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FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

Democracy has been described as 'the gift' of the twentieth century to humankind. Never before in the history of the world, says the West with legitimate pride, have so many people enjoyed the fruits of freedom. If nationalism and diplomacy were the 'gifts' of the nineteenth century (that cannot, of course, sideline the contributions of Karl Marx, Charles Darwin et al) freedom and democracy are undoubtedly the major gains of the twentieth century.

Still, only about 50 of the world's 193 countries are rated as genuine democracies. While most countries are not really free, many are afflicted with poverty, disease and backwardness. 42 countries where over 700 million people live are called HIPC—Highly Indebted Poor Countries. The international system now yoked to globalization and market economy is beyond the reach of these poor countries. The amazing achievements of science and technology in the last hundred years have brought no particular relief to these poor countries. Global imbalances appear more glaring and the gap between the rich and the poor is getting wider than ever before. As Amartya Sen has rightly cautioned "market mechanism on its own may not take us very far in eliminating deprivation". In their manifesto on 'THE THIRD WAY' British Prime Minister Tony Blair and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder write: "The essential function of markets must be complemented and improved by political action, not hampered by it. We support a market economy, not a market society." It only shows that fears about globalization and market economy are not unfounded.

The much talked about information revolution has also not been able to bridge the gap between the advanced and developing nations. Joseph Nye points out that the information revolution "contrary to the expectations of some theorists has not equalized power among states. If anything it has had the opposite effect". The coming century, predicts Samuel Huntington, another

famous social Scientist, will witness clashes between big powers 'in various permutations and combinations'. Those who warn are not prophets of doom but scholarly persons of eminence and foresight.

Fifty eight years ago Franklin Roosevelt propounded the famous Four Freedoms—freedom of expression, freedom of religion, freedom from want and freedom from fear. A few years later Jawaharlal Nehru proclaimed that elimination of want, disease and injustice 'both at the individual and national levels' was a goal of India's policy. Around that time the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations. The Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission constituted in 1946, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, superbly summed up the human rights philosophy in simple words: "Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home—so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world". The school, the farm and the factory, the place of work and the home are the places she identified. They are always the cradles of freedom, democracy and civic virtue.

War, want and disease have taken a heavy toll of human life in the twentieth century. Violence, want and disease are the biggest threats to human life in the twenty-first century. All of them are preventable and by no means insurmountable challenges. An encouraging sign is the concern being shown in the world today for the sufferings of women, the plight of the exploited child and the misery of the oppressed poor. Such concern must be translated into concerted action so that the benefits of freedom and democracy will reach everyone of the seven billion people of the world. Electoral democracy is no substitute for effective democracy.

—The Editor

"Freedom is in peril; defend it with all your might."

—Jawaharlal Nehru

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MILLENNIUM — I

—Prof. M.N. Sastri

The end of the Millennium is an appropriate occasion to reminisce the past events that deserve celebration or condemnation and to visualise the shape of things to come.

The world we live in today is the result of our endeavours to exploit Nature's bounties to satisfy our greed, with the tools provided by science and technology which are exclusively the gift of the Western Civilization. The Economist has very appropriately described the second millennium as the "Millennium of the West". It is true that more ancient civilizations had actually laid the foundations in science and technology. But to the Western Civilization goes the credit of exploiting this base such as (i) the Chinese invention of gunpowder for waging wars; (ii) the Chinese invention of the magnetic compass for marine expeditions and building empires and (iii) the Hindu invention of the zero and decimal system for the development of digital technology (e.g. Computers) which is set to become a major player in every walk of life with mind-boggling applications.

Science represents the accumulated and systematized knowledge of natural phenomena while technology involves the exploitation of scientific discovery for practical applications that satisfy human needs through creating conditions for new industrial activities, jobs, markets etc aimed at improving the quality of life. Actually technology which is concerned with making things happen has preceded science. For example, making of iron and toolmaking were known even in prehistoric times. Developments in science made it possible to know why such prehistoric innovations worked and how they can be improved upon. Now a stage is reached where science and technology are symbiotic. But for the technological innovations, modern science would not have progressed and vice versa.

