

THE REIGN OF SHIVRAJ: ON CHOUHAN'S FOURTH TERM AS CM**The BJP government will have to manage the changed political dynamics in M.P.**

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh on Monday night, proved his majority in the Assembly on Tuesday. This is his fourth term as Chief Minister. After three consecutive terms, he had lost the election in 2018. He mustered the support of 112 MLAs for the trust vote which was hurriedly organised overnight and was missed by 92 Congress MLAs and two independents. Two BSP MLAs, one of the SP, and two independents who were earlier supporting the Congress government that collapsed last week, voted in favour of the trust vote. Mr. Chouhan has said his government's immediate focus would be in tackling the coronavirus crisis that is testing the capacity and will of the State. He has also asked all MLAs to leave for their constituencies and take the lead in managing the crisis. The downfall of the Congress government was engineered by the resignation of 22 of its MLAs. These and two more seats in the 230-strong State Assembly remain vacant. The actual strength of the government will be tested in and after the by-elections to these seats. It is a different question whether the Congress can regroup itself and challenge the government.

With the return of the BJP government in M.P., the political turn in the State in 2018 has been proven short-lived. The party had faced a setback in M.P., Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh where it lost power to the Congress before bouncing back in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. The Congress could not sustain its gains, and has now ended up losing a government. But it goes beyond that and shows the party as a weak challenger to the BJP. To begin with, the Congress victory was nebulous and narrow in M.P., and its fortunes were compromised by debilitating factionalism within. It cannot be a viable political alternative to the BJP unless it gets imaginative in building sustainable and strong social and class coalitions. In places where it has done so, the party has been effective in elections and governance, including in neighbouring Chhattisgarh. The exit of Jyotiraditya Scindia, who has since joined the BJP, could actually be used as an opportunity by the Congress to promote better rooted leaders from diverse social backgrounds, stepping beyond dilapidating feudal fortresses. The BJP in the State will also need to achieve a new equilibrium, now disrupted with the entry of Mr. Scindia. Mr. Chouhan has emerged as a strong leader, but there are others waiting in the wings too. The change of guard in M.P. will unsettle existing equations in both the parties, beyond State boundaries.

Meanings of Difficult Words:

- ❖ **reign** (noun) - rule; period in office, incumbency, leadership.
- ❖ **dynamics** (noun) – basic/fundamental cause or force which triggers change within a system.
- ❖ **swear in** (phrasal verb) – admit into office, inaugurate, introduce (into office).
- ❖ **muster** (verb) – gather, collect, bring together, arrange/organize.
- ❖ **hurriedly** (adverb) - quickly, hastily, rapidly.
- ❖ **coronavirus** (CoV)(noun) – a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases. Common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.
- ❖ **will** (noun) - determination, resolution, resolve, commitment, dedication.
- ❖ **take the lead** (phrase) - to accept responsibility for dealing with a situation.
- ❖ **downfall** (noun) – toppling, ousting, unseating, overthrow/elimination, collapse.
- ❖ **engineer** (verb) – bring about, cause/arrange (something skillfully); orchestrate, choreograph, mastermind.
- ❖ **short-lived** (adjective) – brief, short, short-term, temporary.
- ❖ **setback** (noun) – problem, difficulty, issue.
- ❖ **bounce back** (phrasal verb) - recover, revive, make a comeback, rally.
- ❖ **sustain** (verb) – preserve, conserve, maintain, bolster up.
- ❖ **end up** (verb) - come/appear, find oneself (to a particular course of action in the end).
- ❖ **go beyond** (phrasal verb) – to do more than (required).

- ❖ **to begin with** (phrase) – at first, at the outset, at the beginning.
- ❖ **nebulous** (adjective) - ill-defined, unclear, uncertain, indefinite.
- ❖ **narrow** (adjective) - limited, restricted; marginal.
- ❖ **fortunes** (noun) – circumstances (the success or failure of someone), state of affairs, conditions.
- ❖ **compromise** (verb) - undermine, weaken, lessen.
- ❖ **debilitating** (adjective) – weakening, exhausting, impairing/paralyzing.
- ❖ **factionalism** (noun) – it refers to conflict and infighting between small groups (factions) within a larger one, especially in politics.
- ❖ **viable** (adjective) – manageable, feasible, effective.
- ❖ **imaginative** (adjective) - creative, insightful; unusual, unconventional.
- ❖ **sustainable** (adjective) – legitimate/reasonable, sensible, trustworthy.
- ❖ **rooted** (adjective) - firmly established.
- ❖ **step beyond** (phrasal verb) - it means that the result achieved is more than expected
- ❖ **dilapidating** (adjective) - causing to fall into ruin; historic.
- ❖ **feudal** (adjective) – ancient, archaic; outdated, outmoded, oldfashioned.
- ❖ **fortress** (noun) - stronghold, bastion, fort, keep.
- ❖ **equilibrium** (noun) – balance, symmetry, evenness.
- ❖ **sit/wait in the wings** (phrase) – someone who is not active at this time, but ready to do something very soon.
- ❖ **change of guard** (phrase) – it used to refer to a situation in which there is a dramatic change in which new people are replacing people (existing) in positions of importance.
- ❖ **unsettle** (verb) - upset, disturb, dismay.
- ❖ **the equation** (noun) – the situation, the problem, the predicament.

