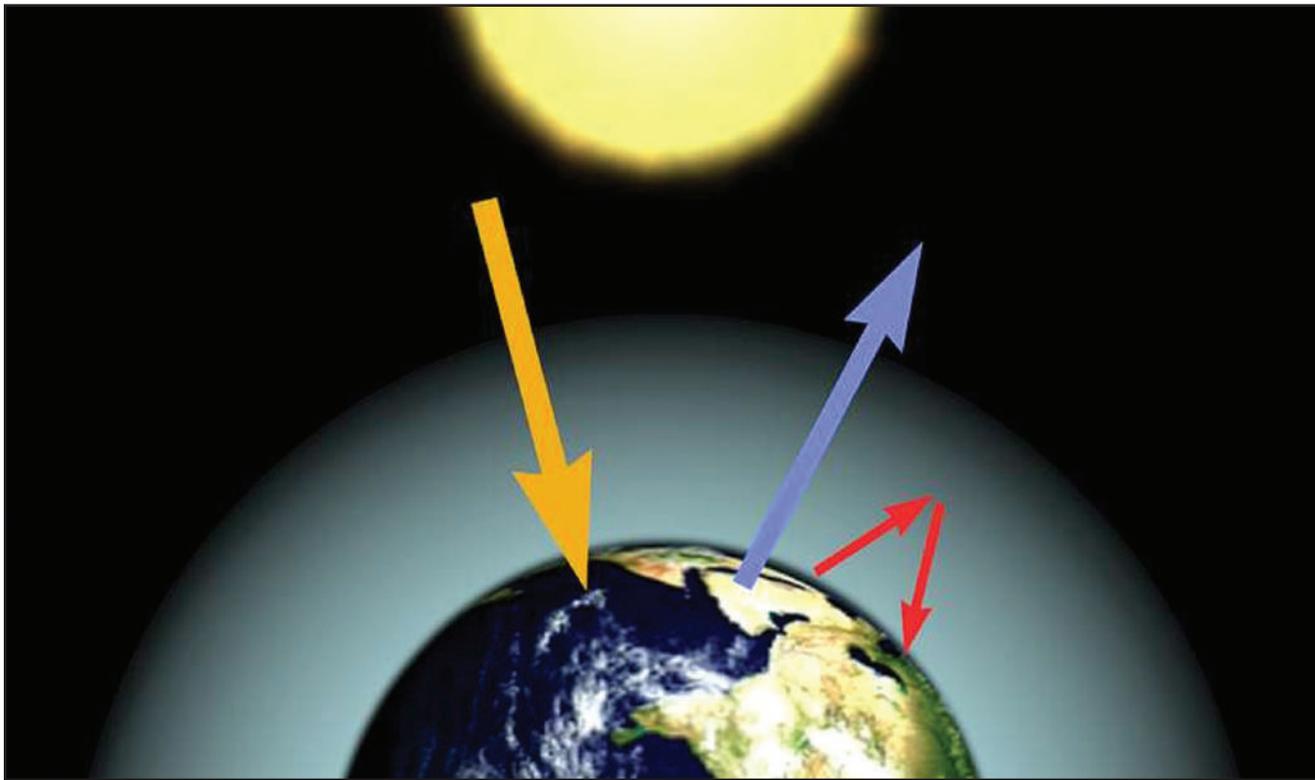
Despite being the year of COVID-19 and La-Nina, the temperature in 2020 rose so much that it became the second warmest year ever. As a result of COVID-19, almost all the businesses that emit greenhouse gases were shut down during the

lockdown period in most of the countries of the world, resulting in a 7 per cent decline in the emission of greenhouse gases. The rise in temperature in 2020 indicates that we were doing some activities during and after the lockdown that have been constantly warming the atmosphere. It may be our lifestyle which has not changed during this period. According to the 'Eleventh Annual Gap Emission Report' of the United Nations Environment Programme, emission of greenhouse gases is growing at an average of 1.4 per cent annually between 2010 and 2019. Once emit-

Loa in Hawaii, where its concentration is recorded daily. On an average, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere had increased at the rate of 0.06 ppm per annum during 1880-1960 which was relatively slow but during the past one decade it has increased at the rate of 2 ppm per annum which is a rapid rise. During the lockdown period in 2020, the average concentration of carbon dioxide recorded in the month of May was 417.16 ppm which is the highest concentration ever. The main causes for the increasing concentration in the atmosphere are human activities

would destabilize the economy of our country and leave millions of jobless. While the United States is followed by China, which currently emits more greenhouse gases than any other country in the world (28 per cent of the total greenhouse gas emission). China said it has reached the full potential of economic growth and will start reducing its emission after 2030 and reach zero emission by 2060. Both of these countries are presently emitting 42 per cent of the total greenhouse gases emission into the atmosphere. Currently the European Union is the world's third largest emitter of these gases and India is the fourth. Although India has promised in the Paris Climate Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emission and generate 40 per cent of its energy from natural resources by 2030 but according to a report by the Thomson Reuters Foundation in July 2019, India's coal-fired power generation capacity will increase by 22 per cent in 2022 compared to 2018. China and the United States have also recorded 1.6 per cent and 2.5 per cent increase in greenhouse gas emission, respectively, in 2018.

Efforts need to be made at the international level to curb the rise in average temperature. Instead of increasing greenhouse gas emission for any reason, all countries of the world should try to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Countries those emit large amounts of greenhouse gases into atmosphere should follow the example of the European Union, which has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 24 per cent from 1990 to 2019 since these countries have pledged to reduce their emission of greenhouse gases by 55 per cent at the 1990 levels until 2030. According to the findings of different scientific studies if all countries cut 7.6 per cent per annum emission of greenhouse gases the increase in temperature will reach at the safe limit of 1.5 degree Celsius by the end of this century. Reliance on natural resources to generate energy will have to be increased to curb global warming. There must be drastic changes in the way of our lifestyle. The area under forests should be rapidly increased and the corporate economic development model should be replaced by a nature and people-friendly economic development model so the living beings of the earth can be protected from the scourge of natural disasters.



ted, these gases remain in the atmosphere for a long period of time and contribute in constantly increasing the temperature.

