

CHANGING CLIMATE

Earlier, climate change was caused by natural events such as solar changes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis and Earth's orbital changes, etc. But ever since human civilization started developing, a lot has changed on earth. Big industries started being built. The humans of the 21st century have been bitten by the bug of greed. It is because of this greed that we humans started deforestation and excessive use of fossil fuels. It is because of us that pollution of earth and water has expanded. The first reason for climate change is the ruthless cutting of trees. People are cutting trees indiscriminately. He gets good profit by selling the wood. He is also using wood in the furniture of his house. By cutting trees, he gets good and sufficient space there to build a house and do farming. Today, a lot of problems are happening in the world due to climate change. People are facing floods. Today we are not even getting food grains properly. Both nature and humans are responsible for climate change. We have to make people aware about this.

Republic Day (26 January) - Common man & The Constitution

■ MAHADEEP SINGH JAMWAL

When the populace of India put together to commemorate 75th republic day, it takes us to the Constitution of India crafted by Dr. BR Ambedkar, solidifying India's status as an independent republic. Republic Day is joyously observed throughout India as a day to commemorate the Constitution of Independent India that replaced the colonial Government of India Act of 1935. With the 1950 constitution, the country was officially came to known as the Republic of India, a "sovereign socialist secular democratic republic" (The terms "Socialist", "Secular", and "Integrity" were added to the Preamble of Indian Constitution in 1976 through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment) that "secures all its citizens justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity," according to its preamble. While discussing with reference to the Constitution we should be well informed about how it came into an arrangement? Prior to adoption of the Constitution, India was governed by 'Government of India Act, 1935' that was rejected by INC in 1936, as it imposed the Constitution which was against the will of the Indians, and demand for a Constituent Assembly was raised that was accepted by the British in August 1940. The elections for the 296 seats assigned to the British Indian provinces were completed by August 1946. The Constituent Assembly of India, consisting of indirectly elected representatives, was established to draft a constitution for India that met for the first time in New Delhi on 9 December 1946, and its last session was held on 26 November 1949 adopting the Constitution that was signed by 284 members of the Constituent Assembly on 24th of January and ultimately 'The Constitution of India' came into effect on 26th of January 1950, as such 26th January is celebrated as Republic Day' in India. The national slogan of the Indian Constitution is "Satyamev Jayate" or "Truth always wins".

The Constitution is a set of laws and rules that sets up the machinery of the Government which defines and determines the relations between the different institutions and components of the government, the executives, the legislature, the judiciary, the central, and the local government. The Constitution is the fundamental law of a nation that outlines the powers and limitations of the government and the rights and duties of its citizens. The constitution sets the framework for the governance of the country, and serves as a safeguard against abuse of power. The basic objective of our Constitution is to ensure the liberty and dignity of the individual and to place fundamental human rights above the reach of the state and temporary politicians in power.

What safeguard the Constitution has given to a common man? When we traverse on this horizon, we find the Constitution has given the following fundamental rights to the common man. 1. Right to equality (Article 14-18), 2 Right to freedom (Article 19-22), 3 Right against exploitation (Article 23-24), 4 Right to freedom of religion (Article 25-28), 5 Cultural and educational rights (Article 29-30), 6 Right to constitutional remedies (Article 32-35) and 7 right to property (Added by 44th Amendment Act 1978 of the Constitution of India). In India, our Constitution allows fundamental duties, directive principles and fundamental rights to the citizens. The purpose of these sections is to ensure that everything is divided equally in creating a better nation and to constitute India into a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic country.

The Indian Constitution is known as a bag of borrowings and draws its features from the Constitutions of many countries. There are various provisions borrowed from other nations but they are absorbed in the Indian Constitution to suit its polity and governance. Dr BR Ambedkar rightly said that it was created after ransacking the known Constitutions across the world. The borrowed features for Indian Constitution from various countries are: 1 Government of India act of 1935 (Emergency provisions, Public service commission, Judiciary system, Federal scheme, Office of governor), 2 Australia (Concurrent list seventh schedule, Freedom of trade and commerce, Joint sitting of the two houses of parliament), 3 Canada (Federation with a strong Centre, Vesting of residuary powers in the Centre, Appointment of state governors by the Centre and Advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court), 4 Ireland (Directive Principles of State Policy, Nomination of members to Rajya Sabha, Method of election of the president), 5 Japan (Procedure Established by law), 6 Soviet Union (Fundamental duties, Ideals of justice (social, economic and political) in the Preamble), 7 United Kingdom (Parliamentary government, Rule of Law, Legislative procedure, Single Citizenship, Cabinet system, Prerogative writs, Parliamentary privileges and Bicameralism), 8 United States of America (Fundamental rights, Judicial review, Impeachment of the President, Removal of the Supreme Court judge and High Court judge, Preamble of the Constitution Independence of the judiciary, Electoral college, Post of vice-president), 9 Germany (Suspension of Fundamental Rights during emergency), 10 South Africa (Procedure for amendment in the Indian Constitution, Election of members of Rajya Sabha), 11 France (Republic, Ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity in the Preamble).

