



BULLETIN

OF THE CENTRE FOR POLICY STUDIES (SANKAR FOUNDATION)

Vol. 6 No.3
Feb. 2, 2002



PROGRESSIVE DETERIORATION

One more Republic Day celebration is over, performed more ritualistically than before. It was anxiety on its eve, tension during the entire exercise and sigh of relief at the end, amidst tight security all over. Ceremony and celebration, like pomp and pageantry, are essential to politics and public life, at least to bolster people's spirit. Parades and announcements of awards along with flag hoisting functions are also a part of the ritual.

Fifty two years ago India became a Republic. The Constitution drafted with wisdom and vision came into force then pledging to secure to the people of India justice, liberty and equality. Chapters III and IV of the Constitution were lauded as 'the soul' of the Constitution and 'the arms of the revolution' and experts hailed the architects of modern India for choosing the path of rapid evolution instead of violent revolution.

The euphoria of the early years was generated by three main factors: 1) the manner in which India's freedom struggle was waged 2) the smooth completion of the gigantic task of integration of the Princely states with the provinces and 3) the making of the Constitution followed by the impressive rise of India as a stable democracy in Asia. India emerged as a new force in world politics thanks to the role played by her leaders at home and abroad. All that appears today as a distant dream of 'a faded golden age.'

The rapid decline of that ethos and the almost total collapse of established institutions have largely been due to the failure of leadership. Not only political leadership but leadership in every walk of life which we generally attribute to the erosion of the value system. The issue cannot be analysed and discussed in a short exercise like this. Still, the blame for the ills afflicting the polity during the last fifty years must be laid at the door of the political class. Leadership in Indian politics is as far removed from principle as parties from ideology and civil service from civility and service. Words have not been matched by deeds and promises have not been fulfilled by performance.

How else can we explain the front-page headline in a leading English daily recently? "All Set for Poll-Money and Muscle Mobilised!" Caste and religion automatically follow into our so-called democratic exercise of conducting elections, routinely described by the officialdom as 'free and fair.' Coalition politics, instead of accommodating the interests of diverse groups, has deepened the fissures of our body politic. One latest instance is the UP political chessboard which on the eve of the election showcases the ugly face of Indian politics. The functioning of our parties and their leaders does not allow us to exude any optimism or even hope about the immediate future.

The party heading the ruling coalition which depends on so many outfits for survival is too busy managing them to find time for enunciating a constructive policy for the future. The party in opposition, unaccustomed to being out of power for long, is no better off carrying a heavy load of problems. The few good Chief Ministers of some states in India are hamstrung either by internal revolt and dissent or by lack of resources and unhelpful attitude of the highcommand/headquarters. High command is always high in command though not always high in upholding democratic principle.

Politics is a complex business. It was Bertrand Russell who said that in politics the springs of human action are derived from 'acquisitiveness' 'rivalry' 'vanity' and 'love of power.' A renowned political scientist remarked that power is a value chasing other values. Once power is acquired other things automatically follow. Right now politicians in India are busy chasing power and the situation is getting murkier and murkier with too many parties being in the run. Elections are like a game of musical chairs for these parties and politicians and 2002 may unfold many dramatic shifts and puzzles, beginning with the UP elections in February. As we look desperately for the light at the end of the tunnel we are troubled by the reality that the tunnel is too long and the light we hope to see may after all be illusory!

- The Editor

"Our tradition teaches tolerance; our philosophy preaches tolerance; our Constitution practises tolerance; let us not dilute it." - Justice O.Chinnappa Reddy.

AFGHANISTAN - LAND AND PEOPLE

- Prof. P. Viswanadham

Afghanistan, a central Asian country, occupies an important strategic position on the Hindu Kush mountain range that separates Indian sub-continent from the Asiatic Russia. The country extends latitudinally for about 9° from 29°N to 38°N and longitudinally for about 14° from 61°E to 75°E. The country has longest east-west distance of about 900 km. along 34°N latitude and that of north-south along 66°E with about the same magnitudes of distance of 900 km. The country's Standard Time is ahead of prime time by 4 hours 30 minutes, and it is established by the Standard Meridian 67 1/2° E. longitude.

The country has long borders with Pakistan on the east and the south, with Iran on the west and with Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tazikistan on the north. And also the country has short borders in the north east with China along 50 kms. and with India along 100 kms. The whole country is land-locked and has no exit into any sea. The country has to depend on its sea-ward neighbours for marine activities. The geographical area of the country is 640,00 sq. kms.

