

COLLECTED WORKS OF R.P. SARAF

(Volume III)

A collection of his writings from
Internationalist Democratic Viewpoint
(January 1995 - December 1998)

Editorial Board

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F O R E W O R D

The third volume of the Collected Works of R.P. Saraf was to be released on the second anniversary of his demise as a homage to our departed leader and guide. But due to certain difficulties this task was delayed by about 8 months. In 2010 too at the end of the month of June when a year had elapsed after Mr. Saraf's passing away, we paid tributes to his incessant memory by bringing out the first volume of his Collected Works in Hindi which was later in the same year followed by publication of the first and second volumes of his Collected Works in English.

The four years during which Mr. Saraf penned these writings was a period when he and his comrades had been in the midst of charting a path for the Internationalist Democratic Party which they had formed in the mid-1986 after bidding good-bye to Marxism-Leninism which he had been adhering to since 1946-47 after completing his formal education from Punjab University, Lahore. It was also a period when following the collapse of the USSR and the disintegration of the Socialist Bloc, the world had been, after a brief spell of uni-polar order, experiencing a multi-polar system; the state of Indian politics had been unstable and uncertain with the people becoming weary of all the unscrupulous political groups and even eleventh and twelfth Lok Sabha elections could do little to resolve matters; the nuclear explosions by both India and Pakistan had jolted the South Asian people as well as the world community; the popularity of the concept of regional cooperation for development had been growing in Asia; and an undeclared Indo-Pak war had been building in Jammu-Kashmir.

He dealt with all the above issues profoundly in his write ups of that period which had been published in the *Internationalist Democratic Viewpoint* of which he was the Editor, Printer and Publisher from its outset. He also gave away his views on a wider range of subjects. During these four years his focus was on India's national crisis perpetrated by its ruling political parties

which had been engulfing its national building process and hence he laid down his own blueprint regarding India's restructuring agenda, with an aim to establish a just and fair social order in India and the world which would be nature-friendly as well as people-friendly and having a general approach of scientific realism and social perspective of globalism or rational humanism. Mr. Saraf wrote as many as 15 articles on this subject.

The ongoing globalisation process and its implications too could not escape his observation and he took up such questions as the present state of human interdependence and its priorities, the present behaviour of human society, unjustness of non-proliferation treaty, right and wrong of N-weaponry, gender inequality in the present world, superpowerism in the multi-polar world, etc.

By globalisation he meant that the whole human community was ultimately going to become one social unit, with necessary changes in the present national structures. As he said, "In the course of this process, all human issues become global. As humankind addresses to these issues, there will logically be a harmonisation between the interests of human society and nature, on the one hand, and within human society itself, on the other. There is going to be a fair levelling off between high and low, rich and poor, gender inequality and other discrepancies between countries and within each country. The human community will become prosperous as a whole and not region or group-wise. To believe that in this epoch of globalisation, one country or a bloc can dominate others or prosper amidst backwardness, poverty and deprivation is a perversion in terms. At the moment, all basic human issues, having become global, will have to be tackled by each country in friendship and cooperation with other countries, especially the neighbouring ones."

South Asia and Jammu-Kashmir problem also grabbed most of his attention as this region was and continues to be one of the few major flashpoints in the world and he delved upon it on about two dozen occasions.

The biggest hurdle in the development of South Asia, he believed, was the Indo-Pak conflict over Jammu-Kashmir; the other impediments being the apprehension about India among the smaller countries, the bilateral irritants between India and every SAARC member, and the domineering 'big brotherly' role of India which has in the past tried to dominate its youngsters.

As for the Jammu-Kashmir problem, he proposed a just, fair and viable solution to it being the one that reconciles the respective national interests of both India and Pakistan, on the one hand, and fulfils the aspirations and concerns of all the ethnic groups of Jammu-Kashmir state, on the other. As he wrote, "Based on this principle, an appropriate option is the establishment of an Indo-Pak or SAARC Condominium over the entire Jammu-Kashmir state (which will handle only defence, foreign affairs and currency concerning this state), with full autonomy to each of the eight ethnic regions of Jammu-Kashmir under a federal setup. Such an arrangement will result in creating a partnership of India, Pakistan and Jammu-Kashmir people, on the one hand, and open the way for the development of SAARC, on the other."

Besides, he examined such questions as problems of minorities in the sub-continent, human rights, Punjab, nuclear explosion by India and Pakistan, role of NGOs, science-technology and engineering's role in sustainable development, the management of India's dryland and forests etc. The writings concerning all these matters and much more are included in the present book.

