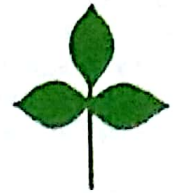




BULLETIN

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END OF TERRORISM?

The First World War that lasted for 1565 days and claimed over 10 million lives was called by the allied powers as 'a war to end war.' The peace that followed the infamous Treaty of Versailles in 1919 was described with appropriate sarcasm as 'the peace to end peace.' Four great empires collapsed, the map of Europe was redrawn, lofty proclamations about elimination of political, social and economic inequalities were made and in 1920 was born the League of Nations, the first international organization for the prevention of war and promotion of peace.

The euphoria did not last long. Great powers were soon back in business. It did not take even twenty years for the seven great powers to go to war. In 1939 broke out the Second World War, costlier and bloodier than the first and that caused the destruction of Nazi and Fascist forces. Ironically it is only during war in the midst of death and destruction that nations and leaders talk of peace and justice! In 1944 when the twin sisters - IMF and World Bank - were born at Bretton Woods and a few months later at Dumbarton Oaks, also in the United States of America, the big three, USA, UK and USSR, designed the frame and form of the United Nations to save humankind from the scourge of war and to promote peace and progress of the world. The simple but unassailable truth is that the big powers, particularly the western powers, came to acquire a hold over the world's main political and economic institutions. The rest is history, bitter, unpleasant and strife-ridden, that has seen escalation in violence and accentuation of hardship and misery for most people of the world. The international power structure has undergone many changes and with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the USA has become the undisputed sole superpower. Such is the dominance of the lone superpower that the claim is made that a new era AB- 'After Bipolarity' has begun around 1991 and the world is now said to be in AB 10!

The USA is undoubtedly a great nation. Its contribution to the progress of the modern world is multi-dimensional. The Americans are gifted in many ways and are justifiably proud of their cultural synthesis which has been rightly hailed as 'commingling of cultures.' Its military power and economic strength are unmatched. It is the oldest of modern democracies and

unquestionably the most vibrant. If the western world claims that the millennium that has ended has been 'the western millennium,' America has stood in the forefront with its many sided achievements.

Despite all this, America's bid to perpetuate its hegemony in world politics by setting an international agenda is unjust and unwise as well. A nation that proclaimed isolationism as its principle in foreign policy for more than a hundred years cannot shift gear and intervene in every part of the world in the name of multilateralism and world peace and security. For over a decade the United States harassed India and tried to bully the latter into submission in the name of CTBT and Human Rights. CTBT has been rejected by the American Congress and today America thinks that security cannot be sacrificed in the name of human rights. There are many in America who now place security on a higher pedestal than human rights.

The policies that the world's greatest power pursues and the institutions it controls, including the United Nations, have neither ensured peace nor ended inequality and injustice. The benefits of information technology largely the creation of the United States, have been offset by the menace of international terrorism. Globalization, however inevitable it may be, has excluded more number of countries and populations from the benefits it claims to have produced. Many developing countries are unable to cope with the pace of change and economists insist that the gap between the rich and the poor is widening alarmingly.

Is it going to be the end of terrorism? George Bush and Tony Blair along with their allies may soon achieve their goal in Afghanistan. There are other areas too that have been breeding grounds for international terrorism which have to be targetted. It is going to be a long war. But the real fight against the roots of terrorism will have to be fought by not only all governments but by all statesmen and champions of peace like Nelson Mandela, Mikhail Gorbachov and Kofi Annan. Humanity and its leaders cannot forever remain mute witnesses to the goings - on in today's world. Every home, every village and town, like every big city and nation and every leader, big or small, must strive for a new world order based on equality and justice, not with weapons and force but by means of non-violence and instruments of peace.

- The Editor

Current Status of the Indian Economy

- Prof. K.C. Reddy, Director, SAARC Centre, A.U.

India has brought in a paradigm shift in its development strategy towards a market friendly system in 1991 due to compulsions of both domestic inefficiency and inadequacies and near external bankruptcy. Having completed the decade of reform experiment, the country is all set to launch another spell of reforms described by many as the second generation reforms. At this stage it is necessary to understand the current status of the economy, through an evaluation of the economy during the last decade as it would help to design appropriate initiatives for implementation during the course of next decade.