The year AD 1543 is considered as the great year of awakening in the world of science when Copernicus put forward the heliocentric solar system concept and Vesalius established the science of human anatomy. The succeeding centuries saw the rapid progress of science and technology and the concomitant industrial revolution. The twentieth century, described as the Golden Age of Science, is marked by progress greater than that during the previous 5,000 years of history. The technological spin offs of this progress are so varied that they have completely changed the shape of the world. These include...

- (i) Rail roads which provided efficient bulk transportation, opened bigger markets in far off places and made possible several innovations such as large scale assembly activities.
- (ii) Telephone, representing the greatest breakthrough in information technology without which

it would not have been possible to control large scale centrally managed operations.

- (iii) Internal combustion engine, the heart of the automobile and truck industry which breathed life into to petroleum, rubber, glass and highway construction industries.
- (iv) Electric power generation which is a general purpose technology supplying power to any point making every part of the economy more efficient.
- (v) Radio, Television and movies, the mass communication technologies that created industries that had no precedents.
- (vi) Plastics which represent the dawn of materials revolution making it possible to make new materials to order expanding the scope of manufacturing materials.
- (vii) Microelectronics, which made information processing much cheaper and faster and which has also ushered in the Internet Age.
- (viii) Jet travel, which like railroads, dramatically increased the span of the markets and like telephone made it easier the control of Multinational Corporations from one point.

One noteworthy feature of this progress is that the pure scientists, over a period of time, "have become more detached from the mundane needs of the Society while the technologists had become more and more attached to immediate profitability" (Freedman Dyson).

(To be continued)

HUMAN RIGHTS

—Prof. R. Venkata Rao

Rights will have locomotion only when they have eloquent spokespersons for them. It is only because there were many crusaders of Human Rights in the Western World in the nineteenth century and also in twentieth century that the Human Rights today bear the stamp of the Western influence. Though the origin of human rights is normally traced to the Western moorings, they were very much prevalent in ancient India.

India, being the motherland of one of the oldest civilizations of the world and the birthplace of diverse cultures and religions, has very rich heritage of human rights values. It is also one of the greatest and oldest companions of the international community's struggle for preservation, protection and promotion of human rights. Many centuries ago, when the Western civilization did not even see the light of the day, it was from this holy land that the highest ideal of human life was echoed: "SERVE VAI SUKHINO VANTU" that is, let all people be happy. In fact, protection and promotion of human rights are possible only in a society where all people, irrespective of their castes, creed, sex and religions, live happily.

The RIGVEDA, which is considered to be the oldest document of human civilization declares that all human beings are equal and they are all brothers. The ATHARVA VEDA, likewise, proclaims that all human beings have equal right over food and water. To quote justice Jois, "The Vedas including UPANISHADS (Shruti) were the primordial source of "DHARMA" a compendious term for all human rights and duties, the observance of which was regarded as essential for securing peace and happiness to individuals as well as society. The Smritis and the Puranas were collections of the rules of DHARMA including civil rights and criminal liabilities (Vyavahara Dharma) as also Raja Dharma (Constitutional Law) which were developed on the basis of fundamental ideals incorporated in the VEDAS. There were also several other authoritative works on RAJA DHARMA... All of them were intended for securing happiness to all".

Unlike Western civilization and culture which are based on the rights of the individuals, Indian civilization and culture have been based since time immemorial, on duty not merely the duty of every individual towards other individuals but also the duty of the State (earlier, the King) towards citizens. The great thinkers of our ancient civilization and culture believed that enjoyment of rights by every individual would be secured only when every individual including the King perform his duties. For, they considered that "sense of right always emanates from selfishness whereas the sense of duty always generates selflessness. One of the great messages of the Bhagavadgeeta was: "KARMANYE VADHI KARASTE" - "Your right is to perform your duty", Gandhi amplified this idealism in the following words: INDIA IS ESSENTIALLY KARMABHUMI (Land of duty) IN CONTRADISTINCTION OF BHOGABHUMI (Land of enjoyment).