The year of 2020 was a La-Nina year. The La-Nina and El-Nino phenomenon greatly affect the average temperature of the globe. In the year of La-Nina, the earth's temperature usually declines, while in the year of El-Nino it rises. Although transitioning of La-Nina began in August 2020, its impact was limited to the fact that the average temperature in November and December was a little bit lower than in other months of the year. Since 2016 was the year of El-Nino it was natural for temperature to be above average. On the other hand, it is shocking that despite 2020 being the La-Nina year there was a rise in the temperature. This calls into question human activities and efforts to curb the rise in temperature and suggests humanity to reduce the rapid emission of greenhouse gases. If 2020 had been a normal or El-Nino year rather than a La-Nina year then its average temperature rise would have been much higher than now.

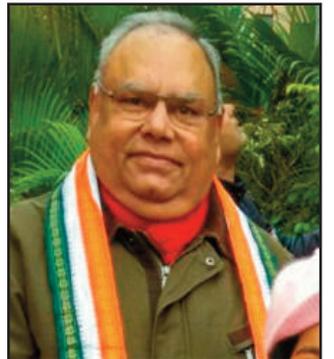
The concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is increasing year by year. The concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere before the Industrial Revolution was only 280 ppm (parts per million) which increased to 316.91 ppm in 1960 and for the first time on May 9, 2013 the concentration of carbon dioxide reached at 400 ppm at Mona

- eating, drinking, way of living, use of fossil fuel, deforestation and the like.

According to a WMO report 'The State of Global Climate, 2020' the global average temperature has risen by 1.2 degree Celsius from January to October. The seven years from 2014 to 2020 have been the hottest so far, according to the NOAA 2020 Annual Climate Report. In 2014, for the first time, a report of IPCC revealed that the emission of greenhouse gases are causing the rise in the global temperature, which will affect all the countries of the world with severe natural disasters caused by climate change. In response to the warnings given in the report of IPCC all the countries of the world responded immediately and in order to avoid the damage caused by global warming a plan was drawn up in 2015 in Paris for the rapid reduction in greenhouse gases, dubbed as the 'Paris Climate Agreement'. They had prepared a blueprint for reducing emission of greenhouse gases in their respective countries and sent it to the United Nations.

The years from 2015 to 2020 are the hottest so far. The main reason for the rapid increase of temperature during this period is that not a single country in the world has taken the 'Paris Climate Agreement' seriously. The United States, the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the past, announced its withdrawal from the treaty in 2017, saying it

Kisan Andolan and Bharat Sarkar (A Sure Way to "Grammar of Anarchy")

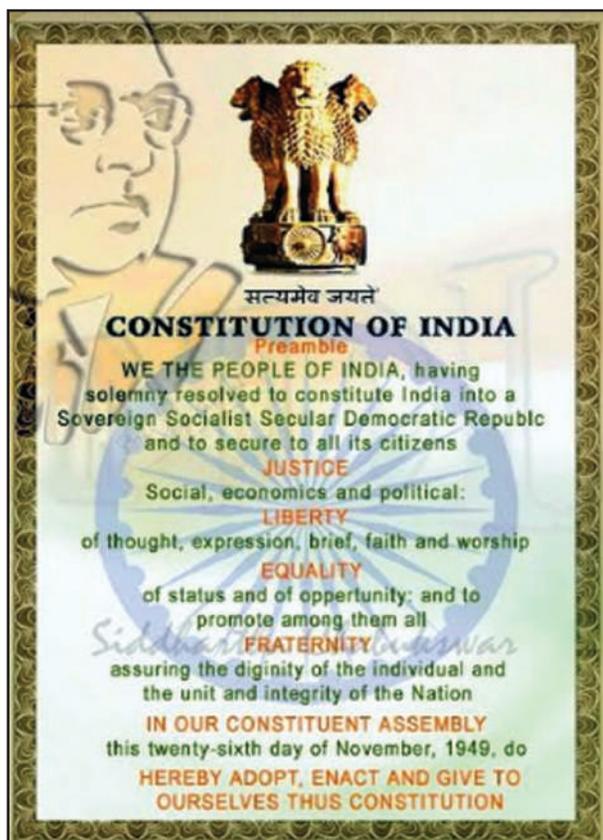


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India i.e. Bharat has entered into its adulthood of democratic set-up enshrined in its constitution which came into effect on January 26, 1950. India got its independence from Britain on August 15, 1947 after a long struggle which we proudly term as the freedom movement. So far so good, India has remained India because of its constitution. It is a matter of satisfaction. Over the years, India has come a long way under the rule and governance by successive governments led by a number of political stalwarts as Prime Ministers. But it still has to go a longer way to reach though it can be safely said that 'India has arrived'. The journey in the process has been instructive and interesting under the constitutional framework so wisely and laboriously given to us by our forefathers led by visionary leaders like Babasaheb Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Syama Prasad Mukherjee, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Babu Rajinder Prasad to name a few among others.

With this background, let me elaborate a bit as to why I said that 'India remained India' because of the constitution? In the 1950s and even early 1960s, some sort of skepticism was made to linger – Who after Nehru? – A subtle message that perhaps there will be chaos after Nehru. But the power was handed down and transferred in a democratic way after Nehru's demise in May, 1964 from Lal Bahadur Shastri to Indira Gandhi. Indira Gandhi remained a powerful and effective PM for a long time. She took momentous decisions during her tenures as PM. Under the constitutional arrangements, the strongest PM Indira Gandhi was unseated from the Lok Sabha by the court in an election petition. In the aftermath, the constitution came under stress which resulted in Emergency in 1975 in the wake of a public awakening under the JP Movement. Our constitution stood the test of time in spite of attempts to undermine it; Indira Gandhi could not digest more and had to declare elections in February/March, 1977 which she and her party lost miserably to the new resurgent political outfits. It could happen only because of the constitution of India. The new outfits could not hold and face the emerged challenges. People brought Indira Gandhi to power again. Another test came; Indira Gandhi was eliminated from the scene violently in October, 1984. What happened? Nothing; there was smooth change of guard. Yet another test happened; Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in May, 1991. Again the system remained on track; demo-

cratic miracles happened, good leaders like Narsimha Rao, V.P. Singh, I.K. Gujral, Chandra Shekhar, Deve Gowda held the fort ably, with an abrasion of Charan Singh who had no agenda except his misplaced aspiration to become the PM, and made way for the stalwarts like Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh. The constitution could hold the system with or without full majority in the parliament for the ruling elite under consensus and political alliances. The only flip side which could be noticed was that our political democracy could not evolve political culture and polarization on the basis of ideology or agenda. An-



other type of undesirable communal polarization came to the fore which brought to power right wing Hindutva leaders under the umbrella of BJP with Narendra Modi in the lead and blessings of RSS in May/June, 2014. In this exercise, the matter of gratification remained as all this happened under the provisions of the constitution. The opposition and some marginalized and minority groups have been alleging subversion of the constitution and negation of its values. And on the other side, the right wing BJP and RSS have been sounding to revisit the constitution to accommodate the Hindutva aspirations of the majority Hindus. These assertions are debatable but at the same time dangerous. We should not be oblivious of the warnings of the chief architect of the constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar given in his last speech in the Constituent Assembly when he surmised whether India would lose its independence again. If we don't pay heed to these warnings, we would do so at our own peril.