Divergent views are being expressed on the performance of the economy and the difference of opinion pertains to both macro perspectives and specific sectors and groups. An attempt is made in this note to analyse India's growth performance with respect to growth and composition of the economy, level of savings and investment, the industrial and the food economy of the country. The social sector dimension and poverty issues have not been analysed for want of space and also because of the fact that it is being attempted by another colleague.

Analysts maintain that reforms helped the Indian economy to move towards a higher growth trajectory described by many as a "New Hindu Rate of Growth" of around 6 percent per annum during the 1990's from a growth of 3 to 3.5 percent per annum during the first three decades of planning. However, latest annual report of the Reserve Bank of India analysing the Indian economy during the reform period describes it as a situation of "deceleration of growth in the major productive sectors along with greater financial fragility." After adjusting the data on real GDP growth for irregular year to year fluctuations, the RBI confirms the presence of growth cycle in the Indian economy and a discernable down turn in the second half of the 1990s. The average growth of the real economy, if the latest data are taken into consideration comes to only 4.4 percent suggesting that economic liberalisation has not delivered the higher rates of growth as promised and anticipated. The Bank laments that this situation is not accidental or conjunctural, but is very much a result of the economic strategy of the past decade.

Unfortunately the lower rates of GDP growth are associated with lower rates of aggregate savings, and investment. The gross domestic savings have declined from 23.8 percent in 1993-96 to 22.4 percent in 1999-2000, a decline of 1.4 percent and the gross domestic capital formation from 25.15 percent in 1993-96 to 23.4 percent in 1999-2000, a decline of 1.7 percent. The decline is not huge, but it marks the beginning of a declining trend as the overall trends in savings and investment rates over the five decades from

independence was increasing as they rose with increases in per capita incomes. Such a decline over the past few years reflects the depressed private expectations emanating from the general slow-down in economic activity together with a highly related aspect of substantial declines in public sector savings and investment.

A more important concern is about the changing composition of savings and investment. Private household savings, of both financial and physical forms have come to dominate in the later part of the decade. They include all physical savings by non-corporate bodies including the increase in the physical assets of small-scale industries and agricultural units.

An increase in physical assets of households such as residential houses and passenger cars, which are not part of productive assets, imply an increase in consumption rather than savings per se. Also, the complete collapse of the public sector saving, to the point where it has become a net dissaver, is a disturbing aspect of the economy.

During the entire liberalisation period, industry has been critical to the government as a strategic initiative. However, beginning with late 1990s industry not only showed signs of deceleration but started exhibiting real recessionary conditions. Expectations of recovery because of a slight improvement in growth rates in 1996 were belied as latest years data indicate deceleration again. The worst performing sectors were the capital goods and basic goods. This of course reflects the slow down in investment, in turn reflecting the depressed private expectations in a context of recession and reduced public investment.

The primary sector has shown the sharpest deceleration in the decade. The annual average growth rate of the all crop index of agricultural production has fallen from 5.2 percent in the 1980s to 2.3 percent in the 1990s. Also, during the second half of the 1990s the volatility of agricultural production has increased and the volatility is quite sharp for both food and non-food crops. The poor performance of the agriculture is attributed to low and variable growth of output, poor and declining yields, inadequacy of capital formation and infrastructure and degradation of natural resources due to inefficient cropping pattern. A major aspect of policy that has contributed to a drop in food grain output growth is the drastic decline in public investment in the agriculture sector over the long period. Investments into other infrastructure in the rural areas have also declined. Further, the strategies of reduced subsidies and collection of user charges raised costs to the farmers and also contributed to reduced use of commercial inputs. Thus, the primary sector is facing adverse consequences from both the supply and demand sides.

An important aspect of the food economy of the country is the huge stock of food grains, 62 million tonnes with the FCI, up by more than three times in

six years. They could not be properly used either to reduce hunger in the deficit areas or promote public works, which in turn could strengthen infrastructure. This is a reflection of the peculiar combination of increased procurement despite lower harvests and lower off-take from the PDS by the consumers.

It is against this background, the government is finalising the strategy and approach to the X Five year Plan, which among other things aims at an 8 percent growth rate. Is this feasible? For some one who has understood the basics of the Indian economy the answer would be a simple 'No'. This however should not make the policy makers totally disheartened. They need to prioritise investments particularly into areas like rural infrastructure given the limited resource availability, make the investments more efficient through improved institutions, and finally win the confidence of the people through initiatives and programmes that would make them partners in the development process and would improve their quality of living.

(Lecture delivered at CPS on September 28, 01).

