

# GNLF splits as Pradhan loyalists float new outfit

Daraen Yawar  
Siliguri, November 16

OPEN REBELLION has broken out in the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF), with the dissidents openly challenging party leader Subash Ghisingh and demanding his ouster as the chairman of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council. The rebels have floated a new party, the GNLF(C) — "C" stands for CK Pradhan, the slain GNLF leader.

Pradhan was murdered in broad daylight on October 3. The mystery of his killer's identity is yet to be cleared. The party floated today has the same green background as the parent GNLF's flag, but sports a yellow stripe and has the insignia of two crossed *khukris*. The GNLF flag has one *khukri*.

At a public meeting in Damber Singh Chowk in the heart of Kalimpong town today, the rebels led by Col DK Pradhan — CK Pradhan's brother — called for Ghisingh's ouster from the DGHC. They also accused him of betraying the legitimate aspirations of the hill people and reneging on his promise to lead them towards the goal of Gorkhaland.

The rebels paid an emotional farewell to CK Pradhan. Col Pradhan said Gorkhaland had been the



**Subash Ghisingh**  
*Testing times*

slain leader's sole dream. "We will work to realise that dream," he thundered.

Conspicuous among those who addressed the meeting was Maximus Kalikotey, municipal councillor and a steadfast friend of CK Pradhan. Sheela Pradhan, the departed leader's widow, was also present. So was Roshan Shankar, a noted dissident in the Kalimpong GNLF.

Signifying wider support for the new party outside Kalimpong, ousted Darjeeling MLA Dhan Kumar Pradhan attended the meeting. He was ousted from the chairmanship of the Darjeeling municipality when he fell out with Ghisingh a few months ago. Another former GNLF legislator, NT Moktan, who rebelled against Ghisingh in 1993 and contested the Kalimpong Assembly seat as an Independent in 1996, was also present.

HINDUSTAN TIME

17 NOV 2002

# Letters link KPP & rebels

G.O. 111 of P. S. No. 1000

## ANUPAMDASGUPTA

Siliguri, Oct. 31: Letters seized from arrested militants have led police to suspect a "link" between the Kamtapur People's Party and the militant Kamtapur Liberation Organisation.

The KPP, spearheading a movement for a separate state for the ethnic Rajbanshis of north Bengal, has steadfastly denied connection with the militant outfit blamed for the killings of five CPM workers in Dhupguri on August 17. The party has since denounced the KLO for undermining the Kamtapur movement by resorting to violence.

Inspector-general of police

(north) Bhupinder Singh said the letters, seized in recent weeks from militants in Jalpaiguri and Haryana, were written by the top KPP leadership and the KLO militants holed up in south Bhutan. Trusted people from both sides had acted as "couriers".

The documents revealed the KLO's stated intention to steer the Kamtapuri movement. In its correspondence, KLO commanders told the KPP leadership to carry out its directive. Most of the letters were addressed to a top KPP leader.

A few senior KPP leaders, including party chief Atul Roy, have been questioned about the letters, which police claimed car-

ried their signatures. But no arrests have been made yet.

Singh said they have informed the administration in Calcutta of "the contents" about the letters and were awaiting orders for arrests. "Even the chief minister has been informed," he said.

Police sources said the state administration was not in favour of arresting the KPP leadership without "solid" evidence. The administration fears that the arrests of KPP leaders would turn them into "martyrs" and boost the dying movement.

A police officer said they were trying to get more information on the suspected links between the KPP and the KLO be-

fore taking any KPP leader into custody. Singh called the seizure of the letters a major breakthrough. "They say a lot about the latest equations between the KPP and its militant counterpart. It is significant because the police have, for the first time, been able to lay hands on something that will end confusion about their affinities."

The officer said the police are trying to identify the sympathisers who had carried the letters back and forth. A state intelligence branch official said the "sensitive" letters would help them establish the "real links and the shared ethos of the two organisations".

when the explosion took place. —

# A writer's unfulfilled dream

9-Pervez-ul-Haq

IF my American dream had been fulfilled, I would have been a scribe writing in English. There would have been no place for me in Bengali literature, Annadashankar Ray had once said.

Equally adept in all genres — novel, poetry, travelogue and essay — Ray was a post-Iagore towering personality in Bengal. He had in his youth dreamt of going to the USA as a journalist. "I wanted to go to the USA to earn and learn," he had once said. The USA seemed to beckon the budding author who just wanted to be there.

His passion for the USA soared till he read Catherine Mayo's *Mother India*. "In utter disgust, I promised that an American woman would be the last... I would marry." But fate willed otherwise — though he never set foot in the USA, an American woman came to India and met him. "Perhaps God was smiling while I made that remark",

she was only 35 years old. Luckily for the literary world, it remained only a bad dream. Ray, who started by translating a piece from Leo Tolstoy's *Twenty-Three Tales*, has to his credit *Satyasatya*, *Raina O Srimati*, *Visabaksarani*, *Trishnar Jal*

he said later. In 1930, Alice Virginia Orndorf came from Texas to see India and met Roy, then Behrampur assistant magistrate. They married in Ranchi the same year. Alice, after her marriage, was renamed Leela Ray as her husband was then writing under the penname "Leelamoy". She died in 1992. Like the USA, many of his other dreams remained unfulfilled. Ray's desire to pursue a journalistic career came to a nought when he unsuccessfully knocked the doors of several magazines after passing out of school. He was haunted by the nightmare of an untimely death after seeing his mother pass away when

months before Partition, has almost earned the honour of a proverb.

Dropping out of MA (in English) literature from Patna University, Ray topped the Indian Civil Services examination in 1927, but

took an early retirement in 1951 with a view to

becoming a full-time writer. Ray wrote his travelogue, *Pathe Prabase* (On Road Abroad) from London, serialised in *Prabasi* while he was on training there.

But it was *Japan* (in Japan) which brought him the coveted Sahitya Akademi Award in 1962. Ray, a founding member of Sahitya Akademi and its fellow, went to Japan in 1957 to attend the "Pen"

congress, an world litterateurs' conference. Born on 15 May 1905 at Dhenkanal in Orissa, Ray began his literary career by writing in Oriya. He was honoured with Annada Purashkar (1983, 1994), Vidyasagar Purashkar (1980) and Shiromani Purashkar (1995).

Mr Chandrabhash Ray, his grandson said: "No religious rituals will be held for last rites, as per his wishes. All religious texts will be read out at his condolence meeting."

Governor Mr Viren Shah expressed his condolence: "Ray was a doyen of Bengali and Oriya literature. His death has left a void that will be hard to fill up."

Recalling his contribution to Bengali literature, Mr Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee said: "Ray's rhymes are ingrained in Bengali souls. Bangla Akademi with which he was associated since its inception, was enriched by his wise stewardship".

