

WAR ON WORDS**What matters is the taking of human life, and not the Sangh's name for it**

The annual Vijaydashami speech of its chief, the Sarsanghchalak, outlines the thinking of the RSS on critical issues. As incumbent chief Mohan Bhagwat noted on Tuesday, until 2014, these speeches did not attract much attention. In the speech that spanned domestic politics, education, economy, foreign affairs, and culture there was nothing that would surprise those who have followed the Sangh. But those views are today consequential as they get translated to state policies, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr. Modi, a former RSS pracharak, and the Home Minister were recipients of praise for ending the special constitutional status of Jammu and Kashmir. Mr. Bhagwat termed this year's Lok Sabha election results a demonstration of a new resolve of the country. The Sarsanghchalak said too much discussion on the frail health of the economy would only cause more negativity. A thread in his one hour speech was that certain enemies of the nation were trying to defame and weaken it. Some "chutput" — small — incidents get publicised as lynching, which to him is a conspiracy to defame India, as "both sides are involved in such acts". Lynching is a western construct, he said.

The RSS chief is very particular about the words that are to be used and avoided, going by his speech. He insisted that India's culture, heritage, diversity and life could be encapsulated in the word Hindu and no other word, including Bharatiya, could be a suitable substitute. A considerable part of his speech called for unity, harmony, and dialogue among communities and sacrifice for the country. But he reiterated his position that such a worthy pursuit could be termed only Hindu Rashtra — the fundamental tenet of the Sangh. Whether or not there is an equivalent word for lynching in any pristine indigenous language, what should concern anyone interested in the reputation of India, that is Bharat, is not the label but the act that is being described. That act, which Mr. Bhagwat tiptoed around with verbose obfuscation, is mob violence against hapless individuals, mostly from the minority religious communities or Dalits. It would be reassuring to know that the act of lynching is alien to India, but unfortunately, the ire was more against the word than against the act. Explaining the concept of Swadeshi, Mr. Bhagwat said India would not hesitate to accept from foreigners what it does not have and cannot do without. If lynching is a videshi act, then it might need a videshi label too. But this war on the word is reflective more of a concern about India's reputation in the eyes of the world than of any alarm at the underlying acts of sectarian violence. For the sake of Bharat's reputation, lynchings, by whatever name, must stop.

Words

Outline
Critical
Incumbent
Attract

Kind

Verb
Adj.
Adj.
Verb

Meaning

Rough idea, rundown, summary, synopsis.
Serious, dangerous, perilous, parlous, dire.
Necessary, essential/ present, current.
Draw, entice, allure, lure, woo, enchant, entrance.

Attention	Noun	Awareness, notice, observation, surveillance.
Spann	Verb	Last, cover, extent, spread over.
Hustle & bustle	Noun	Activities, toing and forcing, goings-on.
Consequential	Adj.	Resulting, ensuing, subsequent.
Recipient	Noun	Receiver, beneficiary, legatee, done.
Praise	Verb	Extol, commend, applaud, eulogize, wax lyrical about.
Constitutional	Adj.	Legal, lawful, legitimate, ratified.
Demonstration	Noun	Proof, substantiation, corroboration.
Resolve	Verb	Settle, sort-out, solve, work out, rectify
Frail	Adj.	Infirm, weak, feeble, debilitated, crippled.
Defame	Verb	Libel, slander, malign, smear, traduce, calumniate, besmirch, disparage, denigrate, asperse.
Weaken	Verb	Enfeeble, debilitate, in capacitate, wither.
Publicise	Verb	Make known, announce, disseminate circulate, promulgate, herald.
Lynch	Verb	Hang, execute, kill, string up, knock off, gibbet.
Conspiracy	Noun	Plotting, collusion, intrigue, connivance, machination.
Circumvent	Verb	Avoid, parry, abstain, refrain, shun.
Insist	Verb	Stand firm, be firm, be resolute, hold on/out.
Heritage	Noun	Inheritance, birth right, patrimony, legacy, bequest, devise
Diversity	Noun	Variety, miscellany, assortment, melange medley, vetrogeneity
Encapsulate	Verb	Enclose, encase, confine, envelop, cocoon.
Considerable	Adj.	Sizable, substantial, appreciable, goodly.
Harmony	Noun	Euphony, polyphony, consonance, mellifluence.
Community	Noun	Group, section, body, company, set, circle, clique.
Sacrifice	Noun	Offer up, immolate/give up, abandon, surrender, succumb, capitulate.
Re-iterate	Verb	Repeat, recapitulate, iterate ingeminate.
Worthy	Noun	Dignitary, notable, celebrity, personage, luminary, grandee.
Pursuit	Noun	Activity, hobby, pastime, avocation.
Tenet	Noun	Principle, belief, doctrine, creed, precept.
Pristine	Adj.	Immaculate, perfect, spotless, virgin.
Indigenous	Adj.	Native, autochthonous, primordial, primeval
Tiptoe	Verb	Wack quietly and carefully
Verbose	Adj.	Wordy, loquacious, garrulous, orotund, blather expansive, longwinded, prolix
Obfuscate	Verb	Obscure, confuse, bewilder, blur, muddle, muddy Befog, garble
Hapless	Adj.	Unfortunate, unlucky, jinxed, ill fated
Reassure	Verb	Encourage, inspirit, hearten
Alien	Adj.	Overseas, non-native, foreign, strange
Dither	Verb	Hesitate, falter, waver, vacillate
Underlying	Adj.	Basic, primary, principal, central
Sectarian	Adj.	Separatist, partisan, doctrinaire

