

The fragrance of flowers spreads only in the direction of the wind. But the goodness of a person spreads in all directions. -Chanakya

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

November 25 is observed as International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women for the raise awareness around the world that women are subjected to rape, domestic violence and other forms of violence. The crime against women seems to be increasing at an alarming rate. Crime is endemic to the human condition, but a crime specifically directed at one sex is most despicable and unfortunately, the one that is punished least. It is found that the media exposure and all the legislation have little impact. Legislation introduced by the government is often merely tokenism. One would find that the problem before the majority of women in our country is not equality but survival. There is scarcely a day when cases of rape or a dowry murder are not reported from different parts of the country. The Pati-Parmeshwar has rudely and gradually been brought down to earth. The scenario for women seems grim indeed and this will continue so long as the basic social and economic structures remain unchanged and the implementing and law and order agencies show indifference. The thinking of society has to change and parents must value their daughters on a par with their sons and should give them the same advantages and means of independence. The law which is implemented for this purpose must also demonstrate that it will come down with a heavy hand on offenders otherwise we can put an end to this problem. Despite the existing legislation to protect women's rights women hesitate to take any step because of their own weak social and economics status. The movement for improving women's status should form part of the struggle against all inequalities and indignities prevalent in society. I would like to point out that while laws alone cannot put an end to evils that are endemic in the social structure, the government can at least make some attempt to take its own enactments seriously. The condition of women is one of the most remarkable circumstances in the manner of nations. Among rude people the women are generally degraded, among civilised people they are exalted." If the stories of rape and torture of women in India that have hit the headlines recently are anything to go by, then can we consider India to be a developing country? Among the worst countries in crime, India has an abhorrent track record in all forms of sexual exploitation. In homes, on streets, in public transports, at offices, even on vacations. No place is safe. And the most terrible fall out of this is the lack of self worth and feeling of degradation following the emotional and physical trauma that constant harassment creates. Such is the recurrence of these incidents that Delhi has earned the ignoble nickname of the 'Rape Capital'. While most cases go unreported as it is considered an act that puts one to shame, only 20% of the registered cases for sexual harassment reach actual conviction. In every 10 rape cases, 6 are of minor girls. Every 7 minutes, a crime is committed against women. Every 26 minutes, a woman is molested. Every 34 minutes, a rape takes place. Every 42 minutes, a sexual harassment incident occurs. Every 43 minutes, a woman is kidnapped. Every 93 minutes, a woman is burnt to death for dowry, really a shameful plight. The thinking of society has to change and parents must value their daughters on a par with their sons and should give them the same advantages and means of independence. It is rightly pointed out that "The subject of gender based violence, especially against women is complex, multilayered." The crime is an endemic to the human condition, but a crime specifically directed at one sex is most despicable and unfortunately, the one that is punished least. One would find that the problem before the majority of women in our country is not equality but survival. There is scarcely a day when cases of rape or a dowry murder are not reported from different parts of the country. Despite the existing legislation to protect women's rights women hesitate to take any step because of their own weak social and economic status. The movement for improving women's status should form part of the struggle against all inequalities and indignities prevalent in society. While laws alone cannot put an end to evils that are endemic in the social structure, government should come out with much more essence and urgency to check the indecent behaviour against women folks, and the need to chart out stern measures on the part of administrative authorities for curbing down such events.

OFF 'D' CUFF Anger or Sadness?

When you are faced with hurt or rejection, what emotion do you experience, anger or sadness? When you are denied love, when you are forced to face a calamity, do you get angry or feel sad? Most of us do both, alternately and it is often difficult to separate these emotions. Sadness leads to anger, and anger gives way to sadness. Among these two emotions, anger is often destructive, to oneself, but mostly to others. It can lead us into verbal or actual violence, and we might land up hurting ourselves and others. Sadness, on the other hand, is usually restricted to oneself. Whether we feel sad or angry when faced with adverse circumstances depends on our basic personality, and on the event itself. A death of a near and dear one usually brings more sorrow than anger. Being insulted by someone usually brings more anger than sadness. But depending on who we are, what has been our upbringing and conditioning, and what our basic personality is (aggressive versus passive) we tend to gravitate to either anger or sadness. In the long run, both emotions are self-destructive and cause us pain and ill health. While it is normal and often needed to go through these initial emotions, we cannot afford to stay with these emotions indefinitely. We know of people who are still angry at events which happened decades ago and are not able to overcome their anger when they think or talk about past events. We also know people who have held on to sorrow for events that happened many years ago. These emotions which we hold deep in our consciousness, often form blocks and impede our day to day lives, our relationships, our interactions with others, and are often the beginning point of many a symptom and disease in the future. While it is natural to go through a phase of anger and/or sadness when life is harsh, what we need to do as time passes, is to learn to process these emotions. These emotions, unless processed, always lie dormant in our subconscious minds. And they usually act like magnets, attracting more and more circumstances and people who hurt us, irritate us, reject us or damage us, so that we can trace back the origin of these events to the negative energies of anger and sorrow we hold inside us. -P V Vaidyanathan