**OBITUARY/Annadashankar Ray (5.5.1905 — 28.10.2002)**

recall

96-  
11/10  
Indira personality - JP

A veteran journalist who witnessed the worst excesses of the Emergency evaluates JP's political nous



Kuktip Nayar

P, as we affectionately called him, and I, had worked closely before the Emergency (1975-77). Both of us had been a target of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's excesses. And JP was as much disillusioned with the governance by the post-Emergency Janata Party as I was. The dream shattered when it struck against the reality. I was an editor in the *Indian Express* when JP rang up to ask me to come down to Patna where he was traversing the last journey of his life. Medical treatment had failed to make him well. But he had not given up. He was still determined to tilt the system towards the poor to emancipate them from the bondage of hunger, illiteracy and disease. He told me on the phone that he would invite some more people, economists as well as academicians, so that "We can all sit together and

think afresh." Ideologies have failed to find an answer to our problems. Something new had to be done quickly to get results. He said that the programmes the nation had followed so far had made little difference to the living of the poor. "By putting our heads together, we may be able to think of a method to help those who had nothing with them." He admitted that neither socialism nor the experiment of Bhoodan (gift of land) had worked. There were too many vested interests, too much political and bureaucratic wrangling. There had to be a new policy, shorn of shibboleths and slogans. JP said, "Our first priority is people, not policy."

Strange as it may seem, India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had made the same point: We talk of democracy. Democracy is a means to an end, not the end itself. We talk of the good society. Is this sending the good of the individuals composing it? If the individual is ignored and sacrificed for what is considered the good of society, is that the right objective to have? Indeed, real social progress comes only when an opportunity is given to the individual to develop, provided that 'the individual' is not a selected group but comprises the whole community. The touchstone should be how far any political or social theory enables the individual to rise above his petty self and think in terms of the good of all. Both Nehru and JP had

# "JP failed to see through the RSS"

been comrades in the Independence struggle. Both believed that socialism - they shunned violence - would give people the ownership of means of production and distribution to do away with disparities and individual monopolies.

Both wanted a new way hewn through the builders of power politics and personal ambitions. But axiomatic as the working of Nehru and JP may

today. As a matter of fact, the countries that are advanced today were economically better off than India today, in terms of per capita income, before their industrialisation began. Western economics, though helpful, has little bearing on our present day problems. So too with Marxist economics, which is in many ways out of date, even though it throws considerable light on economic processes. We thus have to do our own thinking, profiting by the example of others but essentially trying to find a path for ourselves suited to our own conditions. So was JP's thinking.

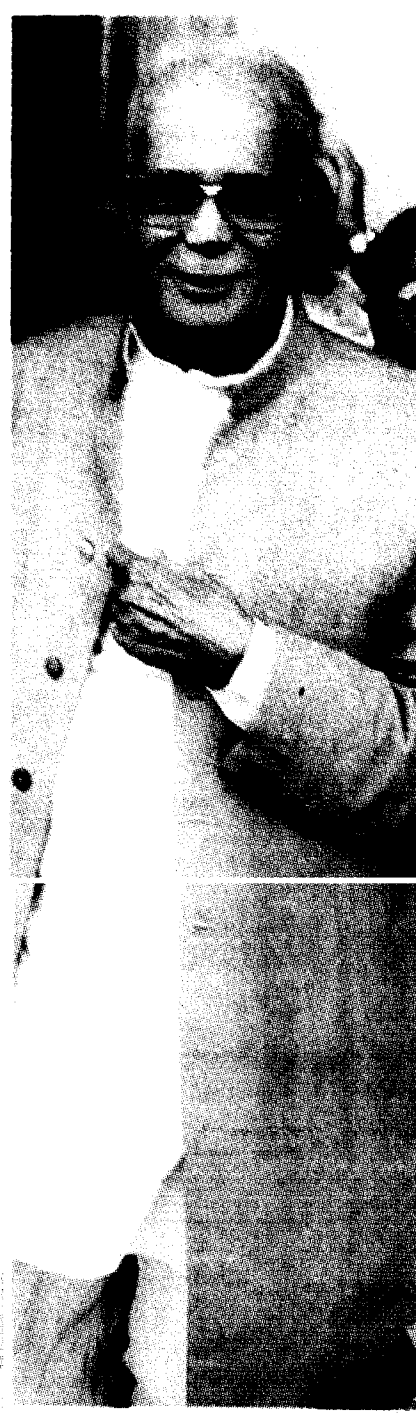
We never met, not was there any conference which he had in mind. He died soon after the phone call. However, JP's biggest disappointment was that the RSS betrayed him. After promising him that it would give up its separate, parochial approach at the time of joining the battle against the Emergency, it refused to do so, once it got over the scares of suppression during the Emergency, and enjoyed policy as well as rhetoric.

True, the Jan Sangh merged into maintain its own identity and contacts with RSS. When the old Jan Sangh members were asked by the Janata to sever their connection with the RSS, they refused to do so. Instead, they formed a new party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which played the Hindu card with a vengeance.

JP's failure was that he could not see through them, although they were mixed up with the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. Being members of the Janata Party, they had credibility. This was all that they wanted. JP realised that he was wrong to have taken them at their face value. But by then he was too ill to join issue with them.

“Strange as it may seem, Nehru and JP held the same views on the purpose of democracy”

look, the latter did not accept deputy prime ministership in Nehru's cabinet. Still, both saw that the problems that India faced were to some extent common to other countries, but - much more so - there were new problems for which there were no parallels or historical precedents elsewhere. What had happened in the past in the industrially advanced countries has little bearing on us



## Service and self

COMMENT BY RAM BAHADUR RAI, POLITICAL EDITOR, *Jansatta*

JP's life can be seen in three distinct parts. The first when he was a revolutionary. The second, when he looked at universal issues. The third, when he was recognised as Jayaprakash Narayan'. In this last part, JP seemed disillusioned. That disillusioned JP has a lengthy story. A vast amount of literature on the Bihar Movement is already available. A lot more is being written on the occasion of his centenary. Many publications will straighten memories. I was a part of the movement, I have my own memories. Yet, it must be recognised that the Bihar Movement or JP Movement as it was later known, is in the grave of the past. At that time Nanaji Deshmukh advised us to keep diaries. The whole country knows yet another piece of advice from Nanaji. He himself followed it: that before reaching the age of 60, a person should retire from active politics. You know that nobody took Nanaji's advice. It sounds simple but is a difficult task. JP was Nanaji's inspiration.

## "Dress like those you now represent, he said"



Sharad Yadav

met JP in 1974 in his room at Charkha Samiti Parisar in Kadam Kuan. I was seeing JP after a long time. Perhaps in 1969 I was influenced by him. I had heard much about him and consequently had respect for him. But it was my first meeting with him in person.

After our conversation I felt that my mentor Dada Dharmadhikari had 'briefed' JP about me. I touched JP's feet. He hugged me. After that he noticed my typical dress. I was in pants and shirt. My shirt had four pockets, two upper and two lower. I still remember JP's first advice to me. He told me that lakhs of people had elected me. They had faith in me. Now I had come into the mainstream of public life in Hindustan. Our public life have been coined by khadi and I should now wear it. JP turned to Dada Dharmadhikari and complimented him on his neat dhoti. He told him to teach me how to wear one.

