

Founder Editor S.D. Rohmetra

# Nature in its fury

**N**ature is benign, nature is furious. Human beings are innovative, they are also helpless. This may appear contradiction in terms but that is the harsh reality of creation. That is what is summed up in the triumvirate philosophy of creation, preservation and destruction. Man is mercilessly exposed to human and nature made disasters. Yet he has the strange tenacity of withstanding all this and reconstructing the devastated life. Such is the force of the law of survival. Storms, earthquakes, tsunami, cloud-bursts, thunder-bursts, epidemics, fires and floods are all manifestations of the fury of nature. Imagine how many lives these calamities have claimed in the course of evolution. Yet our struggle for unfolding more realms of knowledge never ceases to be.

One such disaster has recently befallen the upper reaches of Uttarakhand where cloudburst, landslide and flash floods wrought unimaginable havoc. Large number of houses, dharamsalas and structures have crumbled. The number of lives lost by getting buried under the debris or washed down by the floods is not known because the rescue work is still going on on a massive scale. Speculation is that such casualties could run in thousands after the full picture is available. Kedarnath is the holy shrine where pilgrims come in thousands especially in summer months to perform the pilgrimage and to escape for a while the scorching heat of summer on the plains. Philanthropic people have opened scores of dharamsalas or pilgrim rest houses where habitual visitors to Kedarnath would come and stay. So far 90 of such rest houses have been destroyed in the flash flood and nothing is known about their denizens whether they managed to survive or were washed away by the gushing waters of the flooded Ganges.

The redeeming point in this scenario of devastation and destruction, which have affected almost more than 36,000 people, is the quick deployment of relief agencies, the army, ITBP, and Border Force personnel and equipment to save as many lives as physically possible and to provide relief to those who have lost everything and have escaped with bare life. Huge multi-agency rescue and relief enterprise is underway at the affected spot. Air Force has deployed 20 Mi-17s and 16 Advanced Light Helicopters in the State where they have evacuated over 1,500 people. This is a relief work of massive scale and hopefully very soon mud and slush will be cleared to find out if dead bodies were buried under the mass.

More than fifty thousand people are reported to be stranded in different parts of the State and despite difficulty of accessibility, their rescue work continues in full speed. The ITBP DG, who is also in-charge of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), said 17 bodies were recovered by the troops of the specialized force from the Kedarnath area. Defence Ministry swung into action soon after the news of the disaster was broken. More than 10,000 army men besides men in uniforms from other organizations are deployed on duty. There is perfect coordination among the relief work agencies and that is something highly appreciable. The army has so far rescued 20,000 people.

The entire nation is in deep sorrow for this enormous disaster and sympathizes with the victims. But at the same time the nation is feeling relieved that various public and private organizations have moved fast immediately after the news of disaster was broken. Relief work is on full swing. Those whose near and dear ones are missing, dead, wounded or debilitated should refer to the concerned relief and rescue authorities as this will help authorities in ascertaining the exact loss in terms of men and material. However at the same time, it is also the moral duty of the civil society to play its desired role in mitigating the suffering of the affected people in whatever way possible. We think that it would be feasible to organize local committees for collecting relief material through voluntary donations including relief funds and pass these on to the accredited representatives of the affected people. The Indian civil society should also come forward to raise sufficient funds that would be utilized in rehabilitation work for the affected people.

# Technology and warfare

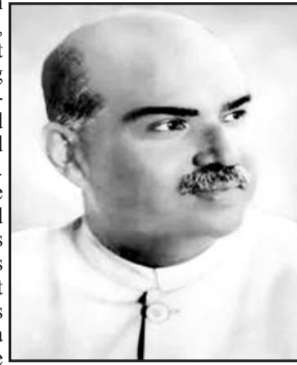
**S**peaking after the convocation ceremony at the Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (MCEME) in Hyderabad, former President and scientist Dr. A.P.J. Kalam stressed on the need of equipping future officers of armed forces with capability of envisaging and combating technology-driven warfare. Modern science and technology have great scope when introduced in defence sector. Conventional warfare methodology is gradually getting relegated to the background. Obviously success of a war in future will depend on the level of advancement made by the countries concerned in the realms of science and technology. The primacy objective of present day researches is to reduce time and space as far as possible and this will have the tremendous impact on a war that gets unleashed on any part of the globe. In simplest terms what he meant to say is that India should carry forward very fast its scientific and technological advancement. We need to take into account that our neighbour in the east has made rapid advancement in all walks of life including defence preparedness. We know that Chinese agents working clandestinely have tried to hack the internet in a bid to find out the secret documentation of other countries. This is an eye opener of how internet can be misused to gather intelligence of critical importance. Our scientists have great responsibility of raising the level of our country in terms of cyber warfare.

