

ISSN 0970-7247

THIRD CONCEPT

English Monthly
Annual Subscription Rs. 200

Vol. 32

No. 384

FEBRUARY 2019

Rs. 20.00

- ❖ **Dalits in India**
- ❖ **Post-Mandal Reservation Policy**
- ❖ **SHGs & Women Empowerment**
- ❖ **Relevance of Gandhism**
- ❖ **Analys of Manipur**

EDITORIAL BOARD

Y.C. Simhadri, Professor (Retd),	Vice-Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University, Andhra University, Nagarjuna University, Patna University (Two Terms), Member, University Grants Commission Consultant, United Nations University, Tokyo, UNESCO, Thailand Director, Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies ICPS.
Eddie J. Girdner,	Izmir University, Izmir, Turkey.
Dr. Kalim Siddiqui,	Teaches International Economy, Department of Accounting, Finance, and Economics, The Business School, University of Huddersfield, Queensgate, Huddersfield, UK.
Vikram Soni, Professor (Retd),	Jamia Millia Islamia, Centre for Theoretical Physics, New Delhi.
Dr. Sabahudin Hadzialic, Professor,	Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
Dr. Rajkumar Singh, Professor, & Head,	University Department of Political Science, B.N. Mandal University, West Campus, Post –Graduate Centre, Saharsa. Bihar.
Sudhanshu Tripathi, Professor,	Political Science, and Director (Inch) School of Social sciences, U.P. Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Allahabad, U.P.
Dr.Ritu Sapra, Associate Professor,	Department of Commerce, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University, Delhi.
Dr. Alok Kumar Gupta,	Associate Professor, Center for Political Studies, Central University of South Bihar Gaya.
Dr. Pooran Koli, Associate Professor,	Department of Chemistry, J.N.V. University, Jodhpur.
Nisar Ahmed I Mulla, Professor,	Head, Department of Commerce, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad.



An International Journal of Ideas

Vol. 32 No. 384 FEBRUARY 2019 Rs. 20. 00

Third Concept aims at providing a platform where a meaningful exchange of ideas can take place among the people of the Third World. The attempt will be to communicate, debate and disseminate information, ideas and alternatives for the resolution of the common problems facing humankind. We welcome contributions from academics, journalists and even from those who may never have published anything before. The only requirement is a concern for and desire to understand and take the issue of our time. Contributions may be descriptive, analytical or theoretical. They may be in the form of original articles, reactions to previous contributions, or even a comment on a prevailing situation. All contributions, neatly typed in double space, may be addressed to:

<i>Editor</i> Babuddin Khan	<i>Consulting Editor</i> M. L. Sharma
<i>Deputy Editor</i> Manoj K. Narula	<i>Managing Editor</i> R. Prudhvi Raju
<i>Business Executive</i> R.S.Rawat	<i>Art Director</i> Purba Roy

While the Editor accepts responsibility for the selection of materials to be published, individual authors are responsible for the facts, figures, and views in their articles. However, the Editor reserves the right to edit the articles for reasons of space and clarity.

Published, Printed and Owned by

Babuddin Khan
Third Concept
LB - 39, Prakash Deep Building,
7, Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110 001.
Ph : 23711092, 23712249, Fax No: 23711092.
E-mail : third.concept@rediffmail.com
Website: www.thirdconceptjournal.co.in

Designed by: Pt. Tejpal

INSIDE

Editorial	
Redeeming Democracy	5
<i>B.K.</i>	
Dalits in India: An Overview	7
<i>Smt. M Sarala & Dr M.S. Sankar</i>	
Appraising Reservation Policy in the Post-Mandal Era	14
<i>Dr. K. Madeswaran</i>	
Relevance of Gandhism under Digitopoly	20
<i>Dr. N. Mukundan</i>	
Need of SHGs for Women Empowerment	22
<i>Dr. Anjuly Sharma</i>	
Toxic effects of Endosulfan pesticide on children	26
<i>G. K. Venugopal & Shaukath Azim</i>	
The Polity of the Anals of Manipur	32
<i>Dr. BD Thumdal Anal</i>	
Health and Nutrition Status of the Rural Girl Child	38
<i>Dr. (Mrs.) V. Jacqueline Raja Bai</i>	
Women's Question in Constituent Assembly Debates	42
<i>Dr. Satarupa Pal</i>	
Managing Environment via Rural Local Governance	46
<i>Dr. Dipen Saikia</i>	
Work-Life-Balance: A Human Resource Approach	50
<i>Mukund M. Mundargi</i>	
Role of Dairy Co-Operatives in Empowering Rural Women	53
<i>Dr. R. Arputharaj, Dr. A.Kumar & Dr. S. Pandeewari</i>	