* * *

The Indian Supreme Court's contribution to the development of Human Rights and spread of Human Rights Culture is also noteworthy, especially in the post 1978 era. Expanding the doctrine of locus standi, through public interest litigation, the Supreme Court has made innovative contribution in evolving new principles of Administrative Law. In case of the marginalized sections, the prisoners, the handicapped, pavement dwellers and neglected children among others, new principles of ameliorative Jurisprudence have been shaped.

* * *

At a time when the Universality of the Universal declaration of Human Rights is being debated all over and the Right to Development has been recognized and the 1993 Vienna Declaration has unambiguously affirmed that "ALL HUMAN RIGHTS ARE UNIVERSAL, INDIVISIBLE, IN-

TERDEPENDENT AND INTERRELATED", the Human Rights will have any meaning only when human suffering is taken seriously by one and all.

(Summary of a Lecture delivered at the Centre for Policy Studies on May 12, 2000)

SO NEAR, YET SO FAR !

—Shri S.K. Pattanayak, IRAS

Sr. Div. Accounts Officer
S.E. Railway, Visakhapatnam

The Twentieth century has become the talk of the past. Now, there has been a lot of euphoria around as we have already entered into a new century and new millennium. Being Indians, we need to take stock of the developments made in our country during last fifty years or so after Independence on various fronts- Social, Cultural, Political, Science & Technology, Literacy, Education etc. Or else, we may get stuck up in the world arena claiming our country to be a fast-developing Nation with the largest democracy and having around one billion manpower resources.

If prophecies are to be believed, India is all set to emerge soon as the super-power in the changing geopolitical scenario. Well, such a prediction apparently may not have much of truth to be believed upon under the present prevailing situa-

"We express our gratitude to Shri K.R. NARAYANAN, His Excellency the President of India, for conveying his best wishes to the Centre for Policy Studies"

—The Editor

tions in the country; but at the same time, no one can deny the inherent strength of our Nation i.e., *unity in diversity*. Or else, our brave soldiers would not have won the recent war so convincingly over the enemies against all odds on the Kargil front.

No doubt, we are yet to catch up with the countries in the Western world – Europe and America; even countries in the far East, North and South Asia – Japan, South Korea, China, Thailand & Hongkong in terms of economic growth and all - round development. But then, we are trying to make an impact on many fronts, albeit with a cautious approach, such as Agricultural Production, Industrial Development, Science & Technology and of course the all-pervasive information Technology, which has already become a revolution world-wide. Yet, our endeavours and efforts seem to lack the desired impetus, direction and commitment on many more fronts, e.g. Sports & Games. Or else, there would not have been medal - drought for our sportsmen and women in successive Olympics right from its inception at Athens (Greece) in 1896.

"Freedom means the supremacy of human rights"

—Franklin Roosevelt

SRI RUDRA - I

—Sri C. Sivasankaram

Is it not the time for an introspection into the state of affairs of Sports & Games in our country? Gone are those days when Dhyan Chand and his compatriots mesmerized the whole world with their hockey wizardry, and the countrymen used to feel proud of their Gold Medal winning performances in successive Olympics, both in the pre and post-Independence era. But alas, Tokyo Olympics in 1964 saw the end of a Golden Era, of course with an exception during Moscow Olympics in 1980. And thereafter, every other country has taken over, leaving us much behind to bask in the past glory. Hockey apart, there is nothing much to the credit of the country with the size of a subcontinent with one billion population except for a couple of Bronze Medal Winners in Olympics arena, the latest being a Bronze Medal by Leander Paes in Lawn Tennis during last Olympics at Atlanta (1996). Even our Sportsmen and women are much lagging behind in the competitions at Asian level. Can there not be a reversal to this disturbing trend? Or else, our all-round efforts to excel as a super-power will remain as a daydream in the new millennium. Who says that we don't have the right breed to excel in the Olympic arena and become world beaters? Potentials and talents are galore. But, the fact remains that many of them are not spotted or tapped properly at the right age and right time and even after some manage to come to the limelight, they vanish soon either being neglected with official apathy or lack of encouragement and exposures at international level. And there is a third factor adding to our miseries and woes. The "Will to Win" for the sake of the country, in other words the "patriotic fervour", is either lacking or missing amongst most of our Sports-persons in the present generation unlike the glorified past. Or else, the country would have boasted of many Olympians.