With this longish backdrop, I come to the subject – Kisan Andolan and Bharat Sarkar – the ongoing farmers' agitation and government of India not as an expert but as a concerned citizen of India. The thrust of

my presentation would mainly be to bring the thoughts of Babasaheb Ambedkar to focus to deal with the challenges. I think besides many more assertions and statements, Dr. Ambedkar's speech of November 25, 1949 in the Constituent Assembly is as relevant today as it was before. Farmers are agitating against the new agricultural laws made by PM Narendra Modi's government, allegedly without prior consultations with the entire stakeholders and hurriedly/undemocratically passed in parliament. The agitating farmers demand to repeal the laws and sit with them to address the issues afresh. The agitating

and beneficial to the farmers and the country at large on one side and showed willingness

to amend these to satisfy the agitating farmers on the other. It seems a contradicting approach on the part of the government. Either the laws are good and should remain or these are bad which may be amended or repealed. It means the problem lies somewhere else. The agitating farmers are adamant on their demands and are braving the harsh cold weather on the outskirts of Delhi under trying conditions. Government, it seems, is standing on its ego under their notions of 'majoritarian' approach which itself is a negation of democratic principles. Even the Supreme Court could not offer any acceptable solution and way out. The situation is getting dangerous by each passing day which is really a matter of concern to the society and the country. Unfortunately, most of the media particularly the electronic media which is called the fourth pillar of the democratic polity is totally biased in favour of the ruling dispensation and people tend to term it as 'Godi Media'. Yet another disturbing factor which undermines



farmers have been blocking the entry points to the capital city of Delhi for the last nearly two months in a peaceful protest. Government tried to dissuade them and subtly branded the agitation as 'conspired and propped up by the opposition' for political brownie points and sometimes tried to tarnish the peaceful protest by terming it as 'overtaken and high jacked by anti-national forces of Khalistan, Urban Naxals, illegal funds from abroad, supported by Pakistan and China etc. on one hand and officially talking and negotiating with the farmer leaders on the other. Even after 11 rounds of talks so far there is a complete deadlock and standoff. No solution seems in sight. The situation is getting tense and worrisome in the run up to the Republic Day on January 26 in the wake of the farmers' decision to have their Tractor March on the streets of Delhi to observe the Republic Day in protest against the farm laws. It may be said, to cut the story short, farmers profess to exercise their democratic right to oppose the laws which, they think, are detrimental to their interests and demand repeal of these said to be 'black laws'. Government of PM Narendra Modi has been maintaining throughout that the laws are good

the unity and integrity of the country is that the vested interests, knowingly or otherwise, are increasingly trying to make the standoff as conflict between the Sikhs and the Hindus and some others as war between the poor and the rich. It has resulted in avoidable acrimony and animosity adversely affecting the social fabric of the society. There is a real danger that the agitation may turn violent, if not handled deftly, resulting into real crisis detrimental to the security of the country. These are dangerous trends which would tend to put our democratic set and independence into 'jeopardy' as apprehended by Dr. Ambedkar in his speech referred to in the proceeding narration. Some sane voices are emerging to deal with the situation as the Hindustan Times in its editorial note on January 22 stated – "Farmers must shed rigidity – The Government retreated (with the proposal to withhold the laws for 12-18 months). Protesting groups should have reciprocated." I personally could not understand how holding the laws in abeyance would help? Only time would tell as to which direction the situation heads. But we have to alert and cautious.

Now I come to the crux as to
(Contd. on next page)

How to score 100% marks in Physics in XII Board Exams 2021?



Vijay Garg
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Physics is an important paper that students must concentrate. It is not as easy but not too tough too, given there was a good amount of preparation

the products and bi-products that forms at the end.

Basics first: Be clear in your fundamentals. A good foundation will lead to better result. When the concept is clear, understanding the difficult parts is easier.

Balance: Maintain a good balance between numerical problems and definitions or theoretical problems.

Miscellaneous problems: How many of the time have you skipped

the time limit in mind.

Clear your doubts: Don't shy away to ask questions and clear your doubts however silly it may sound. It is better to solve now than to feel sorry later.

Practicals: Labs are as important as theory. Practical will help you gain an practical exposure towards the subject. Practise the experiments as much as you want until you understand it completely. Never skip it.

Address your problems: Never

the time limit. Take mock tests online to get that exam feel and practice more in that scenario.

