


ANOTHER GOOD INITIATIVE

The government led by BJP in Centre has taken so many steps in ensuring safety on the roads and in the same context, the Road Transport and Highways Minister, Nitin Gadkari has come up with another initiative to curb the bloodshed on roads due to accidents. It is pertinent to mention that over 5 lakh accidents occur on the roads in the country in one year claiming lives of nearly 1.5 lakh people therefore taking steps to save lives while people move on wheels is a noble cause and those doing the same are philanthropic persons. In this regard, the Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has informed that the government has made it mandatory for automakers to provide three-point seat belts for all front-facing passengers in a car. This means that sooner than later all the occupants in the car will have to mandatorily wear seat belts thus raising the safety level which is necessary to save lives. The norm will also be applicable for the middle seat in the rear row of a car. It is pertinent to mention that presently, only the front seats and two rear seats in most cars produced in the country have three-point seat belts. However, the middle rear seats in these cars come equipped with only a two-point or lap seat belt, similar to the ones provided in aircraft seats. Nitin Gadkari has so many good decisions to his credit that he deserves kudos for the changes he had brought in the country to ensure safety on roads, which also includes development of roads infra which has seen tremendous improvement under the incumbent government especially by the ministry under Nitin Gadkari. All said and done, this small initiative for making seat belts mandatory in rear seats of the cars as discussed will go a long way in saving lives. There are many other things akin to this one which can be brought in to ensure safety of people on roads. The concerned ministry should invite suggestions from the people to bring about changes for minimizing accidents on roads and curbing the number of deaths as losing people to accidents is the biggest tragedy which people face after avoidable accidents.

NEED OF HOUR

NAAC certification is a measure to evaluate and then guarantee a standard of education provided in higher institutions across the nation. The University Grant Commission (UGC) has issued a decree stipulating that every university and faculty must get certification by the Council called NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council). It is the need of the time that colleges in J&K should go for NAAC accreditation as soon as possible for imparting quality education. As the NAAC accreditation focuses on improving the quality parameter of education because unlike the traditional educational system, NAAC aims to improve the overall development of students by helping them inculcate skills and knowledge via their education. It is a known fact that institutions with NAAC accreditation fall under the category of institutions that offer quality education to students. In this context, Principal Secretary Higher Education Department, Rohit Kansal has directed principals of all colleges to get their institutions evaluated and accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) within the shortest possible time and also conduct an academic audit to determine the quality of academic input, need for course or options revision and modernization of syllabus. With the introduction of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the focus had moved to quality education, flexibility in curriculum and globalization of outlook and for this NAAC accreditation is an important milestone as NAAC accredited institutions have a certain level to impart quality education which is necessary in today's world having cut throat competition. Education is the most important pillar of a nation for its development therefore the excellence and relevance of courses offered by the colleges must have a standard. Colleges must find and recognize additional requirements to satisfy them per the international standards. The role of NAAC Accreditation is to bring the best in every institution and help institutions grow across research, innovation, student success, governance and more. Surely instructions given by the Principal Secretary Higher Education Department with regard to NAAC accreditation of colleges in the UT are the most relevant one and therefore moving fast to achieve the same is in the interest of all in the UT. Wasting time in this regard is not a good idea because all colleges in J&K having NAAC accreditation will improve the standard of education considerably.



OFF 'D' CUFF

Happiness is Your 'Default Setting'

Think mindfully and you'll find it's really difficult to remain in a state of despair. It's tough because it would be difficult for anyone to spend time in such a painful state of mind. On the contrary, if you are in a state of comfort, peace and happiness, it will make the days go by faster. You don't find your days tiring & irksome.

It happens because staying happy is your true nature. It's not your inherent nature to be in a state of hatred & jealousy. You are definitely not designed to be like that. It's your nature to be full of love and wisdom.

Further, it's also difficult to live in a constant state of fear, because fear also is not your nature. You are fearless and courageous by birth. So, if fearfulness becomes a part of your nature, it overpowers you sooner or later. It starts guiding you. Now you may start taking crucial decisions of your life out of fear only. But being fearful is also not your true nature and that's why it will make your life problematic. Understand that every natural entity enriches life, but 'negative emotions' created by you, degrade life. Therefore, always try to be in your natu-

Modi in Parliament-Bane of Congress to nation in past



■ ER P L KHUSHU

Replying to the debate on the motion of thanks to the President's address in the Rajya Sabha, the Prime Minister Modi, while highlighting his government's achievements in various sectors of development in the country, said the Congress is creating hurdles in country's development as an opposition party too. Modi said urban Naxals are today controlling Congress' 'thought and ideology'. He further said, "Congress in the way is in the grip of urban Naxals. That is why the thoughts of Congress have become negative. The Prime Minister said that the dynastic parties are the biggest threat to India's democracy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, as he launched an all-out attack on the Congress, in response to the comments of the some members in parliament that how would the country be if there would have been no Congress in the country. He opened Pandora box of the Congress and said in a poetic tone, if there had been no Congress then there would have been:

1. No Emergency imposed in country.
2. No Mass killings of Sikhs in 1984.
3. No Mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from Kashmir.
4. No Caste politics for garnering votes and dividing people of country on caste and religion bases to remain in power.
5. Not other host of issues concerning the development of the country.

