

FESTIVALS CAN DO WONDERS

It is a good gesture by the BSF that it exchanged sweets with their Pakistani counterparts at Attari border on the occasion of Eid. There is not an iota of doubt that for Indians festivals are the occasions to celebrate life and they simply stop thinking of bad things during the festive time as is clear from the warmth shared at the border during this Eid because exchanging pleasantries with hostile countries is not a common sight in other parts of the world. This is not a new thing that on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha, BSF has offered sweets to Pakistan Rangers at Joint Check Post (JCP) Attari Border. This is a traditional gesture between two border guarding forces. This specially symbolises India's rich tradition, and sense of goodwill and peace. It is pertinent to mention that Eid Al-Adha, also called the 'festival of sacrifice' is celebrated on the 10th day of Dhu al-Hijjah, the 12th month of the Islamic or lunar calendar and it marks the end of the annual Hajj pilgrimage. Eid Al-Adha is an occasion of blissful life and peace, wherein people celebrate leaving aside their past grudges and make meaningful connections with one another. The rich Indian culture bats for peace, joy and bonhomie and that is the reason the BSF has exchanged sweets with their Pakistani counterparts but one thing should be kept in mind that rogue nation Pakistan has a treacherous record and therefore forces along border should never make a mistake to believe the Pakistanis as they had the record of backstabbing and therefore it is advisable that security forces at the borders should always remain on tenterhooks and on toes to counter the nefarious designs of Pakistan as it has lately engaged drones to dent the interests of India and therefore it becomes necessary to keep an eagle eye view along the borders to keep any sort of enemy at bay. The government of Pakistan is always looking for an opportunity to disrupt peace on this side of the IB and LoC therefore India cannot go off guard for even a jiffy because there are so many ways by which Pakistan can dent the interests of the people of the country.

IMPROVE WEATHER FORECASTING

Improving weather forecast is the key to fight natural calamities like the one that struck in the close proximity to the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Amarnath in Kashmir. There are certain limitations for the concerned authorities while organizing pilgrimages at such a large scale where lakhs of devotees visit difficult terrains like the south Kashmir Himalayas to pay obeisance to Lord Shiva. There is no doubt that adequate arrangements were put in place for the comfort and safety of the pilgrims but the inclement weather played spoilsport and such a catastrophe took place wherein scores of people have lost their lives and several others received injuries while over three dozen others have reportedly gone missing thus giving a hard time to rescuers to bring back the survivors under the harshest conditions. Unfortunately, the incidents of cloudbursts have increased manifold times in the last few decades and the J&K and Ladakh regions are affected more with this natural climatic condition which often led to devastation in the form of loss of human and animal lives besides property. The biggest tragedy which followed a cloudburst was in 2010 when a tragic cloudburst hit Ladakh region. Then it was in Doda district killing scores of people. There are other states also where this natural phenomenon devastated life like case of Kedarnath in Uttarakhand. The impact of the cloudburst is sudden and colossal therefore mitigation action often proved futile therefore the only way by which one can minimize the impact is the better forecasting because the same can help in evacuating people beforehand so that lives could be saved as far as possible. Global warming can be one of the reasons behind this devastating natural phenomenon and therefore the people should contribute as far as possible to stop this from worsening because this will not only cause cloudbursts but can bring more forms of natural catastrophes. All said and done, to save humanity from the vagaries of the weather, the only workable solution in sight is the improvement in weather forecasting and therefore governments across the world should pay attention to it to minimize damage and ensure livable conditions for the long times to come.

OFF 'D' CUFF

Who are the Baha'is and what they do?

Baha'is are the enkindled souls...that are seeking to gain an ever more profound understanding of Baha'u'llah's teachings—"the sovereign remedy for every disease"—and to apply them to the needs of their society. They are committed to the prosperity of all, recognizing that the welfare of individuals rests in the welfare of society at large. They are loyal citizens who eschew partisanship and the contest for worldly power. Instead, they are focused on transcending differences, harmonizing perspectives, and promoting the use of consultation for making decisions. They emphasize qualities and attitudes—such as trustworthiness, cooperation, and forbearance—that are building blocks of a stable social order. They champion rationality and science as essential for human progress. They advocate tolerance and understanding, and with the inherent oneness of humanity uppermost in their minds, they view everyone as a potential partner to collaborate with, and they strive to foster fellow feeling even among groups who may traditionally have been hostile to one another. They are conscious of how the forces of materialism are at work around them, and their eyes are wide open to the many injus-

Baha'i Faith

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

Prime Minister of India is the head of the government of the largest democracy of the world and he is held in great and high esteem in the international community and has great respect and influence throughout the world. But alas on the domestic turf some leaders of political parties do not lose any opportunity to insult and call nicknames to Prime Minister, which is very unfortunate and wrong! The Prime Minister is not of any particular political party but he belongs to the whole country and nation and as such deserves due respect from the people and more so from the political parties.