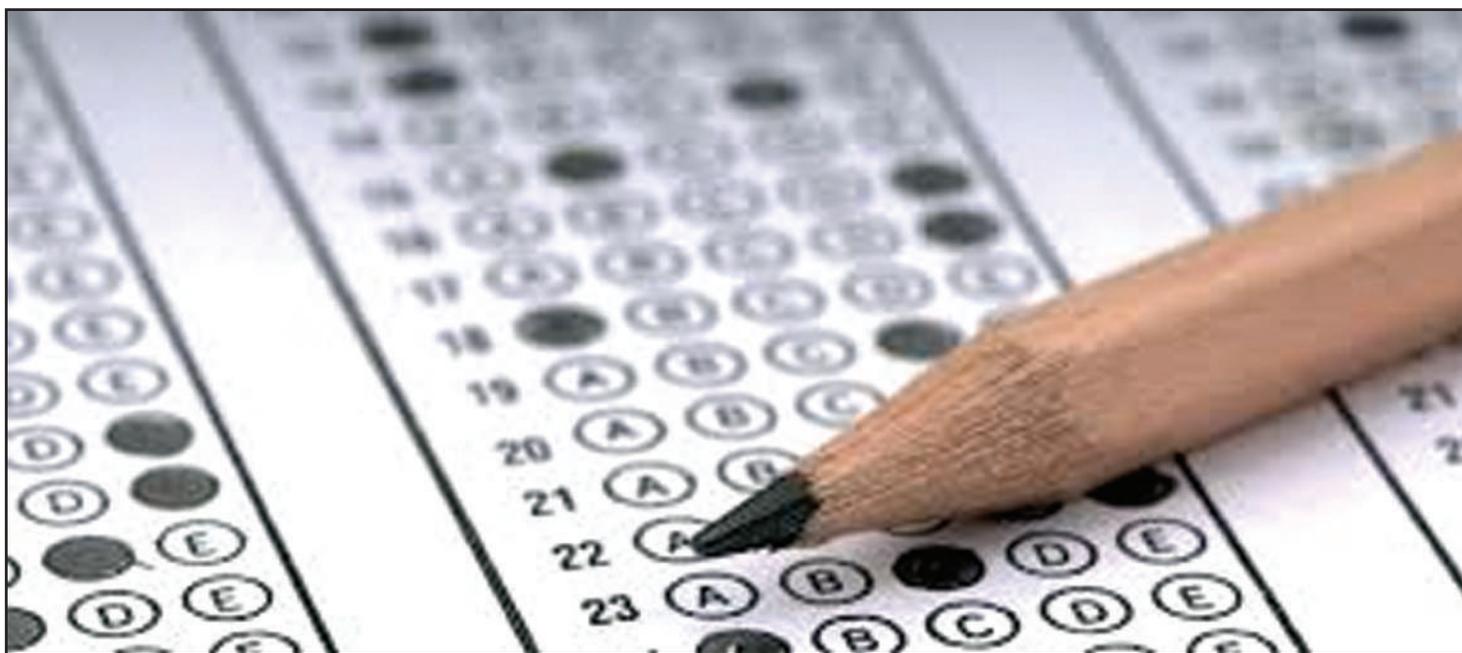
What to keep in mind during the exam

Maintain a Clean Paper and margin

Have a clear mind

Solve the problems with clear mind and write the steps in clear handwriting

Label the diagrams and reactions appropriately. Give pictorial or



by the students. The exam paper has 4 sections and each section must be given equal importance. Physics is one of the important subject both in board exams as well as competitive entrance exams. Scoring a 100 in physics is hard and it requires good amount of practise and revision along with sincere efforts. Hard work with strategic plan will surely bear fruit.

How do you practice/ during exam preparation

Understand your syllabus: Exam preparation starts with knowing the syllabus thoroughly. Syllabus plays an important role by listing the topics/units from which questions will be framed for the exam.

NCERT textbooks are usually recommended to prepare for the CBSE board exam but one can find other recommended textbook too. Know the weightage given to each topic in the syllabus and plan your learning according to it.

Say no to mug ups: It is easy to fall for mug up trap but in the long run it does not help much. So skip it and understand how the reactions happen, the catalyst that causes it,

those NCERT exercise problems given at the end of each chapter? Never skip those if you want a centum. Start solving all the solved and unsolved problems/questions in NCERT textbooks.

Practice papers: Have a look at the past exam papers of CBSE physics to get an idea of how the questions are asked in the exam. Work on at least past 10 year question papers. Practice them keeping

postpone to solve the problems, address them with a calm mind. Postponing to solve twisted or big problems might cost you too much in the later period, so address them now!

Time management: Managing the time is the key factor in preparing for board exams. It is easy to lose the track of time in solving tough problems in maths and hence it is essential to practice the problems within

graphical illustrations wherever it is required

Always finish familiar questions first Avoid Overwriting and Scribbling. Never scratch too much, it looks horrible, just one strike is enough.

Do not write long answers unnecessarily, be crisp and on point for short answers

Spare some time to revise everything you wrote

Kisan Andolan and Bharat Sarkar

(Continue from page 4)

what should be done or could be done in the light of the democratic edifice of the country and spirit of the constitution as visualized by the great visionary of contemporary times, Babasaheb Ambedkar. I will touch upon only on two points made by Ambedkar which are most relevant to ward of the lingering danger in the prevailing and emerging scenario. One, the increasing communal divide and priority and acceptance to conflicting ideologies over national interests tend to create problems. Referring to these and his worry about the independence of our country Ambedkar said, "Will history repeat itself? It is this thought that fills me with anxiety. This anxiety is deepened by the realization of the fact that in addition to our old enemies in the form of castes and creeds we are going to have many political parties with diverse and opposing political creeds. Will Indians place the country above their creed or will they place creed above country? I do not know. But this much is certain that if the parties place creed above country, our independence will be put in jeopardy a second time and probably be lost

forever. This eventuality we must all resolutely guard against. We must be determined to defend our independence with the last drop of our blood." Is there any need to elaborate this? I don't think so. The sooner, our political leadership and intellectual class understand this, the better. The common citizen would tend to follow suit. It would bring in the much needed cohesiveness in our polity and society. The second is rather important with reference to the ongoing farmer's agitation. In the same speech, the father of the constitution further said and gave these three warnings, "If we wish to maintain democracy not merely in form, but also in fact, what must we do?"

The first thing in my judgment we must do is to hold fast to constitutional methods of achieving our social and economic objectives. It means we must abandon the bloody methods of revolution. It means that we must abandon the method of civil disobedience, non-cooperation and satyagraha. When there was no way left for constitutional methods for achieving economic and social objectives, there was a great deal of justification for unconstitutional methods.

But where constitutional methods are open, there can be no justification for these unconstitutional methods. These methods are nothing but the Grammar of Anarchy and the sooner they are abandoned, the better for us. The second thing we must do is to observe the caution which John Stuart Mill has given to all who are interested in the maintenance of democracy, namely, not "to lay their liberties at the feet of even a great man, or to trust him with power which enable him to subvert their institutions". There is nothing wrong in being grateful to great men who have rendered life-long services to the country.

But there are limits to gratefulness. As has been well said by the Irish Patriot Daniel O'Connell, no man can be grateful at the cost of his honour, no woman can be grateful at the cost of her chastity and no nation can be grateful at the cost of its liberty. This caution is far more necessary in the case of India than in the case of any other country. For in India, Bhakti or what may be called the path of devotion or hero-worship, plays a part in its politics unequalled in magnitude by the part it plays in

the politics of any other country in the world. Bhakti in religion may be a road to the salvation of the soul. But in politics, Bhakti or hero-worship is a sure road to degradation and to eventual dictatorship.

