

Poetry section

The slumbering Beauty

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I doubt none, I fancy my presence
Holding her out in the meadow; gazing
She's happy; steadily
She's in hurry; speeding
She's one and she's heavy
She's hastening; shooting to charge
She accuse not a thing
She's bounding; chasing dog away
Bouncing and circling;
Hurdling, as I lay out her line stretching
She's relieving and appeasing all;
She soothes her comfort all along the dull mallow
As I strike her wooden piece hard.

I doubt none, I fancy my presence
Holding her out in the meadow; gazing
Thrilling by her side; energetically
Watching her moves lively, as
She's enjoying; seasoning green grass
She moo her best;
As she lower savoring greenery
She's cooling and she's soft;
She's listening and she's nibbling
She's watching, as I move out
She's good and she's healthy;
She cares not the scorching heat nor do I;
I care as much as I leave her alone; gazing in the meadow
Blushing myself in this morning heat;
I do still Aware, not bothering; wearing innocence.

I doubt none, I fancy my presence
Holding her out in the meadow; gazing
She isn't weary;
She's calm and she isn't complaining;
She seems burning inside still she's low;
She moos and moos,
She stands unspeakable; she's a mother
She's delighting as she waves through breeze,
She understand me; awaiting
She crawls within the summery heat; napping
She's strong and she's too secure
She's one beautiful being; a friend
Enchanting by her slumbering beauty, I am dumbstruck;
I wonder how violable, the nature is?

I doubt none, I fancy my presence
Holding her out in the meadow; gazing
I promise her; not hesitating
I withdrew all my strengths, wearing the cursed heat
I temper her out; she's holding me back
As I Pour a bucketful of water; quenching her thirst
Shedding her tear out; her emotions
Speaking out, out loud her commitments;
As I lay my eyes upon her;
She's still one Beautiful slumbering soul.

Hundred years of Champaran Satyagraha

By: PRIYADARSHI DUTTA (PIB)
The centenary of Mahatma Gandhi's first Satyagraha in India is being marked this April. It was undertaken in the erstwhile undivided Champaran district in northern Bihar. He went there in April, 1917 on learning about the abuses suffered by the cultivators of the district, forced into growing indigo by British planters/estate owners. "The Champaran tenant", informs Gandhi, "was bound by law to plant three out of every twenty parts of his land with indigo for his landlord". This system was called *Tinkathia*.

Agrarian issues rarely formed the part of the political discourse in those days. Even Gandhi was reluctant to commit himself to task in the beginning. But he was so thoroughly persuaded by Rajkumar Shukla, an indigo cultivator from Champaran that he decided to investigate into the matter. Gandhi's plan was to carry out an extensive inquiry in the district and demand action based on its findings. It was barely two years that he had returned from his two decade long residence in South Africa. He went to Champaran in his personal capacity, revealing nothing of his association with Indian National Congress. By his own admission, Gandhi was on a humanitarian rather than a political mission to Champaran. Nobody recognized him in the district, located in northern end of Bihar, bordering Nepal. It was practically shielded from the political currents in the rest of India. The local authorities like the Chairman of the Planters Association, Commissioner of Tirhut Division and Police Superintendent did not find his visit

welcome. They unsuccessfully tried to dissuade Gandhi from undertaking his inquiry. But Gandhi determinedly began his work from the house of Babu Gorakh Prasad in Motihari, headquarters of the district. While he making a spot visit to a village on an elephant back, a common transport in rural Bihar then, he was served with a court summon. He had been charged with violating Section 144 of Cr. P.C. Gandhi received the summons without demur, but refused to leave Champaran. The announcement of his inquiry had already captivated the imagination of the peasants. His popularity skyrocketed as the news of his prosecution broke. On April 18, 1917 when Gandhi appeared in Motihari Court, he found 2000 local people accompanying him. The magistrate was thrown into a tizzy, and wanted to defer the trial. But to his surprise, Gandhi wanted to plead guilty. Gandhi read out a statement, and except from which reads- "As a law abiding citizen my first instinct would be, as it was, to obey the order served on me. But I could not do so without doing violence to my sense of duty to those for whom I have come. I feel that I could not just now serve them only by remaining in their midst. I could not, therefore, voluntarily retire. Amid this conflict of duties, I could only throw the responsibility of removing me from them on the Administration..... I have disregarded the order served upon me not for want of respect for lawful authority, but in obedience to the higher law of our being, the voice of conscience". The Motihari trial collapsed. The