It has unfortunately become a favorite pastime and habit and avocation of some leaders of the grand old political party of the Indian National Congress to heap and hurl choicest abuses and insults on the person of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is very unbecoming of the congress leaders to insult and abuse Prime Minister through print and electronic media and such leaders take pleasure in hurling such abuses on the duly and democratically elected Prime Minister. It is so disturbing that very often some leaders of the congress party indulge in dirty and murkier politics and stoop too low and call nicknames to the Prime Minister. But such insults and abuses on the Prime Minister have no place in the growing and dynamic democracy and should not be resorted to by the congress leaders. From day one of the assuming of the coveted chair of the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has become an eyesore to the so called secularists and the congress leaders alike and they have been busy in heaping insults and abuses on the Prime Minister which is very wrong.

Even from the days of announcing Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister candidate and in fact from the days of 2014 general elections the congress has remained busy in heaping abuses and dishonoring the Prime Minister which should not be done by any responsible political leader and more so of Congress party. In a democracy the political parties and the opposition parties have a constitutional right to oppose and differ with the policies and programs and the working of the government and criticize

the policies of the ruling party. But the opposition should not stoop too low and use un-parliamentary language against the head of the government. Some congress leaders are habitual of using obscene language on the Prime Minister and they think it as their privilege to abuse and insult the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has been called as the Chai-walla by the Congress in the past and the congress leaders have called him Neech meaning low and this reflects the hate for the Prime Minister by the congress party.

Not only this he has been called Snake, Monkey and Scorpio by the congress leaders and this is the height of the hate against the Prime Minister and this obdurate behavior of the congress leaders is unacceptable and is alien to our culture and has no place at all in our democracy.

However, it is the quality and maturity of the Prime Minister that he has turned the insults and abuses as well as the nicknames hurled on his personality into ornaments and thus has become stronger day by day thus defeating his myopic and narrow-minded political opponents who take pleasure in insulting and disrespecting him.

The congress should learn the art of opposition and its leaders should abstain from insulting the Prime Minister because in insulting the Prime Minister they are insulting to all the people of the country. Therefore the congress leaders should shun the habit of insulting the Prime Minister as this more often than not boomerangs and proves counterproductive and so the congress leaders should desist to use unbecoming language against the Prime Minister. The other day a big leader of the congress party Subodh Kant Sahai has ignored all decency and decorum and in fact it seems that he has lost control on his mind and equated Narendra Modi with the Hitler and said that he is working like Hitler and will meet the death like him and this shows how low the congress leader has stooped and it hints towards the mental and ideological bankruptcy of the congress leader and this is true for other leaders of the congress.

Narendra Modi has remained the eyesore of the so called secularists and the congress leaders who are not tired of

hurling insults and abuses on the Prime Minister. This shows the mean mentality of the congress leaders and such behavior of the congress leaders have made the position of the Prime Minister stronger day by day and so the congress leaders should not indulge in mudslinging on the personality of the Prime Minister which only harms the political fortunes of the congress party and therefore the congress leaders should desist from indulging in using unbecoming and un-parliamentary language against the Prime Minister.

The congress should put its own house in order and take disciplinary action on the leaders using such unbecoming language against the Prime Minister and should expel those leaders who talk nonsense about the Prime Minister, but it is not doing so and so it means that the congress high command is itself in connivance with its leaders who speak foul about the Prime Minister. One of the congress leaders has called Prime Minister as cancerous for the country and such unbecoming remarks about the Prime Minister are nauseating and should not be made.

It is a fact that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has raised the standing and stature of India in the world and has transformed the economy and scientific and technological development of the country. It is very unfortunate that even the top leader and former president of the congress Rahul Gandhi has termed Narendra Modi as Chor and said that Chokidar is Chor and this does not behoove good to the leader of the congress.

The congress should politically oppose Narendra Modi and the policies and programs of the NDA government headed by BJP and not resort to hubbug and level unbecoming charges against the personality of the Prime Minister. Therefore the congress should learn the art of constructive criticism and its leaders and should not resort to use of shameful and slanderous language against Prime Minister as it is not going to do any good to congress as it only lowers the stature of the congress party among the people.

Opposing the policies, programs and working of the BJP government is the democratic right of the congress and the

party which has fought for the freedom of the country should restrict and limit its role to constructive opposition and criticism of the Narendra Modi government and its leaders should desist from using slanderous language against Prime Minister.

Thus while opposing the functioning and the policies and programs of the Narendra Modi government, the congress leaders should maintain decorum and discipline and not resort to nicknaming Narendra Modi which only backfires on the congress party.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the man of masses and down to earth man and is tirelessly and sincerely working to ameliorate the living conditions of the poor and marginalized sections of the people. Narendra Modi is working day and night to provide succor to the poor people and has formulated policies and programs to uplift the poor sections of the society.

