

rio and I don't really
id Ahmed.
a Union. But

... hundred years of independence has
no meaning for such people who belong to
the other world. It may take another 100
years for reaching human rights to all.

is redesigned, made socially sensitive and
encourages loyalty towards nation, he
concluded.

■ RITA JOSEPH

Emotional integration

India has got a national anthem
and a national song but it does not
have a national pledge worthy of
name, says a book

Hating politics is a crime
against democracy. The
process of nation
building is bound to be crippled if
people scold politicians in a
democracy."

This revelation is made by Biraja
Mahapatra, a journalist turned lawyer,
in his recently published book *My Call*,
which makes a strong pitch for a
national pledge. "Rendition of such a
pledge by people, irrespective of their
faiths and religions, in unison,
solemnly affirming their love for the
country as a festival of commitment
will usher in a defining moment as this
will be the biggest ever-event in the
country's history to unite people
emotionally," he says in the book,
published by Akshay Media.

Calling for a cultural revolution and
a character-building exercise to make
each citizen a glorious Indian and
actively participate in the exercise of
nation building, he says politics, being
the finest form of management,
should be taught as a specialised subject.

"This is the only way people will know their land and
its problems and could churn out the right kind of
leadership from among them," he says when asked how a
pledge would help fight poverty, regional imbalance and
unequal distribution of wealth.

The book says, prior to 1947, India was a mosaic of over
500 states and it was never a united country. For
historical reasons, including enslavement for over a
thousand years, "emotional integration has taken a back
seat" and nothing has been done so far in this country to
unite people emotionally.

He claims that celebrations of 15 August and January
26, which were meant for inculcating patriotic feelings,
have unfortunately been reduced to officials dos.

Mahapatra, who runs a civil society named Build India
Group (BIG) of like-minded lawyers, journalists, PR
professionals and management experts, says the
rendition of the national pledge in all regional languages
to the accompaniment of crashing of cymbals,

drumbeats or performance of any other musical
instrument heralding the celebration of nationhood
could be a potential weapon against corruption and
terrorism.

The pledge coined by Mahapatra reads, "We the people
of India today do pledge ourselves to the service of our
nation with honesty, sincerity and commitment; keeping

our nations interest paramount in
all that we think, do or say for the
greater glory of this land."

"The national pledge festival has
to be secular festival, but it has to be
celebrated religiously. Let it adorn the
porch of every household like a
solemn pendant on the appointed
day. Let it also be displayed in our
homes, schools and offices as a totem
that we take pride in," Mahapatra
says in the book while making an
emotive appeal to all Indians.

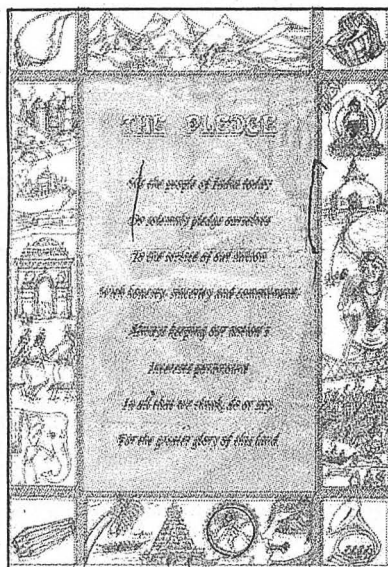
However, the book says "the
modicum of such festival can be left
open to the opinion of the people. The
one rider is that such a festival must
be truly secular and in no way hurt
the sentiments of any community or
religion. This shall be a festival for all
India, by every Indian for all time to
come. "Why not our god-fearing
nature be used as an asset to create a
sense of hatred against corruption
and terrorism. We cannot stop
terrorism and corruption by

deterrents provided by law. But we certainly can create a
wave of hatred against corruption and terrorism as
bestial qualities," says Mahapatra in his book.

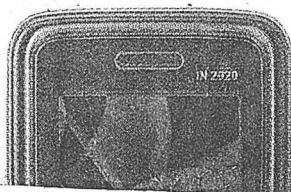
Honest and sincere politicians will appreciate that that
here is a book that reflects their sentiments that abusing
politicians on charges of corruption is not a solution
rather it prevents good and honest people from entering
politics. The main thrust of the study of politics as a
subject of management is to see that proper
management of resources in each panchayat should be
sufficient to cater to the need of people of that area so far
as their health care, education and the means of
livelihood are concerned. Nobody should be forced to
leave his home and hearth in search of work. This subject
needs continuous experimentation and study as a
management subject keeping in mind the country's
interest paramount, Mahapatra says in his book, which
holds promise of a cultural renaissance in India. How
soon and how far: probably time would tell.

■ RITA JOSEPH

BOOK OF THE WEEK



nzy



buyers. Intex's latest model ~ IN 2020
~ promises to serve the purpose effectively.

Unity in diversity might have become clichéd but it's yet to become a reality in this country. It comes through in our everyday experiences. Biraja Mahapatra, an Oriya mother tongue lawyer who practises at the Delhi High Court, says, "Once a celebrity writer told me, 'you have no right to live in this country if you don't know Hindi.'" Similarly he recalls, in Puri when the North Indians come for a darshan, the locals pass snide remarks at them.

"My grandmother used to say, 'Get inside, the dirty Hindustanis are coming.' Their only fault was, in those days trains were powered by coal and it took barely a few hours to get covered in grime and soot."

Biraja, who has also been a journalist, has shared his experiences in "My Call", recently published by Akshay Media.

The scourge is not limited to the illiterate. "Once in Delhi there was a death in my neighbourhood. I asked an acquaintance. What happened? He replied a Hindustani died. I asked what he meant. He said a Hindustani is a person of low caste. I felt pained, particularly because it came from an educated Delhiite."

Biraja, who also started a civil society organisation called Build India Group, says the term Hindustan is yet to be accepted by Indians themselves for the whole of India.

"For South Indians, Hindustan means the Hindi speaking North, and North Indians label everybody from the four South Indian states as Madrasis. Perhaps that's why the preamble of our Constitution says, 'India that is Bharat' and not 'India that is Hindustan'."

Quoting Ambedkar, Biraja says he called Hindu society

Calling India

CHAT Biraja Mahapatra has a novel idea to keep us emotionally integrated, writes ANUJ KUMAR



ALL FOR ONE Biraja Mahapatra also runs a civil society organisation called Build India Group PHOTO: SHANKER CHAKRAVARTY

a myth and termed the name itself foreign. "In Persian, Hindoostan means the black place or where black people live. So why should we use something to identify us when it was originally meant to slight us?"

A pledge

Moving on from the identity aspect, Biraja feels the need of the hour is emotional integration. For this he has a suggestion.

"India is a country of festivals. I feel we should have one more national festival where at the stroke of an appointed hour, every Indian takes a pledge." He feels this can work as a force to create a sense of hatred

against corruption and terrorism. "Even a child can point out to his father if he deviates from the pledge creating an emotional impact." The pledge goes like this: We the people of India today do solemnly pledge

IN PERSIAN HINDOOSTAN MEANS THE BLACK PLACE OR WHERE BLACK PEOPLE LIVE

ourselves to the service of our nation with honesty, sincerity and commitment; always keeping our nation's interests paramount in all that we think, do or say, for the greater glory of this land. "The modicum of such a festival can be discussed. It should be a secular festival to be celebrated religiously."

Biraja appeals to the media, the entertainment industry and the Government to take the idea forward.

Back and forth

LAUNCH Penguin has come up with an exclusive dictionary

A first of its kind a Hindi-English and English-Hindi dictionary has been launched by Penguin in association with Yatra books. The dictionaries come in a set of three, which consists a English to Hindi Dictionary, Hindi to English dictionary and a Hindi-English Thesaurus in a slip-case. Arvind Kumar and his wife Kusum Kumar have authored the dictionaries. They are also co-authors of "Samantar Kosh", a Hindi thesaurus. Arvind started as a freelance journalist and has been the editor of Sārvottam, the Hindi edition of Reader's Digest and Madhuri, a Hindi film fortnightly. He has also authored a range of Hindi translations of famous works like "Julius Caesar" and "Sahaj Geeta". It took him almost three decades for the couple to complete the books and the result is nothing but spectacular.

The compilation is exclusive in many ways as it is the first ever dictionary consisting of 548,330 expressions half in English and half in Hindi with cross references to similar or opposite concepts. It also includes cultural variations of the words in both languages. This is one more step towards promoting and spreading multiculturalism as language is the essence of any culture.

रक्षा मंत्रालय के अनुसार झांकियों
राष्ट्रीय समिति ने 23 झांकियों का
बिहार राजपथ पर पश्चिम बंगाल की
ओर को समर्पित शांति निकेतन की

लगाव को प्रस्तुत किया गया है। बिहार की झांकी में
धरहरा परंपरा को दर्शाया गया है। इस परंपरा के तहत
किसी परिवार में लड़की पैदा होने पर 10 फलदार वृक्ष
लगाने की परंपरा है।

राजस्थान की झांकी में असेर के किला को

समारोह के दौरान कृषि मंत्रालय की झांकी में कृषि क्षेत्र
के विविधिकरण, इस्पात मंत्रालय की झांकी में इस्पात
के राष्ट्र को मजबूत बनाने, संचार एवं सूचना
प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय की झांकी में राष्ट्रीय ई प्रशासन
और रेल मंत्रालय की झांकी में पंजाब मेल का प्रदर्शन
किया जा रहा है।

भ्रष्टाचार के खिलाफ स्कूली बच्चों ने बनाए चित्र

नई दिल्ली (एसएनबी)। आतंकवाद के खिलाफ और
मातृभूमि के प्रति प्यार दशति 12 हजार चित्रों को आज गांधी
स्मृति एवं दर्शन समिति परिसर में डिस्पले किया गया। इन

► गांधी स्मृति चित्रों में देश भक्ति के जज्बे को
एवं दर्शन समिति स्कूली छात्रों ने कैमरे पर उकेरा
में लगी एक है। इन चित्रों को यहां लगे एक बड़े
दिवसीय प्रदर्शनी शामियाने में डिस्पले किया गया है।
गांधी स्मृति एवं दर्शन समिति व विल्ड
इंडिया ग्रुप की ओर से आयोजित इस प्रदर्शनी का उद्घाटन
महात्मा गांधी की पोती और गांधी स्मृति एवं दर्शन समिति की
उपाध्यक्ष तारा गांधी ने किया।

इस मौके पर विल्ड इंडिया ग्रुप के विराज महापात्रा ने कहा कि ग्रुप की ओर से 'प्लेज फेस्टिवल' शीर्षक से इस तरह
के आयोजन प्रति वर्ष जनवरी महीने के तीसरे शनिवार को किया जाता है। उन्होंने कहा कि इस प्रदर्शनी के आयोजन का
मकसद बच्चों में देश के प्रति वफादारी और उनकी सोच को मंच प्रदान करना है। तारा गांधी ने उद्घाटन के बाद यहां डिस्पले
किये गए पोस्टर को गौर से देखा और यहां मौजूद बच्चों से उनके बारे में जानकारी हासिल की।



प्रदर्शनी देखती महात्मा गांधी की पोती तारा गांधी।

बच्चों ने चित्रों के जरिए बताया कैसे किया जाए जल संरक्षण



et.

ON!

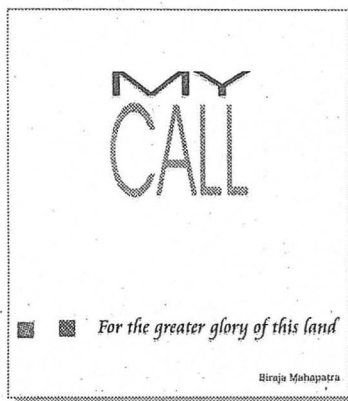
His call for unity involves penning a national pledge

Take a Vow

PARBINA RASHID

A CAMPAIGN for a national pledge festival and a book called *My Call* for guidance. Behind both lies the brain and ten years of effort of a man from Orissa named Biraja Mahapatra. Why do we need a national pledge or a festival when we have already two national festivals — Independence Day and Republic Day, you may ask. But before coming to that, we wanted to know how the idea germinated. And the answer we got is a problem so many non-Hindi speaking people face, when they come to live in the North. Mahapatra too was one of them, pointedly told by a writer that if he didn't know how to speak Hindi, he had no right to live in the North, when he migrated to Delhi as a PTI correspondent.