Hindu Kush Mountains, an arm of Pamir Knot, run westwards centrally across Afghanistan into north Iran to become Elburz mountain range, an eastern arm of Armenian knot. Sulaiman Mountains, the second chain from Pamir, practically separates from Hindu Kush, run southwards into Baluchistan of Pakistan and extend into south Iran to become Zagros in West Iran, a southern arm of armanian knot. East and central parts are highly mountainous with peaks rising from 5000 mts. in the central part to 7,700 mts. in the Pamirs in the northeast, most of which are glacial covered. Khyber and Bolan passes provide road connections to Kabul and Qandahar with Peshawar and Quetta in Pakistan. Eastward slopes of Sulaiman contribute water to Indus river in Pakistan. Westward slope has Helmand, Khash, Farah and Harut, all intermittant and inland non-perennial rivers, draining into an inland lake called 'Sistan', a salt water desert lake system at 550 mts. of altitude along the western boundary. Amu Darya flows over the west slopes of Pamirs, forms half of northern boundary of the country and takes a northward course in Turkmenistan to drain into Aral Sea. A part of its river basin is in Afghanistan, around Mazar-e-Sharif. The rock types are mostly igneous (volcanic) rocks with granites. Gneissic rocks also occur. Carving here is mostly man-made. There are hundreds of caves with network connections.

High relief with over 1200 mts. of elevation, glacial covered peaks, distant location from sea, northward and westward slopes, absence of major perennial river system, highly uneven and radiating terrain type, and extensive arid lands around have all practically rendered the area highly cold in winter, hot in summer and dry in all seasons. Hence, caving became a traditional practice to the inhabitants to protect themselves from the harsh weather conditions. Kabul, the capacity at 1900 mts., is liable for snowfall for most of the months. Mountainous part is cold and dry. South and western parts are hot and dry with Dasht-e-Margow and Registan, which is an extension of Dasht-e-Lut and Dasht-e-Kavir of Iran. North is cool and dry, and it is relatively crowded with people and is green with crops and plantations. The annual rainfall varies between 5 and 30 cms. Hill slopes are mostly scrublands.

Afghans are mostly nomadic tribals. Pathans form 50% of population, Tadziks 25%, Uzbeks and Hazares make up the rest. Most of the people are Sunni Muslims. There are only two official languages - the 'Pushtu' and the 'Dari', dialects of Iran. Literacy is very poor with 10%. There is severe shortage of schools and teachers. Kabul has a university and a technical institute.

There are four major cities. Kabul in the east, Qandahar in the south, Herat in the west, Mazar-e-Sharif in the north. Other centres are Jalalabad, Shekhabad, Dowlatabad, Sherbarghan, Khanabad, Feyzabad and Baghlan.

"The American imperium in the Arab-Muslim world hatched a monster." Fouad Ajami.

"The West fleetingly saw the Taliban as the source of a new order and a possible tool in yet another replay of the Great Game--the race for energy riches of Central Asia.....If anyone is to replace an emir in Afghanistan, it will have to be the people of Afghanistan themselves. Any doubters should ask the British and the Russians."

Milton Bearden-- Afghanistan, Graveyard of Empires- Foreign Affairs (Nov-Dec 2001)

Afghanistan is mainly a pastoral country. Sheep, goat, camel and cattle are reared in large numbers for milk, meat, skins and wool. The wealth lies in their flocks. Only 13% of its area is arable land, the rest is desert waste land or seasonal pastoral land. Two-thirds of the cultivated land is irrigated annually by minor irrigation schemes. Water is carried to long distances by underground pipes to avoid evaporation losses. Kazakai Dam is the largest irrigation project on Helmand river. It irrigates 3,60,000 acres of dryland. Salt accumulation on the surface is the major problem. Wheat is the principal crop covering one-fourth of the

cropland. Corn, barley and rice are other important crops. Fruits, both fresh and dry, are abundantly grown. The country is self-sufficient in food grains. Cotton is abundantly grown in the north and in the south of the mountain belt.

Coal, salt and chromite are commercially mined besides natural gas. The country has no large scale industrial units. Metal working, the making, glass blowing, leather working and jewellery making are the native industries. Afghan rugs and carpets are abundantly produced by rural people. Modern industries are sugar, cement, ceramic and textiles. Kabul has cotton and woollen textiles, leather goods, furniture, glass, bicycles and plastics.