Concluding, the Constitution guarantees the opportunity to the individual to develop his potential to the maximum of his capability and such opportunities are provided in the form of fundamental rights and government cannot trespass them, which are enforceable by the courts. It decides how the government will be constituted. It set some limits on what a government can impose on its citizens. A constitution is an essential tool for self-government. It is like a rule book describing how a nation will be governed - the fundamental law of a nation.

Tributes to Veteran Political Leader and former Bihar CM Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur on his 100th birthday

■ NARENDRA MODI



Today is the birth centenary of Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Ji, whose relentless pursuit of social justice created a positive impact in the lives of crores of people. I never had the opportunity to meet Karpoori Ji but, I heard a lot about him from Kailashpati Mishra Ji, who worked closely with him. He belonged to one of the most backward sections of society, the Nai Samaj. Overcoming numerous obstacles, he achieved a lot and worked for societal betterment.

Jan Nayak Kapoor Thakur Ji's life revolved around the twin pillars of simplicity and social justice. Till his last breath, his simple lifestyle and humble nature resonated deeply with the common people. There are numerous anecdotes that highlight his simplicity. Those who worked with him recall how he preferred to spend his own money for any personal matter including his daughter's wedding. During his tenure as Chief Minister of Bihar, a decision was taken to build a colony for political leaders but he himself did not take any land or money for the same. When he passed away in 1988, several leaders went to his village to pay tributes. When they saw the condition of his house, they were moved to tears- how can someone so towering have a house so simple!

Another anecdote of his simplicity dates back to 1977 when he just took over as CM of Bihar. The Janata Government was in power in Delhi and Patna. That time, Janata leaders had gathered in Patna to mark Loknayak JP's birthday. Among the galaxy of top leaders



walked in Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur Ji, with a torn Kurta. In his own style, Chandrashekhar Ji asked people to donate some money so that Karpoori Ji could purchase a new Kurta. But, Karpoori Ji was Karpoori Ji- he accepted the money but donated it to the CM Relief Fund.

Social justice was most dear to Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Ji. His political journey was marked by monumental efforts to create a society where resources were distributed fairly, and everyone, regardless of their social standing, had access to opportunities. He wanted to address the systemic inequalities that plagued Indian society.

Such was his commitment to his ideals that despite living in an era where the Congress Party was omnipresent, he took a distinctly anti-Congress line because he was convinced very early on that the Congress had deviated from its founding principles.

His electoral career began in the early 1950s and since then, he became a force to reckon with in the legislative chambers, powerfully

voicing the struggles of the working class, labourers, small farmers and youngsters. Education was a subject very close to his heart. Throughout his political career he worked to improve education facilities for the poor. He was a proponent of education in local languages so that people from small towns and villages can climb the ladder and attain success. As CM, he took many measures for the welfare of senior citizens as well.

Democracy, debate and discussion were integral to Karpoori Ji's personality. This spirit was seen when he immersed himself in the Quit India movement as a youngster and it was again seen when he resisted the Emergency tooth and nail. His unique perspectives were great admired by the likes of JP, Dr. Lohia and Charan Singh Ji.

Perhaps one of Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Ji's most significant contributions to India was his role in strengthening the affirmative action apparatus for the backward classes, with the hope that they were given the representation and opportunities they deserved. His decision was met with heavy opposition but he did not bow to any pressure. Under his leadership, policies were implemented that laid the groundwork for a more inclusive society, where one's birth did not determine one's fate. He belonged to the most backward strata of society but he worked for all the people. He had no trace of bitterness in him, which is what makes him truly great.

