POST-AMBEDKAR DALIT MOVEMENT IN INDIA AND KANSHIRAM’S CONTRIBUTION

Sanjay Gupta

One of the leading spokespersons of the rights, dignity and justice of the vulnerable and marginalized sections, Kanshiram was a man obsessed with a missionary zeal to change the course of the Indian politics. At a time when a general gloom had descended on the depressed communities in the aftermath of Ambedkar’s demise and when the dalit leadership appeared leaderless and confused, virtually threatening the very existence of the depressed class movement in India, the emergence of Kanshiram on the Indian political horizon marks a watershed development in the annals of the Indian politics. Not a blind follower of Ambedkar, Kanshiram reinterpreted some of the major ideas of Ambedkar suiting the changed circumstances of his times. A passionate speaker, a voracious reader, although not a prolific writer, Kanshiram dedicated his life to the cause of the weaker and deprived sections, be it the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, the backward classes or the minorities. While he was vehemently criticized, even denounced, by large sections of people, he was equally looked upon as a messiah by the other half of the teeming Indian millions in whom they saw the hope of justice and freedom from subjugation, oppression and exploitation. Credited to have brought back Ambedkar to life, the present article makes an attempt to analyze the contributions of Kanshiram to the depressed communities and its impact on the democracy, and government and politics of India. Keywords: Justice, freedom, social change, emancipation, Socio-economic upliftment, empowerment, caste, exploitation, oppression, Ambedkar, Kanshiram.

POWER TO THE PRAJA:
THE INTERPLAY OF ANCIENT AND MODERN DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS IN INDIA’S CIVIL LANDSCAPE

Bal Ram Singh
Shivi Chandra

It has become a byword in international studies to extol India’s constant championship of democratic mechanisms such as elections and constitutional bodies while speaking simultaneously of the failure of comprehensively viewed Indian democracy, evinced by the constant reports of national corruption, poverty, communalism, and various other social corrosives disintegrating the fabric of the Indian polity. Using currently available scholarship on ancient and modern trends in civil society, this paper argues that these failures can be attributed in part to the fact that Indian civil society is currently paralyzed by tumultuous structural interface between classical Vedic-inflected notions of civil society, represented collectively hereas the “praja-tantra” tradition, and its modern counterpart, the heavily Western liberal democratic ethos of the 1940s Republic. The aims of this paper are to: 1) demonstrate the differences between the two temporal and cultural styles of democracy by documenting their influences and historical trajectories, 2) evaluate their suitability for present challenges facing the Indian democratic apparatus, and 3) propose avenues for further study and possible synthesis of these two traditions of Indian structural democracy.

WHY SOME MINISTRIES RECEIVE MORE QUESTIONS THAN OTHERS?

Monica

This paper will examine why some ministries receive more questions than others during the question hour. The study goes by the assumption because of electoral consideration some ministries attract more questions than others. The question is investigated with the help of unstarred parliamentary questions asked in the 14th Lok Sabha (2004-2009).
NEW MEDIA IN THE POLITICAL SPHERES
Shikha Gupta

The paper discusses the digital media divide issue in perspective of political advertising and other related aspects.

RECENT ETHNIC CONFLICT IN ASSAM: IMPLICATIONS TO INDIA’S NATIONAL SECURITY
Manoj Kumar Tripathi

The paper has been written in response to the recent ethnic conflict in Assam that has become one of the serious issues from our country’s national security perspective. The events in Assam created havoc in many parts of our country because it has its spill over implications beyond the state of Assam. The recent events underline the volatility of ethnic violent conflict in India. The events also send a strong message to the state and central government on how a particular event in a state can have its spill over implications to other parts of our country. Keywords: - Ethnic conflict, Migration, Human security, Human rights, Good governance.

IMMIGRATION ISSUE IN ASSAM (1947-1957): A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE
Sanghamitra Sarma

Independence of India was accompanied by costly ramifications in most states. The case was no different in Assam. Bogged down by a plethora of problems like food scarcity, natural disasters (perennial floods and the Great Earthquake of 1950), poverty and unemployment, the state was also healing the wounds generated by the impact of war and partition. But among these challenges, the gravest was the problem of immigration. The paper sets out to explore the dialectics of immigration as a complex concoction of ungovernable factors in Assam in the first ten years after independence. The importance of policies taken in the colonial era to understand the conditions under which immigration was facilitated is also sought to be deconstructed.

