

Dr Ambedkar Row most unfortunate

A key component of Bharatmala is the development of Expressways such as the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway.

including Ambedkar row .Both inside as well as outside parliament ,the Ambedkar row raised its ugly head and this controversy rocked not only the august parliament ,but it was in full play outside parliament .The situation outside the parliament went out of control and the BJP and congress MP's used barbs and insults upon one another and thus insulted the great parliament of you .Ambedkar who had full respect to the dignity and decorum of the parliamentary proceedings .There was high voltage drama outside parliament as BJP ,Congress accuse each other of jostling.BJP MP Pratap Sarangi was taken to hospital after getting injured in the melee .The relationship between opposition and the treasury benches hit a new low on Thursday December 19,2024 with both the sides accusing each other of resorting to violence .The scenes outside parliament were most unfortunate and uncivilized and the situation resembled a fish market and a wrestling match and it eroded the decorum ,discipline and sanctity of the highest legislative gathering .While the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi alleged that BJP MP's were pushing him and stopping him and other opposition MP's from entering the parliament ,the BJP accused Mr Gandhi of assaulting two of their MP's .Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju accused Mr Gandhi of assaulting and injuring two BJP MP's Parapt Sarangi and Mukesh Rajput and enquired about their health after they sustained injuries in the parliament complex. MP Nishikant Dubey also accused Mr Gandhi of resorting to "goondagradi" -hooliganism .Mr Rijju said that appropriate action will be taken .Parliament is not the place to show physical strength .It is not a wrestling ring .Mr Rijju added, Mr Sarangi was taken to hospital after getting injured in the melee when the protesting INDIA bloc and the BJP MP's came face to face in front of Makar Dwar in parliament.NDA, INDIA bloc MP's hold protest marches over Ambedkar issue .While Congress leaders including Rahul and Priyanka marched from Ambedkar's statue

within Parliament complex to Parliament house,BJP -led NDA MP's too carried out a march raising slogans and carrying placards demanding an apology from the Congress for allegedly insulting Ambedkar. Dressed in blue ,a color associated with B.R .Ambedkar ,Opposition INDIA bloc members on Thursday took out a protest march in parliament premises demanding the resignation of Home Minister Amit Shah for his remarks related to the architect of the constitution .Amit Shah said that his words were twisted and Congress is anti -Ambedkar ,anti-constitution ,anti reservation and anti -Savarkar.BJP said Congress Prime minister Nehru conferred upon himself Bharat Ratna way back in 1955 and Indira Gandhi awarded herself Bharat Ratna in 1971.But the Congress government did not confer Bharat Ratna on Ambedkar as it is anti-Ambedkar and anti-his ideology .It was only in 1990 when there was non-Congress government at the centre in which BJP was a partner Bharat Ratna was conferred on Ambedkar posthumously. It shows Congresses' inherent hate and hatred for Ambedkar and his philosophy and then accusing BJP of insulting and dishonoring Ambedkar and what he stood for .It seems it is a clear case of pot calling kettle black .Earlier as the remark over Ambedkar row escalates leading to adjournment inside the house ,Congress and BJP MP's accused each other of heckling during protest . Few days later a scuffle broke out outside the parliament on Thursday further escalating the political row over Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks on Dr B.R .Ambedkar.While the LOOP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi alleged that BJPMMP's were pushing him and stopping him and other opposition MP's from entering parliament ,BJP accused Mr Gandhi of assaulting two of their MP's .Both houses were adjourned till 2pm ,within minutes after they assembled .After protests erupted in the Lok Sabha ,speaker Om Birla ,adjourned the house till 2pm.Meanwhile ,in the Rajya Sabha,the

