

No pain, no palm; no thorns, no throne; No gall, no glory; no cross, no crown.  
—William Penn.

Central  
**Chronicle**

Founder : Late Shri Ramgopal Maheshwari  
Inspiration: Late Shri Prafulla Kumar Maheshwari

**EDITORIAL**

**New Twist in Sabarimala**

**H**indu fundamentalists led by the Bharatiya Janata Party are opposing the implementation of the Supreme Court judgment on Sabarimala allowing the entry of the women of all ages to enter and worship. The BJP is spearheading the movement on the way of Muslim fundamentalists are opposing the implementation of Supreme Court decision on triple talaq. Fundamentalists of all religions are anti reforms and put obstacles in the progress of the society.

The Government of Kerala is under Constitutional obligations to implement the Sabarimala decision of the Supreme Court and it is doing this job will under the very hostile conditions. Ultimately 2 women of below the age of 50 went inside the temple under police protection and performed the worship. The women have also decided to organize many kilometer long human chain to assert their right under the Supreme Court judgment.

The BJP spearheading the Hindu zealots to observe Kerala Bandh to protest against the entry of 2 women inside the temple. The BJP protest bandh turned violent and they damaged the public property.

The Chief Minister Mr.Vijayan blamed the BJP-RSS combine for the violence and warned stern action against the perpetrators. He said Government owed allegiance to the

**Vande Matram Dignified**

**T**he Chief Minister Mr.Kamal Nath has dignified the recitation of Vande Matram at the Secretariat Vallabh Bhawan over the simple ceremony introduced by the Chief Minister Mr.Babulal Gaur. Now the Police Band will march from the "Shourya Smarak" to the Vallabh Bhawan. Alongwith the ministers, officers and employees of the Secretariat the public will also participate in it.

The Chief Minister has not abolished it but on the onset said that he would introduced it in a more better form soon. It is his own volition, he has not done it under

Constitution. Hundreds of BJP-RSS agitators were arrested in the shutdown agitation. Earlier also many Hindu zealots were arrested on hampering the women go for temple entry. The Courts of Kerala have refused bail to such person on the ground that they were the defying the Supreme Court judgment. After the 2 women entry in the temple priest closed the temple and "purified" it taking it is violated by the women entry.

An Advocate Mr.PV Dinesh filed a contempt petition of Supreme Court against the priest and others on the so-called purification of temple. The Supreme Court will hear the contempt petition on January 22. The judgment is likely to set in motion the action and procedure against all those who are hampering the implementation of its judgment on women entry into the temple.

The Sabarimala is now a serious question before the whole nation.

If the orders and decision of constitutional authority are defied then country will become lawless and collapse of Constitution and Governance. The country will plunge into chaos.

The Sabarimala defiance will lead to defiance of Supreme Court decision on Triple Talaq also. The BJP is on power at the Centre and it is stigma on it that its state unit of Kerala is challenging the Constitution.

any criticism or pressure.

In the sittings in Congress state office the recitation of Vande Matram in the start and national anthem in the end of meeting has started.

With the change of Government between the political parties certain changes in the decisions, policies are common feature and essential also. One should not be over-sensitive on such things or take it as revengeful acts.

The Chief Minister himself keeping the portfolio of industry and it is hoped that during his tenure the industrial development of the State will be fast and solid.

**Local actions are building blocks for #GlobalGoals**

Shobha Shukla and Bobby Ramakant, CNS

**(Contd..)**  
"We impose 1% surcharge on all tobacco products and we are advocating that this surcharge money should be used for prevention of NCDs" informed Barrister Patwary.

Referring to progress made on WHO FCTC Article 19 which will empower governments of over 180 countries to hold tobacco industry liable, financially and legally, he commented that we need a far advanced legal framework if we are to hold tobacco companies liable for the damage they have caused. He said "we need some sort of funding for litigation in our country and alliance of lawyers so that lawyers get encouraged to do probono litigation against tobacco companies" to hold them to account for violations and abuses.

**CATASTROPHIC HEALTH EXPENSE DERAILS DEVELOPMENT**

There is strong evidence that catastrophic health expenditure is not only a major barrier in accessing existing healthcare services but also pushes healthcare seekers in deeper poverty. Catastrophic health expenditure is defined as out-of-pocket spending for healthcare that exceeds a certain proportion of a household's income with the consequence that households suffer the burden of disease.

"In Bangladesh also, biggest procrastination in development is the health or medical cost. If any family member gets a heart disease or stroke or cancer (all NCDs), entire lifefavings are spent over his or her treatment. Health economists have also recognized catastrophic health expenditure as biggest cause of poverty and obstruction to development" said MP Barrister Shameem Haider Patwary.

