

Reviews, Reforms & Reflections

Work at a glance, 2018-2019

Vinay Sahasrabudde
President, ICCR

Conference on
Soft Power

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A report by

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Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha
National Vice President, Bharatiya Janata Party
Vice-Chairman, Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini



// Introduction

BJP is not just a political party but an organisation. It is also an institution. And the key factors that distinguish BJP as an institution are a number of healthy practices adopted by many of its members and elected representatives. Regularly held organisational elections, systematically conducted meetings of various Party forums and independent departments dedicated to Training, Policy Research, as well as Good Governance, are some of these distinguishing factors. One such healthy practice is BJP's Elected Representatives filing their Annual Report to the Electorate. Having been elected to the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of Indian Parliament, I have been preparing such Annual Reports titled 'Work at a Glance' every year. With the completion of my third year in Parliament, I am happy to present this third 'Work At A Glance' Report.

Democracy literally means 'Rule of the People' and hence supremacy of the people always remains of paramount importance. This Report is in recognition of the accountability of an elected representative to his electorate in particular and people in general.

This year's 'Work At A Glance' report has been divided into four broad segments according to the responsibilities being shouldered by me and the various roles played.

These responsibilities include: –

- Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha
- President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations
- National Vice-President, Bharatiya Janata Party
- Vice-Chairman, Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini

The document reviews the work done, highlights the reforms attempted and shares some of my reflections on various subjects at different occasions during the year under report!

Readers are welcome not just to assess my work but also make some valuable suggestions and help me perform better.

Vinay Sahasrabuddhe



Member of Parliament, RAJYA SABHA

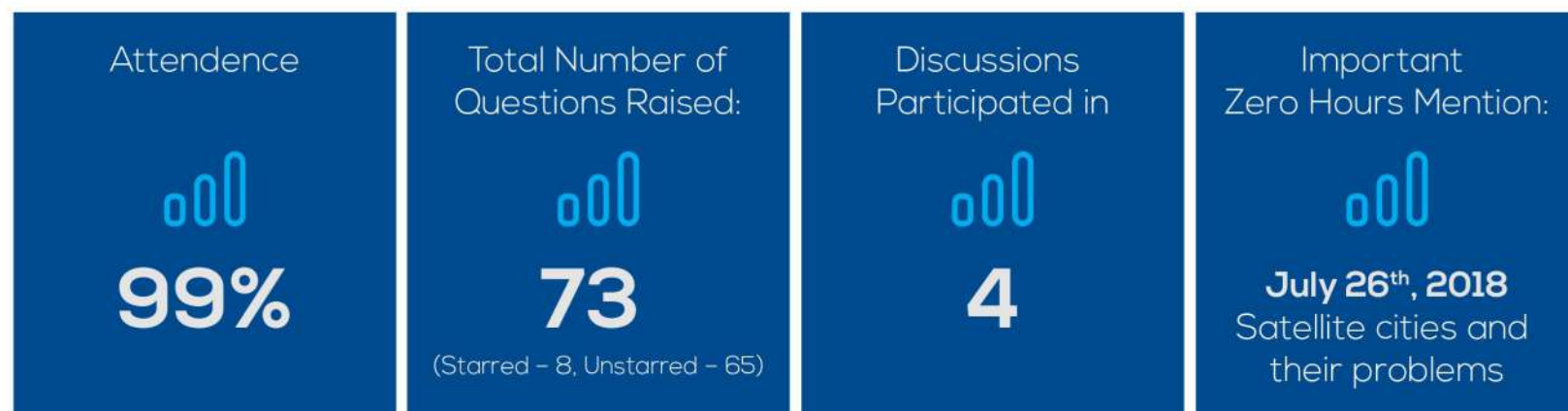
The June of 2019 marked the completion of my three years as a Rajya Sabha member. The three years, and the last year in specific, have provided a great learning experience for me. As a Member of Parliament, I have had the fortune of serving on various Parliamentary Committees concerning diverse fields. In addition, it was a moment of great satisfaction for me as Vihigaon; my adopted village under the 'Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana' finally entered the mainstream of development governance.