"Working a Democratic Constitution The Indian Experience" by Granville Austin

Discussion by Prof. K. Guptaeswar and
Prof. R. Venkata Rao

India's Constitution is unique in many ways and the wisdom underlying its making cannot be overlooked even if suggestions for review of some of its aspects is contemplated. That it has stood the test of time and helped the progress of Indian democracy is beyond doubt according to Prof. K. Guptaeswar, former Principal Andhra university College of Law and Pendekanti Law College, Hyderabad and Prof. R. Venkata Rao, Professor of Law, Andhra University. Speaking at the Centre for Policy Studies on a discussion on the most recent publication by a world well-known constitutional historian, Granville Austin, "Working a Democratic Constitution - The Indian Experience". Prof. K. Guptaeswar and Prof. R. Venkata Rao, covered the contents in the manner of a critical discourse of important aspects. The basic structure doctrine (or basic features) is part of the established law of the land, though its content and coverage would depend on the context of circumstances and the judicial interpretation and approach. The author repeatedly calls attention to the social revolution promise of the Constitution, the importance of secularism and the socialise flavour without any particular commitment to a particular economic ideology. The author's pointed description of India as a "survival society", meaning thereby, a preoccupation with the individual and family interest at the cost of the social and general interest, provokes thought and calls for some critical introspection, especially in the context of the numerous social movements including the feminist and the Dalit

movements, for "Justice and rights", but not 'mere caring', Prof. Guptaeswar welcomed the idea and appointment of the Constitution Review Committee, by the Government of India and composed of eminent juristic personalities and public figures, and drew particular attention to the proposals for clearer articulation of the content of the right to life, and enlargement of certain fundamental rights such as right to speech and expression and right to equality, in particular, the proposal to translate the right to work and the right to education into legally obligatory duties of the Government.

In this connection, Prof. Guptaeswar drew particular attention to the innovative provision concerning the right to housing in the South African Constitution, making specified human rights part of the Bill of Rights, as stated by Justice Yacoob of the Constitution Court of that country recently, (The Hindu, Oct. 24) meaning that thereby the Court can call upon the govenement to make specific and appropriate allocations in the budget for the purpose and also upon the representatives in the law-making bodies to regard it an obligation to initiate legislation for the purpose. Prof. Guptaeswar remarked that it makes good sense or else how could one explain the pathetic situation in which it required the Supreme Court of India to direct the democratically elected government to release the stagnant stocks of food grains in the godowns so as to prevent starvation deaths, even if those who starve have no purchasing power to buy goods and feed themselves.

Prof. R. Venkata Rao referred to the felicitous expression, "the seamless web" used by Austin, consisting of national unity and integrity institutions of democracy and fostering a social revolution to improve conditions of the masses particularly in the context of the 'million little mutinees' (to quote V.S. Naipul) Prof. Rao highlighted Austin's evaluation of Indian democracy as the best evidence of the slow triumph of democracy and social revolution under the straight jacket of a traditional society. Prof. A. Prasanna Kumar, Director of the Centre introduced the speakers and the subject. Mr. A. Sankar Rao, Managing Trustee welcomed the gathering.

(Summary of two lectures delivered at CPs on October 31)

BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS - I

Prof. M.N. Sastri

According to Joshua Lederberg, who won the Nobel Prize for his pioneering work on the genetic mutation of bacteria, a major new global security challenge that faces humanity in the new century is the defence against migrating bacteria that have evolved to resist the very treatment that protected us in the past. Added to this is another major challenge of defending ourselves against waves of disease-causing

bacteria that could be unleashed by terrorists and rogue states. Even the mightiest of the nations that has the potential to destroy most of world population in a matter of days is currently wilting under the fear of anthrax contaminated mail and public places, poisoned water supply and spiked candy. This is due to the possibility of easy access to biological and chemical weapons that can be produced with a modest budget. These weapons are even described as "the poor man's nuclear arsenal".

The use of disease as an instrument of war goes back the 14th century. Historians believe that the Black Death, the devastating epidemic of bubonic plague that killed at least a quarter of the European population between 1346 and 1350, was initiated by the Tartar forces besieging the Genoese Fort of Chaff in the Crimean Peninsula by catapulting some of their plague victims over the fort ramparts. Many of the Genoese warriors became infected with the disease and fled back to Italy from where the epidemic spread rapidly across Europe. During the battle with the French and the Red Indians in North America in 1767, the English General, Sir Geoffrey Amherst secretly supplied blankets contaminated with smallpox virus to the Indian tribe allied to the French. The resulting epidemic decimated the Indians and contributed to the victory of the English that gave them control of Canada. During the Sino-Japanese War in the 40's, the Japanese Biological Warfare Unit 731 developed and used bombs containing plague-infected fleas against residential areas in China killing thousands of innocent people. This crime was covered up by the Americans in exchange for data on biological warfare from Japan.

