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సంస్కృతి :

గాంధీ ప్రభావం

(గాంధీజీ 150వ జయంతి సందర్భంగా జరిగిన సదస్సులో
సమర్పించబడిన ప్రసంగ పత్రాలు)




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సంపాదకులు
రాచపాటిం చంద్రశేఖరరావు

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రాచపాళెం చంద్రశేఖరరెడ్డి



సాహిత్య అకాడెమి




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11. గాంధీ ప్రభావ సాహిత్యం - తెలుగు విమ
• వెంకటేశ్వర్లు, పి.సి.

12. గాంధీరచనలు - తెలుగు అనువాదాలు
• పూర్ణచంద్, జి.వి.

13. తెలుగు సంస్కృతి - గాంధీ ప్రభావం
• శ్రీరామమూర్తి, కోడూరి

14. మహాసామరస్యం - గాంధీ స్ఫూర్తి
• పుల్లారావు, ఎస్.




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భారతస్వాతంత్ర్యోద్యమం భారతదేశ చరిత్రలో ఒక విశిష్టమైన ఘట్టం. అనేక కుర్రాలు, అనేక మతాలు, అనేక భాషలలో మనుగడ సాగిస్తున్న భారతీయులు తమ అంతరంగిక వైరుధ్యాలను వక్రస్వరంలో ఒక సమస్య పరిష్కారం కోసం చెట్టపట్టాల పట్టుకొని ఉద్యమించడమే ఆ పరిష్కారం. అనేక దశలలో, అనేక రూపాలలో సాగిన ఆ ఉద్యమ చరిత్రలో తుది పోరాటానికి మహాత్మాగాంధీ నాయకత్వం వహించారు. స్వపరిపాలన కోసం రాజకీయ ఉద్యమం, సంఘ పునర్నిర్మాణం కోసం నిర్మాణ కార్యక్రమాలు గాంధీజీ ఉద్యమంలో రెండు భాగాలు. గాంధీజీ భారతీయ సమాజాన్ని తన జీవన శైలితో, జీవన సిద్ధాంతంతో, రాజకీయ వైఖరితో బాగా ప్రభావితం చేశారు.

భారతీయ రచయితలు గాంధీజీ ప్రభావంతో కవితలు, కావ్యాలు, నవలలు, కథానికలు, నాటకాలు రచించారు. తమ రచనల ద్వారా రాజకీయాలకూ, సాహిత్యానికీ మధ్య ఉండే విడదీయరాని సంబంధాన్ని రుజువు చేశారు. ఈ సాహిత్యోద్యమంలో అనేక మంది తెలుగు రచయితలు భాగస్వాములయ్యారు. తెలుగులో గాంధీజీ ప్రభావంతో వచ్చిన సాహిత్యం ఒక సుదీర్ఘమైన అధ్యాయం. గాంధీజీ 150వ జయంతి ఆ అధ్యాయాన్ని పునర్మూల్యాంకనం చేసుకోవడానికి ఒక అవకాశం. 2019 మార్చి 2,3 తేదీలలో అవనిగడ్డలో గాంధీ క్షేత్రంలో జరిగిన సదస్సు ఈ పునర్మూల్యాంకనం చేసింది.

ఈ వ్యాస సంకలనానికి సంపాదకుడు ఆచార్య రాచపాళెం చంద్రశేఖరరెడ్డి (1948) శ్రీకృష్ణదేవరాయ యోగివేమన విశ్వవిద్యాలయాలలో అధ్యాపకుడుగా పని చేశారు. ఇప్పటిదాకా ఆయన 30 విమర్శగ్రంథాలు, 4 కవిత్య సంపుటాలు, 10 అనువాద గ్రంథాలు ప్రచురించారు. 30 గ్రంథాలకు సంపాదకత్వం వహించారు. సాహిత్య అకాడమీ జనరల్ కౌన్సిల్ నభ్యులైన రాచపాళెం ఇదివరకే సాహిత్య అకాడమీ కోసం "తెలుగు సాహిత్య విమర్శ: భావజాల అధ్యయనం" అనే వ్యాససంపుటికి సంపాదకత్వం వహించారు. ఇప్పుడు ఈ వ్యాససంపుటికి కూడా ఆయన సంపాదకులుగా వ్యవహరించారు.