Amidst the not-too-encouraging scenario in Sports & Games as prevailing now in our country, there have been silver linings of success every now and then in various disciplines. On individual fronts also, a few have already proved their worth at the highest level - *Prakash Padukone* in Shuttle Badminton, *Leander Paes* and *Mahesh Bhupathi* in Lawn Tennis, *Viswanathan Anand* in Chess, *Geet Sethi* in Billiards etc. Some have been showing their promise to excel at the opportune time. But still, it appears as if everything is so near, yet so far. Or else, an individual Olympic Gold would not have remained elusive so long!

Nevertheless, all is not over now. Sydney Olympics is round the corner in the year 2000. Some of our Sports-persons including hockey team have met the qualifying marks to represent the country. But, the question mark on success is still haunting the minds of many sports-loving Indians.

Can The Jinx be broken in the year 2K ?
Keep your fingers crossed but hope for the best.

Indian Pantheon is known for its gorgeous episodes of mixed meaning and inscrutable derivations. Sri Rudra is the greatest name in the order of Indian deities. We see everywhere. His name spelt, chanted and eulogised by all without distinction of belief and persuasion. Sri Rudra is the Maheswara. While Brahma is the operative creator of the World. Vishnu is the operative caretaker of the world as it exists, Sri Rudra is the player of Lays, the cause of disappearance of that which appears existing and constantly raising and falling. In his aspect as the ruthless dissolver of the world. He is called Sri Rudra. In his another and most noteworthy facet as the bestower of boons. He is called Siva. Sri Rudra wields arrows of wicked effect when he is involved with the intention of getting rid of the inauspicious, evil-bearing spirits. As all looks paradoxical about Indian spiritual thought the composition of Sri Rudra as saviour and dissolver, father of prosperity and producer of sorrow looks intriguing. If we are adept at the application of knowledge in its fullest meaning and apt approach towards Indian religious spirit nothing looks either odd or intriguing. It conveys the fact and truth of life - that which is the cause of the effect is also the destroyer of the effect. For example the food that offers succour in the hour of health happens to be the brighter of the thing sustained by it in the hour of illhealth. In the pralaya are imbedded seeds of raise, seeds of reincarnation. The secret of Indian Thought is that life is perennial and right to liberation or mergence in the Akhanda Chidatma is inalienable. It removes the cause of sorrow bewilderment and suffering from hypothetical fears as nothing that once exists will ever meet with death. The net result is identification with Brahman. As the upanishad gracefully proclaims that death is absorbed by Brahman-Ananda is the finale. Sri Rudra is the Supreme Lord (Antaryamin) of the universe and the pitiless vanisher of it. Appearance, and disappearance alternate each after the other. They go on eternally without remorse.

P.B. Shelley says "destroyer and preserver" in his Ode to Wild Western No.

Sri Rudra plays a distinct role, a decisive part in the thrilling drama of the world called samsara - illusion. He is the power that moves intermittently unseen and untold by the elements. He is the one who remains like the rock (sthanu) or the goldsmith's device that helps devise ornaments of various kinds in accordance with the taste of the waver of the ornaments. It continues to remain unchanged and undepreciated like the Samatan. He is responsible for the dissolution of the projected world at the hour of Kalpanta and at the hour of Kalpadi (beginning of time) he brings forth the world as before -Surya Chandramasor dhata 'yathapurvamakalpayat' sriti.

Sri Rudra in his divine aspect of Siva creates Brahma, and commands him to exhale vedas at the first signs of

ensuing Kalpadi as before 'yathapurvamakalpayat'. Sri, with the assistance and esoteric energy of the veda, the supreme word or the comprehensive mystic syllable 'Aum', Brahma assumes the office of Creator and the world materialises as before including Sun and Moon. Thus Sri Rudra is the subtle and fine cause of creation and as cause of creation. He is responsible by reason bound to maintain and sustain it. For this purpose he assumes the form of Vishnu the limitless pervader. By simple logic we can conclude from this that Sri Rudra is the pristine and primeval cause of the effect in its innumerable forms.