This was point that made him think about promoting Indian-ness amongst Indians. Finally, he arrived at the conclusion that if we have a national pledge and a festival along that line, it would make impact. Till then, he didn't know that many other countries do have their national pledges. "Yes, we do have national festivals, but unfortunately, they are too official. When I talk about a festival, its starting should be from people's kitchens and reach out to the masses with some noise like the drum beats," says Mahapatra, whose efforts got result when his Build India Group kicked off the campaign with the pledge that he'd penned down on January 19. This



campaign was subsequently followed up by a few schools and groups on January 26. His book *My Call* was released on February 16.

The divide between India and Bharat kept nagging him wherever he travelled. "I felt the lack of emotional integration and so I became convinced that we do need a

pledge to bind us together," says Mahapatra. Besides writing the book, I formed the seven-member Build India Group to generate awareness," he says.

The book has 10 chapters, making an emotive appeal to all Indian leaders to decide about the contour of a national pledge that should be taken by people of all faiths in unison. It also deals with issues like how important is it to be a part of politics, corruption, terrorism and the factors ailing the country, which he derived through SWOT analysis.

The pledge says, "We the people of India today do solemnly pledge ourselves to the service of our nation with honesty, sincerity and commitment, keeping our nation's interest paramount in all that we think, do or say for the greater glory of this land." Nicely put, but would it be able to serve the purpose being written in English? "It can be translated into vernaculars. But when it is said in unison all over the country at the same time, it'll have a binding effect," he reasons. True. After all it is emotion that binds, not language!

parbina@tribunemail.com

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They do hereby solemnly swear....

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: The creative imagination of a number of school children could be seen this weekend at Gandhi Darshan near Raj Ghat, where posters designed by them to speak against corruption and terrorism and love for the motherland were released.

Students from Apeejay School, Kalka Public School, Sun Valley International and City Prince Public School also took a pledge in 15 languages to keep the country's interest paramount in their thoughts, words and action.

Inaugurating the programme, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti vice-chairperson Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee said it was a unique programme designed to capture the imagination of the common man.

"Such movements are taking part across the globe, but we must learn to carry forward for a longer duration. The problem is that people who participate in such movements do not get a chance to articulate their feelings. They also need to understand basics

**School kids also
design posters that
speak against
corruption and
terrorism and love
for the motherland**

of their movements rather than depend on their leaders. Anyhow, this is a great movement to send the message across."

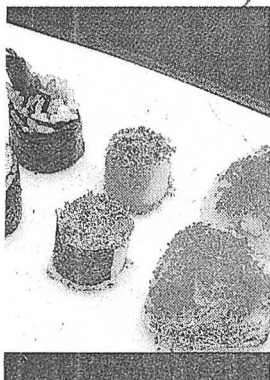
Speaking on the occasion, Build India Group president Biraja Mahapatra said: "Every year, the 'Pledge Festival' is celebrated across the country on the third Saturday of January when students, members of civil society and people associated with various organisation affirm their love and loyalty to the country by taking a pledge in their respective mother tongues."

He said the need of the hour is to have more such integrity building movements that create awareness about the need to speak against corruption and terrorism while promoting a sense of belonging to the nation.

ND-ND

diary

www.hindustantimes.com



Witness live sushi being
t Blanco, 62, Khan Market.
n 4pm to 6 pm



MUST READ

My Call: A book by Biraja Mahapatra about how
we can join hands to make India a better coun-
try. Publisher: Akshay Media, Price: Rs 250



MUST VISIT

Australian Visions: A festival of acclaimed
Australian films, at Siri Fort Auditorium 2, Khel
Gaon. From March 6 to March 9

JUST OUT

Everyday life

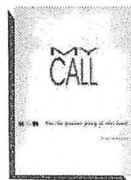


e: Lively, Vicious Funny Mirror is a tale of everyday sleaze, dishonesty and incompetence in Adland. The book consists pri-

marily of a bunch of e-mails and is about how the London advertising firm of Miller Shanks is geared up to embark on two weeks of intensive effort to bag the coveted \$84 billion Coca-Cola account.

...; Matt Beaumont; Harper; Rs 495; 346

Lacking Indian-ness



MyCall: For the greater glory of this land attributes the lack of Indian-ness amongst Indians in the chapter "Is India Still Divided"? There

is also an emotive appeal to all Indian leaders in their respective fields to decide about the contour of a national pledge that should be taken by people of all faiths in unison. It would strengthen our national integration.

MyCall...; Biraja Mahapatra; Akshay Media; Rs 250; Pp 125

Life in Bombay



BREATHLESSNESS in Bombay is a collection of 14 short stories featuring a range of beautifully drawn characters in different situations: from

the laundry walla's water shortage problems to the doomed love affair of a schizophrenic painter and his Bollywood girlfriend. The stories are all set against the backdrop of life in Bombay

Breathless...; Murzban F Shroff; Picador India; Rs 295; Pp 307

BESTSELLERS

For week ending February 24

FICTION

- 1 **The Appeal**
John Grisham
- 2 **The Japanese Wife**
Kunal Basu
- 3 **PG Wodehouse Box Set**
PG Wodehouse
- 4 **A Thousand Splendid Suns**
Khaled Hosseini
- 5 **The Kite Runner**
Khaled Hosseini



NON FICTION

- 1 **The Secret**
Rhonda Byrne
- 2 **We are Like That Only**
Rama Bijapurkar
- 3 **The Complete Calvin and Hobbes**
Bill Watterson
- 4 **Everything About Investing**
Tim Harford
- 5 **The Logic of Life**
Tim Harford



Source: Crossword

କେତେଦିନ ଏମିତି କଣ୍ଠରୋଧ କରାଯିବ ଯାହା ଆମାନଙ୍କର, କେତେଦିନ ପ୍ରହସନରେ ବନ୍ଧୁକ ଖଣ୍ଡିତ ? ■

କୁହାଯାଇଛି ।

ମନ୍ତ୍ରଣାଳୟର ପରିସଂଖ୍ୟାନ ଅନୁସାରେ, ୧୯୯୯ରୁ ୨୦୧୧ (ମାର୍ଚ୍ଚ) ମଧ୍ୟରେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବନାଞ୍ଚଳରେ ୪୪୭ଟି ବାଞ୍ଛକ ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ଘଟିଛି । ଏଥିରୁ

କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାନୁଷ୍ଠାନ କରିଛି ନା ନାହିଁ, ସେ ସମ୍ପର୍କରେ କୌଣସି ଉତ୍ତର ଦେଇନାହିଁ । ପ୍ରକୃତ କଥା ହେଉଛି, ଏବିଗରେ ବହୁ ସରକାରୀ ଆଇନକାରୀ ଥିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ତାହା ଆଦୌ ପାଳନ କରାଯାଇନାହିଁ । ■

ଦି ଲାଞ୍ଜିତ ସାମାଜିକ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ବିଲ୍‌ର ଇଣ୍ଡିଆ ଗ୍ରୁପ ତରଫରୁ ଆତଙ୍କବାଦ ଓ ଭ୍ରଷ୍ଟାଚାରରୁ ଦୂର କରି ଉତ୍କଳ ସାମାଜିକ ବ୍ୟାଧିକୁ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ କରିବାପାଇଁ ଗୋଟିଏ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ ଗଢ଼ି ତୋଳିବାକୁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଦିଆଯାଇଛି । ଏହା ଏକ ଜାତୀୟ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ । ଦେଶର ହିତକୁ ସବୁଠାରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱରେ ରଖିବାପାଇଁ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ସ୍ତରରେ ସାମୂହିକ ଅଙ୍ଗୀକାର ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ କରାଇବାର ପ୍ରୟାସ । ଏହି ଉତ୍ସବକୁ ପ୍ରତିବର୍ଷ ଜାନୁଆରୀ ମାସ ତୃତୀୟ ଶନିବାର ଦିନ ଦଶଟା ବେଳେ ଭାରତର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଗତ ତିନି ବର୍ଷ ହେଲା ପାଳନ କରାଯାଉଛି ।

ପୂର୍ବକାଳରେ ଆଜିକାଲି ପରି ଖବରକାଗଜ, ରେଡ଼ିଓ, ଟେଲିଭିଜନ କିମ୍ବା କମ୍ପ୍ୟୁଟର ଆଦି ଗଣଯୋଗାଯୋଗ ମାଧ୍ୟମ ନଥିଲା । ସାମାଜିକ ଚାଳିତକଣ୍ଠ ଓ ମୂଲ୍ୟବୋଧକୁ ଦୂର ପ୍ରକାରର ଉତ୍ସବ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ କରୁଥିଲା । ଗୋଟିଏ ହେଲା ପଣୋସବ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟତ୍ର ହେଲା ଦଣ୍ଡୋସବ । ବିବାହ, ରାକ୍ଷା, ସାବିତ୍ରୀ ବ୍ରତ ଆଦି ହେଲା ପଣୋସବ ଯାହା ଆମକୁ ଏକ ସାମାଜିକ ଅଙ୍ଗୀକାର ଦେବାପାଇଁ ବାଧ୍ୟ କରେ । ଦଣ୍ଡୋସବରେ ଆମେ ଦେଖୁ ଯେ ଗୋଟିଏ ଆସୁରିକ ଶକ୍ତିର ପତନ ହେଉଛି । ଆସୁରିକ ଶକ୍ତିର ବୌଦ୍ଧାତ୍ମ୍ୟରେ ଆକ୍ରମାକ୍ରାନ୍ତ ହୋଇଥିବା ନିରାହ ଲୋକେ ଆଶ୍ୱସ୍ତ ହୁଅନ୍ତି । ଆସାମୀଜିକ ତତ୍ତ୍ୱର ପତନ ଘଟିଲେ ଲୋକେ ଆମୋଦିତ ହୁଅନ୍ତି ଓ ଉତ୍ସବ ପାଳନ କରନ୍ତି । ଆସୁରିକ ଶକ୍ତିର ପତନରେ ସମାଜକୁ ବାଣୀ ମିଳେ ଯେ ହିଂସ୍ର ଆଚରଣର ପରିଣାମ କେତେ ବାରମ୍ବ । ଏହା ହେଉଛି ଦଣ୍ଡୋସବ । ଆମ ଆଗରେ ରାବଣ ପୋଡ଼ି, ମହିଷାସୁର ବଧ, କଂସ ବଧ, ହୋଲିକା ଦହନ ଓ ନରକାସୁର ବଧ ଆଦିର ଅନେକ ଉଦାହରଣ ଅଛି । ଆମର ପୁରାଣ ପୋଥିରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଏମିତି ଅନେକ ଉଦାହରଣ ଅଛି । ଏଇଥିପାଇଁ ଆମେ ନାଟକରେ ଖଳନାୟକର ପରାଜୟରେ କିମ୍ବା

ଶପଥ ଉତ୍ସବ: ଆତଙ୍କକୁ ଉତ୍ତର

ବିରଜା ମହାପାତ୍ର | ଅସାମାଜିକ ତତ୍ତ୍ୱର ପତନ ଘଟିଲେ ଲୋକେ ଆମୋଦିତ ହୁଅନ୍ତି ଓ ଉତ୍ସବ ପାଳନ୍ତି

ମୃତ୍ୟୁରେ ବେଶ ଆନନ୍ଦ ପାଇଥାନ୍ତି ।

ଭ୍ରଷ୍ଟାଚାର ଓ ଆତଙ୍କବାଦ ଦୂର କରି ଉତ୍କଳ ସାମାଜିକ ବ୍ୟାଧିକୁ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ କରିବାପାଇଁ ଗୋଟିଏ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ ଗଢ଼ି ତୋଳିବାକୁ ଆହ୍ୱାନ ଦିଆଯାଇଛି । ଏହା ଏକ ଜାତୀୟ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ । ଦେଶର ହିତକୁ ସବୁଠାରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱରେ ରଖିବାପାଇଁ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ସ୍ତରରେ ସାମୂହିକ ଅଙ୍ଗୀକାର ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶନ କରାଇବାର ପ୍ରୟାସ । ଏହି ଉତ୍ସବକୁ ପ୍ରତିବର୍ଷ ଜାନୁଆରୀ ମାସ ତୃତୀୟ ଶନିବାର ଦିନ ଦଶଟା ବେଳେ ଭାରତର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଗତ ତିନି ବର୍ଷ ହେଲା ପାଳନ କରାଯାଉଛି ।