Highlights

As Member of Parliament, I served on the following Parliamentary Committees:

- › Chairman – Select Committee on 'The Ancient Monuments, Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment Bill 2018) (2018-19)
 - › Member – Standing Committee (Information Technology)
 - › Member – Consultative Committee
 - › Member – Business Advisory Committee (From 19th June, 2018 onwards)
 - › Member – Search and Selection Committee for Dr. Radhakrishnan Chair
 - › Member – Rajbhasha Committee, Rajya Sabha
- › Nominated by the Rajya Sabha to the 'Court of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (Ministry for Human Resource Development)
- › Nominated by the Government of India as Executive Member of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML), New Delhi

Work in Parliament: At a Glance



Participation in Debates:

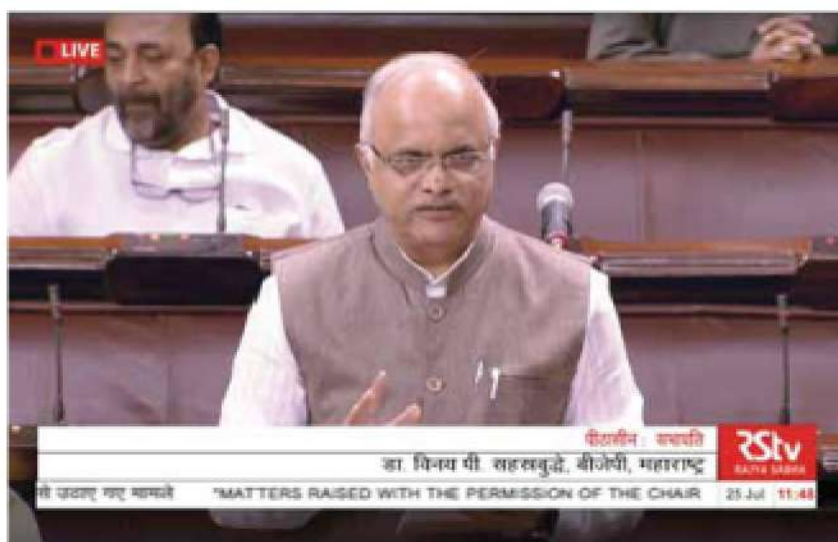
1. The Motor Vehicles Amendment Bill, 2017 – **July 23rd, 2018**
2. Motion of thanks to President's Address – **June 25th, 2019**
3. Prohibition of employment as Manual Scavengers & their rehabilitation – **June 28th, 2019**

Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana: Vihigaon

Vihigaon, Taluka Shahapur, Distt. Thane, selected by me as my adopted village under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, celebrated joining the development mainstream after completion of some basic developmental work. To mark the completion of the work, an event named 'Gram Sankalp' was organised on 25th August, 2018. Fellow Lok Sabha MP representing this village Kapil Patil, District Collector, other officials and several social workers joined this event.

Major development activities carried out in Vihigaon during a period of two and a half years included the following:

- Installation of Mobile Phone Tower, thereby ensuring connectivity
- Distribution of job cards to all unemployed youths
- 100% vaccination of children of vulnerable age
- Phased conversion of local school into a digital school
- Ensuring implementation of major welfare schemes of the Govt.
- Revitalising the functioning of the primary health sub-centre



As Member of Parliament, I participated in following important programmes

- January 5th, Haridwar: Convocation ceremony of Dev Sanskrit Vishwavidyalaya.
- January 24th, Prayagraj: Lecture on 'An urban perspective for rural rejuvenation' at Pandit Gobind Ballabh Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad University, Prayagraj.
- January 30th, New Delhi: Inauguration of exhibition based on Gandhi Ji at NNML and organised by Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi.
- February 14th, Chennai: Addressed 'Think Edu' Conclave organised by the 'New Indian Express' group on the subject 'Are we doing enough in schools to create a nationalist India?'
- February 26th, Mumbai: Delivered Convocation Address at the Modern College, Dombivali, Distt., Thane.
- March 2nd, Bengaluru: Was Chief Guest at the Graduation Ceremony of month-long Yoga Training Course for foreign students at the Swamy Vivekananda Yoga Anusadhana Samsthana (S-VYASA), Bengaluru.
- April 6th, New Delhi: Interacted with Radio Jockeys of different radio channels.
- May 10th, Bhopal: Participated in 'Dream of New India Conclave of Start-Up Community'.
- May 19th, Aligarh: Addressed the Annual Convocation of the Manglayatan University, Aligarh.
- June 29th, Thane: Interacted with stakeholders on 'Draft New Education Policy – 2019' organised by Srijan Sampada under the 'Nitee Samvad' series.



Key Initiatives

- **Temporary relief from Mumbai's entry-point toll collection gates:** The people of Mumbai and nearby areas faced a great amount of discomfort while crossing the BMC limits on a daily basis. The situation worsened for a brief period in September last year. My letter to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Devendra Fadnavis, resulted in the quick response from Government of Maharashtra, exempting people from paying toll tax for a brief period. This act of the Government provided a much needed relief to Mumbaiers, specially people from Thane.
- **Intervention in construction of Kopri Railway Bridge:** The work for a Railway Bridge in Kopri area of Thane got stalled due to problems pertaining to permissions. When I appraised the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Devendra Fadnavis, about the situation, he reciprocated by providing the relevant clearances. Finally, the Railway Bridge above Kopri became a reality.