(To be continued)

Sri D.V. SUBBA RAO FELICITATED....

Former Mayor and leading advocate Sri D.V. Subba Rao was felicitated by the Centre for Policy studies on April 24 at Hotel Green Park on his election as the Chairman of the Bar Council of India. The Vice-Chairman of Sankar Foundation and patron of Centre for Policy Studies, Sri Subba Rao is the first mofussil advocate to be elected to the top post in India. Elders of the city joined in the felicitation function at which Dr. M. Gopalakrishna Reddy, former Vice-Chancellor and the present Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University, Prof. R. Radhakrishna, Chairman of Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Sri S.R. Rao, Collector Sri J.S.V. Prasad, Commissioner of Police Sri K. Durga Prasad, advocate Sri B.S. Rammohan and well-known scholar Sri Challa Sivasankaram spoke about Sri Subba Rao's qualities of head and heart. Sri A. Sankar Rao and Smt. Yesodha Sankar Rao founder-trustees of Sankar Foundation honoured Sri Subba Rao.

Hailing from a distinguished family of lawyers Sri Subba Rao joined the Visakhapatnam bar in 1957 after graduating in law from the Andhra University. Endowed with a sharp mind and excellent oratorical skills, Sri Subba Rao rose to eminence in a short time and became a legal adviser to major public sector undertakings in Visakhapatnam. He appears in arbitrations before eminent judges like Shri P.N. Bhagawati and Shri Y.V. Chandrachud in Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta and Chennai. He was elected Lions Governor in 1975 and the Mayor of Visakhapatnam City in 1987. His unblemished record of public service has brought him laurels from far and near. As the President of the Andhra Cricket Association he has helped the ACA in many ways and Visakhapatnam city has hosted six international cricket matches. He was the administrative manager of the Indian Cricket team that toured the West Indies in 1991. Subba Rao has also been associated with many social and cultural organisations and was the President of the Bharati Gana Sabha.

Replying to the felicitations Sri Subba Rao attributed his success to the culture of the city of Visakhapatnam and the goodness of the people. His wife Smt. Sarvalakshmi was also felicitated on the occasion.

GLOBALISATION AND INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

—Prof. K.C. Reddy

From Adam Smith to Amartya Sen the economics discipline witnessed fascinating transformation both in content and relevance with economic development as the major concern of the economists throughout. Policy instruments were designed under various economic systems, and initiatives were launched keeping this objective at the centre stage. At the turn of the Millennium India along with the rest of the World is under the influence of all pervasive liberal economic policies under the umbrella of Globalisation.

However, Globalisation as an initiative for improvement in production and productivity is not new to the world. Economic historians figure out at least two other waves of globalisation in the evolution of world economy, the first one five decades before the I world War and the second one in the immediate post-war period. The pre-war period globalisation was accounted by the surge of movement of goods and capital across the world and also migratory flows while the globalisation of the immediate post-war period appears to have been driven by the domination of Americans and its dollar in managing the international economy. The recent wave of globalisation is crucial to the global economy and to the various participants not only because of its nature but also because of its significance as a much larger proportion of the global population are now under the influence of this philosophy. The current globalisation is particularly important because it is expected to bring about phenomenal changes in the global economy through systemic revolution, technological revolution and information revolution. These changes have been driven by the success of certain countries like the East-Asian ones and the breakdown of the USSR.

Available evidence on the impact of globalisation does not help to arrive at consistently uniform inferences. Growth is not confined to only open economies and many open economies in the sub-saharan Africa did not experience rapid growth. The spectacular growth achieved by East Asia has to be analysed in the context of increased protection to their domestic markets, redistribution of land, investment in education, and export subsidisation. Globalisation appears to be helping too few and hurting too many. It is leaving precarious instability and rising inequality in its wake. The recent Development Report of UN documents how "globalisation has dramatically increased inequality between and within nations, even as it connects people as never before".