What a hard and a bashful reality, which no honest politician of India had spoken about, so far during the Congress rule for more than fifty years. How Sikhs and Kashmiri Pandits suffered has remained no body's concern amongst the dynastic politicians so far including the dynastic politicians of Kashmir about the mass killings and the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in the valley. In retaliation, The Congress staged a walkout from the House during the prime minister's address, prompting Modi to say that one needs to listen too in a democracy and alleging that the party was used to only preaching to others till now. The Prime Minister said, "The biggest threat to our democracy is dynastic parties. When one family gets too prevalent in a political party, then talent is the first casualty". He quoted some instances like, whenever someone within the Congress has spoken against a particular family, the results have been there for all to see, the prime minister said, naming the late leader Sitaram Kesri. Kesri, who spoke out against Gandhi family, was removed as party President. He also took on Congress for preaching about freedom of expression and cited the example of Lata Mangeshkar's musician brother Hridaynath Mangeshkar who was sacked from All India Radio for presenting poetry on Veer Savarkar. Lyricist Majrooh Sultanpuri was jailed criticising Jawaharlal Nehru. The prime minister noted that India is known as the 'mother of democracy', and democracy and debate have been carrying on for centuries here. He alleged that the Congress thinks the country was born only in 1947. This mindset is harmful for the country, as its policies have affected the country's progress in the last 75 years. "We will never learn lessons in democracy from those who trampled over democracy in 1975," Modi said. He attacked the Congress for sacking over 50 state governments of several parties during its over 50-year rule at the Centre. Congress, the Prime Minister said, has been suppressing state governments and the policy of the Congress high

command has been 'to first discredit, then destabilize and then dismiss' governments. Modi suggested that the opposition party change its name from Indian National Congress to 'Federation of Congress' and urged it to not impose its frustration and despair on the people of the country as loss and victory happen in politics.

Prime Minister suggested that all political parties should establish democracy in their own parties and Congress being the oldest party of the country has more responsibility to do so. Referring to some unfortunate utterances of Rahul Gandhi in Parliament, where in he said that Modi is behaving as a King, the Prime Minister said that to listen to Rahul Gandhi's long and rambling speech in the Lok Sabha was to realize, that if he remains the only challenger that the Congress party produces, Modi will continue to look much, much better. As I listened to Rahul Gandhi's speech in Parliament last week, I found myself understanding why Narendra Modi has won two terms in office. It needs to be noted that for such utterances of Raul Gandhi, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey on Thursday submitted a privilege notice to the Lok Sabha secretariat against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for attempting to 'incite' MPs and the nation at large through his remarks during the debate in the House on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address. Noting that while every MP has a constitutional right to speak in Parliament and express his/her views on various topics, he said it is also one of the foremost duties of every member to maintain decency and should not speak anything that would lower the dignity of Parliament and categorized as 'Contempt of the House'. "I have submitted a privilege notice to the Lok Sabha Secretariat against (Rahul) Gandhi for his comments relating to the 'Union and its Territories'," Dubey said. "In his speech, he has uttered that 'India is described as a Union of States and India is not described as a Nation. He has further correlated this with making a hollow, baseless and childish prophecy that the people of Tamil Nadu, etc., would never allow themselves to be ruled by the present Government/Party'."

"Such utterances of Rahul Gandhi is an attempt to 'hint' and 'incite' the other Members of Parliament and also to the citizens of our 'Nation', by means of the live telecast, that any State could easily be separated from our 'Nation' if they do not want to be ruled by a specific political Party and no new State and/or alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing States could be effected in any manner in view of the fact that our Country came to existence by means of a 'negotiation' between and amongst various States," he asserted. Calling Rahul Gandhi a 'script reader' and a 'Drawing Room Politician', Dubey said it appears that he has even not read the Preamble of our Constitution, which unambiguously states that 'We, the People of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic. By usage of the word 'Republic' in the preamble of our Constitution, it has already made clear to one and all that India is a 'Nation' by all means but, it is quite unfortunate that this simple fact is not understood by a veteran Parliamentarian, i.e., Rahul Gandhi, who also share the rare distinction of possessing a questionable academic attainment abroad, the BJP leaders said. "In view of this, I wish to give this notice of 'Breach of Privilege' and 'Contempt of the House' against Rahul Gandhi. It is humbly requested that my instant notice may kindly be accepted under Rule 222 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha," he added.