Over the last ten years, our Government has walked on the path of Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Ji, reflecting in our schemes and policies that have brought transformative empowerment. One of the biggest tragedies of our

polity has been that barring a few leaders like Karpoori Ji, the call for social justice was restricted to being a political slogan. Inspired by Karpoori Ji's vision we implemented it as an effective governance model. I can say with confidence and pride that Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Ji would have been very proud of India's feat of freeing 25 crore people from the clutches of poverty in the last few years. These are people from the most backward sections of society, who were denied basic facilities nearly seven decades after freedom from colonial rule. At the same time, our efforts towards saturation- of ensuring every scheme reaches 100% coverage echoes his commitment to social welfare. Today, when people from OBC, SC and ST Communities are becoming entrepreneurs due to MUDRA Loans, it fulfills Karpoori Thakur Ji's vision of economic independence. Likewise, it was our government which had the privilege of extending SC, ST and OBC reservation. We also had the honour of setting up the OBC Commission (which was opposed by Congress, sadly), which is working on the path shown by Karpoori Ji. Our PM-Vishwakarma Scheme will also bring new avenues of prosperity for crores of people belonging to OBC communities across India.

As a person belonging to the backward classes myself, I have much to thank Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Ji for. Unfortunately, we lost Karpoori Ji at a relatively young age of 64. We lost him when we needed him the most. Yet, he lives on in the heart and minds of crores of people due to his work. He was a true Jan Nayak!

(The writer is Prime Minister of India).

Is Ram Lalla's consecration a stepping stone to Ram Rajya?

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

Now that the ceremony of consecration of Lord Ram is about to take place in Ayodhya at the birth place of Ram and there is great enthusiasm and fervor among the Indian's cutting across the divide of religion and caste .In fact the foundation for Hindutva and Ram Rajya will be laid on the 22th January 2024 and the ceremony of Pran Pratishtha of Lord Ram and the inauguration of the magnificent temple will be performed and all this is a stepping stone to Ram Rajya which is the ideal rule and which was the dream of the father of nation Mahatma Gandhi .Ram Rajya is the ideal rule which is based on good governance and transparency and in it justice will be given to all citizens irrespective of the religion and faith .Ram Rajya will not discriminate and differentiate between its citizens on the basis of religion .Ram Rajya is not theocratic and tolerance and communal harmony is the motto and essence of Ram Rajya and therefore there should be no reservation about the Ram Rajya .Had Ram Rajya being theocratic and anti secular ,then Gandhi would not have advocated Ram Rajya .It seems that the nation is marching towards Hindutva and it will also pave way for the establishment of Ram Rajya in due course of time .The nation has no hurry for the installation of Ram Rajya and it may takes many years before Ram Rajya is established .But the reality is that the foundation of the Ram Rajya has been laid and it may be many years from now to establish the Ram Rajya which is the ideal rule and good governance .But the beginning of the Ram Rajya has been made and the saffron government of the centre and the saffron government of the states may establish Ram Rajay in due course of time and there is no reservation about it .The fact that whole Hindu community rather all Indian's are unified and it is the emergence of Hindutva and

then the Ram Rajya as the journey of Ram Rajya has started and no power on the earth can withhold it or stalled it .Ayodhya has the potential to become a spiritual city like Vatican and Mecca .While much has changed in Ayodhya since the landmark verdict ,the Ram temple issue and the history of the dispute continues to weigh on minds of many people .The new year,2024 is significant as Ram Lalla will be seated in the sanctum sanctorum of Ram temple in Ayodhya and the general elections will be held .Ram temple chief priest Achraya Satyendra Das said ,Not just peace but the beginning of Ram Rajya is now a fact .Former Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai has said that through the installation of Lord Rama's statue at the Ram temple in Ayodhya,the foundation has been laid for' Ram Rajya'. Speaking after releasing a CD on Lord Ram brought out by Jayashree Arvind ,Bommai added ,''Ram Rajya -means an "opportunity for all and prosperity ,and no sign of poverty anywhere .He further said,' A time must come for everything and Lord Ram had been kept out of his birthplace in Ayodhya for more than 500 years .The Pran Pratishtha of Lord Ram has been fixed for January22.This is a great moment .It seems everything would be decided earlier because on Thursday ,Lord Ram entered the sanetum sanctorum of the Ram temple .Today ,the songs on Lord Ram were released which was quite a coincidence. "He said, "Lord Rama's avatar is very special as he is the avatar of Lord Vishnu ."It is from Ram Mandir to Ram Rajya -convergence of never ending faith and good governance .The temple serves as a reminder of the nation's ability to navigate its diverse and complex history ,fostering a future where cultural identity and progress go hand in hand .The Ram temples eagerly anticipated consecration on January 22,2024 ,is set to be a seminal event in the tapestry of Indian history ,intertwining