All the four major cities are distantly located and hence communication development became a major problem. They are connected by air and also by a circular surface road - circum Hindu Kush mountain block. Kabul is connected with the north by road and tunnel. The country has no railway lines.

The country exports dry fruits, nuts, natural gas to USSR, sheep-skins, wool, cotton, carpets and rugs. Imports include manufactured goods and tea. Tourism also earns foreign exchange for the country.

(Summary of a lecture delivered at Centre for policy Studies on December 27, 2001)

IS THIS BEAUTIFUL ?

- Sri K.V.V. Subrahmanyam, (IPS, Retd. Home Secretary, Govt. of A.P.)

Schumacher, the economist, whose book 'Small Is Beautiful' was on the lips of persons claiming to be well read some three decades ago. But in the closing decade of the millennium that has passed and then onwards if any one talks of him, such a person will be considered a fossil. Obviously the in - things of today, to repeat may be ad nauseum are structural reforms, privatisation, globalisation, fake market economy, disinvestment, staff shedding, E-administration etc. This list is only illustrative and not exhaustive. Therefore the priorities, the goals set out by the founding fathers of our Constitution have to be either jettisoned as obsolete and old worldly, or out of our oriental concept of reverence to those who are no more, merely mouth some of them at the time of hustings. The way, the best way, the modern candid way is to pillory them well and truly as building palaces in Blunderland.

This preface is borne out of the compulsive urge to ventilate some deep and abiding concerns on the state of the nation. It will be fashionable and palatable

to move with the times and extol the virtues of E- Governance and Structural Reforms. We are in the midst of yet another shibboleth of the last two decades, which assumes every day importance. 'We are yes' - A permissive flippancy for V.R.S. Banks have embarked upon this adventure or adventure. The degree of its implementation, the modalities, its impact on the administerers and the administered, and more importantly, on the vast masses of the clientele from big business houses to small account holders will occupy columns of write ups in dailies, scholarly treatises and doctoral dissertations. The socio politico, economic milieu of this day and for times to come will be governed by decisions taken, keeping firmly before the minds eye the concerns and anguishes of those who like dumb driven cattle, are the voiceless millions of India. Solutions and remedies applied and applicable to Singapore or Sanfransisco can be quite tempting and mouth watering. But certainly cannot handle by any stretch of imagination our deep seated maladies. But unfortunately what hogs media limelight, are things such as erudite presentation and interactions on poverty alleviation in five starred air conditioned seminar centres, where the eggheads reel out with encyclopaedic versatility and computer like precision, statistics on GDP incrementals, FDI's, growth rates of places ranging from Peru to Philadelphia, from Tokyo to Tasmania, leaving the audience overwhelmed. But when we speak of the media the small print usually refers to a suicide here, a family calling it a day in unison there and such unpleasant things that appear with monotonous regularity. Perhaps a minister or official dignitary visiting the affected or next of kin to hear the so story, deliver some conscience money on behalf of the 'Ma Baap' state and promise better times to come. Don't these things remind one of Marie Antoinette talking about cakes when people were rioting for bread? Or the intense anguish of the tortured soul of John Ruskin who talked about 'the placid sensation of luxurious benevolence that beat beneath the embroidery?'.

Very comfortable and disquieting, perhaps somewhat not keeping with the times yet, having set out all these very real, germane and grim features, we may very briefly address ourselves to issues which concern the poorest, the weakest and the lowliest. Poverty alleviation, primary health care, primary education, reduction of burgeoning levels of unemployment, both urban and rural, both educated and uneducated, impetus to agriculture, the small farmers, the small artisan are some of these. But, it is sad and disquieting to perceive state and central governments trying to hive off the onus mandated on them by the Charter. This mindset is bound to impede any meaningful attempt to

tackle these and other cognate issues. The fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution are no doubt justiciable, despite Golaknath and Keshavananda Bharati. But how many can afford this luxury of litigating against the state? The Directive Principles of State Policy are not a mere miscellany of pious wishes, but a compendium of serious concerns and urges distilled out of the turbulence of the visionaries, who spent a good portion of their life in British jails, though many of them could have lived in comfort and ease - all for the sake of freedom from bondage.