Prevention cannot take a backseat, especially when diseases that can be prevented are overburdening our health systems, and cause over two-thirds of untimely deaths. "If we take preventive measures like making safer spaces to walk or public parks for increasing physical activity we can reduce the risk of NCDs as well as save avoidable cost on healthcare. If we invest some of the funds for health promotion, so that more people are encouraged to use parks, walkways, gymnasiums, eventually we will end up making our people healthier and reducing overall health expenditure in the country" said Barrister Patwary.

"In my constituency, there is no park. Besides the river we have a big vacant land where a park is being made from the funds given by me from my allocation. In 15 Unions (governance units),

my ultimate aim is to establish 15 gymnasiums, 15 sports centres and 15 public parks. Women in the village often do not have space to walk and so certain time will be allocated only for women everyday to use the park, so that they can walk, see the nature, meditate, and exercise, comfortably" shared Patwary.

**TOBACCO REVENUE IS LESS THAN ECONOMIC COST OF EPIDEMIC**

Strong evidence shows that the tobacco industry and the deadly impact of its products cost the world's economies more than US\$ 1.4 trillion annually in healthcare expenditures and lost productivity. It is not a coincidence that around 80% of the world's 1.1 billion smokers live in low- and middle-income countries, but major tobacco companies and industries are headquartered in the richer nations. No prizes for guessing that it is

Nepal's Member of Parliament and former Health and Population Minister Khagaraj Adhikari said to CNS (Citizen News Service) in video interview (youtube.com/c/citizennewsorgans) that all local leaders need to unite to translate these global goals into effective action towards desired change. Well-coordinated local leadership is central to effective implementation of health and development policies. Local actions are the fundamental building blocks to drive nations, regions and the world towards sustainable development. "We have to make agenda at provincial level, central level and local level leadership is key for implementation. With concerted efforts at all levels, Asia Pacific region will become tobacco-free in coming days", said Adhikari. Nepal has demonstrated

Health has faced 16 extensive court cases brought against the measure by the tobacco industry. Unbowed, the Ministry of Health and Population has won 14 of those cases, with two appeals currently pending."

MP Khagaraj Adhikari shared that he was exposed to tobacco smoke as his father was a chain smoker. 12 years before his death, he had stopped tobacco use. So when he got the opportunity to be Nepal's Minister for Health and Population, despite odds he made unprecedented progress to advance health promotion, in particular, tobacco control.

"121,000 people die every year due to tobacco in Nepal. Government supports patients of NCDs but this support is not enough. Moreover, prevention is better than cure" stressed Adhikari.

He rightly says that "We should not have had to establish more hospitals" if health promotion was on track, because over 70% deaths are due to NCDs, a majority of which are preventable. He advocates for raising awareness to establish more stadiums and other spaces for increasing physical activity, and thereby reduce risk of NCDs.

He also emphasized on critical need to reach out to the children and young people, so that they do not choose tobacco, but choose health and life. Also young people can help convince their family members and friends to stop using tobacco for their own health and wellbeing.

MP Khagaraj Adhikari said that after 20 years Nepal has local bodies elected so it is an important opportunity to engage with local leaders to advance health and development at ground level.

Local leaders unite to #beatNCDs and #endtobacco. The local leaders from 30 cities in 12 countries of Asia Pacific region adopted a strong Declaration at the 3rd Summit of Asia Pacific Cities Alliance for Tobacco Control and NCDs Prevention (AP-CAT). Dr Tara Singh Bam, Regional Director (Asia Pacific) of International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) said that this AP-CAT Declaration commits the local leaders to implement the WHO best-buys for control and prevention of NCDs. These best-buys include:

- i) reduce tobacco use;
- ii) reduce harmful use of alcohol;
- iii) reduce unhealthy diet;
- iv) reduce physical inactivity;
- v) manage cardiovascular disease and diabetes;
- vi) manage cancer; and
- vii) manage chronic respiratory diseases.

Hope 2019 and beyond will see these promises translate into firm public health and sustainable development outcomes.

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the low- and middle-income countries that are reeling under the severest impact of NCDs too.

Barrister Patwary agrees. "There is a mindset problem we have in top politicians that tobacco companies give high tax." More advocacy needs to be done to expose these misconceptions and recognize tobacco use as not only a threat to public health but also to nation's development and economy.

"In last parliament, Bangladesh government had passed a law, Communicable Diseases Prevention Act. When I spoke about it, I had categorically said that we not only need that law for communicable diseases but we also need a guideline, central policy, trust or dedicated statute for non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Government has taken a note of it and working on it. We also have a National Health Policy where NCDs are reflected" shared Patwary.