ଏହାପରେ ଭାରତର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଶପଥ ଉତ୍ସବ ପାଳନ କରାଗଲା । ଏବେ ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଦିଲ୍ଲୀ, ମାଡ୍ରାସ, ଛତିଶଗଡ଼ର ହିର୍, ବେଙ୍ଗାଲୁରୁ, ଭୋପାଳ, ଅରୁଣାଚଳ ପ୍ରଦେଶ, ରାଜି, ରାଜସ୍ଥାନ, ଉତ୍ତରପ୍ରଦେଶ, ହରିଆନା, ଆନ୍ଧ୍ରପ୍ରଦେଶ ଓ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସମୟରେ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ ହୋଇଛି । ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମକୁ ଭୋପାଳର ମାଞ୍ଜୁନାଥ ଚତୁର୍ବେଦୀ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଓ ରାଜସ୍ଥାନରେ ମେବାର ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ସମର୍ଥନ କରିଛନ୍ତି । ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁରର ସେଣ୍ଟ ଭିନସେଣ୍ଟ ପବ୍ଲିକ୍ ସ୍କୁଲ, ପୁରୀର ସାମନ୍ତ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରଶେଖର ମହାବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱରର ଡିଏଲ୍ ପବ୍ଲିକ୍ ସ୍କୁଲ, କଲେଜ ନିୟୁ ଏଲ୍ ଓ ବରଗଡ଼ର ଇଂରେଜିଆଲ କଲେଜ ସମେତ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଶିକ୍ଷାନୁଷ୍ଠାନମାନଙ୍କରେ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀମାନେ ଉତ୍ସବ ଅବସରରେ ଶପଥ ନେଇଛନ୍ତି । ଆସାମ ଥର ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ଆହୁରି ବ୍ୟାପକ ହେବ । କାରଣ ଏ ଉତ୍ସବର ଓଡ଼ିଶାମୀତି ପାଇଁ ବିଶେଷ ପ୍ରୟୋଜନ ରହିଛି । ଏହା ଏକ ପକ୍ଷରେ ଭ୍ରଷ୍ଟାଚାର ବିରୋଧରେ ସ୍ୱର ଉତ୍ତୋଳନ କରାଇବ ଓ ଅପର ପକ୍ଷରେ ଶାନ୍ତିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଓଡ଼ିଶାକୁ ଜନସ୍ୱାର୍ଥ ବିରୋଧୀ ହିଂସାକାଣ୍ଡରୁ ଦୂରରେ ରଖିବ ।

ଏ ଉତ୍ସବଟି ଏବେ ମୁଖ୍ୟତଃ ଶିକ୍ଷାନୁଷ୍ଠାନମାନଙ୍କରେ ସାମିତ ରହିଛି । ଯଦିଓ ପ୍ରତିବର୍ଷ ଜାନୁଆରୀ ତୃତୀୟ ଶନିବାର ଦିନ ଦଶଟାବେଳେ ଭାରତର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଗତ ତିନିବର୍ଷ ହେଲା ଏହି ଉତ୍ସବପାଳନ କରାଯାଉଛି, କେତେକ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ନିଜର ସୁବିଧା ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ସମୟରେ ଏହା ପାଳନ କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ଏହି ଉତ୍ସବର ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ହେଲା ୧. ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ଭାରତୀୟଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଭାରତୀୟତାର ଭାବ ଜାଗ୍ରତ କରିବା । ୨. ଜନସାଧାରଣ ବିଧି ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ଉପରେ ଆସ୍ଥା ରଖିବା । ୩. ଦେଶରେ ଶାନ୍ତି, ପ୍ରେମ ଓ ସଂହତିର ବାତାବରଣ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିବା । ୪. ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି, ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ଓ ରାଜ୍ୟବିରୋଧୀ ହିଂସାକାଣ୍ଡରୁ ନିରା କରିବା । ୫. ଧର୍ମ ଧର୍ମ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଯୁଗାଭାବ ଲୋପକରିବା । ୬. ଭ୍ରଷ୍ଟାଚାର ଓ ଆତଙ୍କବାଦ ବିରୋଧରେ ସାମାଜିକ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ ଗଢ଼ି ତୋଳିବା ।

ଏହାର ବିଶେଷତ୍ୱ ହେଲା ୧. ଦେଶ ତେଜନା ଜାଗ୍ରତ କରିବାରେ ଏହା ହେବ ସବୁଠାରୁ ବଡ଼ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ । ୨. ସମ୍ବିଧାନରେ ଆସ୍ଥା ରଖିବାକୁ ୧୫ଟି ଭାଷାରେ ଲିଖିତ ପ୍ରଥମ ନାଗରିକ ଶପଥ । ୩. ଆତଙ୍କବାଦ ଓ ଭ୍ରଷ୍ଟାଚାର ବିରୋଧରେ ବଡ଼ ଅଭିଯାନ । ୪. କାଟି, ଧର୍ମ, ବର୍ଣ୍ଣ, ଭାଷା ଓ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ନିର୍ବିଶେଷରେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ସମାନ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱ । ୫. ଘରେଘରେ ପାଳନ କରିବାକୁ ଏକ ଜାତୀୟ ଉତ୍ସବ ।

ଯଦି ସାରା ଭାରତରେ ଗୋଟିଏ ସମୟରେ ମିହିରରୁ ଶଙ୍ଖ ଓ କାହାଳୀ, ମସିକଦରୁ ସାଗରର ଓ ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚିତ ଘଣ୍ଟା ବାଜିଉଠେ ଓ ସମସ୍ତ ଧର୍ମନୈତିକ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ଯୋଗଦେଇ ଦେଶକୁ ଉତ୍ସବମୁଖର କରିଦିଅନ୍ତି ତେବେ ଜାତୀୟତାବାଦର ଏକ ନୂତନ ଆଧାର ଆରମ୍ଭ ହେବ । ■

ଚେନ୍ନଇ ନିୟମ-୧୨, ଦିଲ୍ଲୀ ଉଚ୍ଚ ନ୍ୟାୟାଳୟ, ନୂଆଦିଲ୍ଲୀ

ପଠିତ ଜମିରେ ବନାକରଣ ଯୋଜନାରେ ବିନିଯୋଗ କରାଗଲେ ପ୍ରକୃତ ଗରିବ ଶ୍ରେଣୀର ଲୋକମାନେ ଉପକୃତ ହେବା ସଙ୍ଗେସଙ୍ଗେ ପରିବେଶ ସୁରକ୍ଷା, କାଠର ଅଭାବି ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ, ଜଳର ଅତିକ୍ରମାୟ ପରିସ୍ଥିତି ଦୂରୀକରଣ, ଉଚ୍ଚପଦ୍ମ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ ହୋଇପାରିବ ।
ଚକ୍ରଧର ମହାପାତ୍ର, ଯାଜପୁର ଗାନ୍ଧୀ, ଯାଜପୁର

ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ବିଭ୍ରାଟ ଅସହ୍ୟ

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶକ୍ରମେ ଏହି ବର୍ଷ ସାରା ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ କାଟ ହେଉଥିବାବେଳେ କୂଳମାନ ଜିଲାର ରାଜକିଆଠାରେ ବାରମ୍ବାର ଅପୋଷିତ ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍‌କାଟ ହେଉଥିବା ଦେଖାଯାଉଛି । ରାତ୍ର ସମୟରେ ୭ଟାରୁ ୭.୩୦ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ କଟାଯାଉଥିବାବେଳେ ବାରମ୍ବାର ଅପୋଷିତ ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ କାଟ ହେଉଛି । ଫଳରେ ଛାତ୍ରଛାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ପାଠପଢ଼ାରେ ବ୍ୟାଘାତ ଘଟୁଛି । ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ମୁଖ୍ୟଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଅନୁରୋଧ ଏହାର କୌଣସି ପ୍ରତିକାର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କଲେ ଭଲ ହୁଅନ୍ତା ।

ହରପ୍ରସାଦ ପାଢ଼ୀ, ବେଳାଶେଖା, ଶରଣା ଶିଶୁ ବିଦ୍ୟାମନ୍ଦିର, ରାଉଁଡିଆ

ନିୟମ ଉଲ୍ଲଙ୍ଘନ ହେବ ନାହିଁତ ?

କେନ୍ଦ୍ରରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାର ଅଧୀନରେ ବାହାରେ ଚାକିରି କରୁଥିବା ଆଦିବାସୀ କର୍ମଚାରୀଙ୍କର ପିଲାଛୁଆ ଯେତେବେଳେ ମେଡିକାଲ/ ଇଞ୍ଜିନିୟରିଂ ପଢ଼ିବା ଚେତେ ରେସିଡେନ୍ସ ଓ କାଟି ସାର୍ଟିଫିକେଟ ଦରକାର ପଡ଼େ । ତହସିଲ ଅଫିସରେ ଦରଖାସ୍ତ ହେଲାପରେ ଯାଞ୍ଚ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଆର.ଆଇ.ସି ପାଖକୁ ଯାଏ । ଆର.ଆଇ. ସାଞ୍ଚ କଲାବେଳେ ଦରଖାସ୍ତକାରୀର ନିଜ ସ୍ଥାୟୀ ନିର୍ବାଚନ ମଣ୍ଡଳୀର ଭୋଟର ପରିଚୟପତ୍ର ଦରକାର କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ତା'ହେଲେ ଆଦିବାସୀ କର୍ମଚାରୀର ଦୂରତ୍ର ଭୋଟ ଫଟୋ ଥିଲେ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କମିଶନର ନିୟମ ଉଲ୍ଲଙ୍ଘନ ହେବ ନାହିଁତ ?

ମଦନମୋହନ ତୃତ୍ତ୍ୱ
କୀର୍ତ୍ତନବାମା ନିର୍ମା, ରାଉରକେଲା-୫, ଓଡ଼ିଶା

ମତାମତ ପାଇଁ ସମ୍ପାଦକ ଦାୟୀ ନୁହଁନ୍ତି

A national pledge would be effective to bind us all

A journalist and a lawyer, **Biraja Mahapatra** has observed Delhi's power broker-politician class from close quarters. He has also observed the increasing disdain of the people for the political class because of the rampant corruption in all spheres of the society.

This set him thinking sometime back. "Is it good for a democracy that people hate politics and politicians?" was the question that came to his mind. After long hours of discussion with a bunch of friends, who had similar queries in their minds, Mahapatra thought of a novel idea.

Create a national pledge which each and every Indian can take at a personal level, thereby inculcating a personal sense of belonging to the country, which he believes is lagging in a major way among Indians. As he developed the pledge, he formed an organisation Build India Group (BIG) to take for-

ward the idea, and wrote a book My Call to further disseminate his beliefs among like-minded people. Mahapatra spoke to **Utpal Borpujari** of **Deccan Herald** on his BIG idea. Excerpts:

Deccan Herald: How did the idea for a national pledge come about?

Biraja Mahapatra: We, a group of eight friends, tried to understand what are the impediments in the way of India emerging as the leader in the comity of nations. The biggest problem, we agreed unanimously, is corruption. We decided to take corruption — and terrorism — head on in a new and unique manner.

We brainstormed for over a year, and analysed our views dispassionately and came up with a simple solution that a 'National Pledge' would serve as an effective instrument to bind the country with the fabric of unity.

DH: How do you plan to take the idea to the people?



"In a country like India, hating politics is a crime. We should have a university for politics as politics is the finest form of management."

BIRAJA MAHAPATRA
JOURNALIST

BM: The pledge programme has to be a national festival to be celebrated simultaneously all over the country. India does not have a national pledge, unlike many other countries. Other than January 26 and August 15, which are celebrated more or less as official functions, there is no other event through which people can have a sense of belonging to the country.

BIG believes that the National

Pledge would be a unique instrument to promote unity and integrity of the country and building a strong bulwark against the growing tide of corruption, terrorism and other anti-national activities that involves not only international criminals and the mafia but also, fellow Indians.