"We support a market economy, not a market society"

—Tony Blair (British Prime Minister)

Gerhard Schroeder (German Chancellor)

India has taken to the liberalisation policies in 1991 to tide over the crisis on both fiscal and balance of payments front through stabilisation in the short-run and to integrate the Indian industry and economy with the global economy in the long run through structural adjustment.

India's experience with liberal market friendly economic approach has also received mixed response. India's national output showed impressive performance during the reform period, even when compared with the best performed period of planned development during 1980s. There has also been significant improvement in the balance of payments as indicated by both the foreign exchange reserves and the current account deficit. But two areas which worry the policy makers as well as professional economists are poverty incidence and the fiscal deficit. Rapid growth during the reform period has not contributed to a significant decline in the proportion of people below poverty line implying that the increased prosperity has been shared by many. Poverty alleviation efforts are getting weakened further because of the worsening fiscal position of both Government of India and most of the state governments. The anxiety of the governments to contain fiscal deficit is invariably resulting in a deep cut on social sector expenditures which is expected to worsen poverty. Experience in the other successful countries as well as India's own experience in states like Kerala, Goa etc. has shown clearly that the sustainability of development depends on the extent of participation by the people in the development process and this in turn depends on the creation of strong social infrastructural base. Prioritisation of public investments into basic education, health care, sanitation and water would therefore become critical aspects of development policy at this point of time for India.

(Lecture delivered at the Centre for Policy Studies on April 7, 2000)

MILLENNIUM AND INFORMATION

—Prof. G.V.S.L. Narasimha Raju

Information has been variedly understood and defined in earlier times. It is often thought that information, communication and knowledge are synonymous terms. Particularly information and knowledge are considered synonymous. But information, which is experienced through the senses when received through the means of communication, processed and assimilated with our existing knowledge becomes new knowledge. That is to say knowledge is modified or nullified or improved upon by means of information.

Over the centuries and particularly in the last millennium several thinkers identified different approaches to information like quantitative, qualitative knowledge, deci-

sion making etc. Several theories on information, communication and knowledge were propounded during the preceding millennium.

Invention of the wheel and writing were said to be major turning points in the history of mankind. With the invention of printing by movable type information recording and transfer became simple and easy. Now with the developments in Telecommunication and Computer Technology; what is popularly known as Information technology (IT) mankind reached greater heights in information storage, repackaging and dissemination.

The abundance of information in recorded form has become a problem for information seekers, particularly scientists and researchers. Librarians and Information specialists are improving their roles as mediators between information and its seekers through several services. Beginning with indexing, abstracting they are now providing on-line services.

Quantification of anything and everything and application of statistical methods even for social sciences is a phenomenon of the 20th century. So Bibliometrics and Scientometrics became quantitative studies of information for librarians and information scientists.

"Right to Information" is a plea for access to information without any hindrance. In democracies people have every right to know what is happening whatever be the level of administration. Sweden was the first country to realise this through legislation in 1766. The USA enacted 'Freedom of Information Act' on July 4, 1967. During the United Front rule the Union Government thought of such laws in our country in 1996. The present Union Government initiated the move again while the states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Goa have already taken up the legislation.

Abuse of information and active threats to the free passage of information is a serious problem which we are facing. At the defence and strategic levels countries like USA are worried about what they call the 'Cyber Threat' by means of which other nations can have access to their defence and economic secrets. At the individual level 'Viruses' disturbing and destroying both software and hardware is an everyday phenomenon.

Looking at the future Information Marketing (or providing information services on payment); E-Governance and E-Commerce with the use of Information Technology are already picking up. A 'Paperless Society' in the 21st Century is predicted by F.W. Lancaster. Great Libraries can be reduced in size and stored in small corner of a room by recording their contents on CDs.

It is also noticed that other living beings like animals and birds and non-living beings like machines and materials also communicate information. Understanding them and using their information for the good of the society will be the challenge for the 21st century.