Uniting local leaders will translate #globalgoals into change

strong leadership in tobacco control. Nepal had world's biggest pictorial health warnings (90%) on all tobacco products till very recently, when Timor Leste went for even bigger pictorial warnings (92.5%) pictorial warnings on tobacco packs. Nepal's contribution to tobacco control also got acknowledged with an international award. One of the awardees for 2015 Award for Global Tobacco Control of Bloomberg, was Nepal Ministry of Health and Population.

This Award citation in 2015 had put this on record: "Nepal has taken the lead among Southeast Asian nations when it comes to controlling and reducing tobacco use. Initiated by the Ministry of Health and Population in 2011, Nepal has enacted a comprehensive law comprised of large graphic health warnings, comprehensive bans on tobacco advertising and sponsorships, as well as a smoke-free law for public spaces - all while facing immense pressure from the tobacco industry. To date, the Ministry of

**Prime Minister's Interview and Election Arrow**

By Kushagra Valuskar

**I**n the new year, the Prime Minister gave interviews to the ANI. Along with giving an interview, he attracted attention to everyone. Whenever the PM says something, many questions arise. If the Prime Minister's interview is carefully seen and read, it is clear that he has given the same answers to all the questions which have already been given. It was only in Ram Mandir's case that he made it clear that the ordinance will not be brought to Ram temple. The matter must be resolved through legal process.

Actually, when a big leader gives an interview, then the questions are already settled in it. The leader answers the same questions, which he can tell. There are answers to questions related to all the facts on any issue in the press briefing. The truth comes in the same way, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi countered the benefits of the banquoement. He did not say anything about the people sitting in the house while breaking the notebook. Millions of people have become unem-

plished with the closure of thousands of small industries from the loss due to the financial system in the country due to the ban on bondage. PM Modi did not respond, whose responsibility was on him. He should have clarified on all the incidents after the ban was imposed. Where did he claim about black money, even where did it prove? This question was not asked about PM Modi's reform of the economy, when the country's economy is growing, why not improve the

**Opinion**

standard of living of the common people?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also openly responded to Rafal, but it was a way of preaching. The woman journalist did not ask her why she is avoiding doing the investigation from the Joint Investigation Committee of her Parliament. When this deal is completely transparent, why are they withdrawing from it? He put forward the judgment of the Supreme Court for this, while the pub-

lic wants to know the truth. The people still do not know what the Congress government had discussed on the Rafal deal at which price the Modi government bought them at.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not answer that the Lokpal appointment about corruption is being done before assuming his chair. There was no talk of inflation, unemployment, law and order, judicial system. PM Modi seems to have escaped even on the Ram temple issue He did not say that RSS organizations including RSS, Shivsena, do not give any provocative speeches about Ram Mandir. Wait for all the Supreme Court's decision. He did not say that the courts will request to settle these decisions quickly. It is clear that all interviews were sponsored.

There was nothing in the interview that the public felt that the government had talked about them.

Overall, PM Modi's interview does not have any significance for the country's good. Its main objective was to just elect an arrow.

**Bhima-Koregaon**

By Sujit De

**O**n the first day of every year, why do Dalits celebrate their victory under the British army against the Peswa army at Bhima-Koregaon battle of January 1, 1818? How could Bhima-Koregaon become a pilgrimage for Dalits? Why did Bhim Rao Ambedkar go to this pilgrimage in 1927?

We can get the answer in Mukta Salve's famous essay which was published in 1855 about the conditions of the Dalits under the Peswa rule. She said, "Under Bajirao's rule, if any mang or mahar happened to pass in front of a gymnasium, they would cut off his head and play 'bat and ball' with their swords as bats and his head as a ball, on the ground. When we were punished for even passing through their doors, where was the question of getting education, getting freedom to learn? When any mang or mahar would learn somehow to read or write, and if Bajirao came to know about this, he would say: education of a mang or mahar amounts to taking away a brahman's job. He used to say, "How dare they get educated? Do these untouchables expect the brahman to hand over their official duties to them and move around with their shaving kits, shaving the heads of widows?"

We see that Dalits were treated like dirt and they did not enjoy even animal rights let alone human rights under the Peswa rule. And we must not forget what Tagore reminds us in his poem ~ Apananita (Insulted) about the outcome of insulting human beings for centuries in such an inhuman way.

He said, "Those whom you push down will tie you/ down also./ those whom you have kept at the back/ will pull you back./ The ones you have unwittingly hidden/ away/ are burying your wellbeing and/ creating a wide distance from you./ You will have to remember all of India/ deserves the blame for this situation./ For hundreds of years they have carried/ the weight of disrespect./ you still don't show your appreciation./ Can't you see I lower my head for this/ contempt/ it has completely destroyed their/ confidence and faith in the divine power./ You should also share the insult with/ everyone."

Please send your letters and articles to  
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