BJP to retain power in Gujarat

LECTIONS TO THE 182-member Gujarat Assembly will be held in two phases next month - on December 1 and 5. In the first phase, 89 seats will go to polls on December 1 and remaining 93 seats will go to polls on December 5 in the second phase. Congress, had put up a strong fight in the last assembly polls, is now seeking to oust BJP from power in Gujarat and AAP is also seeking to make its presence felt in the state and therefore the challenge has increased in this election. The BJP has won six consecutive assembly polls in Gujarat. Gujarat is a stronghold of the BJP. It is the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. The party has been in power in the western state for 27 years. It is reported that Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel's name is proposed as the candidate of the Ghatlodiya constituency of Ahmedabad ahead of the state Assembly polls. He belongs to the Kadva sub-caste of the influential Patidar community and holds a

diploma in civil engineering. Nearly 50 BJP workers unanimously demanded to give the ticket to Bhupendra Patel for the said seat. This time it seems BJP is not fighting the Gujarat state election to avert defeat but to increase its victory margins and win a greater number of seats in the 182-member assembly. When the BJP came to power in the state in 1995, it won 121 seats; that peaked 127 seats with Narendra Modi as Chief Minister in 2002, after the vicious riots earlier that year. In the second Modi-led election in 2007, the BJP got 117 seats; in 2012, it got 115 seats. The peak for the BJP was 127 seats and the lowest was 99. It never came close to the record of 149 seats won by the Congress under the leadership of Madhavsinh Solanki in year 1985. This time, according to the opinion poll, the BJP is projected to win between 131 and 139 seats in the 182-member Gujarat Assembly. In the previous Assembly polls in 2017, the BJP had won 99 seats. The Congress' tally is expected to drop precipitously from 77 seats in 2017 to

between 31 and 39 seats this time. According to the P-MARQ opinion poll, the BJP is predicted to win 127-140 seats out of the total 182 as against the 99 seats which the saffron party bagged in last assembly election. If the BJP indeed wins 127-140 seats in the Gujarat Assembly Election 2022, the saffron party may win the highest number of seats since 2002. The survey has put AAP below BJP and Congress, with Kejriwal's party expected to secure only 7-15 seats. While Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP's performance will be satisfactory, Congress, despite its 'Bharat Jodo Abhiyan', will be left disappointed in Gujarat. No doubt, with its aggressive campaign, AAP is projecting itself as the main challenger to BJP in the state. The Congress party suffered a significant setback when one of its most influential figures, Ahmed Patel, died of complications related to a COVID infection the previous year. Hardik Patel, another important figure, announced his resignation from Congress earlier this year and joined BJP. This time the arithmetic seems

tilted towards the BJP as it has roped in Patidar leader Hardik Patel and OBC leader Alpesh Thakor under its fold. Bhupendra Patel will remain the Chief Minister of Gujarat if BJP secures a majority in the next month's Assembly elections. Bharatiya Janata Party leader and Ghatlodiya MLA Bhupendra Patel took oath as the 17th Chief Minister of Gujarat. It is believed that Patel holds a strong influence in the Patidar community in Gujarat which the BJP has banked upon to win the upcoming elections. The Patidars are a dominant caste in Gujarat with a sizeable control over the electoral votes. The Gujarat contest this time will be more interesting. Gujarat has been a BJP stronghold for a long time, and the party has set its sights on returning to power with a handsome majority this time. If BJP gets a majority in Gujarat, Bhupendra Patel will be the next chief minister and Gujarat will break all records and will win with the most number of seats.

Why India & not Bharat?