# A tribute to Mookerjee

Ravi Rohmetra

**D**r Shyama Prasad Mookerjee was born in a Bengali Hindu family on 6th July 1901 in Kolkata, the capital of British India. His father was Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee, a well respected advocate, well known as Bengal tiger, who became the Vice Chancellor of the University of Calcutta and his mother was lady Jogmaya Devi Mookerjee, Shyama Prasad Mookerjee grew up to be "an introvert" rather insular a reflective person, also an emotional person" who needed someone else by his side to give him emotional support. He was seriously affected by the early death of his wife Sudha Devi and never remarried. Mookerjee graduated in English securing the first position in first class in 1921 and also did MA in 1923 and BL in 1924. He became a fellow of the senate in 1924 after his father's death. Subsequently, he left England in 1926 to study at Lincolns INN and became a Barrister in 1927. At the age of 33 years Mookerjee became the youngest Vice Chancellor of the University of Calcutta and held the office till 1938. He enjoyed only eleven years of married life and had five children. He was elected as member of the Legislative Council of Bengal, as an Indian National Congress candidate representing Calcutta University but resigned next year when Congress decided to boycott the Legislature. Mookerjee started his political career in a small way in 1929 as a Legislative Council member. Subsequently, he contested the election as an independent candidate and got elected. He renamed the Finance Minister of Bengal province during 1941-1942. He emerged as a spokesman for Hindus and shortly joined Hindu Mahasabha and in 1944. He later on became the President to Sabha.

He was political leader who felt the need to counteract the communalist and separatist Muslim League of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who were Muslim state of Pakistan. He wanted Hindu Mahasabha not to be restricted to Hindus alone. Following the assassination of Mahatama Gandhi by a Hindu fanatic, the Mahasabha was blamed chiefly for the heinous act and became deeply unpopular. Mookerjee himself condemned the murder and left the party. The then Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru inducted him in the interim Central Government as a Minister for Industry and Supply. On issue of 1949 Delhi Pact with Pakistani Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan, Mookerjee resigned from the cabinet on 6th April 1950. Mookerjee was firmly against Nehru's invitation to the Pakistani Prime Minister and their joint pact to establish minority commissions and guarantee minority rights in both countries. He wanted to hold Pakistan directly responsible for the terrible influx of millions of Hindu refugees from East Pakistan, who had left state fearing religious suppression and violence aided by the State. Mookerjee considered Nehru's actions as appeasement and was hailed as a hero by the people of West Bengal.



After consultation with Shri Golwalkar Guru Ji of RSS Mookerjee founded Bharatiya Jana Sangh on October 21, 1951 at Delhi and he became the first President of it. In 1952 elections Bharatiya Jana Sangh won 3 seats in Parliament of India including his seat. The Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS) also favoured a uniform civil code governing personal law matters for both Hindu and Muslims. He also favoured to ban cow slaughter and end the special status given to the Muslim-Majority state of Jammu and Kashmir. The BJS founded Hindutva agenda which became the wider political expression of India's Hindu majority.

He opposed the Indian National Congress's decision to grant Kashmir a special status with its own flag and Prime Minister. According to Congress' decision, no one including the President of India could enter into Kashmir without the permission of Kashmir's Prime Minister. In opposition to this decision, he once said "Ek Desh Mein" Do Vidhan", "Do Pradhan" and "Do Nishan" Nahi Challenge" (A single country can't have two constitutions, two Prime Ministers and two National Emblems)

Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee went to visit Kashmir in 1953 and observed a hunger strike in protest against the law that prohibited Indian Citizens from settling in a State within their own country and mandated that they carry ID cards. Mookerjee wants to go to Jammu and Kashmir but because of the prevailing permit system, but he was not given permission. He was arrested on 11th May while crossing border into Kashmir. Although the ID-card rule was revoked owing to his efforts, he died as a detainee on 23rd June 1953 under mysterious circumstances.

Dr Mookerjee was arrested on entering Kashmir on 11th May 1953, thereafter he was jailed in a dilapidated house. Dr Mookerjee had suffered from dry pleurisy and coronary troubles and was taken to hospital one and a half months after his arrest due to complications arising from the same. He was administered Penicillin despite having informed the doctor-in-charge of his allergy to penicillin and he died on 23rd June 1953. No post mortem was ordered in total disregard of the rule. Maulana Azad, who was acting Prime Minister (in absence of Nehru, who was away in London) did not allow body to be brought to Delhi and dead body was directly flown to Calcutta. His death in custody raised wide suspicion across the country and demands for independent enquiry were raised, including earnest requests from his mother, Jagmaya Devi, to Jawahar Lal Nehru. Nehru declared that he had enquired from a number of persons who were privy to the facts and according to him, there was no mystery behind Mookerjee's death. His death therefore remains a matter of some controversy.