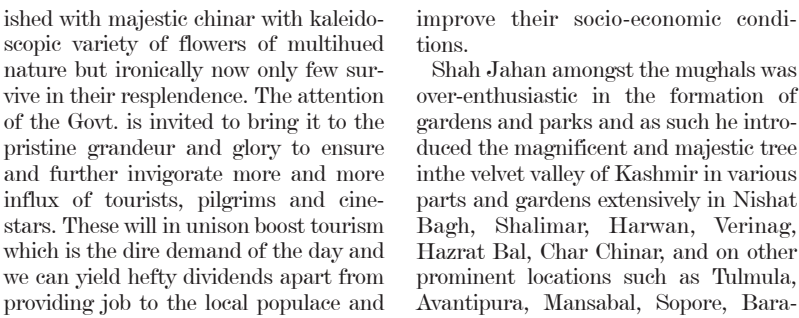
proceedings continued until the papers were laid on the table. Soon after, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar said he would not allow the adjournment notices to be taken up. Amid constant sloganeering from the members, he adjourned the proceedings till 2 p.m. After the parliament resumed proceedings at 2 p.m., both houses were quickly adjourned for the day amid continuing chaos. Both the houses were adjourned on Wednesday 18th December as opposition MP's continued to raise slogans against Home Minister Amit Shah's alleged derogatory remarks against B.R. Ambedkar. In the upper house, TMC also moved a privilege motion against the HM. No business was transacted in either of the houses. Rajya Sabha has been adjourned for the day on 19th December. BJP leaders condemn Rahul Gandhi's behavior, saying he engaged in violence. DMK MP Triuchi Siva says this is one side's version of events. BJP MP S. Phagnon Konyak says that Lok Sabha Lop Rahul Gandhi came close to her, pushed her and shouted at her, and that she felt uncomfortable. It is in the fitness of things to mention that HM Amit Shah has said in Parliament the other day that it has become fashion for Congress to repeat Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar many times only for politicking and by doing so the Congress is insulting Ambedkar. Congress including its president Kharge demanded resignation from HM Amit Shah for his remarks against Ambedkar. JP Nadda the of the house, has said that the information about how the Congress has misused the constitution has reached the public, that is why the Congressmen are incensed. They are behaving in an undemocratic manner, he says. This house strongly condemns the actions of Rahul Gandhi. In brief the row over Ambedkar is very unfortunate and what has happened in and outside parliament is enough to surmise that the sanctity of the temple of democracy has been eroded by the actions of both the treasury benches and the opposition.

Chinar-The real beauty of Valley

text to Piddar in Jammu region. But the majestic Chinar finds its rich and unique placement in Kashmir Valley. The 'Charchinari' admist 'Dal lake' can most conveniently be attributed as a 'heritage' of velvet Kashmir valley and the more you praise, the less it is and this valley is in no way less than Switzerland of Europe over the mother earth which having other enchanting and bewildering spots on the other parts of globe, yet the enchanting beauty of the velvet valley has got its own significance of rarity of beauty.

The magnificent and majestic 'Chinar' tree attains a gigantic height more than a 100 hundred feet with 40-50 feet girth and with a round spreading crown, leaves are mostly heart shaped 10 to 25 cms and 12 to 30 cms in length and breadth deeply cut in triangular toothed lobes which give an appealing grace from long distance and provide abundant shade to the tourists and visitors alike. The bark of the tree is with silvery flakes.

The tree is propagated less by seed sowing, but it is preferential if it is propagated through cutting which yield success-oriented results and as the locals go in far propagation through cuttings. At times, it is reported that there were as many as 70 garden in the velvet valley of paradise' which have now reduced to few and all those gardens were well flour-



mula, Anantnag so on and so forth. It is added over here that this majestic tree occupies its prominence in almost every corner of the beauteous valley of Kashmir also nomenclaturised as the "Paradise on earth". The majestic and magnificent tree gains an altitudinal height upto 2600mts but however in the lower belts of altitude this tree is cultivatable and now in Jammu and its vicinity it is successfully flourishing to the extremities of Kud, Batote, Katra, Reasi so on and so forth. The wood is as good as anything like manufacturing of plywood, apart from its multihued usages for the manufacture of furniture and its ilk. The tree as well find its usefulnesses in the firewood which mitigate problems of local populace of firewood in multitudinal ways. The timber is as well used for building construction and also used for the manufacture of furniture. It is, therefore, urged upon the Govt. to invigorate and boost 'chinar' plantation extensively and intensively not confined to the Kashmir valley but elsewhere too where it is well suited to site so as to enhance the beauty of the state and haunt more and more tourists apart from improving the environment of the State. In other words, this will yield and boost the socio-economic status of the local populace and help in mitigating the firewood, timber and other related problems of the locals.

Since the vale of Kashmir falls under temperate zone so extensive efforts should be accelerated to enhance maximum plantation on the occasion of 'Arbor's day as is being done in the sub-tropical region of Jammu on Vanamahotsava. Tree culture had been a ritual in our old scriptures if we unfold the pious pages of Vanupurana, Ramayana, Mahabharata, these echo that each part of the tree has most reverentially been prayed. Let us, therefore, pledge to carry this message to the posterity to come by so as to ensure our state ever-flourishing with trees like chinara and its allied so that the beauty of the velvety valley of Kashmir enchants throughout every nook and corner of the charming valley. Elsewhere too, where the sites are well suited in chenab valley which is the biggest forest area of the state the inculcation of this majestic and beautiful tree shall occupy its own place of prominence. The pride chinara apart from being of magnanimity of beauty is having medicinal properties too. The bark of this majestic tree is boiled as vinegar which is curative to multihued diseases eg. Dysentery, diarrhoea, toothaches, hernia and many more of its allied.

(The author is Former Dy. Conservator of Forest, J&K)

On Dogri Day, applauding Theatre's role in cultural preservation

imagination in young minds.

Together with the Government of India, and the four state governments, the partnership aims to create an inclusive learning environment that supports national goals for gender equality and education.