time -honored traditions of the past with the robust progress of contemporary India .However ,there is a long history that led to the re-establishment of the Ram Temple .A history that is deeply intertwined with a complex and longstanding dispute that epitomizes the challenges of communal harmony in India .The reconstruction of the Ram Mandir transcends its role as a mere religious edifice .It represents a confluence of faith ,unity ,and a celebration of India's rich civilizational heritage .It signals the dawn of a new chapter of hope and spiritual awakening .Every brick laid in the temple ,imbued with devotion and reflective of India's renewed spirit ,contributes to this historic monument .It stands not only a place of worship but also as a symbol of collective aspirations and rejuvenated spirit of India .The re-establishment of Shri Ram Janamboomi temple transcends national and religious barriers ,holding profound significance globally .It is part of a larger strategy to foster national unity and a cultural renaissance .Further it stands as a testament to faith ,unity and the continuity of civilization ,differing from other monuments in its profound emblematic representation .It is in fact will pave way to the broader concept and practice of Ram Rajya in the long run ."Daihik daivik bhantia tapa,Ramraj nahin kahuli bypa ----Nahin Daridra kou dukhi na dina,Nahi kou abudha na lakshan hina---- ."The concept of 'Ram Rajya' revered in Indian culture ,epitomizes an ideal state characterized by justice ,equality ,universal brotherhood and welfare of all, resonating with the aspirations of modern democracies and welfare states .This vision ,eloquently articulated by poet -saint Tulsidas ,envisages a society free from suffering where every individual is nurtured and cared for .In Ramcharitmanas ,Lord Ram exemplifies this ideal ,representing the essence of democratic values ,dignified conduct ,and socie-

tal welfare .His just and prosperous reign in Kosala serves as a timeless model for virtuous governance. The Ram Mandir, thus ,stands as a symbol of these enduring principles ,bridging the gap between ancient wisdom and contemporary societal values .Its significance ,heightened by the global attention it garners ,especially with the consecration ceremony ,reaffirms its status as a monument of historical and cultural importance .This temple not only represents the age -old ideal of Ram Rajya but also resonates with the principles outlined in the Indian republic's constitution ,mirroring the ethos of an ancient Bharatiya republic redefined within a modern constitutional framework .This fusion of traditional values and contemporary governance ,championed by figures like Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay ,continues to inspire a balance between ethical leadership and societal welfare .Under Prime minister Narendra Modi ,the Indian government has embarked on a journey of Nav Kalyanwaad (new welfarism) ,echoing the principles of Ram Rajya .Initiatives such As the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana ,a financial inclusion programme ,embody the principles of economic empowerment by providing access to banking services for the unbanked .Similarly ,the Ayushman Bharat program,offering health insurance to under privileged ,echoes the Ram Rajya tenet of healthcare for all .The government's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan,Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana's resonate with the ideals of Ram Rajya .Now the consecration of Lord Ram's idol and the inauguration of the grand Ram temple is more than a religious ceremony but it will lay the foundation stone for the Ram Rajya in the final analysis and in the long term.

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Status of Drinking Water: Yesterday and Today

■ DR. RAJKUMAR SINGH

Drinking water, one of the most essential resources for life, has undergone significant changes from its earliest sources to its present state. The phases of its evolution include:Earliest Drinking Water Sources: a. Natural Springs and Rivers: In ancient times, people relied on natural springs and rivers for their water needs. These sources were often revered and considered pure. b. Wells: As civilizations grew, wells were dug to access groundwater, which was usually cleaner than surface water. c. Rainwater Harvesting: In regions with scarce water resources, rainwater was collected and stored for drinking and other uses.Ancient Water Purification Methods: d. Boiling: Boiling water to kill pathogens has been a practice for thousands of years e. Sand and Gravel Filtration: Ancient civilizations like the Egyptians and Indians used sand and gravel to filter water: f. Cloth Filtration: Cloth was used to remove larger impurities from water.Medieval and Early Modern Developments: a. Aqueducts: The Romans built extensive aqueduct systems to transport water from rural areas to cities. b. Lead Pipes: Unfortunately, the use of lead pipes in these times caused contamination issues. c. Industrial Revolution and Beyond: d. Chlorination: The discovery of chlorine as a disinfectant in the late 19th century greatly improved water safety.Large-scale Filtration Plants: Technological advances led to the establishment of large-scale filtration and treatment plants. e. Modern Drinking Water Technologies:Reverse Osmosis: Widely used for desalination and purification, removing almost all contaminants.UV Treatment: Ultraviolet light is used to disinfect water without chemicals. Current Challenges and Future Directions. Access to Clean Water:

Despite advancements, many parts of the world still struggle with access to safe drinking water.Environmental Impact: The extraction and purification processes have environmental impacts, leading to a focus on sustainable practices.Emerging Contaminants: Addressing new types of pollutants like pharmaceuticals and microplastics is a current challenge.However, the use of technology for efficient water management and distribution is increasing.The journey of drinking water from its natural origins to today's sophisticated treatment processes highlights human ingenuity and the ongoing challenges in ensuring safe water for all.