ARTICLE 1 (1) of our constitution deals the name of the country as 'India, that is Bharat'. Thus the original name of the country 'BHARAT' has been mentioned as auxiliary or associate name. Consequently, 'Constitution of Bharat' became 'Constitution of India' and everywhere term 'India' has been used and popularised. Our culture & civilization is oldest in the world and the country's name is actually Bharatvarsha. The ancient texts like Purans and Gita refer the country as Bharat. The name Bharat comes from the name of Chakravarti Samrat Bharat, the ancient brave king of the land and son of King Dushyant & Queen Shakuntala. Vishnu Puran mentions the territorial boundaries of the country as 'Uttaramyanya tyamudra syahima deshachaiva dakshinam. Varsham tadu Bharatam nama Bharatoya trasantatih.' (meaning, the country that lies north of the ocean and south of the snowy mountains is called Bharat). In the epic Mahabharat, our motherland has been mentioned as Bharatvarsha. The empire built and ruled by King Bharat included not just modern country's territories but other surrounding countries like Pakistan, Bangla Desh, Burma (BrahmDesh), Nepal, Tibet, Afganistan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Iran, China, Malaysia, Indonesia and some other regions. It is said that present name India has been derived from Sindhu, the great holy river in the north-west. The Persian called the river 'Hindu' and Greek 'Indu'. The first reference to name India in old English is known to be used in King Alfred's

translation of Orosius, a history of world events written in Latin in 5th Century. After this we were known by different names by Mughals, French, Spanish, Portuguese. Our land was called Hindustan by Mughals, which was changed and popularized to India by East India Company as they knew us since King Alfred. In August 1858, British parliament passed the 'Government of India Act' for transferring power from East India Company to the Crown and consequently our official name became India, which has not been changed even after independence. The name 'India' imposed by the English coloniser is a symbol of slavery and it hurts the sentiments, self-respect, culture and civilization of Bharatiya people. The continuance of the term 'India' in place of 'Bharat' even after 73 years of independence is not only shameful, but undemocratic, anti-people as well as anti-national. Is there any country named 'Bharat' on the world map? Does any foreign country know about the existence of a country as 'Bharat' in the world? Does even a foreigner who comes, travels & lives here, know that he is in 'Bharat'? Obviously, by Indian Independence Act, 1947, 'India' got independence, but 'Bharat' not only remain chained, but lost its existence. We must take lesson from those countries who have re-established their original name at independence or thereafter, such as 'Ceylon' to 'Sri Lanka', 'Dutch Guyana' to 'Surinam', Gold Coast to Ghana, Nyasaland to Malawi, Northern Rhodesia to Zambia, Southern Rhodesia to Zimbabwe, Congo to Zaire, East Bengal (East Pakistan) to Bangla Desh, Zanzibar to Tanzania, Persia to Iran,

Mesopotamia to Iraq, Formosa to Taiwan, Siam to Thailand, Burma to Myanmar, Holland to Netherland, South West Africa to Namibia, Bechuanaland to Botswana etc. Although, in Sanskrit literature Burma's name is Brahm Desh. Even in our country, hundreds of towns have been rechristened, notably Bombay to Mumbai, Calcutta to Kolkata, Madras to Chennai, Bangalore to Bengaluru, Allahabad to Prayag, Gurgaon to Gurugram, Baroda to Vadodara, Trivandrum to Thiruvananthapuram, Waltair to Vishakhapatnam, Tanjore to Thanjavur, Cawnpore to Kanpur, Calicut to Kozhikode, Cape Comorin to Kanyakumari, Monghyr to Munger, Mughalsarai to Deendayalnagar, Aurangabad to Shambhajnagar, Osmanabad to Dharashiv, Hoshangabad to Narmadapuram, Nasrullahganj to Bhairunda etc. In 2011, the name of the State 'Orissa' was changed to 'Odisha'. Numerous other cities or places to be rechristened are either in pipeline or are in future agenda of the governments. This has been done not only by government of a particular Party, but by several conflicting ideologies minded parties. Also, thousands of villages, districts, stations, institutions, colleges, universities have been renamed by governments as well as civil society. The 'Parliament' and the 'Central Government' must amend the constitution's Article 1(1) to rechristen country's name from 'India, that is Bharat' to 'Bharatvarsha, that is Bharat' or simply 'BHARAT', so that the country may be known as unique name in place of variety of names. (The author is a technocrat and academician).