His second advice was that to spread the agitation beyond Bihar, we must travel from university to university and college to college, engaging the students. Meeting JP before taking oath as a member of the Lok Sabha gave me a new direction. I learnt the first lesson of public life from him. He told me that I would have to live like those whom I was going to represent. His advice was friendly. It was not an order. For the Bihar agitation which later on was known as the JP Movement, he made me a messenger to other states.

I took this responsibility. During that period I got the opportunity to meet Ramnath Goenka, Radhakrishnan and Prabhush Joshi.

I disagreed with JP on many points. But he never held it against me or treated me like a young upstart. How many leaders are so free from ego?

मुझे मीठे! PRIYAGOLD BISCUITS

mujhe ismein milte hain bahut saare strawberries!!

250 g only Rs. 18/- Kids Cream Strawberry BISCUITS

ismein hai cream bahut saara cream

Saluting the fighting spirit of democracy

INDIAN EXPRESS GROUP

The Indian Express  
The Financial Express  
The Sunday Express  
Loksatta  
Jansatta  
Samakaleen  
IE - North American Edition  
Screen  
Lokprabha  
Business Publications Division

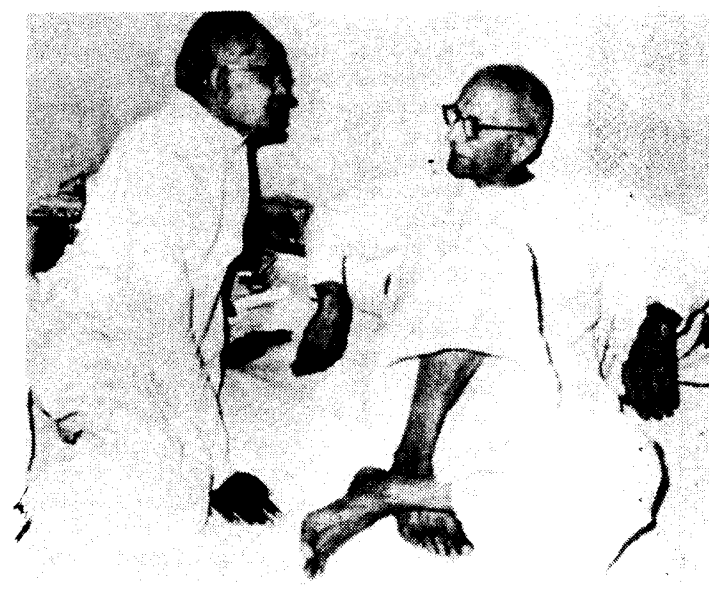
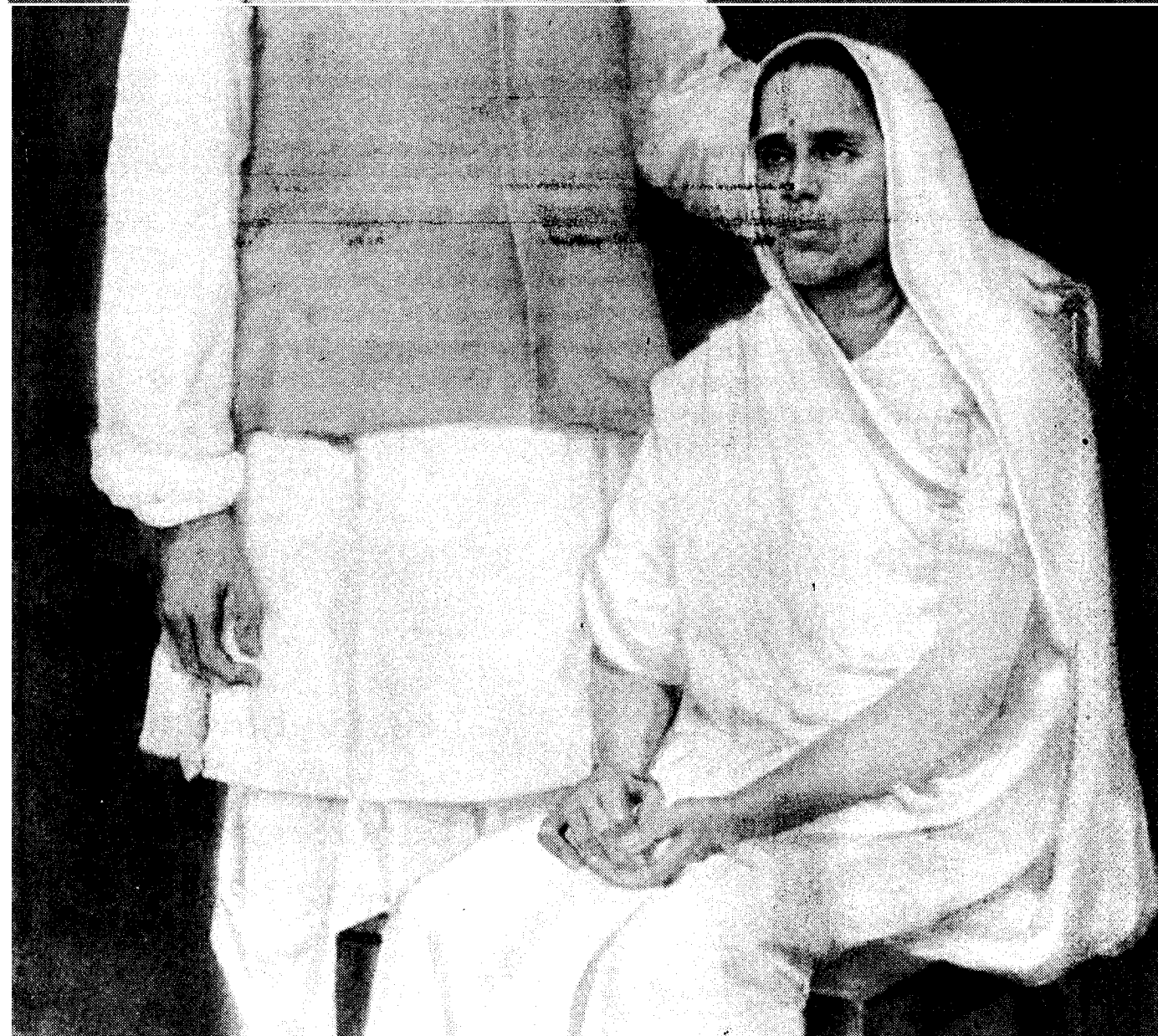
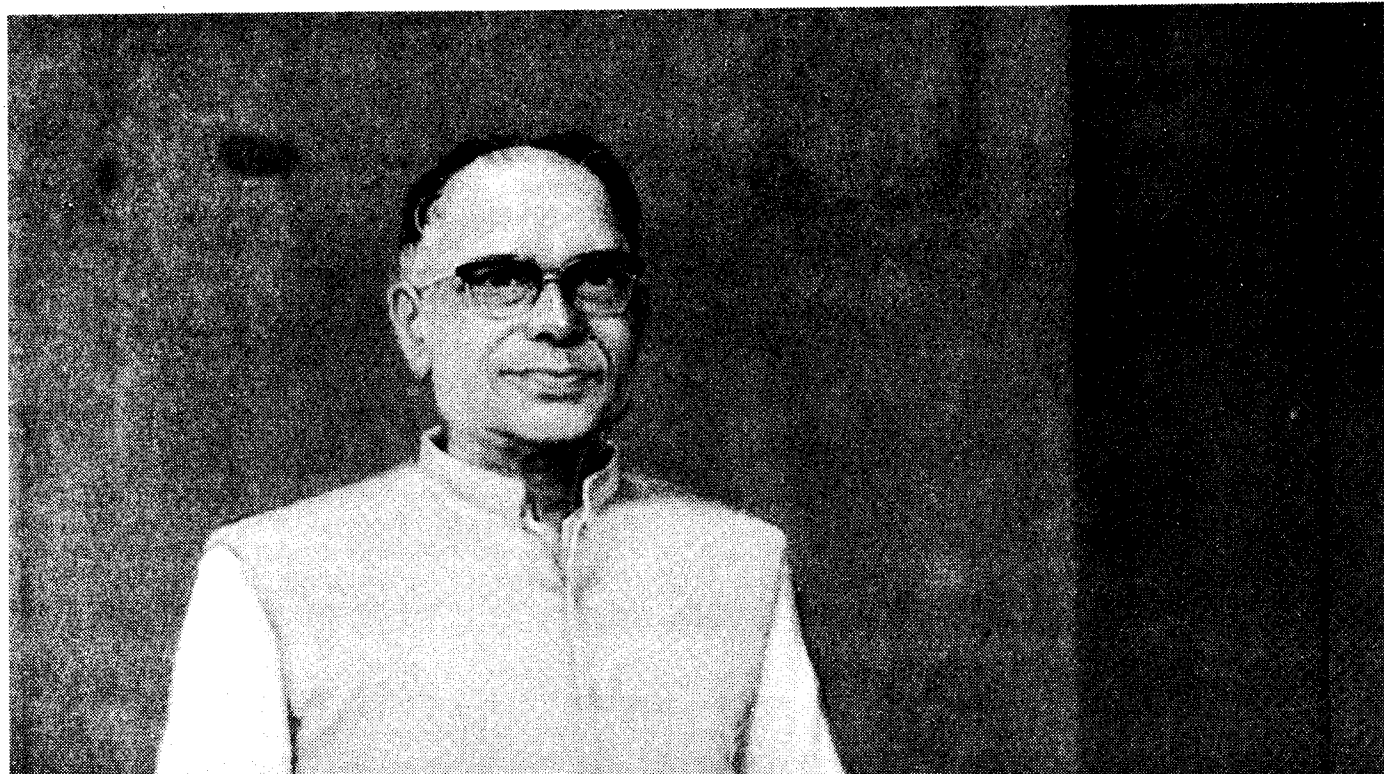
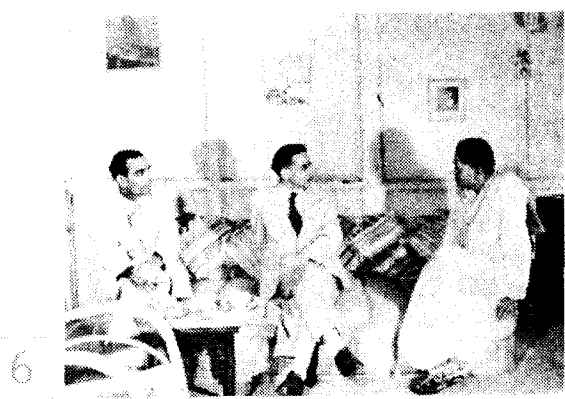
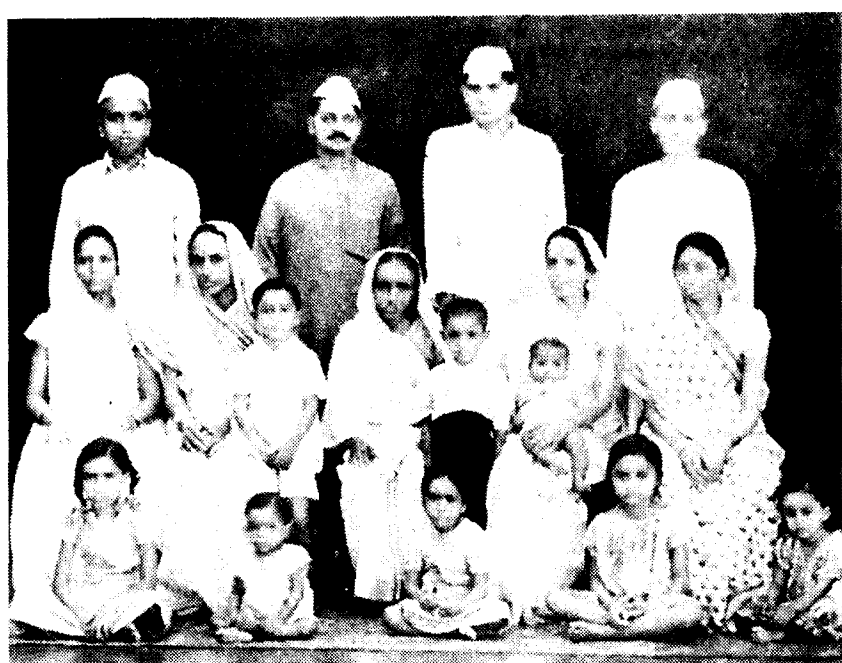