The third thing we must do is not to be content with mere political democracy. We must make our political democracy a social democracy as well. Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy."

Again, I think, there is no need to add anything to these thoughtful assertions made by Babasaheb Ambedkar. The message is clear and candid. India is passing through a difficult phase. We the people of India must understand this seriously. I conclude this with Hearty Greetings on the Republic Day and a poetic warning in the words of Al-lama Iqbal:

**Chupa Kar Aastinoo Mai
Bijliyan Rakhi Hai Gardon Ne
Anadil Bagh K Gafil
Na Baithey Aashiyanoo Mai'
(The Sky has kept thunder bolts
concealed up its sleeve;
garden's nightingales should not
slumber in their nests.)**

Superstitions, Scientific Temperament, and Information War

Evolutionary perspective on our cognitive abilities can give an understanding of our vulnerabilities to superstitions and other errors in judgment. Everyone has a logical ability and many people had dedicated their lives to eradicating the superstitions in communities. But despite all that, they are not completely eradicated and keep emerging again. Superstitions cause personal loss of resources and productivity, as well as a net loss to the nation and society. The importance of institutional values and efforts to minimize this loss is also discussed here.

The logical faculty has a survival advantage as it helps us get closer to truth i.e. actual dangers and opportunities for survival. In the present day complex civilization, logical thinking defends us in the same way as teeth and claws had defended our ancestors in the wild. We use logical reasoning in day-to-day life and a person's very survival itself is proof of logical ability. But we can not do rigorous reasoning on every matter because we have limited time and cognitive resources. Here comes the faith or trust in a source of information. We will trust the information without rigorous analysis, taking into account the importance of the matter for our life and the reputation of the source of information. If we happen to trust a genuine source of information then it can save us a lot of energy and time that goes into rigorous analysis. But a wrong estimate of the trustworthiness of information source or a wrong estimate of the importance of matter will accordingly become a risk to our life.

We have a tendency to collect information and generalize over information or find patterns in it. Generalizations help us to easily memorize information and also make some useful predictions by extrapolation or interpolation of these generalizations. At the next level of generalization over these generalizations, we build concepts and then philosophy. The philosophy enables us to see beyond the walls. (Although philosophy can also make us a frog in a well).

Our logical process is basically like "Bayesian inference" which is also used for artificial intelligence in computers. In Bayesian inference, the trust in a hypothesis is continuously updated based on new evidence we get. The initial trust or weightage in a hypothesis is updated in proportion to the ratio of positive evidence versus all evidence. Here all evidence includes positive evidence and false-positive evidence. Here we can see that if the initial weightage given to a concept or hypothesis is very high, then even much evidence against it will not significantly change

our hypothesis. On the other hand if coincidentally we get positive evidence for a hypothesis then it gets so strong that later it does not change easily. This situation is also called confirmation bias.

Even after logically realizing the falsehood of superstition, it can persist in practice due to behavioral tendencies such as obsession. People have different levels of obsession in their personality traits. Obsession can be helpful for persistent efforts required for some task like scientific research. There is a famous anecdote in this regard that is often associated with Nobel prize-winning scientist Neils Bohr. Once, a journalist visited Neils Bohr at his home. The journalist

memes. But there have to be some outreach programs to convey these scientific memes to make them compete with the memes to which these communities are often exposed.

When Indian origin Nobel laureate Venkatraman Ramakrishnan came to Panjab University, he said "Astrology and Homeopathy are bogus". The next day, after reading it in newspapers the homeopathy association of India protested against the statement. Upton Sinclair has said, "It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends on his not understanding it". Therefore, first, alternative arrangements of employment need to be made for people trained in homeopa-

information as well.) Sometimes the information is insufficient where as sometimes the information is together with a lot of irrelevant information. But our brain has evolved

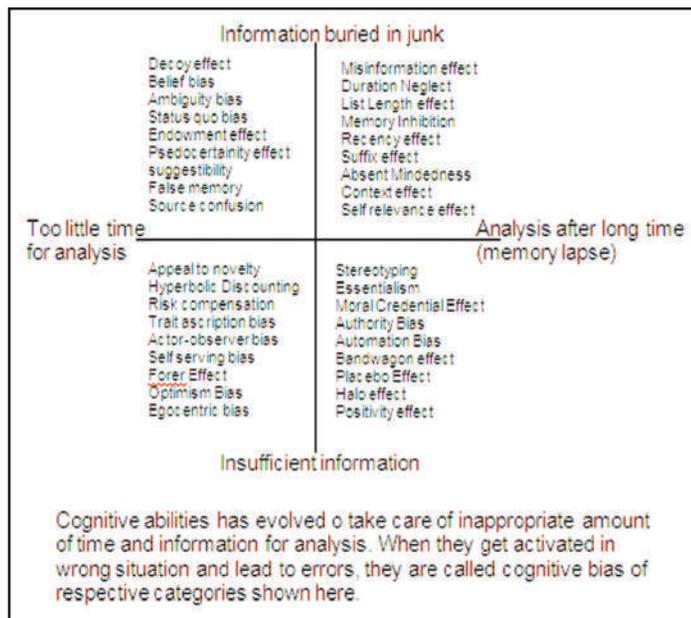
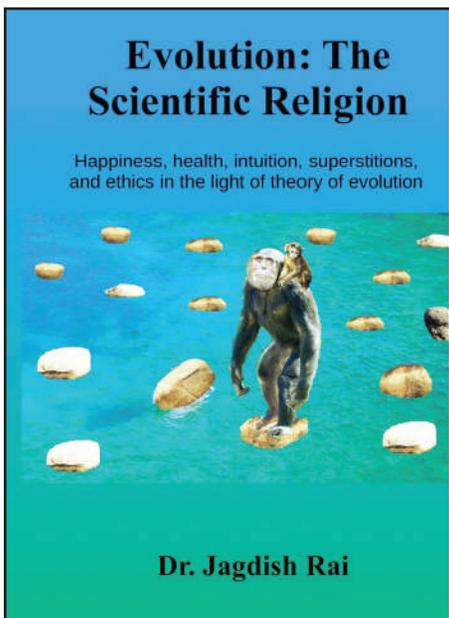