DEATH BY FIREWORKS:

ON VIOLATION OF RULES IN HAZARDOUS INDUSTRIES

Violations of rules in hazardous industries can be tolerated only at the cost of human lives

Unsafe working conditions and improper handling of inflammable raw materials continue to endanger lives in the fireworks industry. Last week, 11 workers were charred at a fireworks unit in Tamil Nadu's Virudhunagar district. Police data show that in the past decade, at least 239 people have perished and over 265 injured in 142 accidents in fireworks units. Such tragedies have not been confined to Sivakasi, deemed the fireworks capital of the world, where most such units are concentrated. Illegal cracker units functioning in a few other parts of the State have also led to loss of a significant number of lives. In and around Sivakasi, the manufacturing of firecrackers in makeshift unlicensed units, rough handling of chemicals by untrained and unskilled workers, spillage or overloading of chemicals during the filling process, and working outside permitted areas have been identified as major causes for past accidents. In the recent tragedy too, the workers were engaged in manufacturing 'fancy aerial crackers' for which the unit did not have a licence. Preliminary investigations suggest that mishandling of chemicals could have triggered an explosion.

Occasional accidents in an industry dealing in explosive materials may seem inevitable. But the probability of such mishaps can certainly be reduced by adopting safe work practices, complying with rules and through cohesive monitoring by Central and State licensing and enforcement authorities. Crackdowns against violators have been few and far between despite illegal sub-leasing of works to unlicensed cottage units becoming a widely acknowledged practice in the industry. The Tamilnadu Fireworks and Amorges Manufacturers Association has also complained about the unlicensed units, a parallel industry in itself spread across a dozen villages. The Chaitanya Prasad Committee, which examined, among other things, statutory and administrative shortcomings that led to the death of 40 workers at Om Shakti Fireworks Industries in 2012, noted the "conspicuous absence" of proper inspection mechanisms at various government departments. It also found a lack of coordination between Central and State authorities dealing with the regulation of fireworks industries. The

committee recommended making sub-leasing of works by licensed units a cognisable penal offence; mandated inter-safety distances between sheds covered with earthen mounds; and provision of a smoothed pathway with a width of 1.5 metres, as part of industrial safety measures. Ground reports suggest these recommendations continue to be ignored, with sub-leasing of works still rampant. Regulators understandably complain of a lack of manpower in checking violations. The number of players has exponentially grown since the 1980s with 1,070 licensed units employing an estimated 10 lakh workers now. But safety is non-negotiable. The governments must walk the extra mile to enforce rules in a hazardous industry and prosecute violators. The industry too must self-regulate in its own interest.

Meanings of Difficult Words:

- ❖ **hazardous** (adjective) - dangerous, risky, unsafe, perilous.
- ❖ **hazardous industry** (noun) – an industry which is having any condition that may cause injury or death to personnel or loss of product or property.
- ❖ **tolerate** (verb) – bear, put up with, endure/deal with (something unpleasant).
- ❖ **at the cost of** (phrase) – by sacrificing/losing/giving up something.
- ❖ **inflammable** (adjective) - flammable, explosive, easily burnable, incendiary.
- ❖ **endanger** (verb) – imperil, jeopardize, risk, put in danger.
- ❖ **char** (verb) - burn (and blacken).
- ❖ **perish** (verb) – die, expire, be killed suddenly (particularly in an accident).
- ❖ **confine** (verb) – restrict, limit, enclose.
- ❖ **deem** (verb) – regard as, consider; view as.
- ❖ **makeshift** (adjective) – temporary, provisional, standby.
- ❖ **spillage** (noun) - the process of spilling (of a liquid).
- ❖ **occasional** (adjective) – infrequent, irregular, periodic.
- ❖ **inevitable** (adjective) – unavoidable, sure to happen, unpreventable.
- ❖ **probability** (noun) – chance, possibility, expectation.
- ❖ **mishap** (noun) - trouble, problem, difficulty, issue.
- ❖ **comply with** (verb) – abide by, adhere to, conform to.
- ❖ **cohesive** (adjective) – united, integrated, cooperated.
- ❖ **enforcement** (noun) – imposition, implementation, execution.
- ❖ **crackdown** (noun) - getting tough, severe/stern measures, restriction, suppression/ repression, clampdown.
- ❖ **few and far between** (phrase) – not happening frequently; infrequent, occasional; insufficient, negligible, inadequate/meagre.
- ❖ **cottage** (noun) - small house, house, shanty.
- ❖ **parallel** (adjective) – similar, like.
- ❖ **parallel industry** (noun) - unlicensed industry; an unofficial industry which runs similar to the licensed industry.
- ❖ **statutory** (adjective) – legitimate, acceptable, permissible/admissible.
- ❖ **shortcoming** (noun) – fault, flaw, imperfection/defect.
- ❖ **conspicuous** (adjective) – clearly visible, noticeable, discernible/perceivable.
- ❖ **mechanism** (noun) – procedure, process, method/technique.
- ❖ **cognisable offence/crime** (noun) – an offence for which, a police officer without any warrant has authority to arrest and to start an investigation with or without the permission of a court.
- ❖ **inter-** (prefix) – between.
- ❖ **provision** (noun) – providing, giving, equipping.

- ❖ **ground report** (noun) - the report from the ground (a particular area/place where an activity/work really happens).
- ❖ **rampant** (adjective) – widespread, present everywhere/pervasive, unrestrained/out of control.
- ❖ **exponentially** (adverb) – rapidly, quickly, fast.
- ❖ **non-negotiable** (adjective) – inviolable, undebatable, unchallengeable.
- ❖ **go the extra mile** (phrase) - put a special effort to successfully attain/achieve something.
- ❖ **prosecute** (verb) – charge with, accuse of, indict.
- ❖ **self-regulate** (verb) - regulate oneself without external intervention.