

## MALALA AT THE UN

Malala Yousufzai the girl who was attacked by the Taliban in Swat Valley of Pakistan for her mission to educate girls, invoked Mahatma Gandhi, Badshah Khan and Mother Teresa when she said at UN Youth Assembly: "I'm not against anyone, neither am I here to speak in terms of personal revenge against the Taliban, or any other terrorist group". It was a message for all fundamentalists opposed to freedom and education of girls from the brave girl who turned sixteen on 12th July: Let's pick up our books and our pens. Ironically, 28 million children not able to go to school, live in what are called conflict zones of the world, and half of these are women and girls. Malala's words emanated from the realities she has faced: The extremist are afraid of books and pens. The power of education tightens them. "They are afraid of women". Note worthily, two girls from India—Razia of Meerat and Ashwini from Bangalore were among the seven girls honoured with the UN Special Envoy for Global Education's Youth Courage Award on the Malala Day. Perhaps Usha Anrudh of Zindgi Live finds time to bring these girls in her programme to relate their stories. Our media remains busy with politics, cricket, crime, cinema and TV serials. Could somebody in J and K think of observing 12th July as Malala Day? It was the UN Secretary General Ban ki-Moon who named her 16th birthday as Malala Day for her heroic stand to ensure education for all. When Ban ki-Moon says that the world stands by Malala, we have to think a hundred times to find ways to reject fundamentalism and extremism. Malala wants education for sons and daughters of all the Taliban, and all the terrorists and extremists.

## MODI VIA FERGUSON

Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi has developed a knack to connect himself direct with youth of the country. He talks of social media, but more than that, these are his direct addresses at different colleges that captivate hearts of the youth. He knows that youth of the country are listening when he speaks in a particular college. At the Pune Ferguson College, Modi was an educationist rather than a politician. He recalled the days of Upanishads, and referred to ancient Indian system of Gurukulas. Interestingly when he referred to Vishwakulas—he was in fact providing exact translation of a university. Chancellors are called Kulpatis in Hindi. Modi is emerging as a magician playing with words. At the Ferguson College, Pune, he brought in the memories of Lokmanya Tilak who gave us the slogan—Freedom is My Birth Right. Modi told the audience that what he was going to speak, was a collation of messages he had received from youth from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Maharashtra to Meghalaya. On today's education he had the satirical comment: Its objective is to create money-making machines. And when he talked of establishing universities, he was touching the popular chord: The eye is on the building because the tender process comes in with all known means of corruption. Modi wants modernisation which should not mean westernisation. How interesting was the proverb created by this orator: Others want power while we aim at empowerment of people. No wonder, at every occasion he extols success he has achieved in Gujarat. That is the base from which he intends to have a higher flight.

## OFF 'D' CUFF

Stress is a disease of the 21st Century. It axes years from your life. Stress affects work output, causing failure and unhappiness. We need to develop internal protection from the challenges of life.

You attribute your stress to an external agency. You believe your mother-in-law, boss or the weather causes your stress. Vedanta says that nothing in the world has the power to disturb you except yourself. You may eliminate the mother-in-law, change your job, relocate to another country; your unrest will remain the same. Stress is an internal phenomenon. Hence the solution lies within.

Just as mammals developed the capacity to maintain the same body temperature in all weather conditions, human beings have the ability of keeping the mind calm in turbulent circumstances by 'attitude control'. Make an assessment of the world in which you live. Evaluate your immediate family members, colleagues and friends, their strengths and weaknesses. Then their faults will amuse and not irritate you.

Vedanta says *Samam*, serenity, is the key to success, happiness and growth. Sportspersons have noticed that the combination of dynamic action performed in an inner environment of tranquillity makes for success. Who wins depends more on the state of mind than on physical prowess. There are three states of mind. When the mind is

## Goodbye stress, hello success

calm but there is no motivation to work and no action, it is the lowest state of *Tamas*, apathy. When activity begins but discontent is the motive it is the intermediate state of *Rajas*, passion. Vedanta speaks of the superlative state of *Sattva*, purity, where the mind is calm, intellect sharp and actions brilliant.