CHINA AND PAKISTAN RELATIONS IN THE POST COLD WAR PERIOD: TRUSTED FRIENDS, WILLING PARTNERS
Shiv Poojan Prasad Pathak

The paper makes an effort to bring out China-Pakistan relations during Post-Copular period. It poses some questions and tries to give answers to some.
PRACTICES AND CHALLENGES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY: A CASE STUDY OF KONSO WOREDA ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL, ETHIOPIA

Ram Prasad Pal

This study was conducted in Konso Woreda of Segen Area Peoples Zone in Southern Ethiopia’s Nationalities and Peoples Regional State (SNNPRS). The objectives of this study were to assess the practices and challenges of local government in promoting development and democracy. The study is based on both primary and secondary data. The primary data has been collected by questionnaires and interviews with 19 Woreda Sector Office Heads. Even though the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) constitution ensures provision of adequate power for local government, this study showed that the local government was not adequately empowered to manage and improve their own revenue and budgetary system. Lack of clear division of power between Regional and Local Government, lack of qualified and competent human resource, low commitment of the existing human resource for full operation of local government activities are identified as major factors challenging the local government in promoting development and democracy. Thus, it is recommended that the regional governments should push forward towards the power and authority of local government or fully empower local governments that would make local government to roll all its operations for better development. It is also recommended that responsible bodies should find qualified and competent human resource administrators for local governments as much as possible. Key words & Abbreviations Challenges of Local Government: constraints that are hindering the effective implementation of the issues and principles of local government. Zone: in Ethiopian context refers to administrative sub-division of the region. Woreda: refers to administrative sub-division of a zone, which is the basic administrative unit of a National or Regional Government. FDRE-Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia SNNPR- South Nation Nationalities and Peoples Region WA- Woreda Administration WAC- Woreda Administration Council.

INS ‘ARIHANT’: THE POLITICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSIONS

G. Lakshmi

INS ‘Arihant’ -- India’s first nuclear submarine has become a topic of controversy with some people thinking it could start a regional undersea nuclear arms race, while some are talking loud about its marine environmental impact. This ship submersible ballistic, nuclear (SSBN) submarine was launched at the dockyard in Visakhapatnam -- the headquarters of India’s Eastern Naval Command on July 26, 2009 and after sea trials it was recently inducted into the Indian Navy. The purpose of this study is to assess the political dimensions of this nuclear submarine and explore the evolving regional security issues; socio-economic and political trends of the Indian Ocean region in the coming decades and examine their implications for decision-makers. Moreover, due to the recent accidents involving Indian Navy ships and submarines since August last year, it is apropos to discuss the possible environmental hazards of a nuclear submarine with an aim to determine whether or not the ‘Arihant’ pose [any] significant hazards to the living beings in the region, in future.
ECONOMIC MEASURES FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF DALIT WOMEN IN TAMIL NADU

D. DEVANATHAN

In the name of Untouchability, the Dalits in India have historically suffered a lot due to the stigma attached to them including repressive servitude, discriminating illiteracy, pulverizing poverty, degraded status and baleful contempt all of which have pushed them to become the world’s most socially oppressed, economically depressed and politically suppressed minority community since many centuries. In Indian society Dalit women are bonded, abused, sexually exploited by other castes, humiliated and are vulnerable targets of humiliation. Tamil Nadu is one of the pioneering states in the process of implementing economic measures to improve the economic status of dalits women. However the dalits have not been ensured full economic security so far. The governmental effort has not made a significant difference to the living-conditions of Dalit Women. In this context this article critically analysis the awareness, utilization and opinion of economic measures for the empowerment of dalit women in Tamil Nadu.

ASSESSMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CONTEXT OF DALIT ATROCITY AND THE COMPLICITY OF ODISHA STATE ADMINISTRATION

Ashok Kumar Karna
Bidyuthparva Mahakud

It’s so heartbreaking to express that today in Indian states even after its 67 years of Independence the Dalit atrocities and their human rights violation yet to come to an end. Dalits are still facing different forms of discrimination in both the rural and urban areas. One way as in a form of Dalit atrocity the Dalit people’s human rights are violating in different ways and circumstances, there is no doubt. Indian states like Odisha, well known for its natural heritage, backwardness & poverty is also till dates live telecasting such kind of inhuman episodes in the form of Dalit atrocity and their human rights violation. Along with that a major area of concern is the complicity of state and public officials through culpable actions and failure to act. Thus, the fact of increasing and continue atrocities on the Dalits is resulting in gross violation of human rights, and to some extent in that context there is the negligence of the state administration. In other words, the lack of state complicity and political will on part of the state has turned the anti-atrocities law ineffective, and as a result of that the rhythm of human rights violation is still invariable. Key Words: Human Rights, Dalit Atrocity, Complicity, Odisha State Administration.