

is considered as much an Indian as anyone at birth.

But the problem is that she has very little chance to head the country because the Congress has lost its shine. No doubt, the BJP has Hinduised politics but that is the dominant thinking which has caught the public imagination at present, thanks to Modi's leadership. This thinking may not last long since the Indian nation is basically pluralistic. The BJP itself seems to be conscious of this because there is some evidence that it is moving from the Right-of-the-Centre to the Centre.

The predicament that plagues the party is that its cadres come from the RSS. Maybe, that

where he is. Some of the ideas reflected in the policy which his government frames. This has torn asunder the fabric of the nation's secular temperament in the country and given rise to extremist groups in different regions.

I only hope that this is a passing phase. But as long as it lasts the preference for sons of the soil will be casting a shadow on the idea of India. This is unfortunate. I hope that the Prime Minister will rethink his policies so that the basic structure of the Constitution is in no way affected.

## The Moksha Factory Unrevealed

GARIMA MANI TRIPATHI

Until a few years ago, Baba Ramdev and his Patanjali Yogpeeth were primarily into propagating and popularising yoga as a household practice. In the process, he gave a new lease of life to yoga, an ancient Indian method of physical discipline having meditative and spiritual elements. The Yogpeeth was hardly into any business and was limited to producing herbal and organic products for household requirements. However, in the last few years, Patanjali's business turnover has increased manifold and today it is selling most items consumed in households on a daily basis. Suddenly, the Patanjali group is more of a business house than a Yoga school meant to popularise yoga.

When Baba Ramdev started popularising yoga through his morning TV shows and camps in different parts of the country, yoga was being touted not only as a remedy for many day-to-day lifestyle diseases, but also as a means

towards an end, that is, liberation from kinds of sufferings. In the classical philosophical text, yoga is perceived as a harmonious union of body and mind for perfection. Ancient Indian philosopher Patanjali in his book *Yoga Sutra*, propagated *Astanga* yoga that is about control over body, senses and mind. As per *Astanga* yoga, the stages of liberation is from *Yama* (meaning abstention and firmness) through *niyama* (internal and external purification) to *asana* (discipline of body with right posture) and finally to *pranayama* (control of breath through inhalation, retention and exhalation).

However, Baba Ramdev and his group's emphasis is only on *pranayama* which is the first stage since it is very easy to practice. They could have been to make yoga popular among masses through the most practicable form without having to give up other comforts as required in other stages. Therefore, the first three stages never taught to the masses that Gandhi taught in his daily life like adherence to *va* (truth), non-violence, non-stealing, celibacy and

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