Now, in the first decade of the millennium, perched on the pinnacle of high tech with the slogan of globalisation in everyone's mouth, addressing ourselves to the aforesaid concerns seems rather off beat or reactionary. Giant leap forward and not small steps is the key/ phrase, whether it be stock market or commonplace issues. This mantra has caught up with the teenagers. Hence the wistful, wishful look at the Silicon Valley. Parents spending, begging, borrowing and what not, to turn their off springs to computer whizkids., and all problems are solved.

To start with mention was made of a lean and thin administration. Going back to that, the question is how lean should leanness be? The obesity with which beaucracy is faulted is due to variety of factors. First and foremost the dimension has come into being during the last five decades. Secondly, certain amount of it was due to priorities considered essential for delivering the goods at the cutting edge level, for development to reach every nook and corner of the far flung areas in the country. Not only to deliver the goods, but also to sense to feel the pulse, to assess, to interact, to receive signals of performance or non-performance. Ensuring social justice is not a mere arithmetical consiguration or a balance sheet or profit and loss account in a factory or work place. It should be an intense human interaction, a compelling compassionate consideration of the variegated problems that afflict those below the poverty line. The answer to corruption in administration is not its winding up but intense & regular over seeing at all levels, so that the needs and requirements, the just hopes and aspirations of the inarticulate vast masses are attended to. That is the crux of genuine development and upliftment of the weaker sections. The sum and substance of our approach to the formidable problems of the country can only be old fashioned grand mother's recipe, namely Gandhiji's favourite hymn, 'one step enough for me'. It should not be misunderstood either as fatalism or sluggish approach. No one in his days worked harder than Gandhiji.

In fine, we are tinkering with administrative reforms, Constitutional reforms, Vigilance bodies, Ombudsman, so on and so forth. Why not go back to home spun remedies on the core issues of poverty, primary health care, primary education, unemployment, impetus to agriculture, indigenous industry especially the small artisan, the handloom, the indigenous textiles and family planning. This is not to suggest, we should lag behind in science and technology, including the much hyped microchip. There should be a complementarity between these. One is not to annihilate the other. May be perhaps boring and prosaic for those in a hurry to reach the Silicon Valley of the beckoning billion dollars. But, these are grim, hard facts that those who care for the future of the country may perhaps ponder over.

BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS - II

- Prof. M.N. Sastri

The anthrax scare currently seen in the USA is of the inhalation category. The resulting condition, called inhalational anthrax, can be 99 per cent fatal. Only a few grams would be needed to kill virtually every one in an office complex. Clinging to people's clothing, the anthrax spores could spread through mail, offices, public places, building and suburban homes. Facilities are not yet available for extensive vaccination against the disease. Currently antibiotics are the only remedy.

Smallpox, claimed to have been eradicated, is another potential biological weapon with 30 per cent fatality. Presently, there is concern that in the event of the disease making its appearance through terrorist activities, the limited quantities of vaccine now available may not be effective because it is 40 years old. It will take several years to prepare fresh samples of the vaccine.

An arsenal of biological weapons can be developed with little infrastructure and a modest investment of half a million rupees. The culture, a syrupy liquid containing the bacteria is dried to a powder consisting of particles of 2-10 micrometre diameter, the size that is most likely to be retained in the lungs. The powder is released upwind from the target area from an aircraft, rockets or bombs or other suitable delivery systems.

The use of chemicals with lethal, debilitating and toxic effects in warfare is also very old. One example is the *curare* group of arrow poisons used by the South American Indians. During the First World War, Germany used the poison gases, phosgene, chlorine and mustard,

killing about 90,000 people. The large scale build up of lethal chemical weapons began in the 1930s with the synthesis of a variety of sulphur and phosphorus containing organic compounds. Some of these find wide use as pesticides (e.g. Parathion). Fortunately these deadly compounds were not used during the Second World War. But their build up continued in the post-war era till their manufacture and possession came under an international ban. Since these chemicals can be manufactured by procedures available in text-books and stocked clandestinely, many rogue states and terrorist groups promoted by them are believed to have stockpiles of these chemicals. Some years ago the USA destroyed a Libyan chemical factory alleged to be manufacturing such chemical with German expertise. There have been reports of their use in the Vietnam, Iran-Iraq and the Afghan wars. Between 1983 and 1986, thousands of Iranians and Kurds are reported to have been the victims of chemical weapons used by Iraq. During the Vietnam war, large quantities of the defoliant, known as Agent Orange, were used by the USA to destroy the large forest areas that provided protection to the Vietnamese forces.