During the Second World War, the USA is reported to have built stockpiles of biological weapons that included a variety of lethal and incapacitating bacterial, viral and toxic agents. The programme was however halted in 1969 and the stockpiles destroyed. The USA army has now a biological weapons laboratory at Fort Detrick in Madison, a 1,153-acre facility where research is carried out ostensibly to protect itself against some of the most dangerous biological agents.

The former USSR is reported to have operated dozens of germ-warfare facilities despite its signing the international ban of 1972, taking advantage of the fact that there is no provision for verification in the protocol. The epidemic of human anthrax in the Russian town of Sverdlovsk in April 1979 was linked to an accident at a nearby biological facility.

Prior to the 1991 Persian Gulf War, Iraq was reported to have stockpiled huge quantities of biological weapons. At the end of the war, the UN inspectors discovered that Iraq had secretly loaded Scud missile warheads with the deadly anthrax bacteria. Iraq itself admitted in August 1995 that it possessed 8,500 litres of botulism toxin and 2,200 litres of aflatoxin.

In September 1984, a severe outbreak of salmonella hit The Dalles town in Oregon, USA. Almost 1,000 people reported symptoms of salmonella

poisoning. It was only a year later that Bhagwan Sree Rajneesh, the founder of a huge cult in the area, revealed that his followers caused the outbreak by spraying salad bars around the town with salmonella bacteria. Law enforcement authorities also discovered evidence that the group was developing other bacterial and chemical weapons.

According to the available information, there are several states that could promote international terrorism through clandestine acquisition of biological and chemical weapons in contravention of the international ban. Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Cuba, North Korea, Sudan and Afghanistan are believed to be some countries that belong to this category.

Only a handful of bacteria and viruses are suitable as biological weapons. These include anthrax, cholera, bubonic plague, small pox, tuberculosis, tularemia, botulism and Ebola. Currently experts are concerned with anthrax and small pox. The entire world is now in the grip of the anthrax scare. The disease is caused by the bacterium *bacillus anthracis*. It is of animal origin and moves into a dormant stage known as spores that are known to survive for several decades. Humans contract the disease through cuts in the skin resulting from contact with an infected animal or from breathing the spores or from eating infected meat.

(To be continued)

Urbanization: An Explosive Phenomenon

- Sri T. Hanumantha Rao (Retd. Lecturer, Anakapalli.)

Industrial planning is an oxymoron. Rightly or wrongly industrialization and urban growth have been accepted as indispensable to man's progress and prosperity. Multiplication of cities has thus become a universal phenomenon since the core of industry in most parts of the world, developed as well as developing, is located in and around metropolitan areas. Out of a world population of six billions, two billions now live in urban areas.

Unfortunately this massive and uncontrolled urbanisation throughout the world in the previous and present centuries has brought in its wake, conditions of overcrowding and congestion, pollution and disease, poverty and degradation. These problems are so complex that they have baffled the West despite that they have all the resources and technological know-how to cope with them.

The recent population census showed that the number of city dwellers in India has increased to 300 millions. Indian cities which four or five decades ago had a rare charm and attraction and where it was both a privilege and pleasure to live, have now become undesirable plague spots. Making a deafening noise, belching billowing clouds of smoke and spreading deleterious smells, these supposed symbols of modern civilisation have become a veritable nightmare to resident population.

The rural-push and urban-pull factors have contributed to the large-scale migration of people from the dull and drab rural areas to cities in quest of livelihood. The tendency is to gravitate more towards the big metropolitan cities rather than to the smaller towns with the result that the big cities are disfigured by slums and squatters colonies. This is characteristic of all developing nations and even of many developed countries, producing what is called the problem of slum clearance.

The proliferation of the slums in the cities of India has assumed unmanageable dimensions. According to the report prepared by the National Committee on Environmental Planning and Co-ordination, about 30 to 60 percent of the population in Indian cities lives in slums or squatter settlements. It has become impossible to defend the slums, which are demonstrably the worse areas of human misery and degradation. In a fit of rage, the late Prime Minister Nehru once said that these slums should be burnt forthwith.