Reflections

“आज पूरे देश में 'सेटेलाइट सिटीज' की एक बहुत बड़ी समस्या हो रही है। हमारे देश में अभी नगरीकरण या 'अर्बनाइजेशन' कोई इश्यू नहीं रहा है, मगर चाहे वह मुम्बई हो, दिल्ली हो, कोलकाता हो या गुवाहाटी हो, इन शहरों के इर्द-गिर्द बड़े बड़े 'सेटेलाइट सिटीज' उत्पन्न हो रहे हैं।

यह 'सेटेलाइट सिटीज' बड़े शहरों को सर्विस देते हैं, तो इन शहरों के बारे में एक अलग सोच और अलग नीति बनाने की जरूरत है..... मेरी माँग है की इन सारे प्रदेशों में परिवहन को लेकर, ट्रांसपोर्ट को लेकर जो समस्याएँ हैं, प्रदूषण की जो समस्या है और विशेष रूप से 'गार्बेज मैनेजमेंट' को लेकर जो समस्याएँ हैं तथा गृह निर्माण और पानी जैसे 'नैचुरल रीसोर्सेज़ मैनेजमेंट' की जो समस्या है, जनसंख्या दबाव को देखते हुए, इन समस्याओं का हल तुरंत निकालने की द्रष्टि से कोई अलग सोच और अलग नीति बननी चाहिए।

... योजना आयोग इस बढ़ते हुए सेटेलाइट सिटीज के 'फेनॉमेनन' को ध्यान में लेकर कोई अध्ययन करे कि क्या हम इन शहरों को कोई विशेष दर्जा दे सकते हैं, क्योंकि उनकी तुलना 'स्टैंडअलोन सिटीज' के साथ नहीं हो सकती। 'सेटेलाइट सिटीज' का विशेष प्रवर्ग, एक विशेष क्लास है और उनकी नगरीय समस्याओं का एक विशेष विचार होना चाहिए। उसके संबंधित अंतर्मंत्रालय कार्यबल, जिसमें रेल, परिवहन, नगरीय विकास, गृह निर्माण जैसे सारे मंत्रालय इकट्ठा आकर इन समस्याओं के बारे में अध्ययन करे और सरकार इसके बारे में कोई नई नीति और नई सोच को अंगीकार करे....”

“ Today, the entire country is facing the issue of ‘Satellite Cities’. Urbanisation has never been a problem in India, but big Satellite Cities are mushrooming around cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, or Guwahati.

As Satellite Cities serve the purpose of big cities, we need to have different thinking and policies for them. The problems they face, like transportation, pollution, garbage management, construction and natural resources management, like water, should be immediately looked into in the light of their growing population.

The Planning Commission should conduct a study on this growing phenomenon and see whether they can be given a special status, as they can't be compared to stand-alone cities. ‘Satellite Cities’ is a special class and their problems need special solutions. The Interministerial Workforce that consists of Ministries like Railways, Transportation, Urban Development and Housing should study these problems and let the Government draw new thinking and policies. ”

Special Mention in Parliament on ‘Satellite Cities and their Problem on July 26th, 2018: Excerpts



President, INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS

As President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), the main focus while discharging the duty remained on three things. These were –

- Expanding the scope of work while taking a more comprehensive view of Soft Power Promotion,
- Strengthening the functional efficacy of ICCR as an institution, both from within and also in the overall scheme of things at the MEA, and
- Emphasising the cause of attracting many more foreign students to India by creating more conducive atmosphere for their studies and stay in general.

Noteworthy activities undertaken in pursuance of these objectives included continued interaction with officials of other ministries to break the silos for the sake of concerted efforts, bringing Sanskrit more prominently on the agenda of ICCR by way of organising 2nd Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Memorial Oration, by Hon'ble Justice R.C Lahoti on '*Sanskrit – An Instrument for Promotion of India's Soft Power*, conducting 2nd International Conference on Yoga Studies in London, United Kingdom, with an active participation of over 200 delegates from more than 17 countries and more importantly initiating a Dialogue with Territorial Heads (Joint Secretaries of MEA) on the Plan of Action (POA) of ICCR. In order to help foreign students being hosted by the ICCR, after a long gap, Regional Advisory Committees (RAC) were reconstituted and their meetings held at almost all the 19 regional centres of the ICCR.