milestones

# THE LIFE OF A LOI

- October 11, 1902**  
Born in Sitabdiara, Bihar
- 1919** Left Patna College.
- 1920** Married Prabhavati Devi.
- 1922** Decided to go to America to pursue his studies.
- 1923** Gained admission to Berkeley in California.
- 1929** Returned to India, joined the Congress.
- 1930** Set up an underground office at Bombay to continue Congress work. Arrested in Madras.
- 1932** Wrote a book, *Why Socialism*.
- 1933** Jailed and released by the British.
- 1934** Formed the Congress Socialist Party.
- 1940** Sent to Deoli detention camp in Rajasthan.
- 1941** Organised a hunger strike.
- 1942** Arrested for participating in the Quit India Movement.
- 1943** Arrested on his way to Rawalpindi.
- 1946** Released from jail, where he was tortured.
- 1954** Announced his 'jeevan daan', the dedication of his life to Vinoba Bhave's Sarvodaya Movement.
- 1971** Sarvodaya workers in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, received a letter threatening to kill JP.
- 1972** His wife Prabhavati died of uterine cancer.
- 1974** Led a historic silent procession in Patna and addressed a mammoth crowd.
- 1975** Arrested and sent to Chandigarh during the Emergency.
- 1977** Under his guidance, several parties merged to form the Janata Party.