Lieutenant Governor of Bihar had ordered the withdrawal of case against Gandhi, and the Collector wrote to Gandhi saying he was free to conduct the inquiry. But this small step was giant leap forward in the history of freedom struggle. "The country thus had" says Gandhi, "its first object lesson in Civil Disobedience". It was widely reported in the newspapers, and heralded the advent of Gandhian era. Gandhi's method of inquiry at Champaran was based on surveys by the volunteers. The respondents who willingly gave statements should sign the papers or give thumb impressions. For those unwilling to participate, the reasons must be recorded by the volunteers. The principal volunteers in this survey were mostly lawyers like Babu Rajendra Prasad, Dhanidhar Prasad, Gorakh Prasad, Ramnawami Prasad, Sambhusaran and Anugraha Narain Sinha. Two centres were set up at Motihari and Bettiah. The rush had been so great that volunteers were barely able to cope with the work from day to day. During a recording of the statement an officer from C.I.D. was present. Apart from these several villages were visited and hundreds of *ryats* (tenants) were queried in their homes. Within a month nearly 4000 statements were taken. Planters refused to attend meetings where *ryats* were present. But some of them met Gandhi in a delegation. They tried to pose that they were benefactors of their *ryats* and had protected them from the tangle of moneylenders. But *ryats* had different opinion about them. The Bihar administration grew

anxious at Gandhi's prolonged stay in Champaran. Thus on June 4, 1917 Sir Edward Gait, the Lieutenant Governor of Bihar, while receiving Gandhi at Ranchi declared the formation of a formal inquiry committee with Gandhi aboard. But Gait had to concede that Gandhi and volunteers could remain in Champaran and Gandhi would not cease to be an advocate of the *ryats*.

The Champaran Inquiry Committee began its preliminary meeting on July 11, 1917. After several sittings and spot visits, the Committee submitted its final report on October 4. The Government accepted almost all its recommendations to the benefit of the *ryats*. The principal recommendation accepted was complete abolition of *Tinkathia* system. It was a major blow to the British planters who became resentful. But they could not prevent the passage of Champaran Agrarian Act in Bihar & Orissa Legislative Council on March 4, 1918. The scourge of coercive indigo plantation passed into history. Gandhi's association with Champaran lasted for a year. Towards the end he had got busy with another agrarian Satyagraha at Kaira (or Kheda) in Gujarat. He did not limit his stay in Champaran to indigo issue. He promoted primary education in a poorly literate district by inviting volunteers, who came from as far as Maharashtra and Gujarat. The victory at Champaran established Gandhi's repute in Indian politics. **The writer is an independent researcher and columnist based in New Delhi. The views expressed herein are his personal.*

National & International News

United States Navy Strike Group Heads Toward Korean Peninsula

Agency
Washington: The US Navy said Saturday it had sent a carrier-led strike group to the Korean peninsula in a show of force against North Korea's "reckless" nuclear weapons program. The move will raise tensions in the region and comes hard on the heels of a US missile strike on Syria that was widely interpreted as putting Pyongyang on warning over its refusal to abandon its nuclear ambitions.



North Korea denounced Thursday's strike as an act of "intolerable aggression" and one that justified "a million times over" the North's push toward a credible nuclear deterrent. "US Pacific Command ordered the Carl Vinson Strike Group north as a prudent measure to maintain readiness and presence in the Western Pacific," said Commander Dave Benham, spokesman at US Pacific Command. "The number one threat in the region continues to be North Korea, due to its reckless, irresponsible and destabilizing program of missile tests and pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability," he told AFP, in an unusually forceful statement. Originally scheduled to make port calls in Australia, the strike group