What disturbs the mind? Negativity and desire. Tackle these internal causes and the mind remains serene even if a storm rages outside. The mind takes easily to negativity. The intellect helps withdraw the mind from negative channels and think positively.

Stress is defined as mental turbulence caused by unfulfilled desire. Hence in the Bhagavad Gita Krishna describes desire as enemy using four words— *Panthin*, *Vairin*, *Nitya Vairin* and *Shatru*. Yet you encourage and increase desire!

Unbridled desire causes havoc. When fulfilled it leads to greed. Achieve still more and you get deluded with success. You envy those who have more than you and are arrogant towards those who have less. When desire is blocked your thoughts get deflected towards the obstruction as anger.

Uncontrolled desire prevents enjoyment. A calm mind is necessary to enjoy the good things of life.

Desire comes in the way of meaningful relationships as you take the stand - My way or the highway!

## Victimised society and politicians

JITENDER KOHLI

The political resistance and strength of common people have practically started positive reshaping of the Indian society. Though the government had adopted all possible modes and ways to maintain their mighty hold over the Indian commoners but had finally felt their own weak national position. This national betrayal was awarded by those invaders and British by providing those Jagirs and titles of Rai Sahib and Rai Bahadur and so on. There is no room for a discussion over this proven historical fact that living such leaders of those families are part of governing Indian political machinery in one and other role.

The derailed persons of the society are supplemented by those monarchic families who had always assisted the invaders and British in particular to snub Indian struggle from time to time. This national betrayal was awarded by those invaders and British by providing those Jagirs and titles of Rai Sahib and Rai Bahadur and so on. There is no room for a discussion over this proven historical fact that living such leaders of those families are part of governing Indian political machinery in one and other role.

It is worthy remembering that the Indo-China war of 1962 shook the Indians and the government asked for the financial assistance from the society to purchase modern armament for the Indian forces. The Indian women were leading in donating their ornaments besides the cash. Madam Indira Gandhi at time had donated the ornaments of her doll as she was not having gold at her person. Later how and from where she accumulated wealth for educating her children and establishing them of her desire is not debatable. Some of The politicians who under the influence of the monarchic families joined their path started shaking the confidence of the innocent Indians by adopting corrupt ways to raise the heap of their wealth they had accumulated since the past centuries. The fresher assistants of working class tried to cash all those means and ways to adjust in governing class.

The musclemen and the monarch created a web to hook the common people dividing this society in two parts, one to govern and other to be governed. The governed section of the society has further bisected the governed in many pieces in the name of religion, region, caste and creed.

Thus undisputed evident that the govern-

ing people use some Moulvies to issue *Fatwa* not to join the agitation against corruption and used Hindu preachers like Agnivesh, a person who is ousted from the Arya Samaj section to which he earlier belonged, is further exposed by cheating to fiddle out the agitations.

There is section of intellectuals, educationists, journalists, renowned lawyers or retired justices, economists, politicians and bureaucrats who are working as team to secure the existing governing families and their society dividing ideologies to meet their vested interests too. Such personalities have patronage of the governing machinery by placing them on prize posts, entrusting them to hold investigations, making them as interlocutor, letting them to organise seminars with all the freedom to speak against the reformers upto extent of supporting the separatists, terrorists and their narrations nearly reach the status of traitor.

The present utterances of learned CM of J and K State to the extent of challenging the Indian sovereignty, placing the Kashmiri Muslim as a separate global identity and threatening of the mass violent uprising in the Kashmir Valley exposes the political tricks being implemented here and there in the nation. The media has telecasted a discussion "Will Muslim accept Modi" on his congratulating of Muslim community on the eve of Ramzan. What the media desired to tell? Are they supporting those elements that are bent upon to divide Indian section on religious card for the coming elections?

Some of the journalists have suspected a division between Kashmiri Muslims and non-Kashmiri Muslims on one section celebrating 13th July as a Martyred day and the other as black day. Can one deny that the Kashmiri Muslims are fanatically used by those Valley centric leaders who had created political camouflage to grab the state throne in the Dogra regime? Can one justify the call given to the Kashmiri Muslims for raising *Jihad* against the non-Kashmiri Muslims? Can one explain why the non-Kashmiri Muslims are exiled and the governing machinery still not exerting to resettle them at their own land? How the Valley centric leaders boost for the Kashmiri culture in extending co-existence at tough times? Which is that time when they have done so? Are they not hiding their spirit of

establishing Nizam-e-Mustafa publicized shape of governing to settle a particular family? Can Indian government explain about their silence on the present state political situation which is reminding the 1953 era?