Since the end of World War II, bold efforts have been made all over the west, particularly in the U.S. at urban renewal. The Neighborhood Development Project (NDP) in the U.S. is one such programme and there is every reason that we should also adopt such programme in India. By mere tinkering with the slum problem in India, the authorities are providing for a serious social upheaval. Satellite and new towns should be constructed with a view to provide residential accommodation and employment and this will reverse the present trend of migration to metropolises. Even after the transfer of various slum improvement and clearance schemes to the states by the centre in 1956 and 1974, the implementation has been tardy. In fact many cities have "Master Plans" for a planned urban development but these remained mainly on paper. The pace of the programme for the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) has also been deplorably slow. It is regrettable that the state governments are spurred to action only under judicial activism. There should be a change in the attitude of the states and the problem of slums should be dealt with on an emergency basis. It is heartening to note that the Union Cabinet recently approved the first even subsidy based housing scheme of RS. 1,000/- crores - Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) for urban slum-dwellers.

The price of urban development has also included problems of pollution of human environment which too have become global in their character. It was impossible to breathe in Tokyo. London or Los Angeles. It is said that the air over Los Angeles in U.S. had been so befouled that smoke wafting from there was killing trees 150 miles away and doctors were advising people to move out of the city. One ecologist noted that in a few years to come, the supply of oxygen in the earth's atmosphere may not be enough for the people who live in the world. Man's activities in regard to tampering

with his environment have critically threatened his own survival.

In this industrially very young country, India, the problem of air and water pollution has already begun to be felt. In some of our major cities, the frequency of fog and incidence of respiratory diseases, skin rashes, dehydration, stomach ailments etc. bear witness to the heavy pollution of the atmosphere. Delhi has been categorised as the third most polluted city in the world with respect to SPM (Suspended Particulate Matter) in the ambient atmosphere as per W.H.O. Report. Kolkata, the oldest industrial town in Asia, tops the official list of "critically polluted areas" in India and not even an inch in the city is free from air pollution.

Nearer home, Visakhapatnam, one of the fastest growing seven mega-cities in Asia with sprawling industrial complex, has also posed problems of pollution and slum clearance. Sri Ketavarapu Venkata Sastry in his novel in Telugu "Laxmi Prasadam" aptly observed that the city is an admixture of heaven in the east with fresh air and hell in the west with slums where gutters are streaming around, swarms of mosquitoes invading, herds of pigs roaming about, heaps of filth and garbage scattered all around. The "Save Visakha" campaign started recently by an association of concerned citizens is no doubt a welcome feature in this context. It is also encouraging to note that Mr. Ananth Kumar, Union Minister for Urban Development has assured to sanction Rs. 20 crores for the slum clearance scheme in the city when he visited it recently and the Corporation authorities would do well to seize the opportunity and act.

Water pollution has also become a major problem in India and many of our important lakes and rivers are fast getting polluted with serious economic and ecological consequences. The Ganges and the Yamuna are among the most polluted rivers of the world. This has been proved beyond doubt by the random studies made by a number of scientists and research organisations like CIPHERI (Central Public Health Engineering Research Institute). Despite the setting up of CETPs (Common Effluent Treatment Plants) by the polluting units, things have not improved and in some cases, the remedy has become worse than the disease. Greenpeace pointed out that the World Bank which gave India a \$ 20 million loan to set up CETPs, now admitted that they failed to address the problem. It is the lack of political will to implement the various Pollution Control Acts combined with the apathy and managerial incapability of the polluting units that is responsible for the entire mess. In fact, the Central Water Pollution Act of 1974 which was later amended in 1978 and 1988 to extend its scope to environmental pollution gave wide powers to Central and State Boards of inspection.

Recycling of Industrial waste which has become big business in advanced countries is worthy of trial in our country too. A UNESCO sponsored work study in

Malaysia has indicated how pollutants like starch water from tapioca production and the fluids from rubber processing can be recycled for human use instead of being allowed to destroy fish and plankton.

Apart from air and water, land also is being polluted by human activity. In the urban areas in our country, it is estimated that each person gives rise to 400 grams of refuse each day or about a seventh part of tonne every year. As the standard of living rises, this is expected to rise. The problem is all the more serious in a rich country like the U.S. where massive production and massive consumption create massive amounts of refuse. It is said that "California's conspicuous consumers discard 20 lb of refuse per day per person — if it were all piled up for a year, it would make a Great Wall of china stretching all the way from Alaska to Mexico".