Taking a veiled dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi,

All Budget, No Politics

■ MANMOHAN DHAR

Budget 2022-23 has been a landmark in the history of Indian financial and economic pursuit. A forward looking and a long term budget with a lot of promise and a clear road map for INDIA-100. Though there are elections in five states and Government could make the most out of Budget but that is not the way Modi Government wanted the financial system to run in the country. Despite measures being taken to make the system more transparent and citizen friendly, opposition leaves no stone unturned to demean and defame the incumbent Government. Almost all political parties in one voice termed this budget as election budget, with congress leading the lot. There are leaders who have been expounding the blatant statements regarding the budget labeling it as zero budget for the people. Mamta Benarjee has been wheeling that budget has been made with a callous mindset and that the tax payer and middle class has been ditched. People living under the poverty line and the down trodden have not even been considered in this budget. TMC leader Derek O'Brien has said that there is nothing for the farmers in this budget. And ironically his leader goes a step ahead terming the budget as 'Pegasus spin budget'.

Rahul Gandhi, who understood the budget in one go immediately after

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman announced the budget in the parliament, labeled it to be a 'Zero sum budget' having nothing for the youth and farmers. Similar reactions came from the left, and all those regional parties which have decided to oppose just for the sake of opposition.

While opposition ridiculed the Budget, Finance minister asserted that Budget 2022-23 looks at India-100. She was critical of the opposition saying it has not understood the substance and the expression that Government has tried to articulate in the budget.

She made a very simple and unpretentious explanation of the budget saying the budget is aimed at setting a clear cut road map for futuristic policies where we have scope for modern technology and a state of art infrastructure signifying the parameters set for digital India of the 21st Century.

A vision for the next 25 years, the budget has everything that a developing economy can perceive for the upliftment of farmers, poor, down trodden, youth, salaried class and the common man. It has everything that could be thought of keeping in view the defence, agriculture, economy, education, tourism, Housing for the needy and above all a proper plan for every investment.

The budget is a befitting reply to those who believe in the formula of repeating the used up and worn out phrases viz.

rich getting richer and poor getting poorer. In fact, being blind to every progressive step taken by the Modi Government seems to be the compulsion of the opposition just to make their presence felt.

Highlighting some important features of the budget 2022-23 ; India's economic growth has been estimated to be 9.2 per cent for the current year.

PM Gatishakti, Inclusive development, Increase in productivity and financial investment, introduction of 400 new Vande Bharat trains, extension of highways by 25K Km during 2022-23, creation of 100 new cargo terminals in next 3 years, boost to EDTECH, e-Vidya to be extended to 200 TV channels, Portal for National digital health mission, promotion of digital infrastructure, 100 per cent Post offices to come on core banking system, Rs.1500 Crores for development of North East, 75 digital banking units to be set up in 75 districts signifying Amrit Mahotsav of Independence, issuance of e-Passports roll out in 2022-23, upgradation of electric vehicles infrastructure, green push for public transport in urban areas, push to EV Infra and batteries to be considered a service, End to End E- Bill system to be launched for transparency, 5G spectrum auction in 2022, 5G spectrum to get production incentive from Government, push to technology, optical fibre in all villages by 2025, 68 per cent defence

procurement from domestic market, a big boost to Atmanirbhar Bharat, Rs.19500 Crore in PLIs for high efficiency solar modules, Capex stepped up by 35.4 per cent, Rs.7.50 lakh crore for 2022, Rs.10.68 lakh crore estimated for 2022-23, over 4 per cent of GDP, Digital Rupee by the Government, to be issued by the RBI, Blockchain technology for digital Rupee, Rs 1 lakh crore Interest free loan for States, Fiscal deficit revised to 6.9 per cent of the GDP, Co-op. surcharge reduced to 7 per cent for income 1 crore-10 crore, Corrected income tax returns can now be filed in 2 years, Tax deduction for state employees increased to 14 per cent, bringing them at par with Central Government employees. After reviewing the highlights of the 2022-23 budget, hardly can one draw the conclusion that the budget has been presented keeping in view the forth coming elections in five states.

This is definitely a budget with a vision, a budget envisaging a desirable future of Contemporary India. A budget, that has in store, hope, aspiration, dream and expectation for every Indian rich or poor.

Opposition must have been searching for something that could keep their ball rolling, but alas, they have been left dejected and disappointed because if this budget has nothing in store for it is the politics. Yes, it is an 'All Budget, No Politics' Budget.

government had imposed a complete ban, which is still imposed from time to time in many places. The biggest impact of this was on those people who are dependent on daily wages or jobs for their livelihood. Among the crores of people whose livelihood was snatched, it was not possible for many to get even the minimum expenses to survive.

Similarly, many people got trapped in the debt trap and after that they were not able to repay due to loss of income. Due to only these two reasons, more than twenty five thousand people could not bear the compulsion and then the pressure and accepted suicide as the solution. Certainly suicide cannot be the solution to the problem in any case.

In parallel with the condition of the victim and the pressure arising out of it, the reasons for this extend to the policies of the government at the systemic level. The truth is that suicides are deaths that are avoidable but it is up to the vision and will of the government that what kind of social development policies it implements.

Vijay Garg.