Highlights

Number of Cities
Travelled

32

Regional Advisory
Committee formed

14

Chennai, Goa, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Pune, Ahmedabad,
Bengaluru, Lucknow, Kolkata, Varanasi, Bhopal,
Thiruvananthapuram and Chandigarh

Foreign Delegations
hosted

5

Russian, Iranian, Mongolian,
Luxemburg, Georgia

Details of Visits abroad

- * Tehran, Iran (December 2018) for the inauguration of an International Seminar on Similarities between Sanskrit and Persian Languages
- * London, UK (June 2019) for the inauguration of 2nd International Conference on Yoga

New Initiatives

- **Unnamed Cultural Centres are now Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centres**– Under the new scheme of things at the ICCR, all the unnamed Cultural Centres around the world have been named as ‘Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centres’. This is to give a unique Indic identity to these centres. Swami Vivekananda has for long been the torchbearer of the Indic values for the world. By naming the unnamed cultural centres as ‘Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centres’, we wish to project India, through the eyes of Swami Vivekananda.
- **Showcasing the success of Democracy in India** - Democracy being an inseparable part of Indian Culture, a series of ‘Delivering Democracy Seminars’ was conducted at key opinion making centres of the world. In all, 7 such Seminars were held, where the success of Indian democracy was discussed at length, focusing mainly on governance, economy and social justice.
- **Building Capacities of ICCR Directors abroad** - A new initiative was carried out by ICCR for training the newly selected directors of Indian Cultural Centres abroad to equip them with diplomatic protocols, administrative and financial system. The training programme was facilitated by the Foreign Service Institute, which is a nodal agency for training the Indian Foreign Services’ officers.
- **Foundation Day** - For the first time, ICCR Foundation Day was celebrated on 9th April, 2019 after 68 years since its establishment in 1951. Now, a plan is being prepared to Institute an Annual Best Employee Award to recognise an employee for his or her distinguished services as an ICCR employee.
- **Representatives from 189 countries invited at the Kumbh Mela** - For the first time ever, representatives from 189 countries, on the invitation of ICCR attended the Kumbh Mela at Prayagraj. The representatives were taken for a tour of the Mela and later were shown a documentary on the world’s largest human gathering.



Being the President of the ICCR, I got the opportunity to attend/speak at the following events:

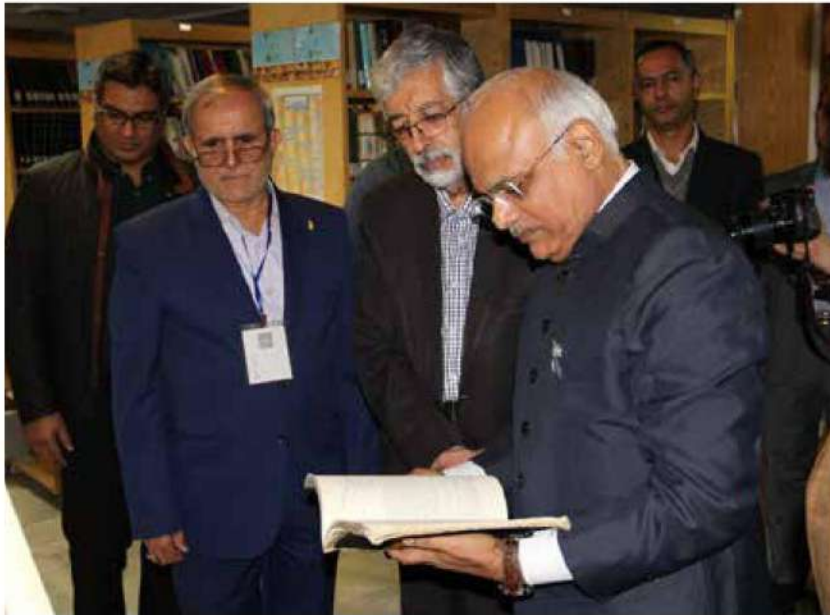
- July 1st, New Delhi: Conclave of Indian Head of Missions (HOMs) from all over the world.
- July 19th, New Delhi: Special Address at Delhi Dialogue Summit, organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and RIS on 'Strengthening India - ASEAN Maritime Cooperation.' I expressed my views in a session on 'Strengthening Socio- Cultural Links'.
- August 23rd, Mussoorie, Uttarakhand: Addressed IAS Officers on 'India's Soft Power Potential' in a Training Programme.
- September 1st, Pune: Delivered Convocation Address at the Annual Convocation of Deccan College Deemed University.
- November 29th, New Delhi: Delivered Inaugural Address at the International Roma Conference, organised by a International Centre for Cultural Studies (ICCS).
- December 17th, New Delhi: Shared Dias with Hon'ble Vice President of India and also delivered key-note Address at the Conference on Soft Power, organised by India Foundation.
- January 2nd, New Delhi: Held structured discussions on ICCR's Annual Plan of Action and it's conformity with the Ministry's Scheme of Things with the Territorial Heads (Joint Secretary and Secretary), MEA at the Ministry of External Affairs.
- February 9th, Mumbai: Delivered Inaugural Address at a Seminar on 'Career Opportunities in Music' organised by Sangeet Natak Academy and NCPA.
- March 17th, Mumbai: Presided over an Informal Interaction of Artistes from Maharashtra on 'Vision and Mission of the ICCR' at the Raj Bhavan, Mumbai in the gracious presence of Shri Ch. Vidyasagar Rao, Governor of Maharashtra.