(Summary of the lecture at the Seminar at the Centre for Policy Studies on May 12, 2000)

"Examinations are formidable even for the best prepared; for the greatest fool may ask more than the wisest man can answer."

ROLE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

—Shri D.V. Subba Rao

Chairman, Bar Council of India

At the dawn of the new millennium the legal profession in India has to find the new role for itself and has to brace itself to meet the challenges that the new millennium offers. The last century was unique in many ways in so far as the legal profession is concerned. Those in the forefront of the freedom struggle were the members of the legal profession. They provided the freedom movement leadership and when India had its tryst with destiny on the midnight of August, 1947 many lawyers in the freedom struggle were fortunately with us and they put the nation on the path of progress. The Constitution of India gave hope of a new era and offered the profession a new role. From Shastras to statutes, from common laws to codified laws and constitution law was a transition the profession had to adapt itself to. Promoting social justice, fighting inequalities, protection of the fundamental freedoms became the *raison-d'être* of a lawyer's existence. Public interest litigation, accountability in public life, were the signature tune that the professional flute played. Towards the closing years of the century though much of the sheen of professional escutcheon was lost still the profession retained its passion for fighting injustice. The new century offers altogether different challenges. The world has shrunk, Geographical boundaries have disappeared, Information Technology has resulted in a world of "instant happening. In this brave new world the profession has to adopt itself to a global vision and learning. Intellectual property rights, international contracts with multiple judicious private and public international law, acquiring knowledge of trade and patent laws and protection of human rights, environmental concerns are the new areas in which the Indian lawyer has to acquire knowledge and develop skills. Even within the area of domestic jurisprudence the lawyer has to be sensitive to human concerns, fight social injustice, gender inequalities and address himself to concepts like affirmative action, consumer rights, protection of civil rights. In a fast changing world new concepts of morality are threatening the institution of family which is the bed-rock of a sound and orderly human society. These disturbing winds of change have not passed India by. Realising the threat the United Nations has already laid great emphasis on the strengthening of the family institution and even an advanced country like USA is concentrating its energies on strengthening the family structure. Lawyers as family counsellors must play a positive role in strengthening family ties. Speaking of challenges of the new century, it might appear a little odd to talk about family concerns, but the trends in society are not a mere straw in the wind. They indicate a definite shift in the stand, a manifestation of rugged individualism resulting from economic independence of the individual. The legal profession should share with the

social scientist their concern for strengthening the family institution. I would like to end on a note of hope that the profession will be in the vanguard of change and progress and will be the zealous protector of the rights of the citizens vis-a-vis the burgeoning Leviathan of the state.

A REPORT ON IMPORTANT EVENTS AND FREE RURAL EYE CARE & GYNAEC CAMPS

—Shri G.P. Raju

Senior Manager (Resources)

I. Visakha Samacharam's Ugadi Puraskar :

Visakha Samacharam, a local Telugu daily, whose circulation is scaling to new heights year by year, has a noble tradition of recognising & honouring various stalwarts in the distinguished fields, has chosen Our Managing Trustee, Shri A. Sankar Rao. "Excellent Voluntary Social service Organisation" was awarded to the Sankar Foundation at a special function organised on 23rd, April 2000. Shri Lal Jan Pasha, General Secretary of the Telugu Desam Party presided over the function.

II. Important Milestones :

I am delighted to report that Sankar Foundation's state-of-the-art Eye-hospital had successfully performed 8000 Intra Occular Lenses (IOL) surgeries & Our Women & Child Hospital achieved an important landmark of 1,000 Deliveries plus 4 children (2 Twins) totalling to 1,004.

To Mark this happy occasion, brief celebrations were held at both the hospitals, Near Simhachalam, on 26th May, 2000. Shri Challa Sivasankaram, a Learned Vedic Scholar & Our Trustee has personally blessed the Doctors & Para-Medical staff for their Valuable Contribution.

Mementoes were presented to the Doctors & Gifts were distributed to all the Staff Members of both the hospitals on this memorable occasion.