Easy access to these chemicals makes it possible for terrorist groups and organized crime and even individuals to cause large scale havoc by releasing them in crowded places. On March 20, 1995, Aum Shriyo, a Japanese cult, released the nerve agent Sarin in the Tokyo subway, killing 12 people and causing injuries to 5,000 people. Two more episodes were reported, but there were no deaths.

Chemical weapons are classified into several categories. *Choking gases* (e.g. chlorine and phosgene) produce coughing and difficulty in breathing leading to death. *Blood gases* (e.g. arsine, hydrogen cyanide and cyanogens chloride) prevent uptake of oxygen by the blood, causing rapid death. *Vesicants* (e.g. mustard gas and Lewisite) cause abnormal reddening of the skin and damage to eyes and lungs. These agents are sometimes mixed with polymers to control dispersion and complicate decontamination. *Nerve agents* (e.g. phosphorus and sulphur containing organic compounds such as Tabun, Sarin, Soman and VX) cause running nose, tightness in the chest and contraction of pupils. At near lethal doses, cessation of breathing occurs with collapse in seconds. VX is the deadliest nerve agent synthesized to date. *Sensory irritants* (e.g. chloracetophenone and Adamsite) produce incapacitating irritation to eyes and upper respiratory tracts within a short time of exposure. These are used in riot control and harassment operations that cause incapacitation without leading to death (e.g. tear gas). *Psychotomimetics* (e.g. LSD) affect the normal

function of the brain, attention span, concentration, judgment and sense of responsibility. *Defoliating agents* (e.g. 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T) cause destruction of forests and crops over wide areas leading serious damage to the ecosystem.

The 1972 UN Convention known as the Biological and Toxin Weapon Convention prohibits the development, production, stockpiling and acquisition of biological and chemical weapons. Entering into force in March 1975, it has 144 state parties and 14 further signatory states including the states that are reportedly stockpiling these weapons clandestinely. Significantly, Israel has not signed the protocol. Another legally binding protocol that is under negotiation requires declaration and enables on-site inspection of the plants that could be used for illicit production and proliferation of such weapons. Without such provision the 1972 Convention can not be enforced effectively. The USA is opposed to this provision on the ground that its technological and trade secrets, especially in biotechnology and pharmaceutical areas, that also have the potential to produce the banned materials, will be stolen. Such a stand leads to the suspicion that the USA has something to hide. Interestingly it was the same USA that engineered the UN surveillance of all such facilities in Iraq after the Gulf War.

The disposal of chemical weapons through secret dumping in the high seas has been going on since the end of the Second World War. It is now known that as many as fifty shiploads of chemical weapons were scuttled in the Skagerrak sea bed lying between Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Fishermen in the area occasionally retrieve globs of mustard gas jelly and rusting nerve gas grenades that leak out from the rusting containers.

The USA chemical weapon arsenal consists of 32,000 tonnes of chemical weapons while the Russian Federation has inherited 40,000 tonnes from the former USSR. The safe disposal of such huge quantities of complex lethal material poses a technological challenge. The USA has provided a \$18.5 million laboratory in the Russian Federation as part of a gigantic programme to destroy Russian arsenal. According to official estimates this programme would cost \$5 billion over 10 years.

In the wake of rapid advances in biotechnology, the borderline between biological and chemical weapon agents is slowly disappearing. Biotechnology enables large scale production of new types of toxins and bio regulators that exceed the toxicity of nerve agents by several degrees of magnitude. It has also opened up the possibility of producing

bacterial viruses etc. in modified forms against which man has no immune defence. It is even possible to produce modified plant genes that can destroy food crops on an extensive scale. Though these activities are still in research and development stage, they pose a long term threat to society.

While the destruction of lethal chemical weapons is an ongoing activity, the USA is reported to be developing a group of so-called non-lethal chemical weapons. These include, a) Sedatives delivered as aerosols that are absorbed through skin, b) Super caustics that corrode roads, bridges and tyres and inevitably, clothing, shoes and flesh, c) Sticky foams that immobilize individuals, d) Super slippery fluids that slicker roads and runways making them unfit for use, and e) Biological fluids that cause degradation of aircraft fuel, lubricants and electrical insulations. The Monell Chemical Services Centre in USA is engaged in the development of a stinky non-lethal weapon so foul that it clears the crowds!.