The pledge festival will have to be a participatory one, involving all Indians irrespective of faith, religion, language, ethnicity and culture. Millions of us go to temples, mosques and churches every day. Can we not spend a few minutes in the name of this country for this pledge? BIG shall endeavour to ensure that we can.

DH: How does the pledge go?

BM: It reads:

"We the people of India today Do solemnly pledge ourselves To the service of our nation

With honesty, sincerity, and commitment;

A ways keeping our nation's Interests paramount In all that we think, do or say For the greater glory of this land."

Anybody can recite it anytime, at an individual level, in groups, in schools, offices, community gatherings. On January 19, the core members of BIG took the pledge in unison after a symbolic ringing of bell.

On January 25, about 1,100 people comprising students and teachers in a public school in Delhi recited it in unison. A core campaigner administered this pledge in his office on January 26 and he says all office people got charged up while reciting the pledge. Now, lawyers in Delhi are also planning something along this line. My Call takes this idea forward, and I am sure the message will spread slowly but surely. It has to be a voluntary effort.

DH: How do you plan to make people not hate politics?

BM: In a democracy like India, hating politics is a crime. We have given a Constitution to ourselves. We just cannot shirk our responsibility and abuse politicians on charges of corruption. India should have a university for politics as politics is the finest form of management.

In the long run, BIG dreams to set up such an university. The main thrust of the study, besides economics and management, will be Unit Area Management System.

The idea is that each panchayat has got some natural resources and proper management of resources in that very area should be sufficient to cater to the needs of the people of that area so far as healthcare, education and the means of livelihood is concerned.

It should be ensured that nobody is forced to leave his home and hearth in search of work, which has emerged as a big scourge for India.

Against the spirit of the game

In recent times, there has been a flourish of such aggressive behaviour on the field. Players should

FORUM

PUNISHMENT FOR BHAJJI

Hyde-bound politicking

When the BJP dismissed Brajesh Mishra's views

flows in the Opposition's position. In turn this reflects unacknowledged re-

BEYOND HEADLINES

BUILDING GLORIOUS INDIA

SONIA CHAWLA

One has responsibility towards oneself first, then towards family, and lastly towards one's own nation. This is the true state of occurrence applicable to overall Indians (except a few ones), who are busy running for name, fame and money and beyond that they have time to think for nation. The BIG movement, i.e. "Build India Group" movement for the nation, aims at inculcating a sense of being Indian in Indians. It seeks to make the countrymen to take the pledge for safeguarding the nation from all anti-national activities.

Clearing out the thoughts for Build India Group on how it works, the President of Build India Group, Mr Biraja Mohapatra explained, "Build India Group is basically a civil society. It has two major areas for works. First related to pledge method—a method of mass communication with three distinct messages—love your nation, hate corruption, and defeat terrorism. According to me, it's a scientifically-developed formula. The other one is considering politics to be a subject of management and introducing the same in different management institutions. The basic philosophy behind it is that hating politics is a crime against democracy."

On questioning the value, need and meaning of national pledge, Mr Mohapatra elaborated, "National pledge is basically a pledge taken by citizens of

country to demonstrate his/her love and loyalty to his/her nation. A national pledge can be the best possible tool to unite people emotionally and remind them of their duty to the country." And on the second work for politics he added, mainly advising the youth of the India, "Indians should join politics for the better



NATIONAL PLEDGE

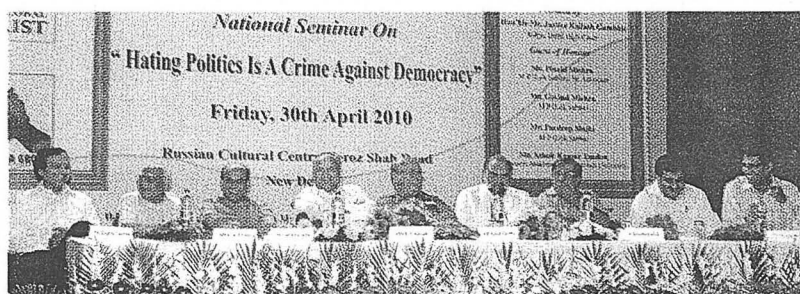
**We the people of India
Do solemnly pledge ourselves
To the service of our nation
With honesty, sincerity, and commitment;
Always keeping our nation's
Interests paramount
In all that we think do or say,
For the greater glory of this country.**

management of the state in accordance with the spirit of fundamental duties as enshrined in the Constitution of India."

Build India Group was started by journalist-turned-lawyer Birja Mohapatra with a group of eight persons in September 1996. Also he has written a book, *My Call*, which has illustrated the vision of Build India Group and how to realise it. "We have crafted some method ourselves. In India, we don't have any

citizen's pledge and we have created a national pledge in fifteen languages. Now, people take the pledge in their own mother tongue in unison at pledge festivals," he informed.

There are many pledge festivals organised by the team in unity at various places including schools, universities and among many communities. As India have different kind of festivals Mr Mohapatra defined the purpose of national unity in a very unique way, "Celebration of commitment is Raksha Bandhan; celebration of punishment in which demon got punished is Dussehra, so why cannot there be a celebration of nationalism in our country?" He added further, "Now that is our target, we just think that all these religious festivals can be a medium to reach out to people for the purpose of nation building, promoting a sense of belongingness as a mode of communication."



NATIONAL SEMINAR ON "HATING POLITICS IS A CRIME AGAINST DEMOCRACY" IN DELHI

एकता के लिए ऐक्या तान कैपेन

■ वरिष्ठ संवाददाता, नई दिल्ली

देश की एकता, अखंडता और शांति को बनाए रखने के लिए पहली बार एक गैर सरकारी संगठन आगे आया है। इस मुहिम में दिल्ली को लोगों को शामिल करने के लिए संगठन ने कन्फेडरेशन ऑफ आरडब्ल्यू और दिल्ली पुलिस कमिश्नर से भी अपील की है। संगठन के पदाधिकारियों का कहना है कि यह मुहिम अगले महीने 9 जुलाई सुबह 10 बजे शुरू की जाएगी। अर्थ और डे की तरह यह कैपेन सिर्फ दो मिनट का होगा और इस दौरान लोगों को अपने घरों में मौजूद किसी भी चीज को वाद्य यंत्र की तरह यूज करना है, ताकि उससे एक आवाज निकले

नई पहल

■ 9 जुलाई से कैपेन का होगा आगाज, दो मिनट का होगा अभियान

■ कन्फेडरेशन ऑफ आरडब्ल्यू के प्रेजिडेंट से भी जुड़ने की अपील

और लोगों में यह संदेश जाए कि आतंक से डरने की जरूरत नहीं है। बिल्ड इंडिया ग्रुप के फाउंडर प्रेजिडेंट बिराजा महापात्रा का कहना है कि दिल्ली आतंकियों निशाने पर हमेशा ही रहता है। इस कैपेन में दिल्ली के जितने भी स्कूल, कॉलेज, गैर सरकारी संगठन, आरडब्ल्यू हैं, उन्हें जोड़ा जाएगा।

अर्थ और डे की तरह होगा कैपेन : महापात्रा का कहना है कि जिस तरह से ऊर्जा की बचत के लिए अर्थ और डे पर लोग अपने घरों में कुछ देर के लिए बिजली बंद कर देते हैं, उसी तरह से 9 जुलाई सुबह 10 बजे आतंक के खिलाफ शुरू किए गए इस कैपेन से जुड़ने के लिए लोगों को अपने घरों में किसी भी चीज को बजाना है। उनका कहना है कि कैपेन से अधिक से अधिक लोगों को जोड़ने के लिए कन्फेडरेशन ऑफ रेजिडेंट वेलफेयर के राजीव काकड़िया को उन्होंने पत्र लिखा है। इसके अलावा उन्होंने दिल्ली पुलिस कमिश्नर को भी पत्र लिखा है। इसके अलावा स्कूल, कॉलेज और दूसरे संगठनों के पदाधिकारियों को पत्र लिखा गया है।

न्यूनतम वेतन के लिए जागरूकता अभियान

■ विस, नई दिल्ली : दिल्ली सरकार ने न्यूनतम वेतन में बढ़ोतरी के साथ-साथ मजदूरों के महंगाई (डीए) में बढ़ोतरी की है। लोगों इस बारे में जागरूक करने के मकसद के साथ दिल्ली सरकार ने न्यूनतम वेतन जागरूकता अभियान चले का फैसला किया और यह अभियान मंगलवार से शुरू किया जा रहा है। यह अभियान करीब एक महीने तक चलेगा। जागरूकता अभियान दौरान पैम्फलेट बांटे जाएंगे। होमि के जरिए मजदूरों को जागरूक किया जाएगा। साथ ही मार्केट में भी विभाग के अधिकारी जाएंगे और व पर लोगों से बात करेंगे।

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UNITING INDIA A PEACE MODEL

Biraja Mahapatra

India is under the threat of terrorism. Whether it is parliament attack on December 13, 2001, Mumbai terrorism incident on 26 Nov 2008, or the latest Pathankot Airbase attack by terrorists on January 2, 2016, several policemen, army men and innocent civilians died. Few terrorists were nabbed or killed.

Prime Minister and other ministers shed tears for the lives lost and showered praises on the soldiers getting killed while offering the valiant fight.

Our government will keep on crying for international pressure on Pakistan to stop terrorism. Pakistan will as usual deny and rubbishes the allegations. For few days media will

come out with headlines on each such incident until those headlines are taken over by another important news item...and ... there is silence for some time.

The calendar awaits another terrorism related incident...

Can India war with Pakistan?

Answer is No.

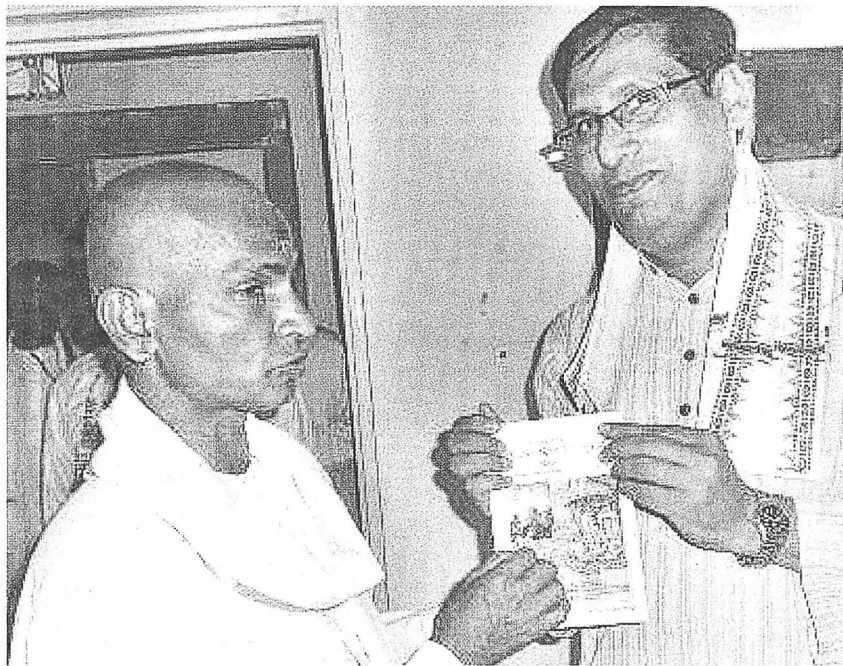
Can India remain silent?

Obviously the answer is No... Then what?

The 9/11 incident in the US, prompted the American President to come out with an act called The Patriot Act, 2002 urging the people of America to pledge their love and loyalty to the country and ensure that no non-state actor is allowed to promote anti-nationalism in America. The result-not a single incident of terrorism in America thereafter. The American Nationalism offers a great learning to us and the possible answer to our problem.

In India, the figures show that since independence, terrorism related incidences have taken away lives far more than the number of people lost in the wars. There is an urgent need to deliberate on why and how the terrorists are able to get into the soil of India; why and how the anti-national elements are able to rise on this land; why the country is often seeing violent incidents killing innocent people whether it is by terrorists, or Naxals or people belonging to any community or faith? At times unfortunate expressions like Islamic terrorism and Hindu terrorism are finding niche in the newspapers. And solution does not seem to be very easy for the government of the day.