Shri G.P. Raju, Senior Manager (Resources) exhorted that "Quality" "Professional attitude & approach & "Respect" to all the patients are a must on the part of personnel to elevate our Hospitals to the Corporate Hospital Status at the earliest opportunity.

Shri A. Sankar Rao, Managing Trustee profusely thanked the Doctors & Staff for the services rendered. He recalled the sincere efforts of the doctors since inception of the hospitals till date.

III. HPCL'S Equipment Donation :Value-Addition to SF's Eye Hospital :

Carl Zeiss Yaglaser equipment worth Rs. 8.5 Lakhs donated by the HPCL was formally handed-over by Shri V. Vizia Saradhi, general Manager (IR) HPCL, Mumbai to the Sankar Foundation's state-of-the-art Eye hospital on 01-04-2000.

The aforesaid equipment, imported from the Germany is useful in treating Cataract and Glucoma Patients.

IV. Continuous Medical Education Programmes (CME):

Our Veteran Professor Dr. N.V. Ramana Murthy M.D., Dch., Consultant Paediatrician, Sankar Foundation's Women & Child Hospital addressed the House-Surgeons of Andhra Medical College (attached to the Rural Health Centre, Simhachalam) on the following topics :

"Congenital Heart Diseases" on 11-4-2000

"Immunization update" Diarrhoea & its Management" on 23-05-2000

Dr. Ramana Murthy is always ready to share his knowledge & willing to interact with any individual enthusiast besides Medical Professionals.

V. VIP Visits :

Shri Purushottam Venugopal, Director & Writer, Chennai.

Shri K.S. Stage Director, Actor Visakhapatnam & Dr. Sri Narayan Rao, Senior Administrator, Mallaya Hospital, Bangalore.

VI. Free Rural Eye & Gynaec Camps :

Eye Camp was arranged on 10-04-2000, at Maharanipeta, Krishna Nagar Sponsored by Rajasthani Sanskruthika Mahila Samilhi. The camp was inaugurated by Shri Kode Durga Prasad I.P.S., Commissioner of Police Visakhapatnam and presided over by Mrs. Asha Jain.

Dr. Y.R.P. Yellaji Rao, Ophthalmic Surgeon headed the Medical Team. 55 Patients have been screened and 6 were selected for Cataract Surgery.

S/Shri G.P. Raju, Senior Manager (Resources) and D.D. Prasada Rao, Administrative Officer of Sankar Foundation spoke on the Occasion.

Smt. Meena Golhi, Secretary of the Mahila Samithi proposed a vote of thanks.

Free Eye and Gynaec Camp at Thiruvolu on 17-04-2000.

A Free Eye and Gynaec Camp was organised at Thiruvolu, Chidikada. Cataract Screening was done by Dr. Y.R.P. Yellaji Rao. 70 persons have been screened and 34 Cases have been selected for Cataract Surgeries.

The Gynaec Check-up was performed by Dr (Mrs) A. Sila Mahalaxmi M.B.B.S., D.G.O., 55 persons have been screened and 10 persons have been referred for further treatment at our Women & Child's Hospital.

Shri D.D. Prasada Rao, Administrative Officer accompanied the teams and supervised the Medical Camp.

Eye Camp at Paravada on 08-05-2000

A Free Eye Camp was organised at Z.P.H. School, Paravada, organised by the NSS Volunteers of Shri Gowri Degree College, Kancharapalem under the guidance of Shri P. Nooka Appa Rao, Programme Officer, in association with the local NGO "Sadhana".

Shri Paila Appa Naidu Ex.MLA, has inaugurated the camp and appreciated the noble and free services rendered by the Sankar Foundation. S/Shri G.P. Raju, Senior Manager (Resources) and D.D. Prasada Rao, Administrative Officer spoke on the occasion.

Dr. G. Suparna M.B.B.S., D.O., led the medical team and examined 96 patients. 21 Patients were selected for Cataract Surgeries.

"There is one thing common between smoking and flattery.
They are both dangerous if you inhale."

—Adlai Stevenson

CENTRE FOR POLICY STUDIES

(Soudamini, 10-50-19, Siripuram, Visakhapatnam 530 003)

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