(concluded)

SELF - CONQUEST

SRI CHALLA SIVASANKARAM

Acceptance leads to self-knowledge. Self-knowledge leads to equanimity and equanimity conduces to dawn of enlightenment. Enlightenment is absorption of individual soul in the Brahman, the absolute. India's pride is Adwaitavedanta, non-dualism. Its propounder is Sankaracharya. Sankara is Acharya for in him practice is not divorced from precept. This wedlock of precept and practice earned him the unique distinction of world teacher (Jagadguru) and Founder of six absolute forms of spiritual persuasions. The monistic philosophy saw light of the day. Monism and monistic movement razed down the separatist dividing walls of caste, creed and credo establishing universal oneness of mankind. It believed in the infinitude of man, endless existence and ageless longevity of man. Its contribution to mankind's peace and contentment is immeasurable.

Man is the highest product of creation. Creation is the visible projection of the energy generated by the joint effort of prakriti and purusha, matter and spirit. Sankhya philosophy overtly and vedanta philosophy covertly admit the autonomous character of creation. Creation and Creator are knit as inseparably as scent and flower, heat and light, fire and wood and warp and woof. The clay that has gone into the production of man is vice and virtue. In the mixture if the share of virtue is preponderant that man will observe the human principal formula of live and let live, give and take. If

the share of vice in the alloy is high that man lives for himself and does not shirk to live at the cost of fellow men. Both vice and virtue wage an internecine war against the man that aims at winning the battle against recurrence of birth and death.

Selfishness is the cause of misery. Greed is the seedbed of violent discord culminating in perpetual dissension. In bridging the chasm between one man and another and laying a world discipline wedded to a firm universal gospel harping on oneness of mankind Advaita Vedanta did yeoman service without a precedent and a peer.

By theorising that God is neither a male nor a female nor a newer Advaita Vedanta paved a soft and even path for all to tread irrespective of gender in total unity and amity without room for false egoistic element that permits division and prohibits fusion. Adi Sankara left behind a learned legacy by his personal exemplary life and enunciation of a supernal philosophy that encouraged mankind to enter in an enlightened skirmish with life on the lines laid by it for a blissful, meaningful and perennially contented existence. In the skirmish the possibility of emergence of a victor and a vanquished is legitimately ruled out in as much as the atman or self supreme is formless and unfragmentable and the soul of the victor and that of the vanquished is one and the same. Triumph and defeat are relative only. This magnificent universal monotheism helped man to have unimpeded progress in the procession of carving out of him self a Dhira a courageous spiritual thoroughbred (Human Being) to stand in equal status with self-supreme. The Dhira is absolved of enmity, revenge and biding time for wreaking vengeance.

Buddha and Sankara concur at several points of view of their respective philosophies. Both composed man as akin to God. Buddha and Sankara are according to conventional estimation of existence were separated in age by about two hundred and fifty years only. Buddhism declined in the country of its origin. Buddha was rejected by Hindus as Jesus Christ was rejected by Jews. In the wake of conspicuous decline of Buddhism vacuum engulfed. The country looked like the boat without oarsman. Philosophy is the science of sciences. Without a sound system of law and brilliant light of philosophy man shudders, loses confidence and gropes in the dark. When the country was in such a puzzled state Sankara from farther west coast stepped in. Sankara the shrewd vedantic maneuverer embarked upon his mission of cutting to size a few schools of thought and to completely drive away root and branch some other obtuse time-worn systems that vitiated the religious body politic of India. The ease with which

Sankara reduced to shambles religions that ruled and ruined the countrymen to the extent of keeping them blinkered and remained in crass ignorance was simply marvellous. Dear reader bear with me. I am not lost in the wood. I come to the point. I traversed from enlightenment as the ultimate attainment to Sankara's Triumphant March towards a World Order based on a universal gospel that rids man of superstition and submission to priestcraft ridden with ambiguous rituals.