Amidst simmering tension between India and China in 1961, Sampurnanand Committee constituted by Jawaharlal Nehru did make an attempt to find out ways



and means to promote nationalism in the mind of younger generation. But that was not very successful because of abysmal low literacy level and country was the last thing in the minds of people scurrying fulfilling hunger, jobs and financial security.

With the population increasing, anti-national elements present within and terrorists coming from outside are posing threats to the sovereignty of the country. Because of intolerance or regional imbalance, when violence related incidents are happen in any part of the country, hardly any attempt has been made in this country to make people realize that peace is a precondition to progress and they being bona fide owners of this country have to resolve the problem.

November 26 as Citizens' Day

In 2008, a civil society organization, Build India Group came out with an idea that is simple, inexpensive and easily doable. It has been experimented in over 1000 educational institutions across the country. The organization has

been circulating a pledge written in 15 languages with uniformity in contents and is obtaining a written commitment to be good citizens from young students.

It has suggested celebrating a national festival by the name-- Citizens Pledge Festival on November 26 every year. It was on November 26 in 1949 that the people of this country got transformed from being subjects in their respective kingdoms to that of citizens of the sovereign of the country with the constitution being adopted by the Constituent Assembly.

The festival is expected to fill two vacuums—i.e - India does not have a national pledge of its own and India does not have a national festival of its own. The festival moment has to be heralded by all religious institutions, people across the country in unison must give a commitment in their mother tongues to be good citizens and dedicate themselves to the service of their country and to keep country's interest paramount in

their thoughts, words and action.

The proposal, mooted by the Build India Group, has been forwarded by noted Gandhian Rajya Sabha MP Sh. A V Swamy to the Minister for Culture Dr Mahesh Sharma, to have an all faith meeting on the issue to arrive at a consensus. Swamy on behalf of the organization had earlier demanded celebration of November 26 as the Citizens' Day though the same was declared as the Constitution Day.

Festival activities

Blowing of Conchs from Temples, sirens from Mosques, bells from Churches, drums from Gurudwara at fixed time 10 am on 26 November 2016 with all other **religious institutions** joining in with their ritual sounds to mark the day.

Students take the pledge in their respective institutions in Hindi/ their mother tongue to pledge their love and loyalty to the country. Pledge should be duly signed by parents.

Socio cultural bodies across the country to have festivals on nationalism as the theme

Government employees must sign the pledge in their office

This will be the first festival of its kind in the country on nationalism with the underlying message of peace and non-violence. This can be an annual event across the country to inculcate patriotic values and a sense of Indianans.

Expected outcomes

› This will be the first truly national festival of its kind to promote national integration and social harmony. India does not have a national festival of its own.

› The bedrock of the festival will base on the principles of peace and non-violence and good citizenry involving each and every individual across the country.

Festival Highlights

PLEDGE IN ALL MOTHER TONGUES (Build India Group's pledge is available in 15 Indian languages)

INVOLVEMENT OF ALL RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS (such as Temples, Churches, Mosques, Gurudwaras or other religious institutions)

INVOLVEMENT OF ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (Institutions can be reached with a communication from the HRD Ministry)

INVOLVEMENT OF ALL GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE OFFICES (employees to execute the programme with meaningful and emotional involvement that also promotes better work culture)

PAN-INDIA CULTURAL ACTIVITIES WITH NATIONALISM AS THE THEME (A truly national festival with foods, dance, drama and other cultural activities with nationalism as the theme to emotionally bind people to their 'Indianans').

PAN-INDIA INVOLVEMENT OF MEDIA INSTITUTIONS/FILM INDUSTRY (media must commit some amount of coverage to nation-building activities for wider dissemination of the purpose of the festival)

INVOLVEMENT OF EMINENT PERSONALITIES including living Bharat Ratnas', social icons, Gandhians and Sarvodaya leaders, freedom fighters (Since icons influence public opinion)

► This will promote in each individual across the country love for the mother-tongue, native culture and respect for own faith systems.

► It will promote equal respect for all the faith systems across the country. Involvement of religious institutions will help people internalize the concept of Indianans.

► The country-wide festival will promote a truly national festival involving all religious groups, local cultures and food. This day can mark formation of human chains, poster displays and cultural extravaganza with a message to respect each other's social, cultural and religious sentiments.



encompassing. It is secular. It is pure. It believes that every religion is pure.

If at all there are descriptions of violent incidents in Puranas, it is only about fall of an anti-human force. That is a celebration; a celebration of punishment. The aim is to attain peace and harmony. And to ensure harmony, in every faith system, festivals have been evolved to make people stick to the rail of civilization.

A gun cannot silence another gun. We must repose faith in the justice system. Our justice system is based on societal dos and don'ts. But the bigger justice system is our

faith. Each and every religion is a statement of God. And the beauty of India is that each village in this country has a religious institution.

The proposal that Build India Group has mooted has never happened in India. But religious institutions coming together for a national cause has happened on the night when India's tricolor donned the Red Fort. As Freedom at Midnight by Dominique Lappierre and Larry Collins puts it-

"To those politicians, the conch shells bleat heralded the birth of their nation. To the world, it played the retreat for passing an age".

The book puts further,

"Delhi celebrated with lights. The austere, hardworking capital was ablaze with them. New Delhi's Connaught Circus, the narrow alleys of Old Delhi, was hung in green, saffron and white lights. Temples, Mosques and Sikh Gurudwaras were outlined with garlands of light bulbs. So too was the Red Fort of Mughal emperors."

If this has happened in the past, for a national requirement, there is no impediment at all for these religious institutions coming together to promote Indianism.

On the eve of independence, Gandhiji in "Young India" said,

"If the declaration (of independence) is made by whole villages, whole cities even.....it would be well if all the meetings were held at the identical minute in all places".

Gandhiji suggested that the time of meeting be advertised in the traditional way by drum beats. The celebration would begin with the hoisting of the national flag. The rest of the day would be spent in doing some constructive work, whether it is spinning, or service of untouchables or reunion of Hindus and Mussalmans or prohibition work or even all these together which is not impossible. ♦

Why all faith meeting

The biggest strength of this land is that in each and every village of this country, there is a religious institution. This great land is an intense spiritual area of the world. This is home to Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism and many other faiths. Indian faith system otherwise internalized as Dharma is all

**THE
MIND**



POSITIVE

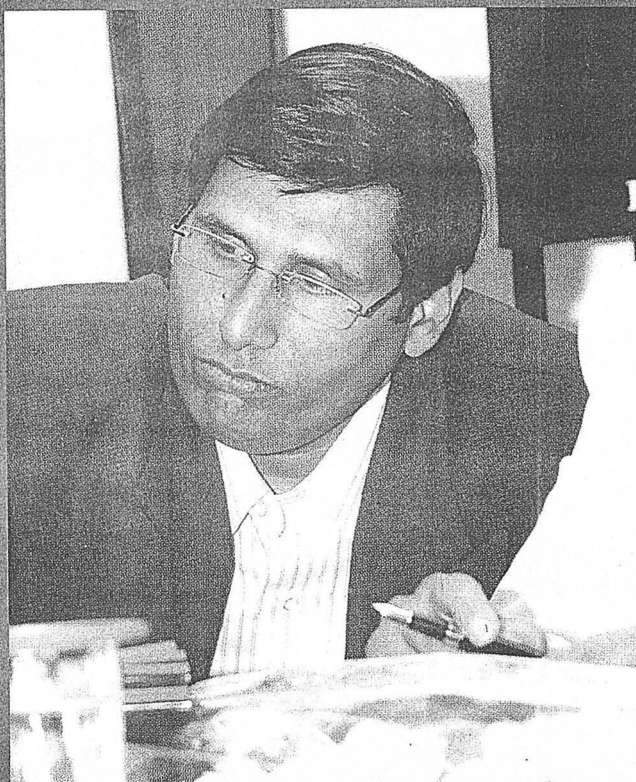
EXCLUSIVE

“At the stroke of the appointed hour, let the sirens and conches be blown, let the cymbals crash, drums beat and bells ring to augur the sanctimonious moment.

It is the Pledge time!

Let every Indian feel his heart with pride and step out of his home to pay homage to the nation. Let us take the Pledge solemnly, and with our hearts and minds resolved to abide by it for the rest of our lives. Let the Pledge be uttered in unison, and let it ring in our hearts true!

That is all I ask.”



Biraja Mahapatra

Those are the words of Biraja Mahapatra (BM), one of the founder members of a movement called BIG working for the emotional integration of India. In his recently published book "My Call - For the greater glory of this land" he gives a clarion call to the nation for an emotional integration through an emotionally developed Pledge and the vision of a National Pledge Festival. On the eve of the Independence Day the author spent a few valuable moments with the Editor-In-Chief of The Mind Positive (TMP) and shared his vision and views on the Nation.

TMP: What is your book 'My Call' about?

BM: My book is virtually the manifesto of my group of people and the movement that they represent and espouse.

TMP: Your group? Your movement

BM: Yes we started as a small group of eight persons from various fields like media, law, management with a clear vision and we have named the group as BIG. BIG stands for 'Build India Group'. We were overwhelmingly in favour of this name as it reflects the idea that stemmed from bigger aspirations about the future of our country. We feel it aptly describes the purpose of our mission. We espouse for a National Pledge and for a National Pledge Festival as a means to achieve emotional integration of India. We are convinced that it will become the biggest mass movement India has ever witnessed in its history. Thus BIG is both a mission and a movement.

TMP: What do you mean by the emotional integration of India?

BM: I can answer that question by giving you an example. Have you ever witnessed a cricket match between India & Pakistan?

What feeling do you get? Our Indian-ness becomes a reality only when we play a cricket match against Pakistan. At all other times we are Punjabis, Gujaratis, Telugus & others. As if that is not enough we have religions and castes to divide us further. What I mean is that the emotional attachment that we feel for India while India plays against Pakistan is mostly absent while we do business or administer our country or enforce law or in any other nation building transaction. That is why corruption, lawlessness, terrorism etc are growing in this country without any hinderance.

TMP: What is the solution for this?

Our Indian-ness becomes a reality only when we play a cricket match against Pakistan. At all other times we are Punjabis, Gujaratis, Telugus & others. As if that is not enough we have religions and castes to divide us further. What I mean is that the emotional attachment that we feel for India while India plays against Pakistan is mostly absent while we do business or administer our country or enforce law or in any other nation building transaction.

BM: To my mind we require a champion to espouse the cause of emotional integration of India. Our BIG movement is envisages to play that role of champion. We believe that most Indians are god fearing people. They have a direct emotional attachment with the concept of God and when you tell them something which is anti-God most Indians will not do that. For example you ask a Hindu to cut down a Peepal tree, he will never do that. That is the power of emotion. We want to creat

that kind of emotional attachment for India through a mass movement. The National Pledge that we

contemplate will give the psychic foundation for such emotional integration of India. And the National Pledge Festival that we contemplate will cement that emotional attachment.

TMP: When you talk about a mass movement, you sound like a politician. Given the present state of politics and politician, how far would you like to be referred as a politician?

BM: That is the biggest mistake that we are committing. We all dislike corruption, we all dislike the way India is being governed, we all dislike the way bureaucracy is functioning and yet we do not take any step to rectify them by simply saying that it would amount to politics. We all consider politics as the last resort of the scoundrels. But we in BIG movement believe that if a citizen of a democracy says that he hates politics then he does not have the slightest respect for the democratic institution. One has to accept that in democracy you have no right to say that politics is dirty and leave it at that. If you realize that politics is dirty why don't you do something to clean it. If a pond is full of mud, it will remain so till all the mud is taken out. And to take out the mud you have to wade into it. Will some one dare? Instead of calling politicians scoundrels, why don't all good men get involved and do the job in place of the 'scoundrels' doing that. In fact we think that there is no profession nobler than politics because it involves the very fate of a nation. Hence politics is most evolved form of management. I passionately feel that politics should be a subject of specialized study at the university level to nurture the intellectual pool from where will emerge better Politicians, Diplomats and Statesmen.

TMP: The objective of your movement is quite

laudable and your views on politics are quite elevated and idealistic. But given the present state of affairs how do you envisage to achieve your objective?