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INDIA'S DEMOCRACY @ 75

POLITICAL TRENDS IN POST-INDEPENDENT INDIA



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8. India's Democracy @75 Years After Independence:
Issues and Intricacies - *Dr. Alluri Venkata Nagavarma,
U. Madhuri, G. Melton*.....89
9. Role of Political Parties in Indian Democracy@75 -
Dr. B. Gopala Naik, Jayalakshmi.....98
10. Socio- Economic and Political Challenges and
Achievements in Post Independence India -
Dr. Pavuluri Hamnumanthu Rao.....111
11. Dynamics of Indian Politics - *K. Sivaram*.....131
12. Indian Political System and Emerging Trends -
Vinnukota V V Siva Prasad.....134



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ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN INDIAN DEMOCRACY @75

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ABSTRACT

India is a democratic nation where political parties play an important role in this democracy. In India, all the political leaders are selected by the common people through the process of general elections. The winning leaders represent their corresponding constituencies.

Prime Minister is the chief leader of all the leaders and has the authority to take effective actions in order to make further developments in the country. Indian Democracy is by the people and for the people. The common people have the right to choose their leaders. In India, every person having an age of equal or more than that of 18 has the right of voting. The current paper highlights the role of political parties in Indian democracy.

KEYWORD: Political Party, Democracy, Leader, Independence, Autonomy, Equality, Constitution, Parliament, Fraternity, Judicial Activism, Governance.

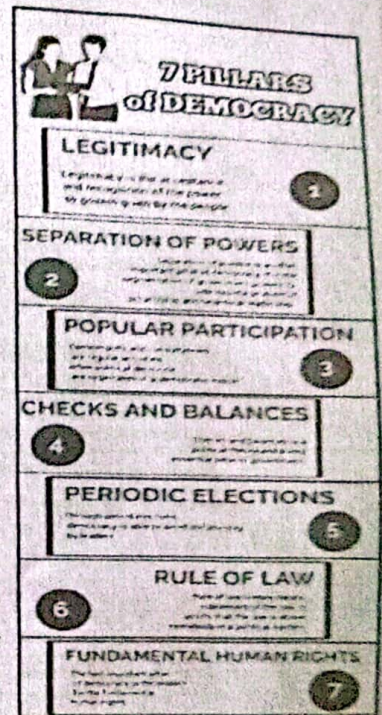
CONTEXT

Recently, India celebrated its 75th Independence Day. The occasion provides us a great opportunity to delve back in time when a newly independent nation made its 'tryst' with political democracy and how it is faring today on key democratic factors as well as in comparison to other major democracies of the world.

WHAT IS A DEMOCRACY?

The word democracy comes from the Greek words "demos", meaning people, and "crates" meaning power, so democracy can be thought of as "power of the people": a way of governing that depends on the will of the people.

No one is born a good citizen; no nation is born a democracy. Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Young people must be included from birth. - Kofi Annan



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WHY CHOOSE DEMOCRACY?

The idea of democracy derives its moral strength – and popular appeal – from two key principles:

- **Individual autonomy:** The idea that no one should be subject to rules which have been imposed by others. People should be able to control their own lives (within reason).
- **Equality:** The idea that everyone should have the same opportunity to influence the decisions that affect people in society

Democracy is good. I say this because other systems are worse.
– Pt Nehru

ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN INDIAN DEMOCRACY

Owing to the diverse geographical, social and cultural concerns, India has nurtured the growth of the multi-party system. Over a period of time, national and regional political parties became the vital constituents of the world's largest democracy in India. Whether the proliferation of parties has helped the country's cause, is a different debate altogether. However, it's important to know what exactly these political parties stand for and what role do they play within the parliamentary democracy.

Every political party has its own set of vision and ideologies, which are often aligned with the needs and concerns of the state or region they belong to. Once people choose them during the

100

elections, they become legitimate rulers of the country. The party members get the power to run the executive, as well as the legislative machinery of India.

The party that wields the power also bears certain responsibilities. The primary onus of building political and social consciousness lies on the parties. Under the greater objective of serving the nation and its people, there are several smaller goals that parties set for themselves to ensure that public concerns are allayed, social indicators are favored and corruption is eradicated. In case of a coalition setup, the national and regional parties work together to become a platform for common people to put forward their views. They become the voice of the people by representing them at a national level.

While the primary role of the ruling party is to run the government effectively, the ones who sit in the opposition also have their tasks cut out. They position themselves as government watchdogs, with the sole mission of scrutinizing the ruling party's actions. It is incumbent upon them to prevent the ruling party from becoming dictatorial. On a much broader level, the opposition gives a probing look into the performance of the government and sees to it that good governance benefits the entire nation and not just a few communities. In India, the opposition parties are quick to act against faulty policies and unjust laws. There had been incidents when strong protests were staged against certain bills forcing the government to retract.