Reflections:

“Our diversity is our strength, simply because the inherent unity of the people of India is manifested in diverse lifestyles. These manifestations include our culinary traditions, regional variants of dances, music, theatre, films, folk arts, crafts and artisans, costumes, fashion and literature.”

Speech at the naming function of the ICCR centre at Beijing as ‘Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre’ on August 14th, 2018. Excerpts



“Indian world view appears to be a constant interplay between part and a whole, individual and collective, new and old, without and within, material and spiritual. There is absolutely no rejectionist approach in it. In a way, the element of balance– with justice inherent to it – is an element that seems to be omnipresent in the Indian thought.

Holistic and Integrationist approach underscoring individuality and collectivism is also evident in our relationship management. This is also evident from the fact that we recognise every family relation with a distinct name. We recognise and relate; we accept and affiliate. This, again is unique with Indian approach towards human life.”

Special Address at a session of the 24th World Conference of Philosophy, held at Beijing on August 15th, 2018. Excerpts



“When I say deepening of civilizational relations, I actually refer to our shared world view that is marked by Spiritual Democracy and Sustainable Pluralism. The most significant foundational feature of our shared world view is, we all in India and in ASEAN countries have always steadfastly adhered to the cherished values of Spiritual Democracy, which in other words is worship. Let us remember that this recognition and respect for every other belief system has largely helped our part of the globe, thwart the tyranny or terrorism. I am a member of Indian Parliament and right at the entrance arch of the upper house, we find the aphorism ‘Ekam Sat Vipra Bahuda Vadanti’ inscribed in bold letters. This is the fundamental principle of acceptance, tolerance or the spirit of not just accommodation but respect and recognition to every other belief system. But I believe that this thought is not confined to India alone. It is an integral part of traditional cultures in the ASEAN countries as well. This provides us with a strong foothold to carry the flag of universal fraternity, peace and harmony on our shoulders. In a world mired in controversies, competitions, conflicts and confrontations, ASEAN and India together can present a model of overcoming the force of terror through our approach of granting equal respect, equal justice and equal protection to all faiths and belief systems.”

Delhi Dialogue X, organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, India and RIS, New Delhi on July 19th, 2019. Excerpts





“These values are the foundation of India’s Soft Power. Global community is amazed by the success of democracy in India. But the enlightened understanding demands that the linkage between our spiritual democracy and political democracy is brought to the fore more effectively while underscoring governmental efforts for achieving social and economic democracy as well...

... धातुशिल्पकला में अपनी माहिरियत के लिए जाने जाने वाले छत्तीसगढ़ के धातुशिल्पी, पूर्वोत्तर भारत के बाँस की कलावस्तुएँ बनाने वाले कारीगर, महाराष्ट्रमें सिंधुदुर्ग में काम करने वाले लकड़ी के खिलौनों के निर्माता, या उड़ीसा के रेतशिल्पी यह सारी हमारी सांस्कृतिक सम्पदा हैं और इसे हमारी सॉफ्टपावर प्रभुत्व के एजेंडे में हमने समाहित करना आवश्यक है...

The metal sculptors of Chattisgarh, known for their expertise in metal sculpture; the artisans of North-East India, known for making bamboo artefacts; the makers of wooden toys in Sindhu Durg in Maharashtra; or the sand artists of Odisha, are our cultural wealth that needs to be assimilated in our agenda of soft power.

A Bharat Natyam dance event is important, but if we are able to present it with a narrative that tells the story of Indian Womanhood from Gargi Maitreyi to Kalpana Chawla, it will add to the enlightened understanding of India.

...आवश्यक हैं की हमारे देश में हो रहे DICCI जैसे प्रयास तथा महिलाओं के स्वयं सहायता समूहों की व्यापक सफलता जैसी बातों को हम प्रभावी तरीके से विश्वसमुदाय के सम्मुख लाए। ब्रिटेन की जनतांत्रिक व्यवस्था में आज महिला मताधिकार की जब शताब्दी मनायी जा रही हैं तब हमारी महिला ग्रामप्रधानों और जनप्रतिनिधियों की पर्फॉर्मेंस को हमने पूरी ताकत से उजागर करना चाहिए। Perception Deficit को कम करने के यही उपाय हैं...

We need to emphatically bring to the world community our initiatives like DICCI and the massive success of women’s self help groups. When Britain is celebrating the centenary of women’s voting rights in their political system, we need to strongly highlight the performances of our women village heads and public representatives. That is the only way to reduce the perception deficit.”