BM: Traditionally we all Indians love festivals. This is why we celebrate *Raksha Bandhan*, *Karva chauth*, *Dussehra*, *Id*, *Guruparv* and so on and so forth. Thus if the national pledge that we envisage is recited in unison and is given the shape of a festival to be celebrated across the country from Andaman to Anantanag, that will be the biggest festival in our country which will pave the way for a great future for India which eventually will see greater glory for our country. The main feature of the festival will involve every Indian happily reaffirming their love and loyalty for the country for only a minute by reciting a solemn pledge at an appointed hour on an appointed day. It will be a historic event. One of my Muslim friends had once told me that there is always a greater spiritual satisfaction in saying mass prayers during Namaz with hundreds of others rather than doing the same in private. All other festivals, irrespective of religion, echo the same feelings. This National Pledged Festival will give similar feelings. There is a National

One has to accept that in democracy you have no right to say that politics is dirty and leave it at that. If you realize that politics is dirty why don't you do something to clean it. If a pond is full of mud, it will remain so till all the mud is taken out. And to take out the mud you have to wade into it. Will some one dare? Instead of calling politicians scoundrels, why don't all good men get involved and do the job in place of the 'scoundrels' doing that.

Pledge in various countries like United States, Singapore & Panama. We are associating the sanctity of such a pledge with the gaiety of an Indian festival. We have no manner of doubt that the sanctity of a pledge and the love for a festival will make our festival of National Pledge a grant success and will finally result in a firm emotional integration of India and thereby will effectively tackle the major challenges of India like corruption, terrorism, raid tepism, etc. That is 'My

Call'.

TMP: Thank you Biraja for sparing your valuable time and share your worthy vision for a better India with us. I wish you good and your group good luck in your laudable endeavour.

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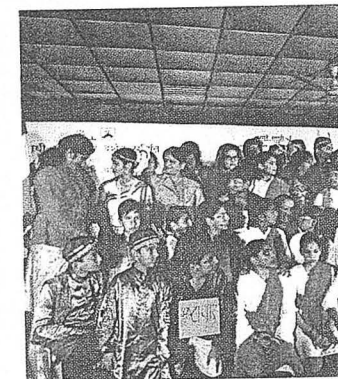
PLEDGE FESTIVAL

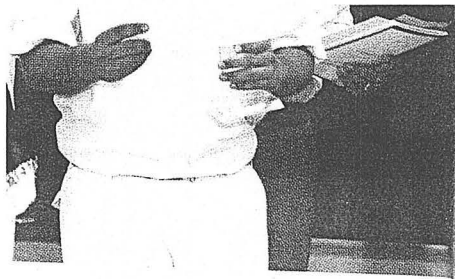
School celebrated 'Pledge Festival' on 9th April 2011, with an objective to show love for nation. The function was presided over by School Chairman Dr. S.R.Arora and Manager Dr.V.B.Agrawal along with the members of the Build India Group. The programme was highlighted with beautiful thoughts, speeches and poems based on patriotism, terrorism and other related issues. A short play, in addition to the vibrant cultural programme sensitized and encouraged students towards the need for love towards the nation. Vaibhav Anand of class VI,

Mahin of class IX and Ayushi of class VIII were felicitated by the members of Build India Group for bagging awards in painting competition held on 6th April 2011. Vibhas of class IX was awarded the best student of the year 2010-2011 by NIE for showing outstanding performance in scholastic and co-scholastic areas. Shivani of class X was also awarded for winning 3rd position in a mega painting competition organized by the Times NIE in association with Indraprastha World School, Paschim Vihar. Sonal Aggarwal of class X and Mohak Pandey of class VII also won the consolation prize in the same painting competition. School Principal Mrs. Mala Sood, in her speech invoked a spirit of patriotism among the students and took a pledge to fight against the social parasites. The pledge ceremony was held in a solemn ambience. Students whole-heartedly took the pledge to make the Nation strong, progressive and self reliant and vowed to fight social evil. The effort & support of the school Principal was appreciated by the chairman of Build India Group Mr. Rajeev Saxena & President Mr. Mahapatra by awarding a certificate to School Principal Mrs. Mala Sood.

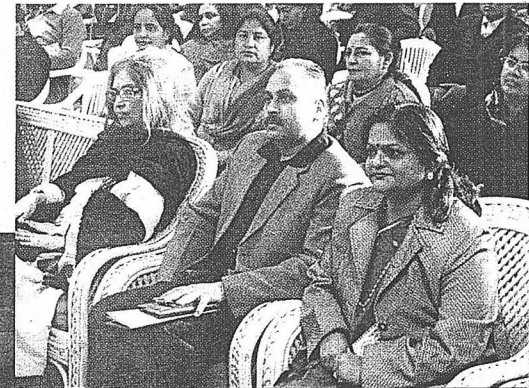
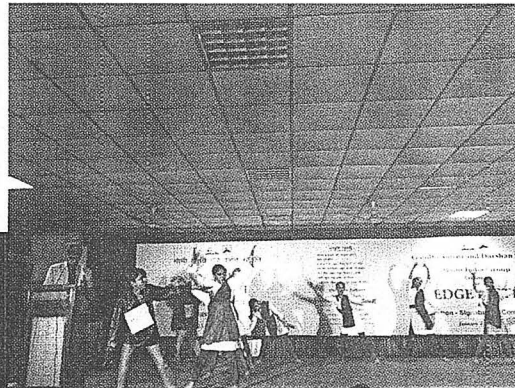
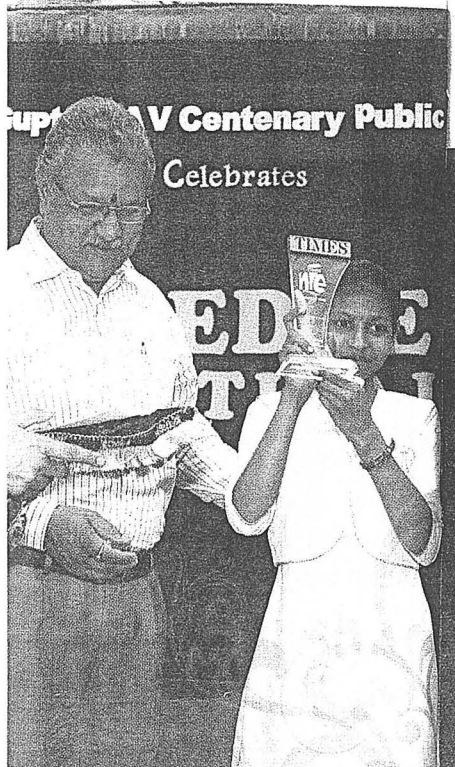
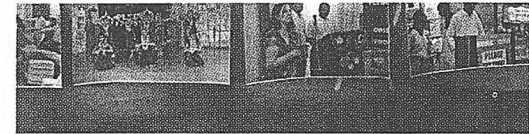


AG DAV Centenary Public School Patna on 21 January 2012 at Gandhi Darshan. Mrs. Mala Sood was felicitated for her Qawwali and a group dance. The Ch. Bhattacharjee, Vice chairman of Gar





Build India Group for bagging
warded the best student of the
co-scholastic areas. Shivani of
on organized by the Times NIE
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INDIVIDUAL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

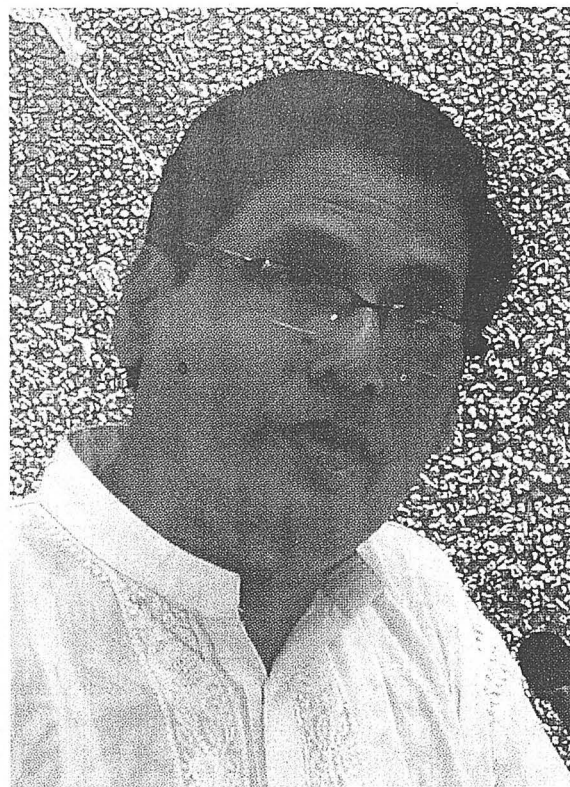
About hundred some odd people in their tiny village Sarangadharpur in Odisha's Nayagarh District used to pass sleepless nights in 1978 as robbers and dacoits were on the prowl. Worried villagers of this roadside village, which was famous in the formerly Puri district because of its advancement in education and better socio-economic status compared to people living in the immediate neighbouring villages, were time and again being informed that they were on the target of the dacoits. Some wise villagers then decided to take rounds around the village in the night and scream "*bastiwale hosiar ho*" (inhabitants be aware). They did it with the plan that in the event of Dacoits hitting the village, at least people could wake up and try to protect themselves.

Notwithstanding the mockery of some frightened elderly people if five or six persons could face the bullets of dacoits, when villagers took this job seriously and took rounds around their village, other neighbouring villages followed it soon and they also started screaming the with same words. Inspired by his mother, a young boy of just 12 years jumped into bandwagon and wielding a lathi at midnight started screaming "*bastiwale hosiar ho*". This boy was given an impression that screaming in unison against the dacoits would save the village. After few days the whole district was agog in the late night with people demonstrating midnight contempt against dacoits. This stopped the spate of violence and crime in district and Ranpur Police Station in particular. The 12-year old boy named **Biraja Mahapatra** never knew that this experience would give him an insight for a simple, inexpensive and easily doable effective method to "cultivate citizenry for a healthy country".

Mahapatra says the health of any democratic country primarily depends upon its quality of citizenry. If the overall citizenry is good, then the country is bound to do well in all fields. Good citizenry means citizens demonstrate country's interest paramount in their thoughts, words and action. Mahapatra says India became a country in 1947 with 562 small big states joining together. But it could not convert itself into a nation in the absence of any measure to inculcate in citizens a sense of belonging to the country.

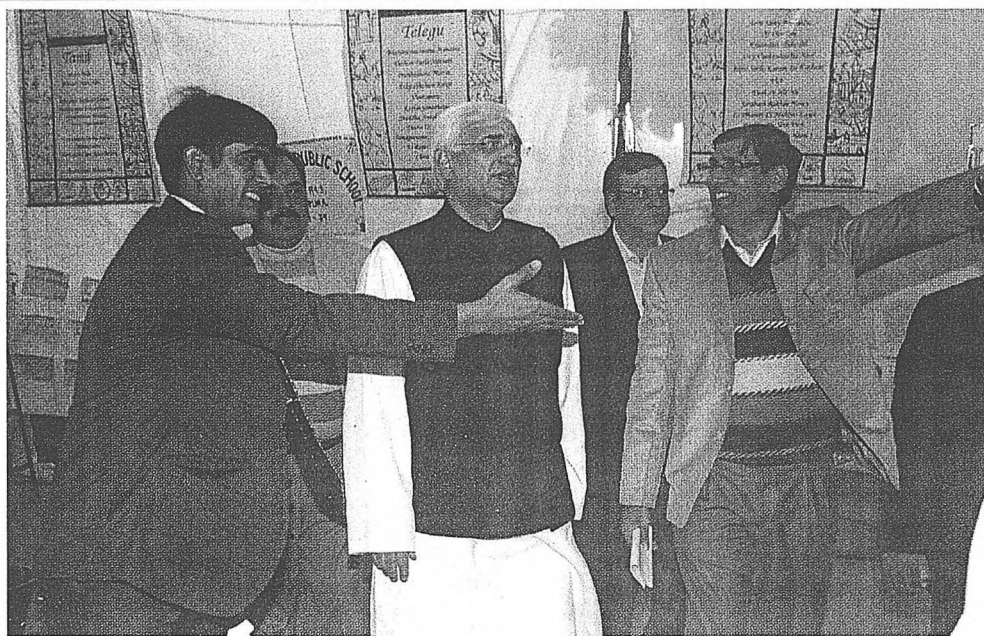
A worried Mahapatra, now a lawyer practising in the Delhi High Court, has come out with an innovative idea of Citizens pledge festival with an aim to promoting good citizenry. According to Mahapatra, good citizenry is the answer to all kinds of societal ailments including corruption and terrorism. The journalist-turned lawyer has founded a civil society named **Build India Group** in Delhi in 2008 and got drafted the pledge in English in his work "*My Call: For the Greater Glory of this Land.*" The pledge has now been in circulation in 15 languages across the country and over four lakh students have joined his movement in a span of just four years.