Dr. Jagdish Rai

heuristics (practical shortcuts) to make some decisions in these situations. Most of the time we recognize the situation correctly and apply appropriate wisdom or heuristics but when we miss, it will be called "cognitive bias". These four imperfections of situations for information processing can be used to broadly classify different types of cognitive biases and errors of judgment. There are also combinations of the situations which makes a long list of popularly known biases or flaws of logical thinking. Rolf Dobelli in his book "Thinking clearly" has mentioned various cognitive biases that are the cause of faulty judgment and concepts. Some of the common cognitive biases are Overconfidence Bias, Self Serving Bias, Herd Mentality, Herd Mentality, Framing Cognitive Bias, Narrative Fallacy, Anchoring Bias, Anchoring Bias, Hindsight Bias, Representativeness Bias, etc. Many superstitions use loss aversion bias by claiming some dire consequence if that superstition is not practiced. According to the Forer effect, people tend to identify many of their own traits in universal descriptions. The statements in Forer's passage are so general that they relate to everyone. We tend to accept flattering statements that don't apply to us. The Forer effect explains how pseudo-sciences like astrology, the study of handwriting, palmistry, tarot card readings, etc can captivate people. The marketing experts also use some of these biases. They give "limited-time offers" to create a sense of urgency to make decisions. In a hurry, the customers may make the mistake of buying things they do not need or are overpriced. Summarily, we have to maintain a scientific temperament and occasionally check for our cognitive biases, specifically through listening to well-wishers with an open mind. Sustained efforts are also required at the community level for eradicating superstitions causing significant loss of resources and productivity. Broadly it's like an information war at various levels.

The author also has written a book on these topics: Evolution: The Scientific Religion, available at www.amazon.com/dp/B08SJWFF3T

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saw a horseshoe hanging at the main door. He asked Neils Bohr "do you believe in this superstition". Neils Bohr told the journalist that he does not believe in it but it works even when you do not believe in it. If a superstitious practice has become a habit then it takes a lot of effort to get rid of it like any other habit. The effort required may not be worth it if it is just a matter of hanging a horseshoe at the door. But if this horseshoe has to be manufactured at some specific place only then the specific manufacturers can benefit a lot at the small cost on many people. Then these manufacturers may also conspire or advertise to spread this superstition, knowingly or unknowingly. Therefore from time to time, there will be the need for the campaigns to bust the myths, as done by the skeptic society (www.skeptic.com). If in a society, there are no such campaigns then too many myths will surround the individuals, increasing their chances of falling prey to some of them. The extreme examples of exploitation by religious figures often come from the communities which have never been exposed to ideas like the "theory of evolution". These ideas are more convincing and rational and exposure to them makes a person immune to other less rational philosophies. In the analogy of genes, the ideas in the evolutionary paradigm are called memes. Memes compete for space in the mind as genes compete in the gene pool of a species. The more advantageous memes compete out other less convincing and inefficient

thy, etc. The government has recently considered allowing them to use modern medicine as well.

Traditional knowledge systems like religions are based more on trust and reverence rather than testing and reason. Whereas the scientific institutions have promoted the culture of irreverence and questioning. In the scientific community, even a Nobel laureate does not get so much reverence to not allow questioning his propositions. Whereas in the value system of traditional knowledge, questioning can be taken as an insult. In such a culture of lack of probity, the person in authority can easily perpetuate falsehood for ulterior motives. Scientific temperament is not only about demanding evidence but also accepting things we do not know. But this modesty can not be misused by someone to perpetuate unnecessarily complex hypotheses without evidence. The scientific institutions have maintained the culture of probity, and freedom of expression which is not suitable for perpetuating falsehood. Consequently, they are the most trusted source of information.

The day to day situations are always not ideal for scientific analysis. Sometimes we have to make decisions in a limited time which is not sufficient for comprehensive analysis. Whereas sometimes we analyze information after such a long time that our memory has distorted the information. (Our memory may make unreasonable generalizations and associations in process of compressing information for storage, which can distort the

President's Speech: 72nd Republic Day, 2021

Dear fellow citizens,
Namaskar!

Greetings to all of you on the eve of the 72nd Republic Day of the world's largest and most vibrant democracy. In this land of ours, enriched by diversity, with many festivals, our national festivals are celebrated by everyone with great patriotic fervour. We celebrate the national festival of the Republic Day with enthusiasm and express our respect for the national flag, and our faith in the Constitution.

This day has come to mean a lot to all Indians living within the country and abroad. Seventy-one years ago, on this very day, we the people of India adopted, enacted and gave to ourselves a unique Constitution. For all of us, then, this is the day to also pause and ponder over the core values that the Constitution propounds. These values – Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity – outlined in the Preamble of our Constitution are sacred to all of us. Its abiding adherence is meant not only for those who are mandated to govern but for the people at large.

It is not without reason that the wise men and women who framed the Constitution chose to place these four terms at the very beginning of the Constitution to build the foundation on which the edifice of our democracy rests. In fact, these were the values that guided our freedom struggle. A galaxy of great leaders and thinkers like Bal Gangadhar 'Tilak', Lala Lajpat Rai, Mahatma Gandhi and Subhas Chandra Bose inspired our freedom struggle. They had diverse dreams of a magnificent future of the motherland, but common to their aspirations were these values: Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity.

I would like that we go further back into history and inquire why precisely these values guided our nation-builders. And the answer is obvious: This land and its inhabitants have cherished these ideals from the time immemorial. Justice, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity are perennial principles of our philosophy of life. They come to us from the dawn of this civilisation through an unbroken chain. It is, of course, the task of every generation to seek out the meaning of these values for its times. As the freedom fighters did in their day, so should we in our time. These key principles should light our path to development.

Dear fellow citizens,

Every Indian salutes our farmers, who have made our vast and populous country self-reliant in food-grains and dairy products. Despite adversities of nature, numerous other challenges and the COVID-19 pandemic, our farmers sustained the agricultural production. A grateful nation is fully committed to the welfare of our farmers.

Just as our hardworking farmers ensure food security for the country, the brave soldiers of the armed forces ensure security of our national boundaries amid severest conditions.

From the freezing cold at Siachen and Galwan valley in Ladakh with temperatures as low as minus 50 to 60 degree Celsius to the scorching heat in Jaisalmer with temperatures as high as 50 degree Celsius – on land, in the skies and at the vast coastal areas – our warriors are vigilant every moment. Every citizen feels proud about the bravery, patriotism and the spirit of sacrifice among our soldiers.