Fairly it appears as the upper society is divided in two parts one that are clinched to govern and the other who starve for it but the common Indians are victimised by the both. This is entirely in the national political arena where they are exclusively involved finding fault in each other. More they shout more perhaps they feel secure by hiding their corruption, mishandled governing and one after other follies. Are they ignorant that they are dragging nation again on British two national theories? Are they confident in holding the nation together under such blundered ideologies? Where these politicians are compelling this society to stand and how long remain silent or continue bearing this torture? The Judiciary is the only one arm of the democratic constitutional body which tries best to its limitations to check the political blunders. The latest verdict of debarring the criminals to vote or contest is not openly criticised by the politicians but perturbed politicians are exploring their escape route. They can't tolerate their number game to flop as many such heads shall roll down in the various political parties.

The political arena has not remained a nation building field by turning to simple political trading. Here the academic or technical qualifications have no consideration to become part of a law-making body nor does it have any constitutional obligation neither to remain disciplined in handling national governing system nor to remain in gentleman language speech. Obnoxious words are used by the top political leaders which are either supplemented by his party men or party isolates itself explaining that of his individual remark.

At the same time some of the leaders stoop low in alleging Indian agencies for the martyred Indian soldiers in the terrorist attacks and the central government acts as deaf and dumb lot having no national obligations. They justify their silence to maintain healthy coalition ideology. The common people are practically bearing the slavery imposed by the politicians, how long it shall continue is stored in the future.

## Like vultures, they fight for remains

A SURYA PRAKASH

One wonders as to which of these is the bigger tragedy: The loss of thousands of human lives in Uttarakhand or the lack of national unity and absence of civilised conduct among our politicians?

Apart from the death and devastation that it brought in its wake, the Uttarakhand disaster has brought to the fore the ugly side of politics, the complete lack of civility and decency in inter-party relations and regional politics in its most repulsive form. While at the national level, one saw lack of decorum in the exchanges between the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party when the entire country was in mourning over the tragic loss of lives in Uttarakhand, the people have also come face to face with an obnoxious form of regionalism that poses a grave danger to national unity, and the feeling of oneness.

Before we discuss these disturbing developments, a word about the decline of national parties and the mushroomed growth of regional political forces over the last three decades. The last time a single party obtained a clear majority in the Lok Sabha was in 1984. Thereafter, the Union Government has been run either by a minority government with assured outside support or by a coalition of disparate parties. The proliferation of small parties is best explained by the fact that in 1957, the second Lok Sabha had MPs representing 12 political parties.

Fifty years hence, there were MPs belonging to 42 political parties in this House.

These regional parties first gain seats in the State legislatures and, thereafter, convert this electoral power into seats in Parliament.

Meanwhile, the Congress and the BJP are engaged in an unseemly tussle to run down each other and garner the support of regional parties for their alliances. While one lived with such unpleasant spats in relatively normal times, it is tragic to see the two parties carrying on a no-holds barred fight in the midst of the Himalayan tragedy in Uttarakhand. For example, the Union Minister for Home Affairs and other Congress leaders objected to Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Uttarakhand and said politicians should stay away, forgetting that the Prime Minister and the Congress president had started it all via an aerial survey. They were also unable to proffer similar advice to Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhi.

Even more tragic was Uttarakhand Chief Minister Vijay Bahuguna's refusal to accept help offered by Modi and others. Bahuguna said he did not want a parallel rescue operation by the Gujarat Government. That is understandable, but surely ways could have been devised to take the help of other States. The impact of regional politics is even worse. The last 30 years have seen the emergence of dozens of regional and even local parties whose USP is their irrational and, at times, mindless commitment to what they see as 'State interest'. For example, there are political leaders in the Janata Dal

(Secular) in Karnataka and in some of the smaller parties in Tamil Nadu who challenge even judicial pronouncements on highly volatile issues like the sharing of Cauvery waters, in order to retain their hold over the electors in their States. Such partisanship has also been seen in Punjab and Haryana on the sharing of waters or resolving boundary disputes and in the Telangana region in Andhra Pradesh on the demand for Statehood.