Address at the Head of Missions Conference: New Delhi, on July 1st, 2018. Excerpts

National Vice-President BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY

Bharatiya Janata Party has entrusted me with the responsibility of Party's National Vice President and in that capacity, in charge of the State of Madhya Pradesh. Besides, I have also been looking after the twin Departments of Policy Research and Good Governance.

The year that went by has been challenging to say the least. But as the challenges mounted, the learning graph grew exponentially. The passing year moulded the karyakarta in me. In Madhya Pradesh, although we lost the Assembly election by a whisker, in Lok Sabha elections, the Party's performance was extraordinarily remarkable. Many established stalwarts from the Congress party had to face defeat at the hands of relatively newer candidates.

Party's Good Governance Department organised. Good Governance Tours of a group of journalists in States like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Kerala, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat Our Public Policy Research Centre (PPRC) published a total of 19 research monographs, many of which were in the form of Review of Implementation of Manifestos of the currently ruling Party.

Besides all other things, the main focus of political activism during the year under report, obviously was the election campaign. Following is the statistical summary of participation in election campaigns, both during the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh and also Lok Sabha elections later.

Highlights

Number of Public Meetings Addressed

35

Interactive Meetings with Professionals

12

Press Conferences

18

Constituencies Travelled: Vidhan Sabha

188

Constituencies Travelled: Lok Sabha

62

New Initiatives

New Delhi January 9th, Agriculture Stakeholder Conference – The conference, a one of a kind event calling upon the stakeholders in the agricultural sector to discuss and deliberate on the issues and possible solutions related to the sector was organised by PPRC and ISRN.

Focus Groups Meetings – While campaigning for the BJP during the 2019 General Elections, I participated in a number of 'Focus Group Meetings' involving professionals from different backgrounds.

Meetings with Stakeholders in manifesto drafting -

- Meetings of Focus Groups – CA, Lawyers on February 13th in New Delhi
- Manifesto Meeting with travel industry on February 20th in Goa
- Focus Group Meeting with Ex Army personnel at Chandigarh



Additionally, I took part in and/or spoke at the following events/interviews as the representative of the BJP:

- August 7th, New Delhi: Participated in the discussion at the First Young Dalit Thinkers' Round-table organised by India Foundation, New Delhi.
- August 10th, New Delhi: Television Interview – 'To the Point with Vinay Sahasrabuddhe' by Rajya Sabha TV.
- August 31st, Pune: Addressed a meeting of Pune International Centre on Democratic Reforms: With Special Reference to Simultaneous Elections.
- February 13th, New Delhi: Addressed Media as part of 'Bharat Ke Mann Ki Baat, Modi Ke Saath'.
- February 22nd, Hyderabad: Addressed the Policy Conclave organised by Indian School of Business.
- March 1st, New Delhi: Participated in the Panel Discussion held at India Today's Conclave on the topic 'Hinduism vs Hindutva'.
- April 23rd, Mumbai: Addressed BJP's Vijay Sankalp Sabha at Bhandup, Mumbai.
- April 30th, New Delhi: Interaction with delegates from 12 countries under the 'Election Study Programme' organised by India Foundation.
- May 4th, Bhopal: Interview on General Elections with Headlines Today.
- May 12th, Kolkata: Panel discussion organised by Young Presidents' Organisation on 'Indian Democracy: Past, Present and Future'.
- June 17th, Shimla: Delivered Inaugural Lecture of Best Minds of India Lecture Series on 'Beyond Populism: Deciphering the 2019 Electoral Verdict' at Indian Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS).



Reflections:

“...With close to 90% of the political parties in India being dynasty driven, this pure and simply selfish motive has stuck to political activism no matter what is the real motive of an activist. In fact, dynasty driven parties have contributed to the negative image of politics in a huge way. In a situation like this, issues like the ideological foundation, policy formulation processes, performance when in government and organisation science needed for party building, never even figure in contemporary discourse around politics in India. No wonder, the process of scientific cadre building is always neglected both academically and practically...”

Preface to 'New Age Karyakarta', a book authored by Dr. Sumeet Bhasin. Excerpts

“To us, the political science lexicon, barring a few 'catch-all' parties like the BJP, most regional parties in India have earned their social identity on the basis of a certain caste group they associate themselves with. Obviously then, strengthening their very own caste-vote-bank remains their only agenda for political survival. From Tamil Nadu to Uttar Pradesh, the story is more or less the same. In a situation like this, most regional parties have almost turned their back to the task of achieving the lofty ideal of creating a casteless society.

About Social Equality, there are enough attractive slogans and lengthy speeches. What is needed is concrete action that produces tangible results. Thankfully, the Modi Government has demonstrated its commitment to social justice through exactly the same and therefore BJP is seeking votes, not in the name of castes but on the basis of successful measures to end discrimination. The path to the withering away of castes goes the same way.”