Rahul Gandhi, Savarkar & politics of hypocrisy

FLASHING A clemency letter written by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar to the British from the Cellular jail, Rahul Gandhi has once again done a favour to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) recently. The BJP has all its weaponry ready against the Congress in its strong turf Gujarat, which the party has always been accused of turning into its Hindutva laboratory. Rahul Gandhi's untimely political gesture against Veer Savarkar needs to be categorised as the result of a political tutoring unsupplied with unadulterated facts. This could also be rated as his inability to sense the political temperature building up in the state of Gujarat. The results of the state's elections would definitely be seen as an indication to what the country is eagerly waiting for: the mega battle 2024- the national elections. Modi with his arms and armaments is all set to break his own record and the tripartite political war that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) could transform the narrative about the Gujarat elections as, is going to be a show of strength of the Hindutva that the BJP has so far been nurturing. Savarkar, for no reason could be counted as a coward by anybody with a sense of political understanding as the torture he had undergone was humongous. Despite his being blamed for writing the clemency letters repeatedly, the period that Savarkar spent in the Cellular Jail from 1911 to 1924 had been a period of harassment that no other political prisoners, who later rose to hold positions in an independent India did go through. But to consider his Hindu sentiments and intellectual orientation to support a Hindu majoritarian state as an attitude of vehemence of a Hindu fanatic would equally help the Congress to alienate the party further from the community. The setbacks that the Congress party had at the hands of the Sangh Parivar consolidation both politically and culturally have been irretrievable. The Congress and its leaders have consistently been steering controversies on Savarkar ever since his death. It was A P J Abdul Kalam who unveiled the portrait of Savarkar in the Central Hall of Parliament in 2003. The event was boycotted by the entire opposition and Sonia Gandhi, camping with other opposition leaders, wrote a letter to A P J Abdul Kalam asking him not to attend the function. Most of the parties that opposed the BJP government's move had justified their stand by saying that they did not want to 'give credibility to the activities and divisive policies' of Savarkar. Interestingly, the Congress had been perplexed and literally suffocated and struggling to justify its Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairperson Nazma Heptulla's attending the unveiling ceremony. The party seemed to have been confused almost every occasion when it came out sharpening its claws against Savarkar. The reason why Savarkar's detractors and critics undervalue his patriotic personality is the letters that he is blamed to have written to the British administration. There are split views on his clemency letters. While one view points out his letters as mere clemency inscriptions, the other view sounds that he appealed for a reduction in his sentence and a transfer to another prison. But the fact of the matter is, despite the Congress and the other political opponents of the BJP driving their campaign against Savarkar's bravery, their detractive views have not so much trickled into India's nationalistic sentiments. Large numbers of Indians view the veteran freedom fighter as a unique personality who underwent unprecedented persecution in the dungeons of the British jails and his attempts for clemency, if any, with contextual intonation, could be justified as a well thought-out approach to come out revamped for a better

fight against the colonial hegemony. 'The Indian War of Independence of 1857' written by Savarkar had been an intelligent tribute to the war heroes of the first Independent struggle against the British fiefdom. The first impulse of revolt in a large scale against the British Empire could have been minimised as a sheepish attempt of mutiny by a small number of Indian soldiers, if the book authored by V.D Savarkar did not gain publicity. The book is a well documented referential guide which did justice to all the martyrs of the rebellion and their sacrifice. The British had enough reasons to address the man in their secret confinement as the 'most dangerous'. Savarkar, as he begins his book categorically inscribes addressing the revolutionary upheaval as an outcome of the intense desire of patriots who wanted to set their country free and a passionate attempt to restore the ethos of their religion. This extraordinary revolt was not only against the British crookedness behind the greased bullets but also a war in the offing against the British Raj. The narrative that was established in a post independent India describing Gandhi's nonviolent means of mobilization as the solitary winning strategy that India gained freedom with, could systematically undermine the contribution of a large number of revolutionaries. Savarkar, through his endeavours to gain freedom for India remained one of the best examples as a patriot to a genuine student of India's independence struggle. His sacrifice was untainted and decisively genuine than that of Jawaharlal Nehru and many others. The level of his patriotic intellectualism was indisputably visible as we see him jump from the ship midway when the British arrested and transported him to India. As a young patriotic revolutionary, his political asylum at the shores of France did not sustain as a series of Anglo-French repartees overturned his ambitious experiment to escape. The Congress has consistently been in denial and deliberately oblivious to the momentum that the ideology that Savarkar nurtured and the pace with which it began to gain relevance in India. Savarkar's book 'Essentials of Hindutva' deals with the basics of Hinduism. This book has evidential revelations and ideological convictions shining with much clarity. No doubt, the Hindutva that the Sangh Parivar has been channelizing its energy for has mostly been extracted from the ideals that Savarkar had spoken about. To substantiate his ideas of Hindutva, Savarkar wrote, "This one word, Hindutva, ran like a vital spinal cord through our whole body politic and made the Nayars of Malabar weep over the sufferings of the Brahmins in Kashmir. Our bards bewailed the fall of Hindus, our seers roused the feelings of Hindus, our heroes fought the battle of Hindus, our saints blessed the efforts of Hindus, our statesmen moulded the fate of Hindus, and our mothers wept over the wounds and gloried over the triumph of Hindus." India's present political context is principally driven by the consciousness that an untouchable nationalist of the Congress, V.D Savarkar generated. To counter his eminence in the midst of a newly invigorated Hindutva sensationalism will be a herculean task for the Congress. If it keeps hammering on projecting him as the underdog of India's independence struggle, except his grey beard, nothing about his understanding and appearance would narrate Rahul Gandhi's maturity. But of course, his political rant on Savarkar had given him a media mileage, though his Bharat Jodo Yatra could not create a pan India narrative for change. (The author is a freelance Journalist/ Social Worker and views expressed are his personal).