The basic purpose of political parties is to nominate candidates for public office and to get as many of them elected as possible. Once elected, these officials try to achieve the goals of their party through legislation and program initiatives. Although

101



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many people do not think of it this way, registering as a Democrat or Republican makes them members of a political party. Political parties want as many people involved as possible. Most members take a fairly passive role, simply voting for their party's candidates at election time. Some become more active and work as officials in the party or volunteer to persuade people to vote. The most ambitious members may decide to run for office themselves.

PRESENT SITUATION OF INDIAN DEMOCRACY

(A) Positive aspects

- **Still continuing democracy:** The Indian democracy is still continuing opposite to what was apprehended by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill at the time of Independence of India.
- **Public trust:** The enthusiasm and trust among the Indian masses for democracy is still continuing as evident from high voting turnout during elections as compared to developed democracies where voting percentages are declining.
- **Respect for constitution:** The original constitution is still intact, continuing and greatly revered by all political parties and sections of the society.

102

- **Global reputation:** At the international level, India has carved its own space as a highly diverse and largest democracy in the world,

(B) Negative Aspect

- **Weakening of political democracy:** Several constitutional experts have pointed toward a decline in democracy in India. It is evident from the dropping rankings of India in several key indices like the Democracy index (labeled India a 'flawed democracy'), V-Dem report (called India 'Electoral Autocracy')
- **Decline of Parliament:** Parliament as a democratic institution is underperforming. The ability of Parliament to seek accountability of the executive has been severely hampered. Productivity of Lok Sabha in the 2021 monsoon was just 22% due to disruption by Opposition. Informed debates in parliament have also been reduced. There is high usage of ordinances and voice notes to make decisions inside parliament
- **Non-Attainment of economic democracy:** As evident from high economic inequality among masses [the debate of INDIA (Urban India) vs BHARAT (Rural India)], low women participation in the labour force, economic backwardness in several large states like Bihar, Jharkhand, Odessa etc
- **Weak social democracy:** As evident from recent communal clashes in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, continuing

103




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of several secessionist movements like Khalistan, demand for Nagalim, high crimes against women etc this has hampered the creation of true 'Fraternity' which Preamble of Constitution talks about.

- **Weakening of civil society:** There has been a continuing phenomenon of weakening of civil society including NGO's, academic institutions where these institutions are finding it difficult to uphold accountability of the govt.
- **Growing gulf between public and their representatives:** Today, elected representatives are more representatives of their political parties than the people who have elected them. Also, Older MP's are representing young India (Average age of Indian MP's-54) and Crorepati MP's are representing poor Indians (88% MP's are crorepati).

CAUSES OF LACUNAS IN CURRENT DEMOCRACY

The people represented by elected officials are called constituents. Whether Republican or Democrat, constituents make their concerns known to their representatives. In turn, elected officials must not only reflect the concerns of their own political party but must also try to attract support from people in their districts or states who belong to the other party. They can attract this support by supporting bipartisan issues

(matters of concern that cross party lines) and nonpartisan issues (matters that have nothing to do with party allegiance).

Political parties are not policymaking organizations in themselves. They certainly take positions on important policy questions, especially to provide alternatives to the position of whichever party is in power. When in power, a party attempts to put its philosophy into practice through legislation. If a candidate wins office by a large majority, it may mean that the voters have given him or her a mandate to carry out the program outlined in the campaign. The party political domain of India is replete with a large number of parties representing the tapestry of the Indian society. Many of them are based in specific regions and states, built around social and linguistic identities. While this enhanced the representative character of the parties, it also contributed to varied patterns of political competition and unstable governments. The two major national parties—the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party—becoming ready and willing to form coalitions heralded an era of coalition governments both at the centre and states, enabling parties to increase their power and their pay-offs. Parties across the political spectrum have tended to converge on macroeconomic policy, but continue to diverge on social policies and larger issues that confront India, such as nation building and secularism. Chronic lack of internal democracy coupled with the rise of political corruption and 'clientele' practices are matters of serious concern. A broader view of governance, resisting temptations to concentrate power and



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pursue personal enrichment would enable parties to deliver policies for a better, more just society.

The particular social divisions that the two countries encounter are different from each other, although not unique in terms of the types of social divisions typically encountered by nascent or even established democracies.

CONSEQUENCES

- **Democratic backsliding or democratic deficit**– all of the above causes have led to democratic deficit/backsliding which there has a growing gulf between preaching and practice of democracy in India.
- **Spill over effect**– with the growing power of the executive and weakening of democratic institutions like parliament, the pressure on the judiciary is increasing as evident from the fact that almost all major bills passed by parliament are being challenged in the Supreme Court. This is leading to Judicial Activism.
- **Weak social Mobility and human capital development**– Because of all this, the economic growth of the nation is suffering which is further leading to slow social mobility and human capital development.