In such schemes and programs of the poor the money is directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries and this is no mean development as the role and intervention of the middlemen has been removed as they have no place in the pro poor schemes and programs.

In fact such schemes for the poor and marginalized sections of the society has uplifted the living condition of the poor and because of such pro poor and welfare schemes Narendra Modi has become a popular Prime Minister of the country. Therefore there is absolutely no truth in the unbecoming remark of a congress leader that Narendra Modi is cancerous for the country, while the fact is that during his eight years of the rule India has achieved new heights of development in various walks of life and the untenable remarks against Narendra Modi do not hold any water.

To conclude it can be said that congress leaders should abstain from mudslinging on the personality of the Prime Minister as doing so only backfires on the political fortunes of the congress itself and such malicious remarks about the Prime Minister only strengthens the resolve of Narendra Modi to fight for the cause of the country and the downtrodden sections of the society.

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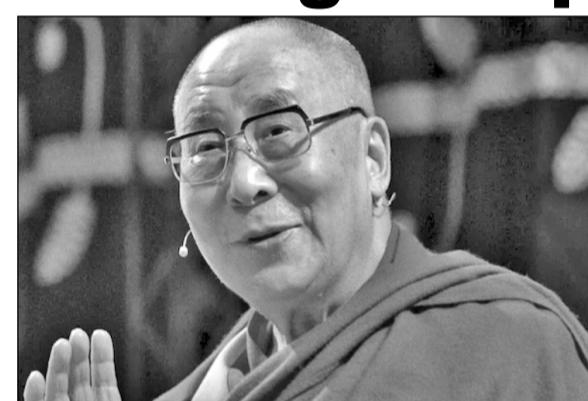
Insulting, insinuating PM unfortunate

—Maharishi Mahesh Yogi

EDITORIAL

■ VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

Recently, Tibetan community in Nepal celebrated the spiritual leader Dalai Lama's birthday with much fanfare. The 14th Dalai Lama, has achieved a level of visibility and celebrity that would have been unimaginable for his predecessors. He became the most famous Buddhist teacher in the world and is widely respected for his commitment both to nonviolence and to the cause of Tibetan freedom. The Dalai Lama means ocean of wisdom and is the manifestation of the Buddha of compassion. Dalai Lama is a highly influential figure of Tibetan culture, and his escape to India sparked major outrage in the region. He reiterated his mission to serve humanity and urged supporters to be compassionate. The Dalai Lama is a revolutionary because of the peace and love he spreads along his journey towards a Tibet free from China's communist grasp. The Dalai Lama, often referred to as His Holiness, is the Head of state and spiritual leader of Tibet. He calls himself a 'son of India' and somebody who has lived the longest in India as a 'guest'. His birthday celebrations, each year, in Dharmsala, Himachal Pradesh had always been one of the biggest events for Tibetan community. There are many factors that helped in the Dalai Lama's fame and reputation in Tibet. Like his human rights pronouncements and holding degrees from different western universities, having talks with most of the world leaders about religion and politics, writing hundreds of books in many



different languages and appearing on TV shows made him one of the most famous religious figures on earth. The Dalai Lama is now known around the globe for being a messenger of peace and love. It is a fact that the Tibet and His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama are inseparable and very much connected. Due to the Tibetans moving to many parts of the world, to many countries and to different cultures they are known for its religion. According to Buddhist belief, the current Dalai Lama is a reincarnation of a past lama who decided to be reborn again to continue his important work, instead of moving on from the wheel of life. A person who decides to be continually reborn is known

as Tulku. He believes that the purpose of life is to be happy. From the moment of birth, every human being wants happiness and does not want suffering. Neither social conditioning nor education nor ideology affects this. If we want to understand Dalai Lama's preaching of non-violence, we must comprehend non-violence. Non-violence is one of the highest virtues that should be accepted by everyone, no matter if they plead to Buddhism or not. Non-violence means to refrain from vicious actions. The Dalai Lama's role as a spiritual and political leader was forced to change before the 1950s and he was the Buddha of India and he was the first to start Buddhism religion, and he was loved by most of his own people and had a lot of respect across a good majority of the western world. He has dedicated his life to working towards a free Tibet, away from the communist Chinese grasp. Ever since the invasion of Tibet by China the only goal for the Dalai Lama has focused on was a free Tibet, and he has dedicated his life for his cause. In 1989, the Dalai Lama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his nonviolent efforts for the liberation of Tibet and his concern for global environmental problems. He has travelled the world, spreading his belief in kindness and compassion. The Dalai Lama believes that showing kindness and respect is even more important in the world today because of violence around us. He also hopes to teach children through these values. Long live His Holiness Dalai Lama.