However, no one had ever seen such naked display of partisanship and shameless regionalism in the aftermath of a national calamity, as one did soon after the rampaging floods took their toll in Uttarakhand. Since the Badrinath-Kedarnath yatra is popular among Hindus in all regions of the country and a large number of Hindus undertake this pilgrimage every year, these centres were flooded with pilgrims from across the land. There were hundreds and even thousands of pilgrims from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Karnataka and many other States in this ill-fated state when disaster struck.

While in the past, the Centre and many States unilaterally offered help to the affected State and the latter graciously accepted the help offered, Uttarakhand 2013 saw a new, ugly regional dimension to disaster management and many politicians from other States began vying with one another to help the victims from their respective States.

printing of MRP realistically after considering various input costs and reasonable profits of the manufacturer, wholesaler and retailer.

Raj Kiran Nowshera

## Intelligence overhaul must for best results

Dear Editor, The country's intelligence agencies are being handled, nay abused, by the UPA regime. However, there is another aspect that needs to be reviewed urgently: The modernisation of our intelligence services and setting up of a Central agency that receives inputs and provides analyses. One can say this with confidence that the Research and Analysis Wing has some of the best brains and human intelligence at its command, but when it comes to technology, it ranks lower than Pakistan's Directorate for Inter-Services Intelligence.

To reinvent and strengthen our intelligence mechanism, we also need to overhaul our education system, and put in place colleges and universities that offer courses and expertise in such fields. But most importantly, the intelligence agencies, especially the CBI need to be freed from government control, to extract the best out of them.

D Gill Via web

## Left may miss the bandwagon

SHIKHA MUKERJEE

The zig-zagging course of politics has decreed the campaign for the 2014 general election will be delirious and frenzied, in contrast to the feverish and hectic efforts. Every political party senses an opportunity to be part of the anticipated complexity of government formation after the results are out. Somewhat hesitantly, the CPI(M) and its Left allies have put in a bid, with a 10-point alternative of 'policies' that are as obvious as they are stale.

The collective leadership of the Left has arrived at what are only foregone conclusions; the coalition of 'democratic and secular' forces will begin their fruitless or fruit-futile negotiations to cobble together an alternative government only after the results are out. There will be no pre-poll alliances, the leadership has ruled. The second conclusion is as unreal as it reveals a fussy tidiness that is at total variance to the chaos of Indian politics: A three month period from July when the leadership will engage in conversations with other parties. And finally, a wary statement from CPI(M) General Secretary Prakash Karat, that, "If you can run a big political campaign, this alternative can be formed."

Before the CPI(M) and its partners could settle down to initiating the conversations, the Samajwadi Party sent an emissary to the popularly best known CPI(M) leader from West Bengal, Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee in Kolkata. The signal was obvious; the Samajwadi Party needed to understand what the West Bengal party thought about an alternative, because the differences in perception within the CPI(M) have created problems in the past for coalition makers.

The insularity of the CPI(M)'s West Bengal leadership has reached a point in recent years where it seems to have nothing to contribute to the nation's politics. This abdication of responsibility is in contrast to its representation at the top table of the party, where, at least formally, four of the leaders are permanently ensconced. The emissary from Mulayam Singh Yadav was a prod to West Bengal to get out of the hole into which it had scuttled after the 2011 poll debacle.

Nothing could be more different from the days when Jyoti Basu was the leader of the Opposition in West Bengal before 1977. After he became Chief Minister, he organised two Opposition conclaves - of course before and after 1996 - when his qualities as statesman and capabilities as coalition leader were acknowledged by the collective that was eager to form an alternative United Front Government. With the launch of the year-long celebration of Basu's centenary by the CPI(M), it is perhaps the appropriate moment to consider what he believed was the party's destiny in India's politics. Basu clearly believed that the CPI(M) had a significant role to play in national politics. The ultimate objective of that role was very correctly Marxian, leading a people's struggle that would establish a people's democracy. But given his level-headed practical sensibilities, Jyoti Basu had limited the contribution of the CPI(M) to the realm of what was realistically possible. The 2014 election presents an opportunity to the CPI(M) to break out of its isolation in Indian politics and rejoin the discourse, not as a failed and pitiable outsider, but as one of the original members of the fluid but constant alternative, variously described as Third Front, Fourth Front and now Federal Front. In order to do so, the CPI(M) has to make up its mind whether indeed the Congress and the BJP are as bad as each other and, therefore, equally untouchable. In the eventuality of a fractured verdict that throws up the possibility of the alternative as a coalition having to combine with the two big national parties - the Congress or the BJP - the CPI(M) must know what it will do.