Pollutions of water Pollution of drinking water is a critical issue that affects the health of ecosystems and humans worldwide. Various sources and types of pollution have been identified: a. Chemical Pollution:Industrial Waste: Chemicals and toxic substances from industries can seep into water sources.Agricultural Runoff: Pesticides and fertilizers used in agriculture can contaminate groundwater and surface water:Household Chemicals: Improper disposal of household chemicals can also lead to water pollution. b. Biological Pollution:Bacteria and Viruses: Contaminated water can carry harmful microorganisms like E. coli, cholera, and hepatitis.Parasites: Waterborne parasites, such as Giardia, can be present in polluted water. c. Physical Pollution:Sedimentation: Erosion can lead to excessive sediment in water bodies, affecting water quality.Thermal Pollution: Discharge of warm water by industries can disrupt aquatic ecosystems. d. Radioactive Pollution:Nuclear Waste: Accidental or improper disposal of nuclear waste can lead to radioactive contamination. e. Emerging Contaminants:Pharmaceuticals and Personal

Care Products: Residues from medications and personal care products are increasingly detected in water sources.Microplastics: Tiny plastic particles are a growing concern due to their persistence and potential health impacts. f. Lead Contamination:Aging Infrastructure: In some areas, old lead pipes can leach lead into the drinking water, posing serious health risks. g. Oil and Petroleum Pollution:Oil Spills: Accidental spills from oil tankers or leaks from pipelines can lead to severe water contamination. h. Mitigation Efforts:Water Treatment Technologies: Advanced treatment methods are needed to remove a wide range of contaminants.Regulations and Policies: Stronger regulations and better enforcement are crucial to prevent water pollution.Public Awareness and Education: Educating the public about the sources and effects of water pollution is key to prevention.

Dimensions of drinking water The possibilities in drinking water, particularly in terms of sourcing, treatment, and enhancement for health and sustainability, are vast and continuously evolving. Its overview include: a. Advanced Water Treatment Technologies:Membrane Filtration: Techniques like reverse osmosis and nanofiltration can remove contaminants up to nano-scale.Ultraviolet (UV) Disinfection: Effective against pathogens without altering water chemistry.Electrocoagulation: An emerging technology for removing pollutants through electrical charge.b. Desalination for Increasing Water Supply:Reverse Osmosis Desalination: Widely used for converting seawater to potable water.Solar Desalination: Utilizing solar energy for cost-effective and eco-friendly desalination. c. Water from Alternative Sources:Atmospheric Water Generation: Extracting water from humidity in the

air.Recycled Wastewater: Advanced treatments are making wastewater recycling a viable option for increasing water supply. d. Health Enhancing Additives: Mineral Infusion: Adding essential minerals like calcium and magnesium for health benefits.Fluoridation: Adding fluoride to prevent tooth decay, although its use is debated in some areas. e. Smart Water Management Systems:AI and IoT in Water Monitoring: Using artificial intelligence and Internet of Things for real-time monitoring and management.Leak Detection Technology: Advanced systems to detect and address leaks in water infrastructure. f. Sustainable Practices: g. Rainwater Harvesting: Collecting and storing rainwater for various uses, including drinking.h. Water-Saving Appliances and Fixtures: Innovations that reduce water usage without compromising service.i. Portable Water Purification Devices:Personal Water Filters: Devices for individuals to purify water on-the-go.UV Portable Purifiers: Small-scale UV devices for travellers and hikers. j. Community-Driven Solutions:Local Water Treatment Units: Especially crucial in remote or underserved areas.Educational Programs: Raising awareness about water conservation and safe water practices. k. Emerging Research and Innovation:Nanotechnology in Water Purification: The potential to revolutionize water treatment.Biomimicry: Emulating natural processes (like root systems in plants) for efficient water purification.The future of drinking water is one of innovation, sustainability, and increased accessibility, driven by technological advancements, environmental considerations, and a growing global emphasis on health and wellness.

(The author is a youth motivator).