By their contribution to food security, national security, protection against disease and disasters and to different areas of development, our

scientists have strengthened our national endeavours. From space to the farms, from educational institutions to hospitals, the community of scientists has enriched our life and work. Our scientists have been working day and night for decoding the Coronavirus and they have succeeded in developing the vaccine in record time.

With this accomplishment, our scientists have added a glorious chapter of contribution to the well-being of humanity. Our scientists, along with doctors, administrators and people from other walks of life, have made major contribution in containing the virus and keeping the fatality rate lower in our country, compared to that in developed countries. Thus, all our farmers, soldiers and scientists deserve special appreciation and a grateful nation greets them on this auspicious occasion of the Republic Day.

Dear fellow citizens,

Last year, as humanity almost came to a halt in the face of a calamity of gigantic proportions, I often found myself reflecting on the central message of the Constitution. Our effective response to the pandemic would not have been possible without our Constitutional value of 'Fraternity'. Indians have been like a close-knit family, making exemplary sacrifices to protect each other in the face of the common enemy of Coronavirus. I am thinking here of doctors, nurses, paramedics, healthcare administrators and sanitation workers who put their own lives at risk to care for Covid-19 patients. Some of them even lost their lives. Along with them, about 1.5 lakh people became victims of this pandemic. I convey my condolences to the bereaved families. Our frontline Corona-warriors were ordinary citizens who turned out to be extraordinary. When the history of this tragic chapter, which is not yet over, is written, I am confident that the future generations will behold you

all for the heroic response to the crisis for which no one could have truly prepared.

Given our country's population density, diversity of cultural traditions, natural and geographical challenges, taking precautionary measures against Covid-19 was far more difficult for us. Yet, we have managed to check the spread of the virus to a large extent.

Despite the serious calamity, we have succeeded in taking forward our activities in many spheres. The pandemic threatened to derail the

young generation's learning process, but institutions and teachers quickly adopted new technology and ensured that there was no break in education. By conducting not only free and fair but also safe elections in Bihar which has high population density and in union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh with difficulties of access and other challenges, our democracy and the Election Commission have accomplished remarkable feats. The Judiciary found help in technology and continued to function and dispense Justice. The list is long.

In order to open up the economy without risking the lives of the people, the process of unlocking was carefully calibrated. This has proved effective and the economy has started showing indications of recovery faster than anticipated. The latest unprecedented collection of GST and India's emergence as a most favoured destination for the foreign investment are indicative of our faster economic recovery. The government has encouraged small and medium industries to unleash entrepreneurial spirit by providing easy loans to them and helped them to come up with innovative business ideas.

Dear fellow citizens,

The adversities of the previous year have only reminded us of what we have always known deep in our hearts - that care and concern for humanity and the feeling of fraternity is what kept us together for millennia. In every sphere, Indians rose to the occasion, and put others before themselves. We Indians live and die for humanity. This Indian ideal has been expressed by the great poet Maithili Sharan Gupt in these words:

उसी उदार की सदा, सजीव कीर्ति कूजती;
तथा उसी उदार को, समस्त सृष्टि पूजती।
अखण्ड आत्मभाव जो, असीम वशित में भरे,
वही मनुष्य है कि जो, मनुष्य के लिये मरे।

In English, these sentiments can be broadly conveyed in the fol-

lowing words:

It is the benevolent whose glory lives on in songs eternal,

It is the generous whom the world reveres forever,

Whose spirit of oneness fills the boundless universe,

They truly are human who die for fellow beings.

I am sure that this love for humanity and the spirit of sacrifice will take us to great heights.

Let us look at 2020 as a year of learning. There were miracles of a revitalising Mother Nature which taught humanity a hard lesson that the Small is not expedient but complementary to the Big. I am sure that with a view to reducing the risk of such pandemics, the issue of climate change will be accorded top priority at the global level.

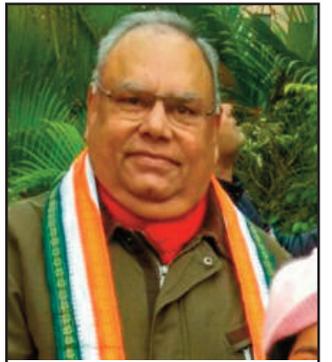
Dear Fellow Citizens,

Converting a crisis into an opportunity, the Prime Minister gave a call of 'Atma-Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan', or 'Self-reliant India Mission'. Our vibrant democracy, our enterprising and talented fellow citizens – specially the youth – energise our efforts in shaping a self-reliant India. The demand for goods and services in the country, the domestic efforts to meet them, and the use of modern technology in such efforts are strengthening 'Atma-Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'. Under this Mission, steps have been taken for economic growth as well as employment generation by promoting micro, small and medium enterprises and making the start-up eco-system more robust. It has become a movement being taken forward by the people themselves.

'Atma-Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' is in line with the aspiration to shape a new India by the year 2022 when our country turns 75. This will be a significant milestone in the journey of the nation as we are determined to achieve major goals: from providing pucca houses with basic facilities for every family to doubling the income of farmers. In order to build an inclusive society of new India, we are giving special emphasis on education, health, nutrition, upliftment of the under-privileged and welfare of women.

Adversity often plays the role of a great teacher. It makes us stronger and more confident. With that confidence, India has taken great strides in several sectors. Economic reforms have continued apace and have been supplemented by long-pending reforms in the areas of labour and agriculture through legislation.

(Contd. on next page)



Ramesh Chander
Ambassador - I.F.S. (Retired)
91-99885-10940

National Scheduled Castes Alliance issues ultimatum to Punjab government till 14th April for accepting demands

Will be forced to sit on protest again if our demands are ignored – Kainth

CBI should investigate Post matric Scholarship scam in Punjab – Shamsheer Singh Dullon, MP

Next CM of Punjab to be from the Scheduled Castes – Subhash Sharma, Gen. Sec. BJP

Chandigarh– National Scheduled Castes Alliance and the Dalit Sangharsh Morcha along with other fraternal organizations today held a Dalit Mahapanchayat at Sector 25 Rally Ground, Chandigarh. The NSCA and others have been sitting on the site since 28th December 2020 and today was the 28th day of their indefinite symbolic hunger strike and protest dharna against the Post matric scholarship scam allegedly by the Punjab government especially Rs 63 crore corruption by Sadhu Singh Dharamsot, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment.