Atal Behari Vajpayee claimed in 2004 that the death of Mookerjee

was a conspiracy. However it was Mookerjee Marrydom, which later compelled Nehru to remove permit system, post of Sadar-e-Riyat at and of Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. On 22 April 2010, Municipal Corporation of Delhi's newly constructed Rs 650 crore building (The latest building in Delhi) was named "Doctor Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Civic Centre". The Civic Centre was inaugurated by then Home Minister P Chidambaram. The building which will cater to an estimated 20,000 visitors per day will also house different wings and offices of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) Delhi also has a major road named after Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee on 27 August 1998, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation named a bridge after Mookerjee. A best bus Junction near the Chhatrapati Shivaji Museum (formerly the Prince of Wales Museum) and Regal Cinema in Mumbai is named as "Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Chowk" in his honour. In 2001, the main research funding institute of the Government of India CSIR instituted a new fellowship named after him. The Shyama Prasad Mookerjee fellowship is the most prestigious fellowship given in India for doing PhD, only the top 20% students who clear the Junior Research Fellowship (JRF CSIR/UGC) are eligible to sit for this examination. Mathikere flyover under Bangalore city Limits was inaugurated and named "Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Flyover."

"We firmly believe that our plea for the full and complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India is consistent with true nationalism and the needs for the security of India including Kashmir". On 20th March 2010 Madapur Punjab at Ekta Sathal, statue of Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee was inaugurated in his honour in the presence of RSS Chief Mohan Jee Bhagwat, L K Advan, Nitin Gadkari and Sukhveer Singh Badal.

A newly big building of BJP Office is being constructed in Trikuta Nagar Jammu (The Tallest building) named as "Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Bhawan" in his honour and work is in progress.

Government pursue its a vowed agendas without enough seriousness? Did the ruling party make promises through its election manifesto only to tide over the campaign phase? And, if the answer to both the above two questions is "yes", does this not contribute to erosion of credibility of the political class as a whole and incite cynicism in the citizen against politician?

In the contemporary age of evidence based inference and documented reference, our politicians, are perhaps, by and large, still far from coming to terms with the new milieu and are content to live in the illusion that they can continue to fool the common man by downplaying evidence of figures and data, and that they can continue to thrive through a rhetoric of mutually competitive politics. But, with elections scheduled in less than a year, the moment of reckoning is fast approaching as Umaphaty holds out the "Ghalibian" warning "Sun To Sahi Jahan Mein Hai Tera Fasaana Kya!..."

# On The Special Joys of Airport Trash

M. J. Akbar

**T**he joys of an airport book may not quite meet the escalating demands of an upwardly liberal sensibility, but who can deny it is liberating? Environment is the daddy of content. You won't get many books at an airport store on the vagaries of civilization, but you will discover a hundred ways in which to turn your boss into a vegetable, and yourself into a sex symbol. But the best trash is not about changing the world; it is about saving it from dark satanic forces controlled by a mastermind. Nothing has changed since Superman, except that Superman now reads Dante instead of the Daily Plonk. Dan Brown is back at the airport with a thud that can be heard at the cash register.

I discovered Dan Brown when I joined the long line of suckers who made him a billionaire, and realised why precisely it was such a long line. The Da Vinci Code was an exotic tale of a power-thirsty Catholic cult which wanted to destroy something or the other before it was stopped in the nick of time by Brown's alter ego, a Harvard professor who, naturally, did not waste too much of his time on teaching. The hallucinations worked well through my pliant brain about a decade ago. I am pleased to inform you that both the Vatican and the world survived Dan Brown's assault. It is however a tribute to this master chef of potboilers that he did, for a brief while, make the Vatican wince.

The trick is to perfume rubbish with a bottle of incense hidden beneath the pile. Brown's bottle is artfully shaped, with secret sub-containers for clues and questions that persuade you to suspend rational judgement. But, contrarily, this would not work without a writing technique that is so stupid it can only be described as courageous. The Latest Dan Brown, Inferno, exhausts the reader with some serious heavy breathing in punctuation. There are more dots separating words with simulated tension than in an optical illusion graphic. Words appear in bursts within sentences; sentences stutter through paragraphs as short as summer underwear. Chapters are as flimsy as a negligee. We are playing peekaboo with destiny, so why not?