Designed to involve all students and youths in this country in unison, the exercise elicits from the participants a written promise



Biraja Mahapatra

A simple means towards nation building



that they would keep country's interest paramount in their thoughts, words and action and their this commitment would form a part of celebration called the Pledge Festival.

The pledge in English reads as under:

"We the people of India today do solemnly pledge ourselves to the service of our nation with honesty, sincerity and commitment: always keeping our nations interest paramount in all that we think, do or say for the greater glory of this land".

Pledge has been drafted keeping in view the fundamental duties as enshrined in Article 51A of the Constitution. It has started promoting pledge in 15 languages. The fifteen languages other than English are Hindi, Sanskrit, Urdu, Assamiya, Bengali, Odia, Telgu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi, Gujarati, Punjabi, and Kashmiri.

Mahapatra says an annual programme, if made mandatory for all students across the country to participate, over a period of three decades will see that all Indians in all parts of the country would have sworn in to keep country's interest paramount in their thoughts, words and action. The annual programme is gradually getting appreciation because of the content and simplicity in approach through write-recite-commit technique.

The idea behind organizing the festival is inspired by the age-old custom of celebrating mass outcry against societal evils as also committing themselves to accepted social norms. In ancient times across the world, when there was no print media, festivals were the biggest instruments to regulate

public behaviour. There are two types of festivals: festivals of commitment and celebrations of punishment.

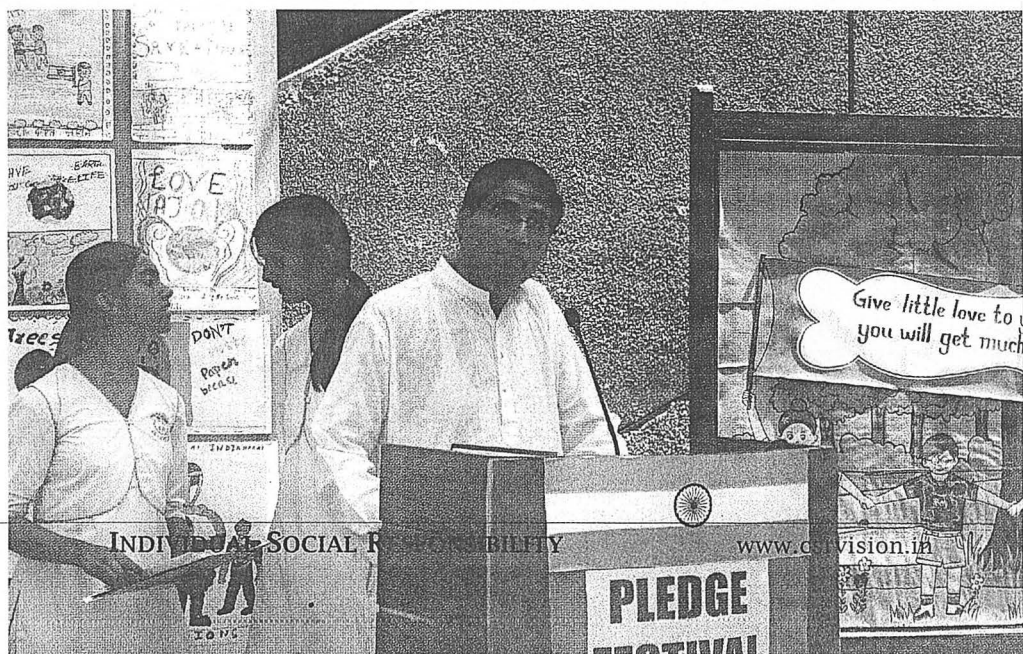
Festivals of commitment give the civilized society occasions to celebrate societal norms or the 'dos' at a very personal level. Marriage is one such festival in which spouses commit their trust to each other. *Raksha Bandhan* is a festival of commitment of protection by a brother to sister. Festivals of commitment endorse societal dos.

The other one is celebration of punishment as seen in the ancient festivals that mark the victory of good over the evil and truth always prevails.

For example, in *Dusherra*, we burn the effigies of *Ravana*, *Durga Pooja* marks the killing of demon *Mahishashura* by goddess *Durga*, *Holika-dahan* symbolizes the elimination of demoness *Holika*, and *Deepavali* the killing of *Narakashura* by *Krishna's* consort *Sathyavama*. *Janmastami* too symbolizes the beginning of the end of the cruel *Kansa* era. Celebrations of punishment, thus, endorse the societal don'ts in our day to day life.

Mahapatra says celebrations of punishment and festivals of commitment have been the two traditional mass communication tools to keep human behaviour on track. These have been handed down to us by our faith systems, which have been the foundation for cultivating good citizenry and moral upbringing. The Pledge festival, therefore, combines both the festival of commitment (to the country) and celebration of punishment (unleashing societal contempt against terrorism and corruption). These are the two biggest evils of our society at present.

Mahapatra says there is no village in the country which does not have a religious institution. These great institutions are always there to work in the interest of humanity. With the involvement of religious institutions,



the programme will be total as it would automatically enter into kitchens, it will be a festival by all Indians, irrespective of their caste colours, at every nook and corner of the country. That will be the biggest show of strength of India to the whole world.

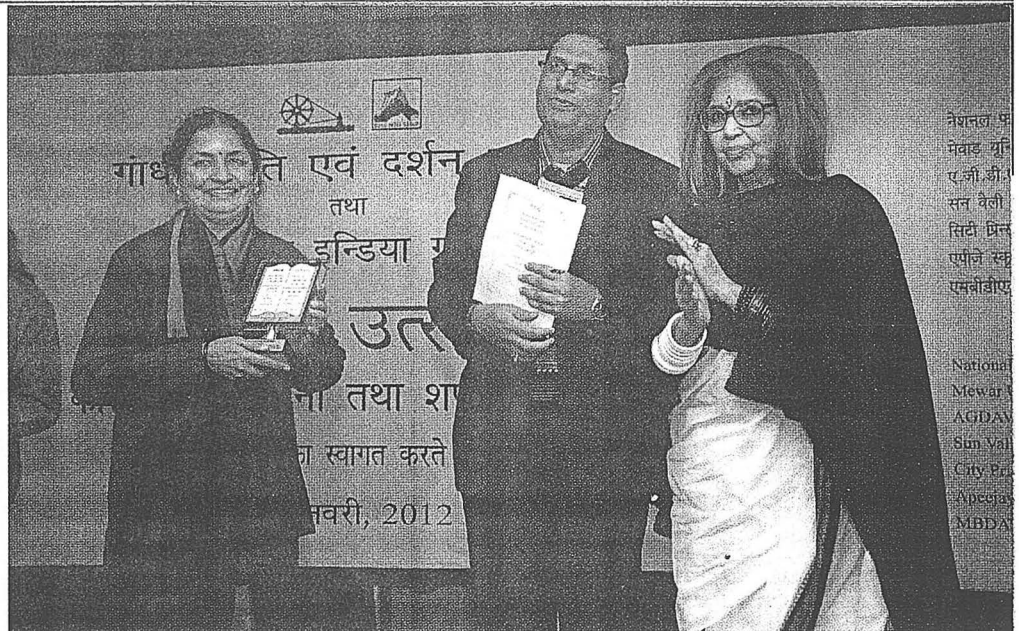
Mahapatra has also written another book in Odia language "*Atanka ku Uttara*", (Answer to Terrorism) which has already hit stands in Odisha, in the line of his previous book MY CALL.

When asked what after pledge that the Build India Group contemplates, a smiling Mahapatra says "citizenry building exercise is not a small step.

This is a continuous process. When all Indians in unison demonstrate their love for the country and display contempt against terrorism and corruption, there will be an aftermath effect of tsunami type of movement to unleash a sense of contempt against corruption and terrorism. Ultimately it will teach us what is good citizenry. When a body becomes healthy enough to take care of its own immunity system, you need not think of future medicines.

When asked "Will this mitigate the problem of hunger, regional imbalance and caste hatred among other things?", Mahapatra says "you are talking of management issues." He says this problem can be addressed when maximum functional autonomy is given to institutions of panchayats which should guarantee as a matter of fundamental right - food, healthcare, education and employment to all individuals. While government has already got into an action plan in this regard, people are yet to consider politics as a subject of management. He says unless politics is introduced as a subject of management at the primary school level, common people will continue to loath politics and not come out to take responsibility of their own country. "imagine when you do not take care of your own home what happens?"

Mahapatra who now considers whole country as a ground of his activity was courageous enough to think differently. At a time when mindset of young Indians, particularly in rural educated villages, is job oriented, he felt unless there was an emotional connection of individuals to their mother tongue, the gap between the mother land and citizens would widen. Though his village was highly educated, there was hardly any love for literature among the youngsters. In the very first minute of January 1983, 16-year old Mahapatra founded literary organization "*Palli Nilay Sahitya Samsad*" at his own village. Members joining the organization discussed literature, politics and social issues making it a truly village knowledge center. It was followed in other



neighbouring villages too. "When people unite for a good cause, good things are bound to happen", says Mahapatra.

In the journey from a village boy to college life in holy city of Puri, Biraja Mahapatra had the first hand experience of the ravages of flood in 1982. He used to be the first one among his peer group to jump for the relief operations in ever flood hit coastal Odisha. Planting saplings, organizing literary programmes, writing small poems and participating in various debating activities lured him into the field of journalism after he did his masters in History and bachelor degree in law in Utkala University, Bhubaneswar apparently because he wanted to be an independent activist. A voice of rebel could be seen in his writing when he finds contradictions in the society "I am taught to say a prayer that I need no money or wealth or a son but my parents' say I should study well to get a good job, married to a beautiful wife and die on a bed with diamonds studded on it after becoming old" in his Odia poetry collection "*Dinalipi Ra Gitalipi*".

After spending over a decade in journalism in Odia and English, traveling to various parts of the country and writing plethora of articles in English and Odia, Mahapatra took to legal profession to become independent and work on a bigger canvas. When in early years in legal profession, lawyers struggle for their early settlement, Mahapatra embarked upon another ambitious plan of promoting emotional integration in the country and thought of Build India Group as a civil society in 2008 and now his ideas are traveling to educational institutions which organize pledge festivals to inculcate among children a sense of belonging to the country. His idea of pledge festival has got appreciation from the lawyer's fraternity in the Supreme Court, High Court and other Bar Associations. Mahapatra is a thought leader for the country and NGO ICONGO had recognized his activities by conferring on him *Karmaveer Puraskar* in 2010.



Bhairon Singh Shekhawat

MESSAGE

I am happy to know that the book titled **"My Call : For the Greater Glory of this Land"** has been brought out after painstaking efforts. I extend my hearty compliments to Shri Biraja Mahapatra, the author of this book as also the young and enthusiastic campaigners of the Build India Group for this well thought-out and path-breaking publication.

This book reflects a powerful theme of patriotism and nationalism with consuming passion. It appeals to all segments of our society to rise above self to ensure greater glory of this great nation. It underscores the imperative need to have a National Pledge Festival to unite us all in a common thread of unity and integrity. It hopes that greater attachment of the people with the nation and national values would melt away our narrow selfish interests, taking the nation to the magnificent heights of excellence and fame. In the process, the virus of corruption, violence and terror, greed and immorality, which have eaten into the vitals of our system will significantly subside. It calls upon the people to view politics not from the narrow perspective of hatred and cynicism but from the larger perspective of democracy and dedicated service to the people. In essence, this is a call for national regeneration and awakening for ushering lasting hope and abiding optimism towards achieving the larger national objectives of peace and development. I congratulate and compliment all those associated with this very comprehensive and thought-provoking work.