"Current employment opportunities come with greater demands for competencies in STEM. Girls particularly miss out on opportunities to learn and practice STEM. Thus, UNICEF is proud to support building a strong foundation for critical thinking in the early years of learning."

The BMW-UNICEF partnership makes this possible by investing in making education more accessible and inclusive, especially for girls! The result is greater economic and social self-reliance leading to more opportunities," said Cynthia McCaffrey, UNICEF India Representative.

Vikram Pawah, President and CEO, BMW Group India said, "BMW Group sees itself as an integral part of the society and through impactful initiatives, we want to drive deep-rooted social change. BMW Group's partnership with UNICEF harnesses the most powerful tool for empowerment - education."

STEM knowledge is crucial for smart thinking and innovation in today's competitive, interconnected environment. Merging this educa-

ional initiative with gender equality and inclusion, especially for underprivileged girl child in India, enhances its effectiveness exponentially."

The key-components of this collaboration include:

Recognizing that children who struggle with basic reading and numeracy are likely to face challenges in school, the programme focuses on foundational literacy and numeracy in primary grades. The initiative provides a strong cognitive base by facilitating these skills upon which STEM knowledge can be built.

UNICEF will develop a tailored curriculum to train teachers, enhancing their skills in STEM instruction.

This training will also address gender stereotypes and focus on empowering girls through skills development and leadership programmes. By creating a dedicated cadre of STEM-trained teachers, the BMW-UNICEF partnership will help elevate the quality of STEM education in classrooms in the four states.

The establishment of low-cost maker spaces within these schools will allow adolescent girls to explore design thinking, computational analysis, adaptive learning, and physical computing.

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MOHD. YASEEN

Language and culture are the lifelines of any community, reflecting its identity, values, and history. The Dogri language, an integral part of Jammu's rich heritage, has stood as a witness to the region's vibrant traditions and cultural evolution. As we celebrate Dogri Day , also known as Dogri Manyata Diwas on 22nd December, 2024, it becomes imperative to shed light on the role of theatre in preserving and promoting this beautiful language. Theatre, being an expressive and impactful medium, holds the potential to revitalize Dogri culture and bring it closer to the modern generation.

Theatre has always been a powerful tool for social commentary, capable of capturing the subtleties of societal change, both positive and negative. It serves as a mirror reflecting the virtues and vices of society. Through their craft, theatre artists have the unique ability to address societal issues and inspire constructive change. However, it is not just about storytelling; theatre is also about preserving the cultural ethos of a community, which is especially significant in the case of Dogri.

Dogri theatre, like its counterparts across the world, has the power to connect with audiences deeply and evoke emotions that resonate long after the curtains fall. This makes it an ideal medium for promoting Dogri language and culture.

Dogri theatre traces its origins to the

patronage of the Dogra rulers, who encouraged various performing arts. Traditional folk styles such as Geetru, Karak and Haran were integral to the region's theatrical expressions. Over time, these forms were refined, and Dogri theatre gained prominence, becoming a cherished aspect of Jammu's cultural identity.

Prominent institutions like Natrang Jammu have been instrumental in preserving Dogri theatre. Their iconic plays like Bawa Jitto and Ghumayee have not only created ripples in the local community but also achieved national and international acclaim. Bawa Jitto has been staged over 200 times across India, leaving an indelible mark on audiences. Meanwhile, Ghumayee, directed by Balwant Thakur, has been presented at prestigious platforms like the Frankfurt International Theatre Festival, 8th Theatre Olympics and the Commonwealth Games.

Another hallmark of Dogri theatre is Balwant Thakur's Suno Eh Kahani, which has been performed over 300 times, setting a benchmark in Indian theatre. These productions not only entertain but also educate audiences about Dogri traditions, values, and ethos.

Despite its rich heritage, Dogri theatre faces several challenges, including dwindling institutional support and audience interest. Limited funding, a lack of platforms, and societal perceptions of regional arts as less significant than mainstream ones have hindered its

growth. Additionally, modern audiences, especially the youth, often gravitate towards global or mainstream influences, overlooking the treasure trove of local culture.

The younger generation holds the key to revitalizing Dogri theatre. Aspiring artists need to embrace the language and its folk styles as the foundation for their creativity. The community must also come together to support local artists, attend performances, and promote awareness about Dogri culture.

Theatre is more than just entertainment; it is a cultural bridge that connects people to their roots. Dogri theatre, with its rich heritage and storytelling traditions, has the potential to strengthen the identity of the Dogra community. It can serve as a medium to educate, inspire, and unite people, ensuring that the language and culture continue to thrive for generations to come.

On this Dogri Day, let us pledge to support and celebrate Dogri theatre. By doing so, we not only honor our past but also lay the foundation for a vibrant cultural future. As the saying goes, "A language dies when its last speaker is gone, but a culture dies when its stories are forgotten." Let us ensure that Dogri stories live on, echoing through the halls of theatres and the hearts of people.

(The writer is a National Scholarship and Fellowship holder from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India)