**October 8, 1979**  
Died, after witnessing the acrimonious collapse of the Janata Party.



6

7

8

9



Twenty-three years after his death, JP's ideas remain starkly relevant to India's development

# vision Towards total REVOLUTION

## TOTAL REVOLUTION

If there were a Total Revolution as per my concept, the individual man would also undergo a revolutionary change. So it is the totality that undergoes the change, including the individual. I think the specific nature of a total revolution at any particular time would be determined by the needs of the time, the situations that obtain in the country, and the forces that were contending for power.

● Above: The lathi blow in Patna that shook a nation; Below: the 'Last Leader' to rouse a genuine grassroots movement

A total revolution in India should mean a revolution from the village upwards to the largest urban concentration. There must be a total change in civic life, civic relationships, civic institutions, civic relations and as we go beyond the sphere of civic life we enter larger spheres of national life.

## BUREAUCRACY

I think one of the most difficult spheres which has resisted change is

administration and bureaucracy. The recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission have really not been seriously carried out because the very people who are to carry out are the people who would be affected by the changes.

I think it needs a very strong political leadership and a very well-knit organised political party with a mass base and its following among the intelligentsia to bring about a total revolution in view of the vested interests in our bureaucracy.

Most of the ministers have neither the experience nor the strength of personality to stamp their own mark on the administrative system.

## AGENTS OF CHANGE

Now at the people's level there are branches of the organised parties. They are interested in their own parties and they are not so much interested in programmes as in propaganda in order to win the votes at the next election. Nor is it in the nature of the student community. Those who are students today are not the students tomorrow. The new ones who come to take the place of the old ones do not have the same kind of spirit, enthusiasm and the same attitude.

## THE ONLY SOLUTION

Sarvodaya believes in Kranti rather than merely doing good work such as khadi and village industries basic education and things like that. To all that must be added a revolutionary programme (for all aspects of life).

## RESPONSIBILITY

The stronger sections should change their attitude and take a more benevolent view of their responsibilities and obligations to the weaker sections. Minorities also are part of the weaker sections, not because that they are educationally backward or socially backward but numerically they are in

“

Intercaste

marriage is not the only method to break the system ”

minority. Therefore, I have also been advising them to organise themselves in order that they may play their proper part in the national life. While they perform their duties towards society, they should claim rights.

Gandhiji was the one who emphasised most that rights grew out from duties. There is a widespread tendency to claim rights with-

out performing duties, which weakens the movement for acquisition of the proper rights by the people. So whatever may be the duties, they should be performed honestly.

## CASTE EQUATIONS

A total revolution in the social sphere, particularly Hindu social caste. But it is easier said than done. From days immemorial, social reformers, religious leaders and revolutionary activists have tried to break up the caste system. But there is something in it which holds it together. I have advocated intercaste marriage as the only method by which the system, the barriers, the walls, could be broken down.

During the movement I found that a number of intercaste marriages took place. But I feel that the intercaste marriage by itself is not a solution. Today, I feel particularly in UP and Bihar that it is not the upper-most castes, namely the Brahmmins and the Kshatriyas, which are responsible for suppression of the "so-called" lower castes. But apprehension has been let loose by the middle castes, particularly the Ahirs, the Jats and Gujars who are becoming more and more dominant in the countryside.

The Kshatriyas and Brahmmins are taking a back seat. I think that it shows maturity on the part of the Brahmmins and Kshatriyas. These (other) people have yet to learn their lessons, which I hope they will learn sooner than later.



TRIBUTES

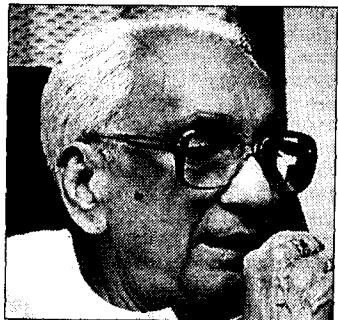


*His death is a personal loss to me as I always admired him for his political maturity and acumen*

**MULAYAM SINGH YADAV**

*A great loss to the Indian public. He was emerging as a frontline leader of not only the Congress but also of the nation's political arena*

**JANA KRISHNAMURTHY**



*The country has lost one of the brightest and tallest leaders*

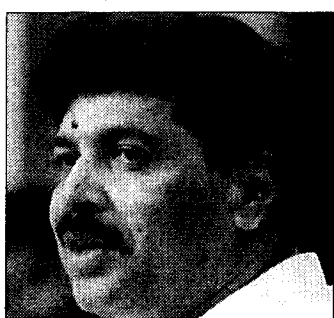
**K KARUNAKARAN**

*I had the privilege of working with him for 25 years and fondly remember his grace and concern for others*

**ARJUN SINGH**

*Destiny has snatched a promising political stalwart from us in the prime of his youth*

**FAROOQ ABDULLAH**



*His ability and skills as an administrator, public figure and parliamentarian caught the imagination of the youth of the country*

**PRAMOD MAHAJAN**

*Though he hailed from a royal family, he was a people's man in every sense. He devoted his life for their welfare*

**H D DEVE GOWDA**

*He was a charismatic and dynamic leader. His loss is irreparable not only to the Congress but also to the nation*

**AHMED PATEL**

# Gwalior mourns loss of its favourite son

## City comes to a standstill, shops down shutters

**HT Correspondents  
Gwalior/Bhopal, September 30**

A PALL of gloom descended over Gwalior when news of Madhavrao Scindia's death spread. The enormity of the tragedy slowly began to sink in when the plane crash was confirmed.

The city came to a standstill. Markets were hastily shut down and streets were soon deserted. Petrol bunks, too, closed for the day. While the rank and file of the Congress was stunned, there was no one at the Jaivilas Palace to speak about the tragedy. No one had any idea when the body of the departed leader would be brought to the city.

Chief Minister Digvijay Singh has reportedly cut short his London visit to air-dash to New Delhi. The state administration has declared a holiday tomorrow.

Three days' state mourning has been declared in the state. Scindia will be given a state funeral in Gwalior on Wednesday. Though the mood was somber in the city, some enraged supporters of Scindia came out on the streets in Hajira locality shouting slogans of 'Scindia amar rahe and burnt down a police picket.'

Gwalior Police Commissioner Vimal Julka told the *Hindustan Times* that security arrangements had been increased after this incident. He said barricades would be put up in town tomorrow. Arrangements will be made for people to pay their homage once the body is brought to Gwalior, he stated.

Scindia leaves behind his wife Madhavi Raje, son Jyotiradiya Scindia and daughter Chitrangda Raje. Gwalior residents said the nation had lost a young, dynamic and capable leader. MLA Ramesh Agrawal said Scindia's untimely death was a personal loss. Mayor Puran Singh Palaiya said Gwalior had lost its favourite son.

Leader of the Opposition Sudhir Gupta said a chapter in Indian politics had come to an end with Scindia's death.

Uma Sengar, GDA chairperson, said Gwalior has lost a friend, a guardian and a man for whom the development of the city was paramount.