INFINITE CRISIS

A Turkish incursion into Syria could weaken anti-IS forces and plunge the region into chaos

President Donald Trump’s decision to pull U.S. troops out of north-eastern Syria is tantamount to betraying the Kurdish forces who were in the forefront of the war against the Islamic State. Within days of the U.S. decision, Turkey launched its much-anticipated military incursion on Wednesday into the predominantly Kurdish north-eastern Syria. The Syrian Kurdish region, Rojava, is now run by a semi-autonomous Kurdish government, and its militias People’s Protection Units (YPG) are guarding the borders. The YGP was the dominant player in the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) that destroyed the IS “caliphate”. Turkey, which is fighting a violent Kurdish insurgency led by the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in its Kurdish territories, sees an empowered YPG and a Kurdish autonomous government across the border a growing security threat to itself. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s plan is to carve out a buffer between the border and the Rojava, which will be controlled by pro-Turkish Syrian rebels. He also plans to resettle some Syrian refugees here. In its previous intervention, Turkey had already pushed the YPG out of Afrin, a border town. It is now planning to repeat Afrin in a longer and wider stretch of the border region. The American presence may have held Mr. Erdogan back, but with the White House saying that the U.S. troops “will not support or be involved” in the Turkish operation, the decks were cleared for Ankara.

To be sure, the U.S. withdrawing troops itself is not the problem. Mr. Trump had made the campaign promise to wind down America’s military engagements in West Asia. Also, the U.S. cannot get stuck in the Syrian conflict forever. The problem is the way in which it is abruptly disengaging itself and the potential consequences. The Kurds have played a critical role in defeating the IS, whose fall began in Kobane, the Kurdish town which was liberated by the YPG in early 2015. Also, if there is a Kurdistan government in northeast Syria today, it is because the Kurds have captured all the major cities in the region, including Raqqah, the de facto capital of the IS, with U.S. support. But now, with the destruction of the IS “caliphate”, the U.S. seems to be abandoning the Kurds. Mr. Trump could have opted for an orderly exit from Syria with security guarantees from Turkey for the Kurds. Instead, he has just given in to Turkey’s demands. Second, only the IS caliphate was destroyed, not the IS. The remaining IS fighters have retreated to the Iraqi and Syrian deserts waiting for an opportunity to strike back. The Turkish incursion into Syria will not just set back the advances the Kurds have made in Rojava, but also weaken the most potent anti-jihadist force on the ground, besides throwing the whole region into chaos. It is a recipe for tragedy.

<u>Words</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Infinite		Boundless, unbounded, unlimited, never ending
Crisis	Noun	Cross roads, turning point / plight, muddle
Incursion	Noun	Assault, raid, invasion, storing, foray, blitz
Plunge	Verb	Dive, jump, throw oneself, launch, oneself

Attenuated	Adj.	Thin, scraggy, scrawny, debilitated
Tantamount	Adj.	Equal to, as good as, on a par with
Betray	Verb	Be disloyal to, be unfaithful to
Forefront	Noun	Aforesaid, aforementioned, earlier
Anticipate	Verb	Foresee, predict, be prepared for, bargain on
Pre-dominant	Adj.	Chief, principal, staple, primary
Autonomous	Adj.	Self ruling, self determination, sovereign
Chaos	Noun	Disorder, disarray, confusion, mayhem bedlam
Protection	Noun	Defence, shielding, lee, conservation
Potent	Adj.	Powerful, strong, mighty, formidable
Back	Verb	Support, advocate, buttress, endorse
Thug	Noun	Violent, bully, bandit, go on
Insurgency	Noun	Dissent, insurrection, mutiny, revolt, uprising, apostasy Defiance
Territory	Noun	Area, land, region, possession, protectorate
Menace	Noun	Threat, danger, peril, risk, jeopardy
Care our	Verb	Compose, construct, produce, churn out, crank out
Rebel	Noun	Revolutionary, insurgent, mutineer, agitator
Resettle	Verb	Emigrate, graft, remove, immigrate
Hide away	Noun	Refugee
Intervention	Noun	Interference, involvement, intercession
Wind down	Verb	Relax, laze, let up
Abrupt	Adj.	Blunt, brusque, crusty, down right, short spoken
Consequences	Noun	Result, aftermath, upshot, repercussion
Liberate	Verb	Set free, free, release, let out, extricate, unshackle unfettered