The immediate problem in our cities is controlling air pollution by motor vehicles already on the roads. It is up to the state authorities to see that smoky vehicles are kept off the roads. The induction of CNG buses in Delhi as per the Supreme Court's order is a step in the right direction but the risk factor involved in it is to be eliminated by taking proper precautions. It is also in the interest of India that it would adhere to the Kyoto Environmental Treaty of 1997 drafted in Japan, which would oblige the industrial countries to reduce emissions of the greenhouse gases. It is gratifying to note that in the recent Moroccan meet on ecology all 165 participating countries approved the full set of rules of the Kyoto pact which is likely to be ratified next September. But it is painful to know that the U.S. the world's biggest polluter is resting on its oars and attempts are being made to bring it into the international effort.

Whatever it be, let us not be complacent about the matter and think that industrialisation and urbanisation in the country are in low key. The need of the hour is to study the problem in all its aspects and draw up plans for rectifying the degradation in our environment and preserving its quality even as the country gets highly industrialised. There must be an intense collaboration by the best minds among biologists, physical scientists, sociologists, economists, political scientists and policy makers. Perhaps, the best legacy that could be left behind for future generations was not material wealth but a healthy environment.

Gurudev Sri Rabindranath Tagore-IV

- Sri Challa Sivasankaram

Tagore wrote the play Valmiki Pratibha. He himself played the principal role of Valmiki on the stage triumphantly. He had utter faith in the destiny of man and mankind's ultimate fulfillment. He did not seem to share the ambition of the scientist to subjugate nature to be subservient to the whims and fancies of man. Nature is an autonomous sovereign body having her own independent existence. In her heart Brahman or

Purusha resides cosily. Man is made up of mother Nature. Nature like God exists on its own or in union with her eternal mate Purusha. The Gurudev was unsatisfied with mere acquisition of knowledge. He laid emphasis on realization. Isavasya and swetasvatara Upanishads seem considerable source of his productions. To draw comparison to him either in India or abroad for one I believe that there is none. He was God perfected in human garb. Man is God for Tagore as Truth is God to Mahatma Gandhi. He developed over the years a sweet bond with birds which are darlings of Nature. His wistful eye used to seek solace, in the sight of birds of varied hues and drank bowlful delight from the ticklish and mellifluous chirp of the birds.

Tagore accepted the law that initiation in religion is initiation in humanity. He firmly believed in that violence was alien to human spirit. It is thrust upon but not in born. He thought success in the world does not need the aid of cunning and force. Brahmacharya, disciplined living leads to attainment of the consciousness of the divine in man. Brahmacharya does not mean stifling of our powers but their proper and balanced development. "Let the body and the mind of the child pulsate with rhythmic beat of the universe" was what the Gurudev expected of Brahmacharya. Tagore expresses "I am a voice of the expressive many, the Infinites Selfrevelation, its endless, nameless joy, the passion of bliss that fathers forth all things." Thus, Tagore expressed, experienced, many as the self revelation of the infinite. His views palely concur with vivacious vaishnavite form of passionate devotion where God is a lover, a form that gives love and takes love, that sweetens the prosaic side of man. So, his poems reflect most of this vaishnavite philosophy in dynamic coordination with Sankara's Vedanta. Rabindranath explains that religion is not to be confused with doctrinal conformity or ceremonial piety. Its main end is purification of soul, the reconstruction of self. He emphasizes on conquest of selfishness, pride, greed etc., Quest of truth should not be the sole aim of the seeker, uplift of the underdog, the great number of hungry and God forsaken should also engage the mind of the seeker. Tagore the grand savant reveled against pure orthodoxies clashes of castes and creeds and indifference to the disinherited of the earth. His love of humanity knew no bounds. The humanist in him thoroughly asserted to dwell on all that leads to man's final quest, the ultimate delight. I am haunted frequently by his out spoken outburst 'deliverance is not for me in renunciation. I feel the embrace of freedom a thousand bonds of delight.' I think that this ought to be the central theme of man's existence as the chosen of God.

See how Tagore outpours a grand Truth in a laconic aphorism, "The fire restrained in the tree fashions flowers. Released from bonds it dies in ashes." If senses are patiently restrained there flower knowledge and awareness and if left to themselves there ruin of the man happens. Austerity is for Tagore not inaction.