106

COMPARISON WITH THY NEIGHBORS

- Though both India and Pakistan started their political journey under a democratic framework, both countries after 75 years stand at opposite ends. While India is considered a vibrant democracy, Pakistan is considered a failed state.
- In India, 70% of the population believes that democracy is preferable to other forms of government, whereas in Pakistan, only 37% population believes that democracy is preferable.
- Pakistan witnessed three dictatorships regimes under different military generals and multiple suspensions of its constitution while India continued on its path of democracy and constitutionalism.
- Even during periods of civilian rule, the Pakistan army and its powerful Inter-Intelligence-Services have retained the right to set the country's foreign and security policy.

WAY FORWARD

- **Opposition:** strong democracy requires strong opposition. Without an alternative choice, the very

107



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objective of election to provide a check on arbitrary power gets defeated.

- **Need to bring in Constitutional Morality:** It also makes the governing institutions and representatives accountable to the people.
- **Promoting Good Governance:** Good governance enables to reach out government schemes to the needy and it entrusts the desire to do well in life. It also helps to realize one's duties and rights and boosts confidence in government.
- **Welcoming criticism:** The Government should hear criticism rather than reject it outrightly. Suggestions on eroding democratic values need a thoughtful and respectful response.
- **Equality in the society:** If redistributive public welfare policies are effective, the inequality in society would be reduced. Thus, it must be the priority of the government to maintain social and economic equality and inclusive growth.
- **Parliamentary oversight:** It is necessary to hold strong checks on the executive through parliamentary committees, question hours, etc. Separation of powers is the most important thing for a healthy democracy.

108

CONCLUSION

India has not experienced military interventions, the majority of its people did suffer extreme oppression under apartheid for more than forty years and less formalized oppression for much longer. Ultimately, the two countries are ripe for research because of their success at democratization relative to their peer states and also because the challenges they still face with social division over religious and ethnic issues are common challenges to democracies, particularly transitional ones.

Until and unless we don't realize the real sense of Democracy we can't live with dignity. Only with people's participation, it can be achieved.

It is important that all the government organs work in harmony to uphold the trust people of the country have held in them and ensure the objectives of true democracy.

In the upcoming "Amrit Kaal" (2022-2047), we must ensure that by the end of this period, India should have achieved its "Trust with Destiny" - A Social, Political and Economic Democracy in the true sense.

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109




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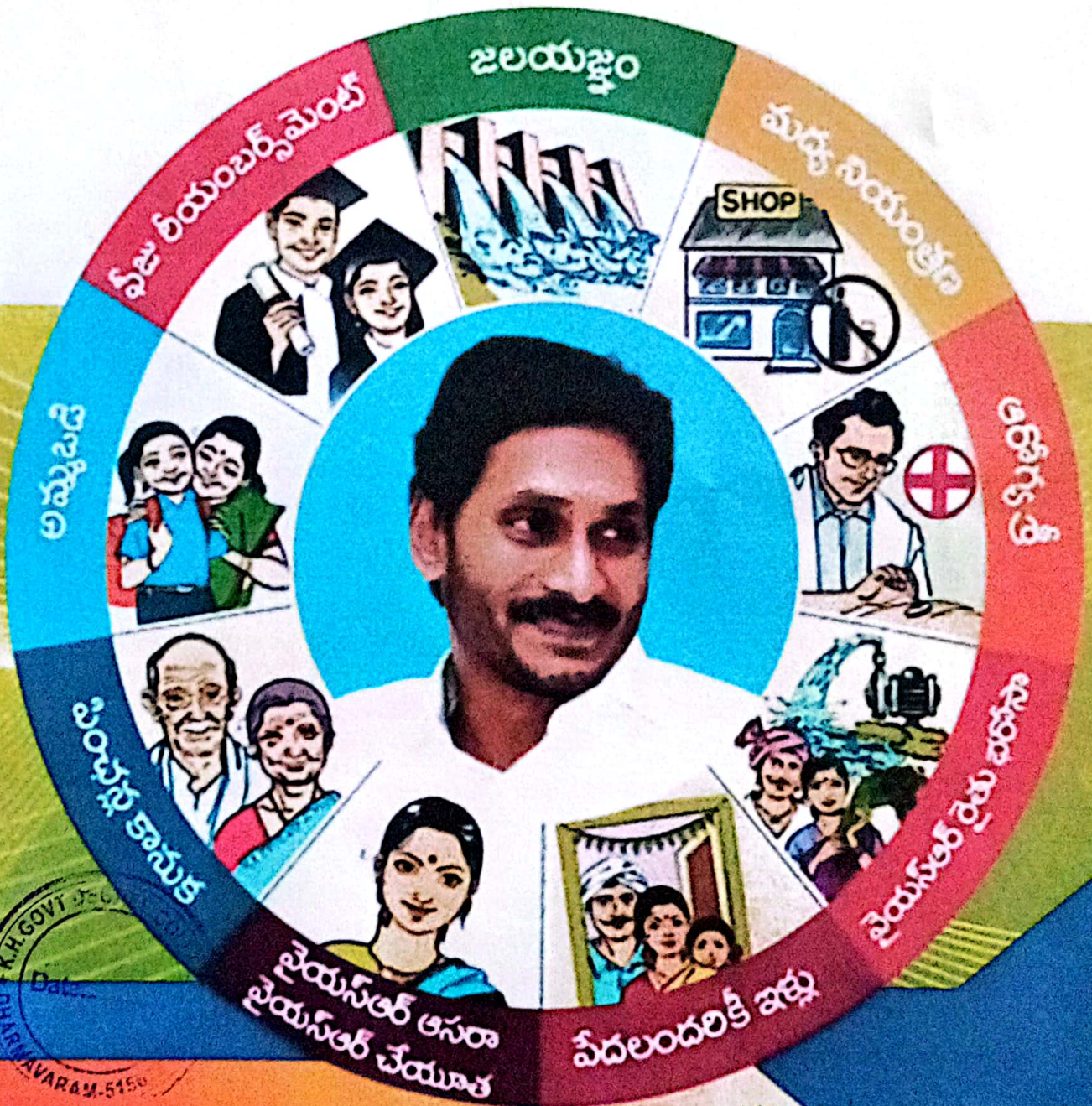
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"Inclusive Programs of the Government of Andhra Pradesh : Issues and Challenges"