■ MAHADEEP SINGH JAMWAL

A resonance that has occupied much space in the media as well as social media are the remarks of Supreme Court Judges about Nupur Sharma, knocking the door of Supreme Court for clubbing FIR against her in different states concerning her controversial remarks in a debate on a News channel. The Supreme Court declined to provide any relief and came heavily with remarks on Nupur Sharma. The Apex Court criticized the News Channel also for the debates. A free mind can deduce that the remarks of the Supreme Court Judges are the red signals for the TV Channels, the spokespersons of political parties, the political parties itself and the law enforcing agencies. "What is the business of the TV channel to discuss a matter which is sub-Judice, except to promote an agenda?" Remarks of Judges that 'there should have been a case against the host', is a red signal for all the TV Channels, who are biased in nature and carrying forward the debates on their channels around the subjects that suits to a particular political party and creating atmosphere of hatred in nature and dividing the society. The remarks of the Judges are alarming bells for spokespersons of many political parties, who cross the boundaries in making statements with the backup strength of their parties, when the Court said "What if she is the spokesperson of a party? She thinks she has back-up power and can make any statement without respect to the law of the land?" The most relevant message that emanates from Supreme Court remarks is that the

spokesperson has to keep command on their words and they are single-handedly responsible for the repercussions of their 'Loose Tongue'. For the political parties, the message is that they have to look forward to appointing such spokespersons for their parties having a secular character that is the preamble of the Indian Constitution and who do not cross the party line and take granted liberty to give leverage to their loose tongue. No more parties can shield their spokespersons on the strength of their position in power and giving legitimacy to toxic voices. From the remarks of the Judges, the law enforcing agencies have to break the red signal laid by the political empowerment as to dance to their tune and have to come forward as to maintain the sanctity of law, when the Justice Surya Kant said that Nupur Sharma was not arrested despite the case against her and this reflected her clout. "What has been done in that FIR? We are asking you repeatedly" (Plainly we can say it might be regarding the arrest of Nupur Sharma charged with offences like 153A IPC for promoting enmity, a non-bailable offence and a cognizable offence, which means the police can arrest the accused without a warrant.) While police have arrested several of those who protested against Nupur Sharma's dirty comments, the same police have allowed Nupur to move freely. We should learn what the The rule of law is? It is defined in the Encyclopedia Britannica as "the mechanism, process, institution, practice, or norm that supports the equality of all citizens before the law, secures a non-

arbitrary form of government, and more generally prevents the arbitrary use of power and remarks of Supreme Court Judges is an awakening call. Reacting to the remarks of Judges, some of the former judges and bureaucrats have alleged that these comments are not in sync with the judicial ethos and have sent shockwaves in the country and outside. These vocal faces have torn out the sounding page of this controversy and their specks became frosty as to read or understand, why the party maintained silence whose spokesperson's loose talk have invited strong language not only from Muslim countries like Qatar, Kuwait and Iran that summoned envoys and demanded 'Public Apology' from the Government of India. UN Tells India To 'Respect All Religions' After BJP Leader's Controversial Remarks. We strongly encourage respect and tolerance for all religions. Nupur's remarks have landed India in a tricky foreign policy situation with West Asian Nations with which it has crucial trade and diplomatic relations. Over 89 lakh Indians living or working in the Gulf also make it an area of diplomatic concern. The secular minds in India have also condemned Nupur's remarks. Several countries including Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Jordan, Libya, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Maldives, and Pakistan, apart from the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) also vehemently denounced the offensive remarks of the BJP leaders, seeking apology in the matter. Those alleging that the Supreme Court Judge's

remarks have sent shockwaves in the country and outside, should open their mind to the definition of secularism and visit the page of constitution to understand in real sense what it means to be secular. Hard reality to be accepted by secular and unbiased minds is that it is not these remarks of the Judges but the remarks of Nupur Sharma, spokesperson of BJP that have sent shockwaves in the country and outside. Such remarks from the occupiers of the seats in the Highest Judicial hierarchy were much needed when political leaders maintain silence to such burning issues for their vote bank and these remarks have emanated a ray that yet the Apex Court have the courage to call 'spade a spade' and the ethos of the constitution are well protected in the hands of interpreter of the Indian Constitution. Concluding in person I don't align with the allegations of ex-judges and ex-bureaucrats but fully endorse the judges remarks that have shown mirror to the ideology that is in propagation for the past some years and every time unbridled mouth from political set up have been sending vicious signals to destroy the social and secular fabric of the country and we have never observed any deterrent measures from the present political dispensation to bond the relations but what is observed is such lose tongues are encouraged.

Here I remind the readers about a letter written by 34 top American lawmakers to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25 Feb 2016, (Available on search Engines) almost on the similar situation.

SC Judges' remarks on Nupur are alarming bells