Prahlada the legendary ideal of an avowed adherent of Vaishnavism and Vishnu's limitless immanence made bold to tell his Saivite father Hiranyakasipu, "Father, thou hast conquered the five primordial elements, but failed to conquer thyself". Here lies the truth, the indispensable truth that puts man in harmony, in proper haven that can protect him from the perilous onslaughts of self-destructive impulses and luciferean emotions. Many of us who live in the bloated pride of our own so called achievements in our pet fields are poor victims of this kind of impulses and emotions which without sending a signal kill the spirit and reduce it into ashes. The express idea of the preceding lines is laying emphasis on the need to know oneself and realize one self that one is part and parcel of the universe and plurality is myth. To know that one is neither a philanthropist nor one is a recipient of doles, neither one is a benefactor nor one is a beneficiary. Neither one is a prince nor one is a vassal. The knower of this infallible truth gains self-conquest and experiences pure bliss.

SANKAR FOUNDATION VISAKHAPATNAM

(Report on activities)

Shri D.D. Prasada Rao, Administrative Officer

Performance Highlights/Major Events of Sankar Foundation, Visakhapatnam for the period from 23.11.2001 to 25.01.2002.

29.11.2001 : Received a Cheque for Rs. 19,360/- from Rotary Club Visakhapatnam Pearl City for sponsoring an Eye Camp towards second instalment of 22 IOL Cataract Operations.

14.12.2001 : Conducted Cataract Screening Camp for IOL Operations sponsored by Rotary Club Visakha Ukkunagaram at Athena Public School, Himachal Nagar. More than 300 people were screened and 5 patients selected for cataract surgery. Dr. Ajay Sharma, Retina Specialist led the medical team.

14.12.2001 : Received Rs. 30,000/- from Rotary Club of Visakha Ukkunagaram for Sponsoring an Eye Camp.

21.12.2001 : Synchronizing with the Annual Day Celebrations of NSTL the officers and staff of the Organization attended a function arranged in the Sankar Foundation Eye Hospital. Smt. Preethi Latha Mohapatra was the Chief Guest of the function. Rear Admiral. S. Mohapatra, Director, NSTL was the distinguished guest. Rear Admiral S. Mohapatra speaking on the occasion the services of Sankar Foundation to the poor and needy said he was happy to know about the sophisticated and modern equipment donated by various industrial giants of the Port City. Smt. Preethi Latha Mohapatra, the Chief Guest handed over a Cheque Rs. 25,000/- and cash amount of Rs. 3,000/- given independently by the scientists of NSTL to Dr. N.V.L. Narsimha Rao. The proceedings of the meeting were conducted by D.D. Prasada Rao, Administrative Officer, who thanked the Rear. Admiral S. Mohapatra for spontaneously "agreeing to examine the request of the Sankar Foundation to provide suitable land to Sankar Foundation to construct Hospital Buildings".

25.12.2001 : The Managing Trustee, Shri A. Sankar Rao was felicitated by Rotary Clubs of Visakhapatnam at its meeting held on 25th December 2001 and Awarded the Rotary's prestigious Major Donor Award.

26.12.2001 : An Eye Screening Camp was conducted at Islampeta village near Steel Plant by Sankar Foundation sponsored by Rotary Club. Ukkunagaram. Total 185 patients were screened at the camp and the selected cases will be operated for Cataract IOL Surgery Free, in the Sankar Foundation Eye Hospital.

28.12.2001 : At a simple function arranged at Eye Hospital by the Rotary Club of Pearl City a Donation Cheque for Rs. 10,000/- for conducting Cataract Operations has been handed over by the Rotary District Governor, Dr. K.Subba Reddy to Dr. N.V.L. Narsimha Rao, Superintendent of Sankar Foundation's Hospitals.

29.12.2001 : Rotary Donation of Rs. 15.87 Lakhs to Sankar Foundation : A function was organized in the premises of Sankar Foundation Eye Hospital. Mrs. K. Padmini Rao, presided over the function. In her inaugural address she narrated the aims and objectives of the Rotary Club and its affinity with Sankar Foundation. Dr. K. Subba Reddy, Rotary District Governor attended as Chief Guest has praised the valuable services of Sankar Foundation in providing Quality Eye-Care Services. Dr. R.V. Krishna Rao, Ophthalmic Surgeon of U.S.A. who attended as guest of honour said that he was very much pleased on seeing personally the Quality Services of Eye Hospital, the State-of-the-art Equipment and rich experience of the doctors working. A. Sankar Rao, Managing Trustee who spoke on the occasion explained about the aims

and objectives of the Sankar Foundation and his inner desire to help the poor and needy. He thanked the Rotary International for its generous offer for the purchase of CARL ZEISS SURGICAL ZOOM OPERATING MICROSCOPE.