GDA Secretary Nirbhaya Bakliwal said it is a personal loss to me. Deepak Tomar of Gwalior Institutional sports and cultural Association said

### POLITICAL CAREER

- Born on March 10, 1945, to Jiwajirao and Vijayaraje, Scindia received his education at Gwalior and Oxford
- First elected to the fifth Lok Sabha in 1971 at the age of 26. Won eight subsequent parliamentary elections. In 1984, defeated Vajpayee in Gwalior
- Was Minister of State for Railways in the Rajiv Gandhi Government between 1984-89.
- Held the Civil Aviation portfolio between 1991-93. Resigned following a crash of a leased Uzbek plane
- In 1995-96, returned to the Cabinet as HRD minister
- In 1996, left the government and the party when he was denied a ticket for the LS polls tomorrow
- Re-joined Congress in 1997, and has been a CWC member since then
- Became Congress deputy leader in the Lok Sabha in 1999. Has been a member of several parliamentary panels

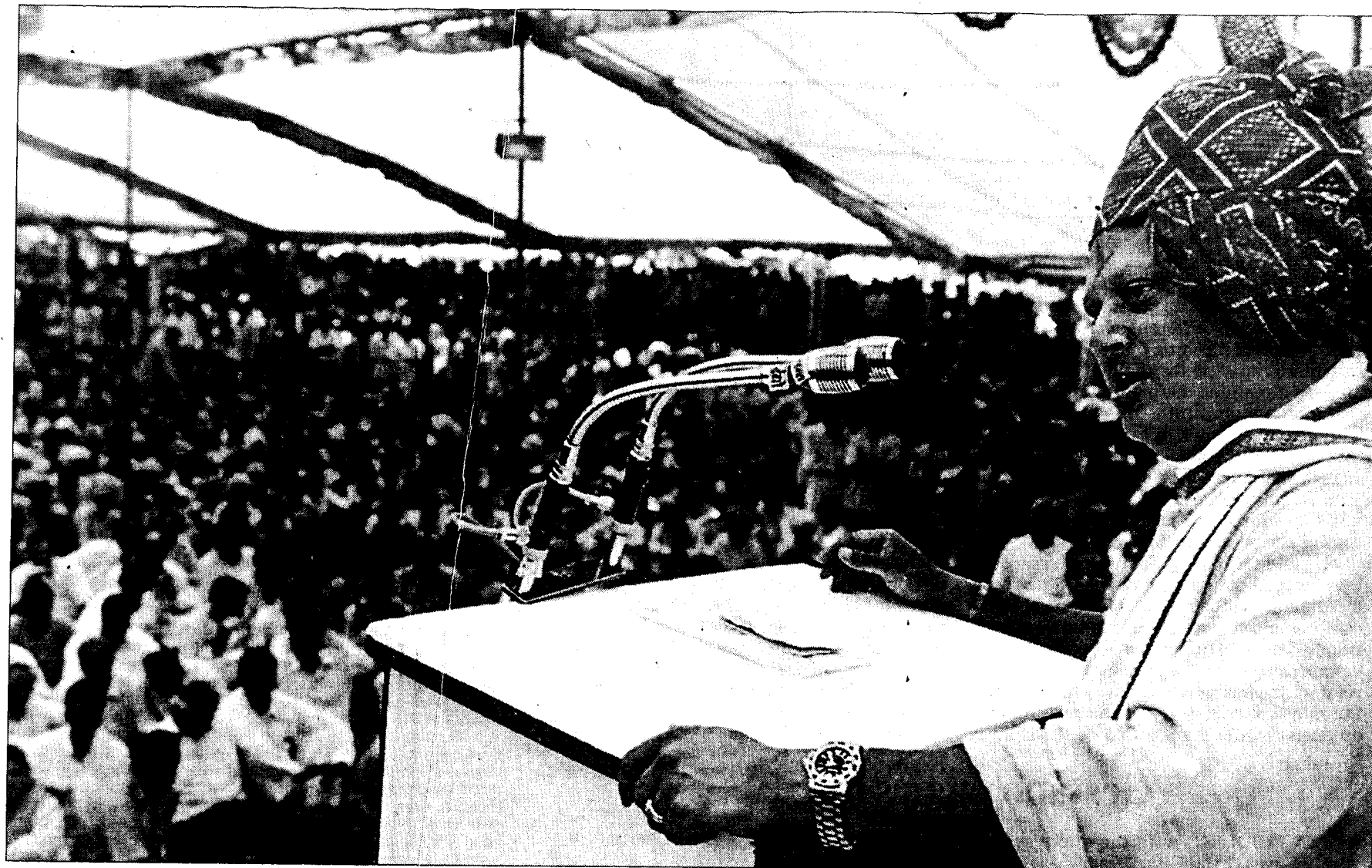
he was a great sportsman, in him we lost a lighthouse for the sporting world. He has shown his abilities in successful organisation of World Cup Cricket 1996.

Engineers association said he was a stalwart who always thought for the welfare of all specially the downtrodden. He had a clear vision for development of the nation.

Office bearers of MPCCI Govind Agrawal, Arvind Agrawal and Peetambar Lokwani said that the region has lost its well wisher.

In the Capital, the Congress leaders were deeply upset. Describing Scindia's death as a great loss for the nation and the party, they seemed to be blaming the providence for taking away their brilliant leaders in tragic incidents like this one after another.

Senior party leader and spokesperson of the dissolved PCC Lalit Shrivastava said, 'It is a loss, which nobody will be able to compensate. I do not know why it is happening with the Congress party. One after the other all our brilliant, young leaders on whom the future of our party rested, are being taken away. Only recently, it was Rajesh Pilot and now Scindiaji. It is incredible.'



THE LAST RALLY: Madhavrao Scindia addressing a public meeting at Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh on September 25.

## Death stalks Congress in trying times

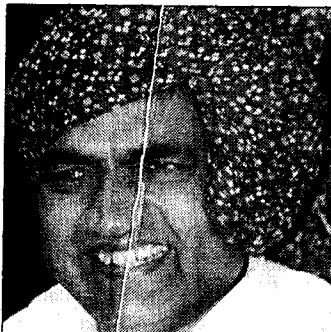
**HT Correspondent  
New Delhi, September 30**

THE ROUGH and tumble of politics has cost the Congress dearly as some of its brilliant and young leaders have over the years been suddenly snatched away by death. In most cases the tragedies occurred when they were poised to contribute in a big way in taking the party forward.

Madhavrao Scindia's tragic death in an air crash was preceded by another young and upcoming leader Rajesh Pilot meeting a similar end, though in a road accident.

Scindia's demise came at a time when the party rank and file was looking up to him to help Congress president Sonia Gandhi in rebuilding the party structure.

So was Pilot's case though with some difference. The former Air Force officer had begun to emerge as some kind of an alternative to the Congress's established leadership when his sudden end came on June 12, 2000.