During this period Mr. Saraf also wrote about Gandhism in November 1995 and about *Hindutva* politics in February 1996, both of which were reprinted in somewhat modified form in September 2000. 'Understanding Historical Reality' written in March 1997 was republished with a lot of amendments in May 2002. Evolution of agriculture in history and state of Indian agriculture, harm done to it and its remedies—the three articles written in June-July 1998—were reshaped during June 2005 and March 2006 and published subsequently in *Nature-Human Centric Viewpoint*. We did not include these write-ups in the present volume, as they had already been included in first and second volumes respectively.

We have been publishing these works so that the readers could have a comprehensive view of Mr. Saraf's standpoint and its historical growth. Though a number of his old formulations had undergone transformation during the subsequent years, yet the genesis of his prevailing standpoint lay in his past theory and practice. In the last years of his life he had propounded Nature-Human Centric Viewpoint and had been working to replace the existing social-political order which is capital based, market led, individual or self oriented and headed by the money equipped

highly corrupt politicians with a Nature-Human oriented system. He had envisioned a system that considers environment and man as two top priorities and follows environmental promotion, fair equality, productivity, peoples led democracy and all sided transparency as its basic principles.

In the end, we would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Om Saraf who despite his busy schedule did a fine job in bringing out all the three volumes of R.P. Saraf's Collected Works in English. Though all the articles and writings contained in these three books had been published earlier, yet all credit of retrieving them first through scanning the originals and then by arduous editing, proof reading and page making goes to Mr. Om Saraf. Beginning from April 2010, he had a strenuous task of dealing with more than 1,700 pages in almost in a single year. In fact without his help it would have been nearly impossible for us to give present shape to these Works.

We are grateful to a few of Mr. Om Saraf's colleagues too who designed the Covers of these three volumes and checked page make-up, besides Mr. Mamman Singh who had gone through the final pages of the third volume.

—Editorial Board

C O N T E N T S

S.No.	Published	Article	Page
1.	February 1995	Future Of India And Pakistan Lies In Cooperation	1
2.	February 1995	Problem Of Minorities In India, Pakistan And Bangladesh	11
3.	May 1995	Copenhagen Social Summit	25
4.	May 1995	More On Question Of Human Rights With Special Reference To Punjab & Kashmir	28
5.	May 1995	What Type Of Future Awaits Our Nation?	37
6.	May 1995	Eighth SAARC Summit	41
7.	May 1995	An Uncertain Future	44
8.	May 1995	Cherar-e-Sharief Tragedy Reiterates Need For Trilateral Talks And Not Elections	50
9.	May 1995	NPT—An Unjust Pact, Needs UN Assembly Control	59
10.	May 1995	Supreme Court Directive On Common Civil Code; Real Issue Is Gender Equality	63
11.	June 1995	“An Undeclared Indo-Pak War In Kashmir”; Jammu-Kashmir People Can Be The Best Mediators	68
12.	June 1995	Forging Cooperation In South Asia—Problems And Prospects	79
13.	August 1995	An Unprecedented National Crisis And Our Option	86
14.	August 1995	Major Parties’ Credibility Crisis And Our Option	107
15.	August 1995	Still An Inequalitarian And Irrational World	114
16.	October 1995	Jammu-Kashmir Problem—Exploring It From A New Angle	124
17.	November 1995	Gender Equality—A Top Item Of World Agenda	132
18.	November 1995	Punjab Today—Standing Between Chaos And Order	143
19.	February 1996	India’s Moment Of <i>Satyamev Jayate</i>	152
20.	May 1996	<i>Hindutva</i> Politics Vs False Secular Politics: Two Faces Of Political Opportunism	178