Prestigious award to Shri A. Sankar Rao :

Dr. K. Subba Reddy, Rotary District Governor presented "PAUL HARRIS FELLOW" a prestigious award to Shri A. Sankar Rao.

CHEQUE PRESENTATION : The Rotary Governor has presented a Cheque for Rs. 15,87,000/- to Dr. R.Suryanarayana Raju, Honorary Ophthalmic Surgeon & Chief of the Eye Hospital of which Rs. 7,93,500/- was given as matching grant by Sankar Foundation. Dr. R.S.Raju while thanking the Rotary Club explained that this "Sophisticated instrument is used for Microsurgical procedures mainly for Cataract Surgery. It is also very useful for Surgical Management of Diabetic Retinopathy and complicated Retinal detachment".

10.1.2002 : VISIT OF FOREIGN GUESTS :

12.1.2002 : Shri T. Gurumurthy Reddy, Chairman, Gajuwaka Municipality alongwith Shri K.Satyam Babu, President, Samathanagar Owner's Welfare Association, Shri Kolagani Suryanarayana, General Secretary, National Ex-service men, co-ordination Committee, Dr. P.Rama Krishna, President, Vinayak Nagar Association and 6 important persons of the Gajuwaka area visited the Sankar Foundation Eye Hospital and Hospital for Woman & Child at Srinivasanagar, Simhachalam.

22.01.2002 : Dr. L. Vijaya Reddy, Urologist from United States and Mr. Bijaya Reddy an Industrialist from Bangalore visited the Eye Hospital and Woman & Child Hospital and applauded the services of Sankar Foundation.

23.01.2002 : Shri S. Rama Krishnan, Deputy General Manager, State Bank of India Visited Sankar

Foundation Hospitals accompanied by Shri A. Sankar Rao, Managing Trustee, Sankar Foundation.

24.01.2002 : Lt. Commander Retd. P.S.Anand Chairman Managing Director. Marine Corporation of India visited the Eye Hospital and Woman & Child Hospital and appreciated the services being rendered to the poor and needy people.

25.01.2002 : Grant of Rs. 1.50 Lakhs by Helpage India for Eye Care Project to the Aged :

A cheque-release function was conducted in the Timpany School, Visakhapatnam. Shri Mohd. Raja Mohammed, State Incharge of Helpage India explained the services being rendered by Helpage India. On behalf of Helpage India, Smt. Anjali Jones, Principal handed over a Cheque of Rs. 1.50 Lakhs to Dr. N.V.L. Narsimha Rao as an advance payment.

DONATION :

08.12.2001 : A donation of Rs. 5,000/- was received from Shri J.S. Chandra Mouli, of State Bank of India, Dwarakanagar Branch, Visakhapatnam.

**VITAL STATISTICS OF
EYE HOSPITAL & WOMAN AND CHILD
HOSPITAL**

A. SF EYE HOSPITAL :

(From 2nd June' 1997 to 22nd Jan'2002)

i. Total outpatients Screened/Treated : 1,26,186

ii. Total Operations performed : 17,517

(By Microsurgery & Phaco Method)

B. SF WOMAN & CHILD HOSPITAL :

(From 6th Feb' 1998 to 22nd Jan'2002)

i. Total outpatients Screened/Treated : 98,758

ii. Total Caesarian Operations performed (LSCS) : 503

iii. Normal Deliveries conducted : 1,889

iv. Tubectomy Operations performed (FP) : 601

v. Hysterectomy Operations performed : 143

vi. Umbrella Vaccinations

(BCG, OPV, HEP-B, DPT, MMR,

TETANUS, MEASLES) : 24,718

CENTRE FOR POLICY STUDIES

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

Patrons :

Shri Abid Hussain

Shri K. Sivananda Murty

Dr. M. Gopalakrishna Reddy

Prof. B. Sarveswara Rao

Prof. R.V.R.Chandrasekhara Rao

Shri C. Sivasankaram

Shri M. Ramdas

Shri A. Sankara Rao

Smt A. Yesodha

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Prof. K.V. Ramana

Prof. K.C. Reddy

Shri Kasim Mehdi

Shri K. Sridharan

Shri M. Varahalu Chetty

Shri K.S.Sastry

Trustees :

Shri K. Parvati Kumar

Shri D.V. Subba Rao

Dr. A. Prasanna Kumar (Director)