PROGRESSING J&K Waste to Wealth: Distt Admn Rajouri recycling waste to save environment

THE recycling of waste to create manure and sell plastic for recycling is becoming very effective way of combating the immediate threat it possesses to environment as well as preventing the outbreak of diseases in Sunderbani area of Rajouri district. The constant piling of garbage and waste was a cause of concern for Sunderbani administration who saw land-filling as only option, which is not environment friendly. Sensing the gravity of the situation, the district administration Rajouri led by Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal, immediately recognized the need for scientific waste disposal. The Deputy Commissioner Rajouri held regular brainstorming sessions with the Chairperson Municipal Council (MC), Sunderbani, officers of MC Sunderbani and other councilors to come up with a solution. After regular sessions it was decided to treat the solid waste technologically and utilise the end product as compost for agriculture fields. To address the issue, the Administration decided to restore the defunct Solid Waste management plant so that the waste is disposed off in environmental friendly manner. After restoration of plant, the uphill task for the Municipal Committee was the collection of the waste, the segregation of the waste, and the transportation of the garbage to the treatment plant/Solid Waste Management Plant. The task was overcome by deployment of waste collection buses in all wards for waste collection. Special committees of the senior citizens of the concerned wards were also constituted to look after their wards for required waste collection and segregation. The committees ensured proper cleanliness by MC workers and motivated public to segregate waste at home and dispose off it properly during the morning in waste collection vans. The step was welcomed by the public, and people started to flock towards the waste vans in morning to pour the segregated waste into the waste-collection vans. The Administration deployed ten people in the treatment plant who segregate the waste at the plant and ensure only the required waste is being poured into the plant. Importantly, only biodegradable waste is brought to the treatment facility, while the plastic waste is being sold to the local vendors for Rs 32 per kg. The biodegradable waste brought to the facility for further treatment is then converted into manure. "We are making money out of waste. Our treatment plant is operational, and produced 1600 kg of compost till date, of which 400 kg have been sold to agencies, farmers, and residents at Rs 12 per kg," said Executive Officer, MC Sunderbani. President MC Sunderbani says initiative has improved the cleanliness of the city at a larger scale and we are hopeful that Subdarbani will get a better ranking this time. He is also praise for Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, for extending help in the revival of this old and defunct plant. "Waste is wealth. We are implementing the most effective waste management model-one that is both cost-effective and profitable-and the district administration is working to replicate it in other municipal committees and councils throughout the district," Vikas Kundal said. The time has come for everyone to join hands and make history in Rajouri, to make it the cleanest city, he added. The Deputy also highlighted that specific steps are being taken to make Rajouri a clean and beautiful city; MRF facilities in most of the MCs have been completed and will be commissioned soon. He also said that separate land for the establishment of a solid waste management plant has been identified in other MCs of district. Kundal also said that it is an effort of the MCs that one of our MC Kalakote has received the Swachh Survakshes Award-2022 which is testimony that we are committed to ensuring better living conditions for the public.