21.	May 1996	1996 Poll Verdict Initiates A New Federal/ Confederal Process	188
22.	May 1996	Lok Sabha Elections in Jammu-Kashmir— Neither Free Nor Fair	199
23.	May 1996	A Note From The IDP To The APHC	204
24.	August 1996	IDP's Second Note To APHC For Discussion	209
25.	August 1996	IDP's Third Note To APHC For Discussion	214
26.	August 1996	Jammu-Kashmir Assembly Elections: Facts Speak For Themselves	217
27.	August 1996	Jammu-Kashmir Assembly Elections: No Genuine Democratic Process Possible Unless Preceded By Trilateral Talks	223
28.	August 1996	Jammu-Kashmir Assembly Elections: Old Wine In New Bottles	228
29.	August 1996	Jammu-Kashmir Assembly Elections: Neither Gun Nor Fake Elections Can Be A Route To Jammu-Kashmir Solution	233
30.	August 1996	Jammu-Kashmir Assembly Elections: Ballot And Bullet Going Together	240
31.	August 1996	Jammu-Kashmir Problem: Social Reality Demands A Politics Of Peace	246
32.	October 1996	How Is Human Society Behaving Today	255
33.	October 1996	India's Hour of Crisis	264
34.	October 1996	IDP's Eleventh Congress	275
35.	January 1997	Post-Election Jammu-Kashmir Scenario And Its Demands (A Note To APHC, November 26, 1996)	281
36.	January 1997	India's National Process Heading Towards An Uncertain Future	288
37.	January 1997	On Punjab Assembly Elections: IDP's Standpoint	297
38.	January 1997	Why Should The People of Barnala Vote For The Internationalist Democratic Party And Its Candidate	302
39.	January 1997	IDP's Agenda For India's Democratisation	306
40.	January 1997	IDP's Approach On Woman-Man Relations	308
41.	January 1997	IDP's Programme Concerning Poor, Houseless, Disabled, Refugees, SCs & STs, Religious And Cultural Minorities, Health-Care And Population Control	311
42.	January 1997	IDP's Approach Concerning Agriculture And Small, Middle And Rich Farmers And Rural Development in Punjab	313

43.	January 1997	IDP's Programme For Urban Infrastructure, Unemployed, Students, Youth, Administrative Services, Armed Forces, Ex-Soldiers And Trade And Industry	317
44.	January 1997	IDP's Programme For Urban And Rural Workers	319
45.	February 1997	Indo-Pak Peace Process And Jammu-Kashmir Problem	323
46.	February 1997	Post-Election Punjab Situation And Its Demands	333
47.	March 1997	An Attempt To Understand Historic Reality	339
48.	May 1997	Peace And Harmony In South Asia	370
49.	May 1997	Peace And Harmony In Jammu-Kashmir	374
50.	May 1997	1997 Budget Not Grounded In Economic Realities	379
51.	May 1997	Deve Gowda Replaced By Gujaral: India's Fumbling Political Process	386
52.	June 1997	Regional Autonomy—An Agenda Of Peaceful, Not Confrontationist Situation	396
53.	June 1997	Jammu-Kashmir Problem: New Social Realities And Past Lessons Demand New Initiatives	403
54.	June 1997	Fifty Years Of Indian Independence: Indian Minorities, Punjab Problem And Human Rights	411
55.	July 1997	What Should Be Done And How It Is To Be Done	418
56.	July 1997	A Review Of IDP's Theoretical And Practical Line	426
57.	August 1997	Pre-1947 And Post-1947 Indian Nationalism	438
58.	November 1997	Science-Technology And Engineering For Achieving Sustainable And Equitable Development	467
59.	January 1998	An Unsuitable System And Unscrupulous Style Pushing India Towards Disaster; India Needs A Restructuring Agenda	486
60.	March 1998	India's Instability Reflects Voters Troubled Mindset, Federalism Alone Provides Answer	502
61.	May 1998	Future Of India And Pakistan Lies Together But JK Is A Sine Qua Non For Both; Solution Lies In Joint Indo-Pak Control Over Jammu-Kashmir	527
62.	May 1998	Threat Comes From Inside, Not Outside (IDP's Statement On Indo-Pak N-Explosions)	534
63.	May 1998	Right And Wrong Of N-Weaponry	538

64.	May 1998	For Building A Prosperous South Asia, Make It A Conflict And Nuclear-Free Zone	544
65.	May 1998	Demand UN Assembly Control Over N-Weapons	548
66.	August 1998	Evolution of Agriculture In History	552
67.	August 1998	State Of Indian Agriculture Today	557
68.	August 1998	What Has Gone Wrong With Indian Agriculture	566
69.	August 1998	What Indian Agriculture Demands Today	571
70.	August 1998	India's 'Green Revolution' Agriculture In A Bind; Punjab faces A serious Agricultural Crisis	579
71.	August 1998	Challenges of India's Dryland Farming	592
72.	August 1998	Indian Forests Demand A Joint Management Of Forest Dwellers And Officials	596
73.	December 1998	Asia In A Multi-Polar World	603
74.	December 1998	New Economic & Political Situation In Asia— Its Tendencies And Prospects Of Development	609
75.	December 1998	Role Of NGOs In Strengthening Mutual Understanding, Security And Cooperation In Asia	614
76.	December 1998	Present State of Human Interdependence And Its Priorities	621
77.	December 1998	State Of Affairs In South Asia And Its Needs	627
78.	December 1998	Present Indian Realities And Their Demands	632
79.	December 1998	Signals From November 1998 Assembly Elections	643
80.	December 1998	On Jammu-Kashmir	645