— which includes the Nimitz-class aircraft supercarrier USS Carl Vinson — is now headed from Singapore to the Western Pacific Ocean. Pyongyang is on a quest to develop a long-range missile capable of hitting the US mainland with a nuclear warhead, and has so far staged five nuclear tests, two of them last year. Expert satellite imagery analysis suggests it could well be preparing for a sixth, with US intelligence officials warning that Pyongyang could be less than two years away from developing a nuclear warhead that could reach the continental United States. North Korea on Wednesday fired a medium-range ballistic missile into the Sea of Japan ahead of a US-China summit. In February the North simultaneously fired four ballistic missiles off its east coast, three of

which fell provocatively close to Japan, in what it said was a drill for an attack on US bases in the neighbouring Asian country. Last August Pyongyang also successfully test-fired a submarine-launched ballistic missile 500 kilometres (300 miles) towards Japan, far exceeding any previous sub-launched tests, in what the North's leader Kim Jong-Un hailed as the "greatest success." A nuclear-capable SLBM system would take the North's threat to a new level, allowing deployment far beyond the Korean peninsula and a "second-strike" capability in the event of an attack on its army bases. **US unilateral action?** On Thursday and Friday, US President Donald Trump hosted his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping for talks during which he pressed Pyongyang's key ally to help curb the North's nuclear weapons program. Trump has threatened unilateral action against the hermit state, a threat that appears more palpable after Thursday's strike on a Syrian airfield following an apparent chemical attack. The head of North American Aerospace Defense Command, which provides missile detection for the region, said Thursday she was "extremely confident" of US capability to intercept a potential intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) bound for America from the North. But General Lori Robinson expressed concerns for the type of ballistic missile powered by a solid-fuel engine that Pyongyang said it successfully tested in February. "Amidst an unprecedented pace of North Korean strategic weapons testing, our ability to provide actionable warning continues to diminish," Robinson said in written testimony to senators. And while a US unilateral strike on North Korea from a shorter range might be more militarily effective, it likely would endanger many civilians in South Korea, experts warn. The isolated North is barred under UN resolutions from any use of ballistic missile technology.

Airtel, Vodafone, Idea saw most billing complaints in Oct-Dec

PTI
New Delhi: Users of Airtel, Vodafone and Idea mobile services filed maximum billing complaints in October-December of 2016, as per the latest report of Trai. The complaints in the case of Bharti Airtel mostly came from 2G pre-paid subscribers in Tamil Nadu (including Chennai), Kolkata, Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir, where the benchmark violation ranged between 0.11 per cent and 0.12 per cent. According to quality of service norms, the complaint level should not be more than 0.1 per cent per 100 bills issued in one quarter. The maximum violations are found in

the case of Vodafone, where 0.15 per cent and 0.13 per cent of bills were disputed by its users in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, respectively. Vodafone is the only company during the reported quarter whose post-paid customers in the Mumbai circle also raised a number of quality issues. Complaints against Idea in the north-east telecom circle pertained to 0.13 per cent of disputed bills. As for other quality parameters, Trai found performance of Airtel below par for call drops in most telecom circles. Trai has set a penalty of up to Rs 2 lakh for poor mobile service, including

call drops. The penalty kicks in for more than 2 per cent call drops in a quarter in one telecom circle. According to the report, Airtel's 2G network crossed this limit in four circles. The call drop rate on the Airtel network was as high as 27.73 in the north-east circle, Airtel, Sistema Shyam and Reliance Communications (GSM) service also overshoot the call drop level in one circle each. During the peak hour, the rate is relaxed up to 3 per cent. Even in this category, the figure remained above this level for Airtel 2G in 11 out of the 22 telecom circles. State-owned BSNL, Tata

Teleservices (CDMA) and Vodafone also failed on the 3 per cent parameter in one circle each. Telenor's performance was found below par in Bihar and UP East circle, as per the report. RCom topped the list of offenders in the deposits refund category, followed by Tata Teleservices. As per Trai rules, a telecom operator should refund 100 per cent of the claimed deposit within 60 days, but RCom, including its subsidiary, breached this norm across 20 circles in the country. TTSL did not comply with the deposit rule in six telecom circles, according to the report.

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