Paramjit Singh Kainth, President of the NSCA said, "Our basic demand was of admission for ~3 lakh students which were denied such privilege during the last academic year 2019-20 and providing degrees/certificates of 7 lakh students during the years 2017 till 2019 which were withheld by colleges and universities, these demands were accepted to an extent by the Group of Cabinet Ministers during their 15th January Press conference on the post matric scholarship issue. But so far, the rate at which these degrees and certificates are being provided is not satisfactory and I urge the Punjab

Government led by Captain Amrinder Singh to take serious notice of this issue and take up the monitoring for such issues effectively."

Kainth further elaborated,

as per the RTE Act and establishing fast track courts to investigate cases of social/caste discrimination and social boycott in Punjab."

The Dalit Mahapanchayat

scholarship scheme started by the Union government led by PM Shri. Narendra Modi ji is for the benefit of crores of SC, OBC and other marginalized communities and now it is the

responsibility of the State government in Punjab to make sure that their share of funds is given to the poor students. The BJP is striving hard to work for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes in Punjab and we will make the next CM of Punjab from the Scheduled Castes community."

"If our demands are not met then we will be forced to sit on agitation again and the Mahapanchayat has issued an ultimatum till April 14 whereby our fraternal or-

ganizations and the NSCA will have to protest throughout Punjab and not just Chandigarh." said Kainth.

Others who attended the Mahapanchayat were Rajesh Bagha Ex-Chairman Punjab Scheduled Castes Commission, Raj Kumar Atwal, Advocate Lekh Raj Sharma, Bagga Singh Ferozpur, Kiranjeet Gehri, Dalip Singh Buchre, Advocate Tarlok Chauhan, Manjit Singh Bali, Kirpal Singh, Jaswinder Singh Rahi, Jasbir Singh Mehta, Boota Ram Malha, Ranjha Bakshi and people from all walks of life joined.



"Our other demands included the rights of MNREGA workers and effective monitoring of the scheme including investing corruption in such funds, providing 1/3rd Village Shamlat land to the SC community and making sure no such person is pressurized to forfeit their auctioned land, providing ownership rights to people living under "Red Line" areas in villages, Scheduled Castes Sub Plan be implemented in Punjab and budget be allocated according to the population of our community, Right to Education be implemented in Punjab

today passed a resolution regarding these issues and especially regarding the post matric scholarship scam where Shamsheer Singh Dullon, Member of Parliament from Rajya Sabha said, "that the investigation by CBI into the alleged corruption by Sadhu Singh Dharamsot in the post matric scholarship scam be initiated and other scams in the misappropriation of funds be investigated by the CBI."

Subhash Sharma, General Secretary, BJP attended the Mahapanchayat said, "The central scheme of 60:40 funding ratio for post matric

President's Speech: 72nd Republic Day, 2021

(Continue from page 7)

The path to reform at the initial stages may cause misapprehensions. However, it is beyond doubt that the Government remains singularly devoted to farmers' welfare.

Equally salient but touching more lives directly is the comprehensive reform in education which was long overdue. The 'National Education Policy 2020', with its stress on tradition as well as technology, will lay the foundation of a New India which aspires to emerge as a knowledge hub on the international stage. This reform promises to incubate innate talent of students and ignite their minds to take up the challenges of life.

The net outcome of all these efforts is before us. After about a year of this unforeseen ordeal, India today stands not despondent but confident. The slowdown has turned out to be transitory as the economy has regained its dynamism. A self-reliant India has manufactured its own vaccine for Covid-19, and is now undertaking a mass vaccination drive, which will be the largest exercise of its kind in history.

The administration and health services are working with full readiness to make this exercise a success. I urge upon the country men to utilise

this lifeline and get vaccinated as per guidelines. Your health opens the way for your advancement.

Today, India is being rightly called "pharmacy of the world" as we are supplying medicines and other healthcare items to several countries to alleviate people's suffering and contain the pandemic across the globe. Now we also provide vaccines to other countries.

Dear Fellow Citizens,

The past year was a time of adversity, and it came from many fronts. We faced an expansionist move on our borders, but our valiant soldiers foiled it. To achieve this objective, 20 of them had to lay down their lives. The nation shall remain grateful to those brave soldiers. Though we reiterate our commitment to peace, our defence forces – Army, Air Force and Navy – are adequately mobilised in a well-coordinated move to thwart any attempt to undermine our security. Our national interest will be protected at all costs. We have also ensured a widespread understanding in the international community of India's firm and principled stand.

India is moving forward and taking its rightful place in the world. During the recent years, its arc of in-

fluence has been expanding and encompassing the larger part of the world. The manner in which India got overwhelming support of the international community for its entry as non-permanent member in the Security Council this year is indicative of that influence.

The quality of our engagement with leaders across the world has enhanced manifold. India with its vibrant democracy has rightfully earned its respect as a responsible and trustworthy nation.

We would do well to keep reminding ourselves of our Constitutional mantras. I have said this before, but I will repeat that we should make it a part of our daily routine to meditate upon the life and thought of our Father of the Nation. We must make all efforts to wipe tears from every eye. Equality is the watchword for the great project of our Republic. Social equality warrants dignity for each one of us, villagers, women, weaker sections of our society, namely, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Divyang-jan and the elderly people. Economic equality entails equal opportunity for all and handholding for the downtrodden.

Acts of helping fellow human beings expand our capacity for empa-

thy. In our collective path ahead, Fraternity is our moral compass. Let us all continue on the path of 'constitutional morality' which Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar mentioned in his speech to the Constituent Assembly on November 4, 1948 while presenting the draft of the Constitution. He clarified that 'Constitutional morality' means supremacy of the values enshrined in the Constitution.

Dear Fellow Citizens,

As we are set to celebrate the anniversary of our Republic, I am thinking of our brothers and sisters abroad. Our diaspora is our pride. Indians abroad have succeeded in different walks of life, some rising to high levels of political leadership, some contributing to science, arts, academics, civil society and business, each bringing laurels to their new homelands and also to India. Republic Day greetings to you from the land of your ancestors! My greetings to the members of the armed forces, paramilitary forces and the police who usually celebrate festivals staying away from their families. My special greetings to all those jawans.

I once again congratulate you all, for the Republic Day.

**Thank You,
Jai Hind!**