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Rhaythu Bharosa: A Ray of Hope for Farmers

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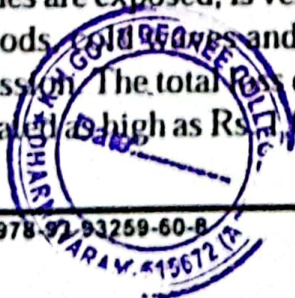
Abstract

The welfare of farmers has always been the top priority of the Government of India. For this, it has implemented different schemes or programmes to revive the agriculture sector and to improve the economic conditions of farmers. The agricultural schemes are very beneficial for the farmers and they must know about it so as to take its benefit. So through this article, we will tell you about some of the most useful and popular government schemes for farmers in India. Indian farmers invest huge amounts of private capital into building infrastructure for their operations, unlike any private company or industry. They pay to build irrigation facilities - more than half of the irrigated land uses groundwater. Some 19 million wells and tube wells have been built with private capital. Nobody pays for this - in fact, the computation of MSP is rigged against the farmer because the government needs to ensure that the cost of food is cheap for its procurement system and stays affordable. The worst fear of any government is food inflation, as consumers then fret and fume. This is when government imports food to drive down prices - food from rich countries, where food growing is subsidised and against whom our farmers cannot compete. It is time we talked about the real cost of our food, about how to benefit farmers who grow our food. This is not a business we can afford to lose. This is what the farmers at our doorstep want us to discuss. In this paper an attempt is made to discuss the pros and cons of Rhythu Bharosa scheme introduced by Andhra Pradesh State Government as investment assistance to farmers.

Key Words: Tenant, Land, Drought, Financial Assistance, Lease

Introduction

Practically every year in one part of the country or other food crops are affected by weather hazards. Even though such natural hazards have been familiar to Indian agriculture; the widespread droughts, floods, fire, windstorms, hails or frosts and diseases of plants in the past have dealt a severe blow to the economy, inspite of various institutional and organizational measures, undertaken during the last 15 years. Crop yield instability is the normal condition and agriculture continues still to be "a gamble in rains". The magnitude of risks and the uncertainties to which the farmers, fortunes are exposed, is very large. In fact, good years and bad years, wet weather and drought or floods, and frost, low yields and bumper crops are to be expected in mixed succession. The total loss due to natural calamities (like flood, drought and plant diseases) is estimated to be as high as Rs. 1000 crores every year. The man behind the plough has to be assured



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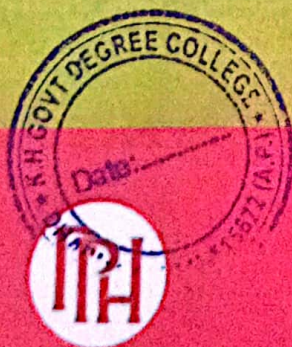
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