Redeeming Democracy

The ensuing general elections scheduled for the summer of 2019 are not going to be ordinary electoral contest between the contesting parties because what is at stake is the future of our democracy in which we pride in as the world's largest democracy. The forthcoming political battle envisages a pivotal moment in country's political life wherein political rivals will be embarking on a strategic course that is going to be exceedingly pushy and combative than in 2014, entailing the potential of altering fundamental postulates of India's democratic framework. Viewed in a broad perspective, India's, edifice of governance and Constitution envisage India both a democracy and a republic. Current potent and well-defined constitutional link between democracy and republic has firmly secured all citizens as equal stakeholders in this nation state. Nevertheless, this democratic and republican legacy is increasingly being eclipsed by the partisan, arbitrary and whimsical disposition of the dispensation at the helm that rarely cares for the traditional moorings of governance.

Votaries and zealots of the dispensation at the helm are often seen becoming vocal in public sphere in contesting the cardinal principles of democratic polity and constitutional institutions, vociferously clamouring for reviving mechanisms conducive for a particular ideology, thereby challenging India's heritage of diversity, plurality and composite nationhood. Interestingly, the proclivity of the ruling dispensation discernible from its policy responses and actions also manifests a design that suits a particular ideology irrespective of such a tendency being detrimental to the governing consensus on nationhood and citizenship. Top brass of the dispensation currently at the helm is indulging in articulating policy statements that indicates its preparedness for a more combative political strategy by raking up controversial issues thereby questioning the prevailing governing consensus on primary issues. Decisive measures being adhered to by the current dispensation at the helm in accordance with its ideological commitments are seemingly designed to evolve a new political culture that could be compulsorily entrenched in public space.

The Opposition, which is almost in a disarray, has failed to gauge the magnitude of gravity of the situation unfolding in the political arena, which is termed by some experts as "a fundamental contest between the original pluralist vision of Indian democracy and the monocultural and exclusivist view of the Hindu nationalists." Failure on the part of the Opposition parties to foresee the underlying designs beneath the interconnected trends emerging in the wake of the policy moves initiated by the ruling dispensation entails the potential of unleashing serious repercussions for the democratic polity. Tepid response of the Opposition to mobilize public opinion against the controversial issues like the status of J&K and the Citizenship Act has reportedly bolstered the ruling dispensation to eagerly wade into these issues and to place them at the top of its national political agenda thereby declaring its readiness for the summer 2019 electoral battle. Continued repression of critical voices and dissent in tandem with injecting acerbic narrative into the national political discourse is a clear sign of curtailing democratic freedoms and such measures have brought country's democratic governing framework under severe strain. Parliament, which is regarded as the heart of the Indian Republic, has seemingly diminished in stature under the brute majoritarianism. The dispensation currently at the helm has facilitated the intrusion of religion into politics as the new norm.

Subversion of the media autonomy, the erosion of civil liberties, the dominant role of money power in influencing election results, a rising tide of populism, the spreading cancer of divisive politics, the growing appeal of militant nationalism and misuse of religion in political campaigns have proved instrumental in contributing to the gradual fading of democracy. Concurrently, it is equally true that such attempts to derail democracy have also been made in the past without any tangible success because of the vigil exercised by the Indian voters. In the age of social media, the electorate seems more concerned about sifting chaff off the grain and is unlikely to be hoodwinked by fake news and populist rhetoric. Undoubtedly, the social media is the storehouse of fake news and rhetoric to misguide the gullible masses; nevertheless, simultaneously these masses are equally competent enough in keeping India's democratic imagination vibrant and expansive. They also have the potential of redeeming democracy and the ensuing general elections will perhaps prove us right.

— BK