My article published in India Today titled 'Eradicating Discrimination through Social Justice: Beyond Slogans and Speeches' on August 29th, 2019.



“There are umpteen number of cases where Prime Minister has spent more than sixty percent of his speech time on developmental issues. But unfortunately, they don't grab the headlines. Which is why, other statements, which are naturally more political, attract all the attention. But we have been insisting that we are seeking this mandate on the basis of our performance. Because we are confident that performance ultimately will induce people to stand behind the BJP.

This election is about leadership. And leadership involves integrity, decisiveness and efficacy. I think on all these three counts Prime Minister Narendra Modi stands apart because of his very established purity of purpose. Even those people who are against him are not in a position to create any suspicion about his intentions. They are accepted as pure across the ideological spectrum. Secondly, apart from integrity, his efficacy with which he is functioning and the way he has conducted himself in the administration: Somebody who has not taken a single day vacation; Somebody who is working for 18 hours all along, is something which is unparalleled. “

Interview with Headlines Today in New Delhi on May 4th, 2019. Excerpts

“The most striking part of this election campaign was that the ruling establishment almost steadfastly refused to be drawn in any kind of competitive populism. Issues like unemployment dole, loan waiver or subsistence allowance under the much talked about NYAY couldn't influence neither the ruling party campaign nor the campaign of the competing alliances.

Prime Minister Modi has established himself as a part of solutions to the multiple crisis being faced by India at the governmental as well as popular levels. Modi Government came across as a doer, as a solution finder with its strong political will. “

Lecture delivered at the Indian Institute of Advance Study (IIAS), Shimla under their 'Best Minds of India' Lecture Series on the subject 'Beyond Populism: Deciphering the 2019 Electoral Verdict' on June 17th, 2019



Vice-Chairman, Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini (RMP)

Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini has now come a long way. Having served this unique organisation in various capacities starting from Project Coordinator (1988) to Director General (1999 onwards) via Executive Director, and since 2016 as Vice Chairman of the Trust, roles and responsibilities are obviously changing. A second line of command is now perfectly in place and RMP is now taking a leap further to make a mark on global discourse about Democracy with capacity building of elected representatives as a pre-requisite for making democracies deliver effectively.



Highlights

- September 10th, New Delhi : Chaired a Seminar on 'National Register of Citizens (NRC) : Defending Border, Securing Culture'. Among others, Sarbananda Sonowal, CM, Assam and Ram Madhav, Gen Sec. BJP and others participated in this.
- December 10th, Mumbai : Chaired a Seminar on the Success of Ujjwala Scheme in the context of Empowerment of Women in Rural India.
- December 29th, Meerut: Delivered Inaugural Address at the 58th All India Political Science Conference.
- January 20th-21st, Chaired a session at Sushasan Sangam, the National Conclave on Good Governance organised by RMP.
- February 2nd, Dhule: Delivered Inaugural Address at the Sawarkar Sahitya Sammelan.

- May 20th, New Delhi: Chaired the Annual Convocation of PG Programme in Democracy, Leadership and Governance organised by the Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership, in presence of Union Defence Minister, Smt. Nirmala Seetharaman.
- June 13th, Mumbai: Joined Shri Pema Khandu, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh at his specially organised Interaction with the Film Production Fraternity.
- June 14th, RMP-KEC: Presided over the Inaugural Function of the two-day Training Programme for all MLAs – including Ministers and Speaker of the Assembly of Arunachal Pradesh, organised by Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini (RMP).
- June 24th, New Delhi: Presided over a Training Session for first time Lok Sabha MPs on 'Ideal Office Management for a Lok Sabha MP'. Shri C. R. Patil, MP from Navsari, Gujarat was the Chief Resource Person.



New Initiative:

New India Retreat: Presided over a two day brain storming session involving young opinion makers and social media enthusiasts from across the country at the RMP Campus. JNU Vice Chancellor Prof. M. Jagdish Kumar and senior journalist and Rajya Sabha MP Shri Swapan Dasgupta were the Chief Guests.