But recognise the paradox: the tension must be both real and fake, for we know that while everyone from a slick lone ranger working for a deadly consortium to the whole of the Italian police is trying to kill the hero from the opening page, the hero cannot die, for that would effectively end the book. This is therefore precisely the opposite of crime mystery, where anyone can die. If you think it is difficult to read such deathless, breathless prose, consider how difficult it must be to write it. Events must consistently outpace credibility. But that's okay. Dan Brown wants readers, not the Nobel Prize. The Nobel fetches far less money.

The problem may be that Brown has run out of incense, and is now using the kind of cheap deodorant advertised on music channels. Our Harvard Hero's mission this time is to stop a dead genius from killing one third of the world's population through some kind of plague, which is about as original a thought as the Son of King Kong. Most of the action takes place in Florence, but the dramatic revelations can be picked up from any good city guide book. Maybe that is why tourists like the stuff. Why bother to stretch facts when it is so much more lucrative to stretch the imagination? The inducement to buy the book is born of a genetic fascination for the pleasure of prurience during the idle wasteland of an airplane trip. A holiday gives the body a rest; Brown gives the mind a rest. Junk is only as good as it is bad. I fear, however, that Brown may be in some danger of taking himself seriously, which would be fatal to his craft. Every once in a while, possibly tortured by the need for self-respect, he introduces some inexplicable word into the text. Do you know the meaning of 'chthonic'? I didn't. Do you care? I don't. But just in case you want to word-drop, the 'ch' is silent.

There is a tip from a concerned if occasional reader. Brown should never leave London out of his books. The British Museum is a treasure house of clues from here to eternity. Take, for instance, the stark Egyptian black slab with a hollowed square at the centre, with ten lines stretching away like rays from a little child's sun? It was probably done by a Pharaoh's imbecile toddler, but who is to stop a Harvard professor from calling it the first instance of modern art laden with the deep warning that neurons would destroy matter ten centuries after the 8000 BC. Whoa...wait a minute...THAT MEANS NOW!

Maybe Dan Brown has reserved this symbol for his next book, Deferno.

# Unemployment on rise despite 'heroic' initiatives!

**F**or the members of a ruling dispensation who enjoy the dynastic privilege, albeit by default of birth, to be employed as Minister or Chief Minister, it may be convenient to ignore but the figures and statistics are too widely and tellingly published to miss the point that in the State of Jammu & Kashmir, out of total population of 1.25 crore, only 43 lakh are employed while the rest 82 lakh are unemployed which, in other words, means that 65% of the population of J&K is unemployed notwithstanding the present Government's "heroic" initiatives like "Sher-e-Kashmir Employment scheme", "Consolidated Salary job scheme", "Fast track recruitment policy" etc.

What is even more disturbing is that while generation after generation of the State's ruling political family continue to thrive by holding the highest State offices more by virtue of dynastic lineage rather than by any qualification or merit, the census figures released the other day make a startling disc-

closure that during the tenure of the present coalition Government, the dependency ratio has further increased and if, in the past, four persons in a family were dependent on a single bread-earner, today five or six persons are dependent on a single earning hand in a family

## TALES OF TRAVESTY DR. JITENDRA SINGH

Now that is certainly not a flattering comment on the performance of a Government which came to power five years ago with the promise of not only generating new sources of livelihood or employment but also of providing stipend to every unemployed youth. And what to say about the ruling party's promise of providing education to all when the literacy rate stands at 67% which is far less than that in the neighbouring states of Punjab, Haryana and

Himachal Pradesh. Taking a cue from Twitter savvy "young" Chief Minister of the State, more and more youngsters seem to be opting for vocations other than farming as a result of which there is an alarming decline in the population involved in agriculture sec-

tor regarding which the Joint Chief Principal Census Officer C.S. Sapru warns, the day is not far when we would have to completely import food grains from other States. And yes, what happened to the present Government's much hyped crackdown on Ultrasound clinics and doctors facilitating female foeticide because the census reveals a further decline in sex ratio? That takes us to ominous questions for introspection. Did the

# How clean is my city

Indu Raina

**T**he legend goes that once the great king, Jambu Lochan was passing by the side of river Tawi when he found a tiger and a goat drinking water together from the river and he decided to establish a city over there. It is thus we inherited the place, now called Jammu. Jammu is, infact, the most



peaceful and also a very comfortable place to live in. Besides, every year, it is visited by millions of tourists from all over India and abroad who pass through the city on way to MATA VAISHNO DEVI SHRINE. It is thus imperative to keep the city clean and make it attractive. But on the contrary, one finds heaps of garbage dumped almost in all open nallas, vacant plots, secluded corners on road sides. During rains garbage and sewage flow freely, creating breeding ground for water and air borne disease germs.