We in India are aware that there are forces inimical to the country's interest, which are working overtime to disrupt our integrity, unity and security. A continuous and covert war is being waged on us. Corruption, organized crime within the country and its international linkages have become a major conduit for the operations of such divisive forces. Hatred and violence among the people have also succeeded in creating cleavages within communities, thus posing the strongest challenge to the consolidation of national identities built on core civilizational values.

We, as a democracy, have inherent opportunity to strengthen the core values through wide national consensus and participation. We need to consolidate the feeling of national unity and cohesion to counter the threats to nationalism. We need to instill the sublime values of patriotism, honesty, peace, love and amity among the people. We need to create an overriding attachment to national cause so that the core civilizational values of our people flourish and prosper. For this, we need to strengthen our democratic edifice and make our politics one of the finest vocations for service and sacrifice.

A.G. D.A.V Centenary

Public School

Presents

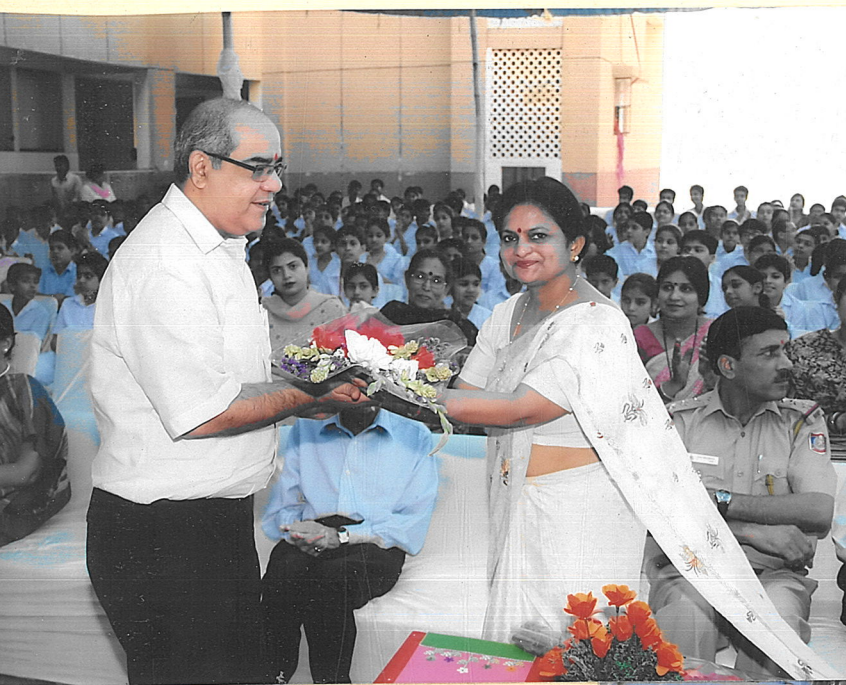
Pledge Festival

*"Land of our Birth, We pledge to thee
Our love and toil in the years to be
When we are grown and take our place
As men and women with our race"*

A.G.D.A.V Centenary Public School celebrated Pledge Festival on 9 April'11 in the school premises with great fervor and spirit. Pledge Festival is a festival of commitment to the country, promoted by the Build India Group, a civil society with the support of the school Principal Mrs. Mala Sood. The Pledge festival was a grand success. The school function was presided over by school Chairman Dr. S.R.Arora and Manager Dr. V.B.Agrawal along with members from the Build India Group and renowned advocates and mediators. The issues related to Nation's concern such as Eradicating Corruption, Combating terrorism, Love for nation were touched upon and the school was decorated with slogans beautifully portrayed on charts by the students of the school. The festival started with the Lamp Lighting Ceremony followed by Ganesh Vandana.



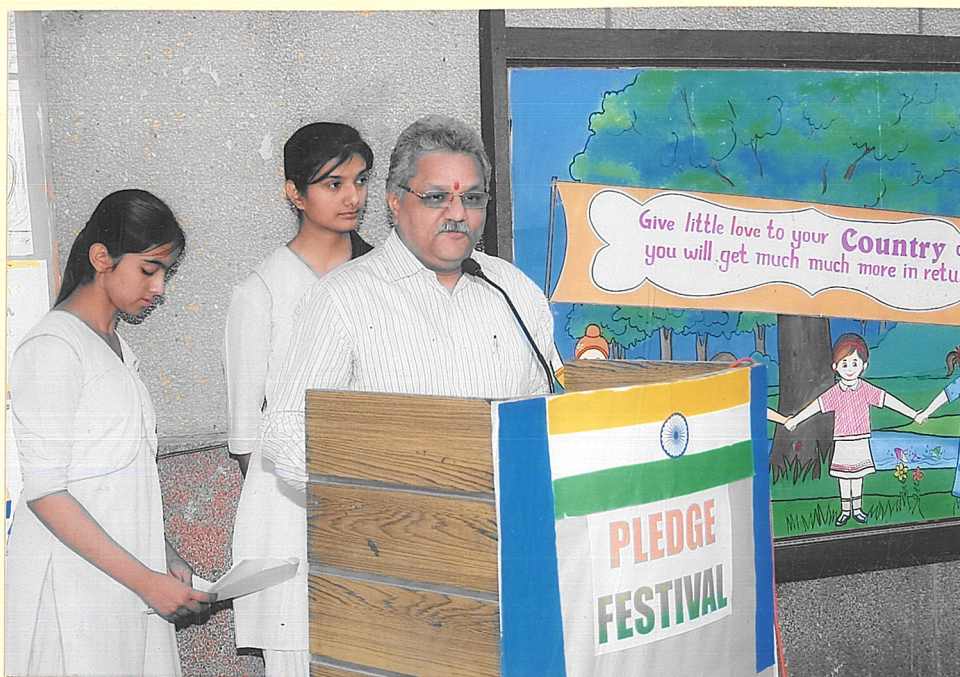
A floral welcome was given to all the guests.



School principal Mrs. Mala Sood in her speech invoked a spirit of patriotism among the students and took a pledge to fight against the social parasites.



The Chairman of Build India Group Mr. Rajeev Saxena in his speech gave a brief introduction of the aims and objectives of Build India Group and also inspired the students to work for the Nation's progress.



The programme was highlighted with beautiful thoughts, speeches and poems based on Patriotism, Terrorism and other related issues.

Ayush Majumdar of class X in his speech on Patriotism emphasized on the importance of inculcating the feeling of Nationalism among future generation.



Students from different classes were felicitated by the members of the BUILD INDIA GROUP for bagging awards in different competitions.

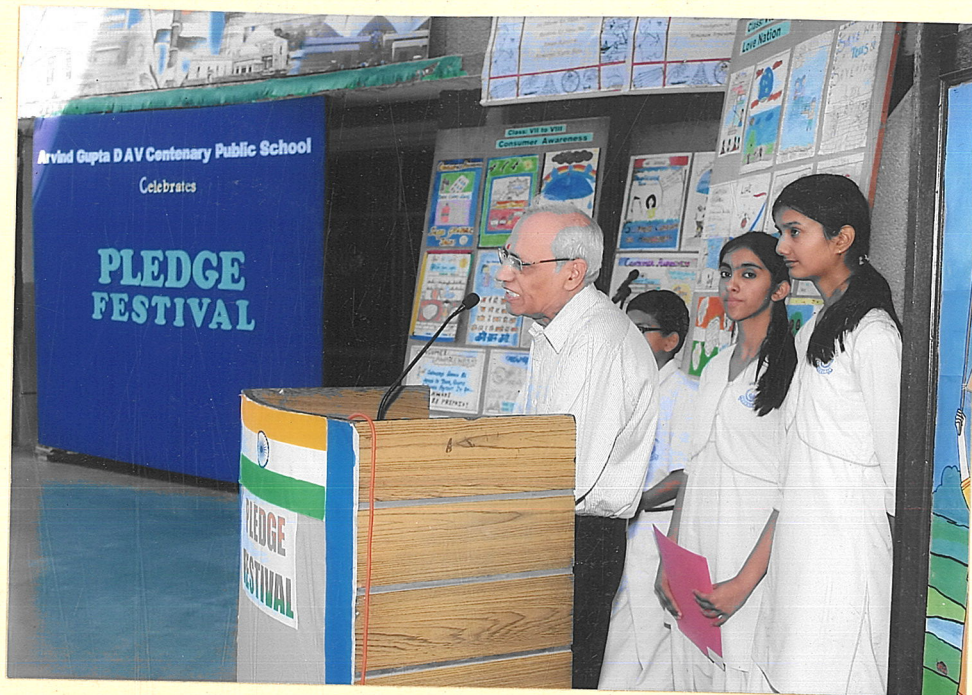
- Vibhas of class IX was awarded the Best Student of the Year 2010-11 by NIE. Vibhas has shown outstanding performance in scholastic and Co-scholastic areas. He is the only student who has secured A1 grade in all the seven subjects in SA1 and SA2 in class VIII. He also bagged the 3rd position in the Science Olympiad and ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION organized by NIE and 2nd position in the Zonal ENGLISH DECLAMATION COMPETITION.



- Shivani of class X was awarded for winning the III position in a mega painting Competition organized by Times NIE in association with Indraprastha World School, Paschim Vihar.



School chairman Dr. S R Arora in his speech applauded the tremendous efforts initiated by the Build India Group in promoting such sentiments of nationalism and brotherhood in the schools and also encouraged the students to become dutiful citizens.



The programme followed with a poem recited by Zerlish of class X A on Terrorism. The fear of terrorism was wonderfully depicted in the verse form. Tanishka of class X A also recited a wonderful poem on Corruption. Stuti Jha of X B delivered a speech on Terrorism, which was full of conviction. Her speech invoked in a spirit of unity and nationalism among the audience.



Mr Sudhanshu Batra Senior Advocate and eminent mediator , Delhi High Court and Madam Veena Rally, renowned advocate and mediator Delhi high court, addressed the student highlighting the need to defuse anger and manage emotions for the self-growth and nation's growth.



Students of AGDAV brilliantly showcased their talents in the Qawwali. Students involvement in the sentiments and issues of the Nation were ringing in the tunes and the colourful dressed participants of Qawwali were deeply appreciated by the members of the Build India Group.



Ashish Kumar Rai of class XI mesmerized the audience with his provoking speech on Corruption and was duly appreciated by the audience. A fabulous performance was given by the students in singing of the Group Song wherein they touched upon the theme of an ideal citizen of India.



Boys of Primary Section staged a stupendous dance performance on the theme of Combating Terrorism.



"Ignorance is the main source of superstitions. To conquer ignorance is the beginning of wisdom". With this motive the students of Class XII science stream beautifully demonstrated a play on myths and realities and suggested few tips through experiments to make people aware. The short skit centered around the theme 'Seeing is not always Believing' and 'Jago Grahak Jago' also touched on the important topics like adulteration, superstitions etc.



The Build India Group thanked the school principal Mrs. Mala Sood for her support by awarding her a certificate of participation in the mass communication towards a positive change. Mrs. Mala Sood, assured and promised that the pledge taken by the students today will remain with them always and all the students will work for the greater glory of their motherland.



An Art mela was organized on 6th April 2011, in the school premises to mark the foundation day; the winners of the same were awarded a cash prize of Rs.1000/- each. The slogans of Vaibhav of class VI, Mahin of class IX and Aayushi of class VIII were judged as the best on different issues like Terrorism, Love Nation and Corruption.



The cultural programme came to end with the mesmerizing Indo-Western performance by the Primary Wing



The Pledge Taking Ceremony was held in a solemn ambience. Students whole-heartedly took the Pledge to make the Nation strong progressive and self-reliant and vowed to fight against the social evils practiced in the society.



Mr. Mahapatra, President of the Build India Group, in his speech thanked the students and the organization for the brilliant stage show and greatly appreciated the spirit and commitment shown by the students towards the Nation.



School Manager Dr. V. B. Agrawal conveyed the Vote of thanks to the members and appreciated for the laudable efforts taken by each and every member to eradicate Corruption from our country. The singing of the National Anthem marked the conclusion of the festival.