For the CPI(M) to sit out, yet another term in Parliament, as an inconsequential party would be unfortunate. To be seen without ambition and without a few significant wooers in the run up to the election would be disastrous for it in West Bengal. If the CPI(M) is going to be part of no potential government and if it is not going to play king-maker in some obvious way, then the voter may well consider it a poor choice in West Bengal in 2014.

## Subliminal Modi-complex

Dear Editor,

The irresponsible statement that there is a link between the Bothi Gaya blasts and Modi made by senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh explicitly represents his subliminal Modi-complex, which unfortunately seems to have spread like a contagious disease within the Congress party. In fact, whenever Congress leaders say something negative about opposition leaders they are not at all playing any politics, but a type of deliberate *Goondaism*, which would categorically harm the Congress party in the coming elections. Leaders of the ruling party should know how to speak wisely, correctly and on the basis of evidence about leaders of the Opposition party. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru would certainly have dismissed such leaders from his party, had they dared make such a cheap statement against any opposition party or leader. He always stressed that a political leader in India must be a man of prestige and status, rank and esteem, respect and self-respect. However, Digvijay's statement, the Congress party should recognise it, seems to be encouraging terrorists to perpetrate attacks. In the past, Digvijay had also made goofy and preposterous remarks. His Osamaji remark still surprises, amuses and angers the whole country.

P. N Bali Jammu

Today, before the UN General Assembly, Malala delivered a speech of substance, power, and grace. This speech deserves to be heard. This speech deserves to be read. Furthermore, the mantle of a woman who had spoken at the UN, and would have been known by many of those in the audience. Indeed a mantle of power, yet contrasted beautifully against the phrase "dear brothers and sisters", which appears in almost every paragraph, and reminds the audience of whom Malala ultimately represents: the young. A triple trilogy of power. A similar evocation of power appears later, in a trio of trilogies Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani activist, student, UN messenger of peace and the youngest Nobel Laureate. As co-founder of Malala Fund, she is building a world where every girl can learn and lead without fear. New York, New York. Bismillah hir rahman ir rahim. In the name of God, the most merciful, the most beneficent. Young girls have to do domestic child labour and are forced to get married at early age. Poverty, ignorance, injustice, racism and the deprivation of basic rights are the main problems faced by both men and women. Dear fellows, today I am focusing on women's rights and girls' education because they are suffering the most. Malala delivered this address on education to the United Nations Youth Assembly on 'Malala Day', her 16th birthday. Education campaigner Malala Yousafzai delivers a speech to the UN on her sixteenth birthday, Malala Day Photograph: Stan Honda/AFP/Getty Images. Education campaigner Malala Yousafzai delivers a speech to the UN on her sixteenth birthday, Malala Day Photograph: Stan Honda/AFP/Getty Images. Fri 12 Jul 2013 17.15 BST. This is a transcription of the speech that Malala Yousafzai gave to the United Nations on 12 July 2013, the date of her 16th birthday and "Malala Day" As, our little girls defy the TTP in swat and choose wisdom over suppression, Malala speaks at the UN. Listening to her speech was not only moving, but inspiring. I believe, it's because of the likes of her, the young bright minds of our young nation, I keep hope that just might one day we could become 'one of the greatest nations of the world', as envisioned by our father M. Ali Jinnah. I believe that, in the time of despair and chaos, when our own blood washes our streets, the message of education and wisdom coming from our little sister at the UN, with the whole world listening becomes even more important and urgent. Let's just for once say, that our nation shall not fear the ideology of extremist Kharijites and our rights and freedoms shall not be