Life is perpetual activity no moment is there when it is idle. Idleness and indolence are enemies of a seeker after enlightenment. They are ruinous companions of the greedily tycoon too.

There is yet much to write about and on Gurudev who emitted distinct charm in life and in death. He was shifted from his abode known Uttarayana in Santhiniketan to Calcutta for operation of a new ailment against the will of the poet. He muttered as he was obliged to vacate his bellowed Uttarayana to distant Kolkatta that he had lived long and many years. He was unwilling to leave Santiniketan for he knew the ensuing call of death. To the will of the fate he bowed. He bade good bye to Santiniketan, his abode Uttarayana to go to lifeless operation theatre where the sage of Viswabharati closed his eyes for ever, for ever the voice was stilled. His poetic fountain continued to over-flow in song and lyric till the last breath. He dictated verses to Amiya Chakraborty until the bird escaped the golden cage. The cage was forlorn as the bird quitted the vital breath mingled with the limitless ether. It was August 7th Midday 1941 when the Gurudev embarked on Mahaprasthan. I was at that moment in Ramanaidupeta branch school of Hindu College High School, Machilipatnam. The class teacher announced the tragic news. The school was closed for the day. A day-long mourning for the departed Great Sentinel was declared. Dust unto Dust. He was yesterday's flower leaving behind the scent of it to linger forever. To prove his internationalism, I quote a poem entitled Prabasi (Emigrant)

My home is everywhere - I am in search of it

My country is in all countries

I will struggle to attain it.

(Concluded)

Sankar Foundation Visakhapatnam

Sri D.D. Prasada Rao, Administrative Officer,
Sankar Foundation

Performance Highlights/Major Events of Sankar Foundation, Visakhapatnam for the period from 27.09.2001 to 22.11.2001.

Sankar Foundation Eye Hospital has treated 3,510 outpatients and the total number of eye surgeries conducted were 645 out of which 610 were cataract surgeries (IOL), 30 Glaucoma Surgeries, 4 Retina Surgeries and I Squint Surgery, all in September 2001.

In the Woman & Child Hospital, the total number of outpatients treated was 1,298 women and 1,271 were children, the total deliveries conducted in the month of September 2001 are 110, out of which 26 were Caesarian (LSCS) operations.

This is the highest performance in a single month since the inception of these Hospitals by the Sankar Foundation.

03.10.2001 : Shri K. Kumar Raja, Contractor has

given a Donation of Rs. 10,000/- to Sankar Foundation.

07.10.2001 : Eye Camp at Jagannath Swamy Temple :

An Eye Camp was conducted at Jagannath Swamy Temple Sponsored by UTKAL SANSKRUTIKA SAMAJ on 07.10.2001. CDR. S.K. Mahapatra, President of Utkal Samaj inaugurated the Eye Camp. 132 patients have been screened and provided free medicines. General Secretary, S.K. Basantiya proposed a vote of thanks.

50 patients have been referred to our base Hospital at Simhachalam for further check-up and treatment.

17.10.2001 : Capt. A. Mahapatra, President of Rotary Club, Visakhapatnam Pearl City has visited Sankar Foundation's Eye Hospital along with 4 Rtn. Members. The Rotary officials felt happy with the facilities and services available in the Hospitals. The Rotary Club sponsored 23 Cataract IOL Surgeries and donated Rs. 20,240/-.

25.10.2001 : Visit of Brig. S.S. Sidhu, C.E. (Navy):

Brig. S.S. Sidhu, Chief Engineer-Navy has visited our Hospitals, and felt happy to know about the working and services of our Hospitals. He has assured to help the Foundation in the near future.

02.11.2001 : Eye Camp at Paderu :

A Free Eye Camp was conducted at Paderu with the sponsorship of HPCL, Visakha Regional Office, Visakhapatnam. Shri G. Venkatram Reddy, Project Officer, Paderu, I.T.D.A. inaugurated the camp and assured all help to conduct such camps for the benefit of tribals. Dr. S. Krishna Rao, Additional DM & HO spoke about the Sankar Foundation and benevolent gesture of H.P.C.L. in coming forward to help the tribal people. Shri Ranaji Gupta, Regional Manager, H.P.C.L. who attended as Chief Guest said that H.P.C.L. though basically dealing with Oil Refinery and Petroleum Products, is also interested in helping the poor by providing Community Health Services.