**Rajesh Pilot**



**Sanjay Gandhi**

The biggest void in the Congress politics was created by the deaths of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his younger brother Sanjay Gandhi. In fact, the party is still trying to come to grips with the situation created by Rajiv's assassination in 1991.

The vacuum still exists which his former colleagues like Scindia and Pilot were trying hard to fill.

Although he had become a controversial figure during his

short stint as politician, many in the Congress had pinned hopes on Sanjay as heir apparent of the Nehru-Gandhi family. But destiny had something else in store for him. He died in an air crash in 1980.

In recent past, Mohan Kumaramangalam, Minister in Indira Gandhi's Cabinet, had also met a sudden and tragic end. The young and promising trade unionist perished in an air crash in Delhi in 1976.

Earlier, the Congress had suffered similar blows due to untimely deaths of former Prime Ministers Lal Bahadur Shastri and later Indira Gandhi. Shastri's sudden demise came at a time when the party was trying to come to terms with the situation after Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's death.

A similar shock was in store for the Congressmen when Indira Gandhi fell to assassins' bullets.

With none else to look upon, elder son Rajiv to lead them through the trying times. A political greenhorn, Rajiv was removed from the scene when he had learnt the tricks of the trade and was poised to give a new direction to the Congress.

Scindia was especially outstanding in politically countering the Sangh Parivar. As deputy leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, he gave the Congress the much needed ideological impetus it seemed to be lacking in the recent past.



**Too nice to be caricatured**  
Sudhir Tailang  
New Delhi, September 30

IT'S HARD to believe Madhavrao Scindia is no more. Good-looking, charismatic and youthful, he was a politician in the Rajiv Gandhi mould. And that's hardly a combination to inspire a cartoonist. He seemed too nice to be ridiculed.

He closely followed political cartoons. I haven't done many cartoons on him, but each time I did one he made it a point to ring me up and say something nice. He would ask for the original. I happily presented several of my original drawings to him.

He had a huge collection of cartoons that adorned the walls of his house. In the HT polo series last year, he was the chief guest. I presented him a big colour drawing: Scindia on horseback, playing polo with a cricket bat. He said, 'This will be hung in my house by this evening.'

I have not caricatured him too many times in the last two decades. I remember drawing him in that famous battle when he defeated Vajpayee in Gwalior. And then, when he resigned as minister. Also, when Narasimha Rao made him quit the Congress.

Cartooning is a negative art form when it comes to drawing politicians. One is always looking for idiosyncrasies and deficiencies. But it was difficult to find fault with Scindia.

Some years ago, he visited an exhibit of my cartoons. He spent two hours -- pointing out details in every cartoon. He jokingly complained, 'There's only one cartoon of mine in the entire gallery. Why haven't you made fun of me for such a long time?'

'Because, one, it's tough drawing you,' I said. 'And two, you hardly give us a chance to pull your leg.' He laughed. 'Don't lose heart. You'll get your opportunity.' His laughter still rings. But I won't be able to make fun of Madhavrao Scindia anymore.

## They waited in vain

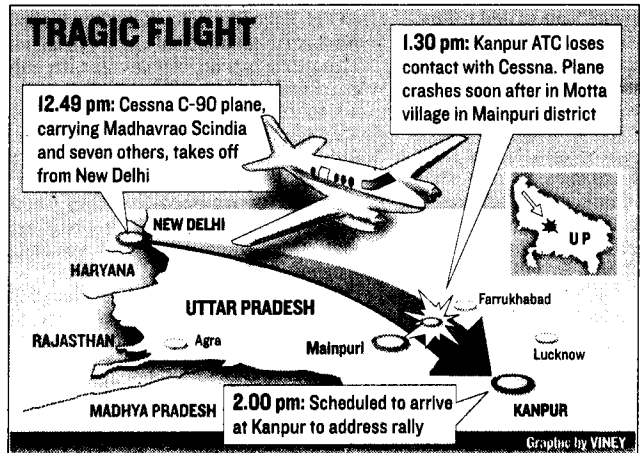
**HT Correspondent  
Kanpur, September 30**

THE BRIEF announcement that Madhavrao Scindia was killed in a plane crash left thousands of people, who had gathered for the Parivartan Yatra that Scindia was to have led, dumbstruck.

Leaders got busy trying to confirm the news broken by UPCC chief Prakash Jaiswal to a senior party leader on his mobile phone. In utter disbelief, people were exploring remote chances of Scindia's survival. 'You know he himself is a good pilot, he will survive like Sunil Dutt,' was the reaction of many leaders.

But they had to concede the harsh truth as PCC member Ajay Kapoor in a choked voice asked the people to observe two-minute silence for the departed leader. Scindia was on his way to lead the Parivartan Yatra and address a public meeting at Govind Nagar in the afternoon and at Moolganj in the evening.

The crowd was getting quite restless waiting for their leader to arrive. But he



never came. What they received, instead, was the shocking news about the crash, which killed Scindia and seven others, including four journalists.

The party's old guards broke into tears. 'It's an irreparable loss for us, the party and everyone. I still don't believe he is not with us,' said city unit president, Abdul Mannan after he announced the cancellation of

all programmes. 'Madhavji was the guiding force for all of us. His untimely demise is a great loss to the nation. We have lost a leader with a vision,' he added.

'He was perhaps only leader after Sonia Gandhi, who was a crowd-puller,' said another senior leader Madan Mohan Shukla. In fact, Scindia was one of the most respected leaders among the people of Kanpur.

### The great escape

SHEILA DIKSHIT and Manishanker Aiyar had a providential escape after a last minute change in travel plans to accompany Madhavrao Scindia, who died in a plane crash near Mainpuri today.

While Dikshit was down with fever, Aiyar was requested by Scindia to stay back since he wanted to take some journalists in the aircraft for a public rally that he planned to address in Kanpur. 'This morning I told him that I was not feeling well and therefore, I could not come,' Dikshit said after visiting the late leader's residence to console his family members.

### Fated to die?

IT WAS only destiny that included Sanjay Sinha (35) of the *Indian Express* in the team of journalists that accompanied Madhavrao Scindia on the flight that crashed near Kanpur today. It is near Kanpur that Sinha had begun his journalistic career.

Sinha had joined work on Saturday after a short medical leave. Talking about his illness, he had told his colleagues 'too many bad things happen at the same time'.

*PTI, New Delhi*

## Congress loses its star campaigner

**Sunita Aron  
Lucknow, September 30**

THE UP Congress has lost yet another star campaigner.

First Rajesh Pilot and now Madhavrao Scindia. And what a painful coincidence that both met tragic deaths in the prime of their lives. In their deaths, the Congress as a whole has lost brilliant leaders and UP has lost their star campaigners and the parivartan pullers.

Since Rajiv Gandhi's demise, the UP Congress has been depending on the crowd-pulling skills of non-UP leaders to match the oratorical skills of opposition leaders such as Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Rajnath Singh of the BJP and Mulayam Singh Yadav of the Samajwadi Party. Even after Sonia Gandhi got into politics, leaders were brought from other states to put some life into the dying party. Madhavrao Scindia and Rajesh Pilot were among them.