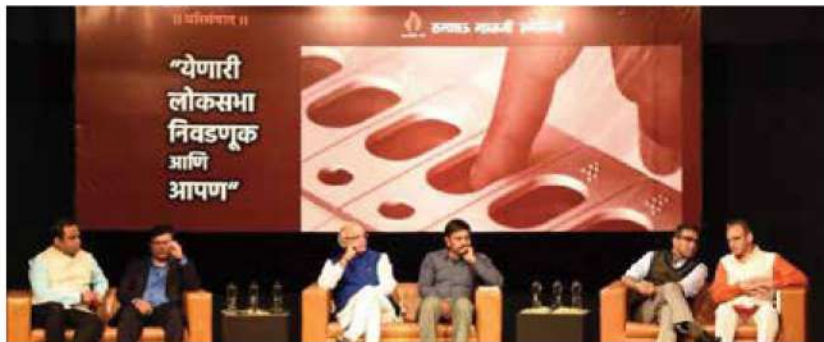
Reflections

“ Leaders, as they say, always end up feeling that right kind of followers are in short supply. Swami Vivekanand wanted some hundred spirited and motivated youths. Dr. Shyamaprasad Mukherjee wanted one more Deendayal Upadhyay. Also, there are instances of great men eventually being defeated by their own disciples and associates. Add to this, the crass neglect - whether wanton or compelled by the situation - of the processes of systematically evolving a second line of command in organisations and institutions; and the challenge of ‘Man Making’ gets more and more acute. In a situation like this, Girish S. Bapat’s book becomes all the more important. ”

Preface to the book ‘Man Making’ by Shri Girish Bapat, Director, Jnana Prabodhini, Pune

“ In India, we had Indian Institute of Management, Indian Institute of Technology, and Indian Institute of Information Technology. We even had Indian Institute of Social Sciences. But unfortunately, in the largest democracy of the world, there was no Indian Institute of Democracy. Therefore, three years back, we, at the Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini decided to launch India’s first Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership (IIDL). This kind of initiative is important for the larger cause of credibility of democracy as well. World over, while the acceptability of democracy is growing, its efficacy continues to be under the clouds of scepticism. If this has to stop, marrying liberal democracy with State Building - that political scientists like Pippa Norris have been advocating - is a must. At IIDL, we are conscious of the fact that Democracy is not just about voting, about elections or about running the houses of the parliament, but also about changing the lives of people. Issues like ‘State Building’, ‘Good Governance’, ‘Better Administration’ and ‘Deliverance of Democracy’ therefore become critical. When we talk about Deliverance of Democracy, what matters most is the leadership. Unfortunately, today leadership is in short supply in every walk of life, and democratic polity is no exception. Here again, a professional approach is the need of the hour! ”

Address at the Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership’s Annual Convocation, New Delhi on May 20th, 2019. Excerpts



Atal... Achal, Avichal

We have witnessed in our life one personality which stood up for his integrity, patriotic commitment to the national highest moral in one and only **"Bharat Ratna Shree Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji"**.

To remember him and get inspired by his phenomenal contribution as a poet, statesmanship, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe has conceived a programme to pay tribute, on his first Jayanti after his death. Which was performed in Mumbai 25th Dec 2019, Thane 26th Dec 2018, Delhi Jan 06th, 2019 and Pune Feb 16th, 2019.

Ambarish Mishra a well known writer has exclusively written script titled:

"अटल..अचल...अविचल...." for this event .This entire show is weaved through poetry reading, specially composed songs penned by Atalji, And also rare audio, video clips of Atal ji.



शब्द वाणी सुर का त्रिवेणी संगम



Conceptualized by Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe

Producer: Sujay Patki | Director: Vinod Pawar | Script: Amabarish Mishra | Poetry Narration: Padmashri Manoj Joshi and Sachin Khedekar
 Music Composed by Shri. Kamlesh Bhadkamkar and kaushal Inamdar, accompanied by 8 chorus and 12 musicians.

मोदी सरकार नए प्रयोग, नए विचार



विनय सहस्रबुद्धे
धीरज नय्यर

अनुवाद व संपादन : प्रदीप पंडित

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POLITICS

Modi: The Integrator In Command

by Vinay Sahasrabudhe - May 16, 2019, 5:47 pm

123 SHARES



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Red Fort, New Delhi

Snapshot

What some sections of national and international media are unable to see in their pessimism is that the policies and programmes of the Modi government have greatly bridged divisions in Indian society across different axes.

Right since the perceived exit of ideology as motivation for political activism in parties across democracies, a certain amount of skepticism about all politicians

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FROM THE MAGAZINE

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Casting Out Caste

The time for empty slogans is past. Social equality and justice need successful measures to end discrimination.

Author's note



Vinay Sahasrabudhe
June 13, 2019
6502 3428 June 23, 2019 | Updated June 13, 2019 | 14:27:07



Justice for MS Prasad page 30-31 of the Ambassador International Centre in Delhi

In 1976, when I was imprisoned in Yanam jail during the Emergency, one of our barrack-mates was Gopabandhu Mani, from Kollapur. I remember him because he used to work for the rehabilitation of the children of sex workers. When I share this with friends, it comes as a cultural shock. But the fact is, right since the days of the Jan Sangh, the BJP has steadfastly worked for the cause of social equality. It is our conviction that, without a transformation of our traditional mindset, equality will not be possible. More than public agitation, what ultimately works for