Dr. N.V.L. Narsimha Rao, Superintendent of SF's Hospitals spoke about the precautions of the Eye and care to be taken to prevent Eye diseases. Shri K.S. Shetty, Senior Human Resources Officer, H.P.C.L. and Shri K.G. Achary, Joint Manager - Resources, Sankar Foundation were present. Shri D.D. Prasada Rao proposed a vote of thanks.

Dr. Ajay Sharma, Retina Specialist and Dr. T. Raveendra, Ophthalmic Surgeon led the Medical Team. 429 patients have been screened out of which 100 patients have been selected for cataract Surgery.

08-11-2001 : Chandana Bros' Gesture :

Materials worth Rs. 39,703.50 has been donated by Chandana Bros' towards the printing charges and stationery for Sankar Foundation Hospitals.

09-11-2001 : Eye Camp at Araku :

A Free Mega Eye Camp was conducted at Community Health Centre, Araku.

Dr. S.Krishna Rao, Additional DM & HO, Paderu inaugurated the Eye Camp and appreciated the noble services of Sankar Foundation especially in helping the Tribal people. He assured all help whenever the camps are arranged in the agency areas.

Dr. P.Krishna Prasad, Secretary, district Blindness Control Society (D.B.C.S.) attended as Chief guest who spoke about the services of the D.B.C.S. and also informed that Visakhapatnam District stood first in conducting Cataract IOL Surgeries in the state during this year. He sought the help of NGOs in continuing the same trend. 342 patients have been screened out of which 50 patients have been selected for Cataract Surgery.

Dr. T. Raveendra, Ophthalmic Surgeon and Dr. G. Suparna, Resident Ophthalmic Medical Officer have led the medical team.

20-11-2001 : 2nd Phase of IOL Cataract Operations :

IOL Cataract Operations have been performed by Sankar Foundation Eye Hospital sponsored by Rotary Club of Visakhapatnam Pearl City.

21-11-2001 : Rotary club of Visakha Valley's Gesture :

A cheque for an amount of Rs. 2,35,000/- has been handedover to the Foundation towards purchase of Critical Eye-Care Equipment by PDG. Dr. Prabhu, of Shimoga. The Club's President Rtn. Shri D.R.K. Raju and Secretary, Rtn. D.A.R. Raju and other Rotary Club members attended the function. The same team visited Hospital For Women & child also and expressed their happiness on the standard of the Hospitals of the Foundation.

Donations :

24-10-2001 : A donation of Rs. 5,000/- was received from Shri V.L.N. Murthy, Visakhapatnam.

01-11-2001 : A donation of Rs. 5,000/- was received from Smt. M. Shanti, Visakhapatnam.

17-11-2001 : A donation of Rs. 5,000/- was received from Shri J.V. Rao, Visakhapatnam.

Mrs. Tayaramma, land lady, Temple Street Vizianagaram, has donated Rs.1,00,000/- towards Sankar Foundation's Building Fund, in memory of her late son.

A donation of Rs. 1,00,000/- was received from M.V.N. Setty Memorial Foundation, Bangalore.

Sankar Foundation profusely thanks all the donors for their noble gesture.

Welcome :

Sankar Foundation welcomes Dr. N.V.L. Narsimha Rao, M.S., D.O., who has joined as Superintendent of Sankar Foundation's Hospitals on 1st October'2001.

VITAL STATISTICS OF EYE HOSPITAL & WOMAN & CHILD HOSPITAL

A) SF EYE HOSPITAL :

(From 2nd June 1997 to 27th November 2001)

- i. Total outpatients Screened/Treated : 1,21,128
- ii. Total Operations performed

(By Microsurgery & Pahco Method): 16,735

B) SF WOMAN & CHILD HOSPITAL:

(From 6th Feb' 1998 to 27th November 2001)

- i) Total Outpatients Screened/Treated: 94,261
- ii) Total Caesarian Operations performed:(LSCS) 460
- iii) Normal Deliveries conducted : 1,778
- iv) Tubectomy Operations performed (FP): 563
- v) Hysterectomy operations performed: 143
- vi) Umbrella Vaccinations (BCG,OPV,HEP-B, DPT, MMR,TETANUS, MEASLES) : 22,196

"The dark ages may return the Stone Age may return on the gleaming wings of science; and what might now shower immeasurable blessings upon mankind may even bring about its total destruction. Beware I say. Time may be short."
- Winston Churchill.

CENTRE FOR POLICY STUDIES

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

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