Recalling extensive campaigning by the two leaders, partymen point out how Rajesh Pilot used to draw huge crowds in his green turban in Jat-dominated areas of



SHARED GRIEF: As news of Madhavrao Scindia's death came in, a stream of political leaders and personalities, including Atal Bihari Vajpayee, L K Advani, Maneka Gandhi, Varun Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, called on the bereaved family in New Delhi on Sunday to pay their condolences.

# KPP mulls Naxalite pact

*29/9* *Personal Probe* *T-10*

ANUPAM DASGUPTA

**Siliguri, Sept. 23:** In an attempt to give its waning appeal the much-needed impetus, the Kamtapur Peoples' Party is thinking of forging an "issue-based alliance" with some Naxalite groups in the region to launch a political campaign against "police atrocities".

The KPP brass said the "move" was prompted by an assessment of ground realities in large parts of rural north Bengal in the wake of "police harassment" of party activists.

Senior KPP leaders had earlier voiced their concern regarding the way the police force was being handled by the government.

Party insiders said roping in some Naxalite outfits will give them an "extra edge" in putting up resistance to the state's "repressive tactics". The KPP believes the Naxalites still enjoy a "sneaking sympathy" among a significant section of the people, especially in remote rural hamlets of the region.

The "move" assumes significance in view of the panchayat elections slated early next year. "It serves our greater interest to unitedly fight, with the Nax-

alites on our side, against the state government machinery. The situation demands a united resolve," said Mohanlal Ganesh, a senior KPP leader.

Party chief Atul Roy told **The Telegraph**: "Issue-based tie-ups with parties like the CPI-ML (Liberation) will stand us in good stead in view of our renewed efforts to breathe more fire into the Kamtapuri agitation."

"Talks with the Naxalite leaders have begun and we are planning to send feelers to them soon. But about 1,500 of our activists are lodged in various jails of north Bengal. Police are after the KPP activists for reasons best known to them. That the CPI-ML (Liberation) has come out so strongly against the police excesses perpetrated on the Kamtapuris is a welcome gesture on their part."

The Liberation's state committee secretary, Kartik Pal, however, made it clear that his party doesn't support the Kamtapur cause but stands behind the KPP because of the government's harsh stance.

"We sympathise with the KPP on specific issues like language and police harassment. But we don't support its demand for statehood," he said.

7 2 2003

THE TELEGRAPH



# A Great Teacher

**P** RIME Minister Jawaharlal Nehru once remarked, "While Radhakrishnan served his country in many capacities, above all he continued to be a great teacher from whom all of us have learnt much and will continue to learn."

Born on 5 September, 1888, the birthday of this distinguished philosopher is celebrated as Teacher's Day. From the harsh bed of poverty, he gradually ascended the pinnacle of prosperity and in 1962 at the age of 74, he became the first citizen of India.

Radhakrishnan was born in Tirutani in Tamil Nadu. He was the son of a poor Brahmin couple — Sarvapalli Veeraswami and Sitamma, the second son among the five sons and one daughter. He did his primary schooling at Tirutani and higher studies at the Lutheran Mission School, Voorhee's College and then Madras Christian College. He continued his education with the help of scholarship. He was influenced greatly by philosophy in his college life and he selected 'The Ethics of the Vedanta' as a thesis for his higher studies. According to orthodox tradition he was married to 10-year-old Sivakamma while he was 16. To support the financial condition of his family he had to start earning.

Completing the M.A. degree with a very high distinction he started his teaching career as an Assistant Lecturer at the Madras Presidency College in 1909. He also began contributing articles to internationally reputed journals as *The Quest*, *Journal of Philosophy* and the *International Journal of Ethics*. His first book was *The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore*. Tagore was delighted and wrote: "Your book delighted me. The earnestness of your endeavour and your penetration have amazed me. I am thankful to you for the literary grace of its language which is so beautiful and free from all technical jargons and a mere display of scholarship."

In 1920, his second book *The Reign of Religion in Contemporary Philosophy* was released. The success of these two books and articles in international journals brought him to the notice of Sir Ashutosh Mookherjee, the Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University and he was appointed for the prestigious post of George V Professor of Philosophy at the university in 1921.

In 1923 his famous book *Indian Philosophy*



*Dr Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan is respected worldwide as a distinguished philosopher, an able administrator and an enlightened educationist. His birthday is celebrated as Teacher's Day. Sayantan Chakraborty pays tribute*

**"The way in which we develop the physical, mental and moral qualities of our children will determine the pattern of our nation's future. Our children are the proud inheritors of a great cultural heritage; and in their education and training they should be taught to recognise the qualities of tolerance and universal love that this country has stood for down the ages. They should also realise the importance of national unity and integration, the sense of belonging to one country and to one another. Through art and story, through song and dance, which children love, the great ideals are imperceptibly absorbed by them. Deep in our hearts there is reverence for life, and it is this aspect that we should stress in the education of children. We are born to live and love one another and not hate and destroy others."**

**Dr Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan**

was published and for this book the Editor of Encyclopaedia Britannica in the 14th edition asked Radhakrishnan to write an article on Indian Philosophy.

Soon after this, he was invited to deliver the special "Upton Lectures" at Oxford University,

England and the topic was "The Hindu View of Life". His lecture bewitched the audience and Mr Spalding, a philanthropist, requested him to teach Eastern Religion and Ethics at the Oxford University. So unique was his popularity that Harold Macmillan, Britain's Prime Minister never failed to turn up at the Lecture Hall whenever Radhakrishnan delivered his lectures. Famous novelist and essayist Aldous Huxley said, "Radhakrishnan's lectures have contributed to the building of the bridge of understanding which connects the two cultures — the Indian and the European." "Religion is not mere Ritualism or Sectarianism," he used to say to his audience, "it is a quest for values as well as the source of all spiritual values." In his book *Eastern Religion an Western Thought*, he reveals a sympathetic understanding of spiritual problems. He concludes that the universal and imperishable truth is found in all religions, religion is mainly a unification of diversity and so it becomes a great medium to ward off the cloudy patch of communal dissension.

He is remembered for his posts of responsibility. He was elected Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University in 1931 and the Vice-Chancellor of Benaras Hindu University. In 1948 on the request of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, he became the Chairman of the University Education Commission. In 1949 he was selected as India's first Ambassador to the Soviet Union. Marxism taught him another philosophy — the theory of class struggle. In 1952 he was conferred the honourable position of Vice-President of India. After two terms as Vice-President he was elected the Second President of India in 1962.

He was conferred the honorific title of Bharat Ratna in 1954. When he was requested by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to continue the post of President for another five year term, Radhakrishnan declined saying that a younger person could fulfil this high echelon more efficiently as he was 79 then. Dr Zakir Hussain succeeded him.

Standing at the pinnacle of success this unique philosopher of international repute breathed his last on 17 April, 1975 and it was but an irreparable loss for Indians and all those who loved his philosophy and adulated his wisdom.

*The writer is a Coordinator, Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya Burdwan*