Generally, the practice is that the residents fill polythene bags

with household refuse and place them on either inside or out side their gates. On certain week days the safai karamcharies collect these bags in their small hand driven carts. They litter a lot on way while dumping it in open nallas, vacant plots or in the uncovered and overloaded municipal vans placed somewhere near the mohalla. It is a scene to watch the sorry

suggestion before the concerned authorities as well as the common people

Firstly, Let each mohalla be provided with a COVERED and Wheeled uniform type big dustbin to be placed at convenient place for each mohalla, against compulsory and reasonable payment for storing the garbage. Days may be fixed for each mohalla for picking of garbage by the municipal karamcharees. It may be collected in COVERED trucks or vans and straightaway be carried far away from residential areas to the places already allocated for the waste disposal where whole garbage of the city may be utilized in a purposeful manner, like converting it into bio-gas and organic manure. Secondly, let the house holders also dig pits in their kitchen garden for composting biodegradable waste on voluntary basis. whereas the compost can serve as the best manure for kitchen gardens besides lessening the volume of such disposable waste. Thirdly, recycling is the key component in waste management and is also economically beneficial. Let us realize its value and importance. Recycling material be segregated from non-recyclable items by the house holders.

Last, but not least, an awakening be generated in the minds of common people to help the government in tackling the menace of this gigantic problem. In short the steps should be taken from the grass root level. Enthusiasm of the residents along with the sincere and dedicated effort of the staff of the municipal corporation is essential if our city has to wear a beautiful look.

I venture to place my humble

# Poor Rupee

Suman K Sharma

**O**nce upon a time, so goes a Dogri folk tale, the elders of a remote village across a river had to deposit the annual revenue of the whole village in the raja's treasury. The personages were worried how to carry the huge amount through the jungle and across the river (there were no bridges those days) - it could be looted or lost on the way. Finally, they decided that the sarpanch carry the amount in his mouth. After all, it was a precious coin of one rupee!

Revert to the present times. The rupee coin is still around but like a relative in dire straits, it is counted only in multiples, not to be paid much attention in singles. A recent television ad of a mobile company says it all: 'Ek rupee se kya hota hai?' Taxi and auto-rickshaw drivers will give you a funny look if you wait - even if don't ask - for a balance of less than five rupees. (But to be fair to the crew of Jammu's Matadors, the passengers are given their balance to the last rupee; unlike the conductors of Delhi's public transport buses who will rudely demand the passengers to produce a 5-rupee coin for a ticket of Rs 5, 15 or 25, or wait till such a coin is available.) Shopkeepers have also adopted a disarming little trick.

When it comes to paying up the balance, they flop off the customer - be he five or eighty-five - with golis (as in goli de di), one goli for one rupee, two for two and so on. And if a foolhardy customer protests, the man on the counter tells the customer to give him the exact amount. For a kilo of dal, for instance, the buyer must pay fifty-seven rupees, and if he produces six tenners, or a hundred rupee note, he should be

prepared to receive at least three golis in lieu of the last three rupees. The onus is on the customer to carry the change, not the vendor to supply it.

That is the nub of the issue. Granted that there is no law to compel a vendor or a service provider to pay back in small change, but from where would customers get it? The Union Government and most of the State Governments make disbursements through electronic transfer or by way of cheques - that means no hard currency from the primary sources. And the banks would not think of handing over bagfuls of coins with each and every transaction. Then? Should we go back to the religious places and street beggars asking for change?

Rupee is in poor shape - down to sixty for a Yankee dollar and no one knows going there. Too true. But trying giving the neighbourhood grocer your yesterday's paper in lieu of that last rupee you owe him for the day's purchases! The stale newspaper may be of little use to him, but then you also did not need all those golis he has been passing off to you in place of your rupees? Ever since Emperor Sher Shah Suri brought it into market some five centuries ago, rupyia (Sanskrit for beautiful form) has warmed the hearts of people in more than half a dozen countries beside India - Afghanistan (till 1925), Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Seychelles and Maldives. It is not a question of what a rupee coin can buy today, it is about what you have to face if you don't have it with you.

Perhaps our vendors should be more supportive to their clientele and return the small change where it is due. After all, it is a practice followed by their ilk all over the world.

