

Organisational wizard, 'Chanakya'

Sunil Deodhar still remains a self-effacing colossus for the BJP and the 'Sangh'



Even a lay student of ancient Indian history knows how the Magadhan Brahmin 'Guru' Chanakya, a professor of the Taxila university, contemporary world's greatest university in the pre-Christian era, had groomed Chandragupta Maurya (321-297 BC) to replace Dhana Nanda (329-321 BC), the incompetent and repressive ruler of Magadha. Besides laying the foundation of Magadhan imperialism, 'Guru' Chanakya also authored a treatise on political science titled

'Arthashastra' which is studied even today in universities across the world as ancient Indian wisdom on politics and administration. This historical anecdote apart, what one can paraphrase from the ancient adage- 'behind every successful man there is a woman'- is that a successful man is invariably propelled ahead by a competent man.

Nothing illustrates the point better than the stellar role of an accomplished architect played by RSS 'Pracharak' Sunil Deodhar in the meteoric rise of Tripura's new and young chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb (47). Born of a journalist father and teacher mother in September 1965, Sunil Deodhar had his schooling and higher education in Pune, Maharashtra's cultural capital. But soon he fell for the ideals and social service programmes of RSS to which he had an abiding attraction since school days. He also gave up his job as a school teacher in suburban Andheri and the prospects of a happy family life to devote himself fully to RSS's nationwide mission and was subsequently 'loaned' to BJP in 2005. Having observed Deodhar's talent blossom with full petals the wise-heads of RSS had deputed him to Gujrat to help BJP and Modi win the assembly polls of 2012. 'What I remember most about the 2012 assembly polls in Gujrat is that I was posted in tribal dominated Dahod district with the assignment to mobilize tribal support for the party; I still remember

how tech-savvy Modi was even then as he persuaded everyone present in a meeting to have an e-mail ID; I was deeply impressed as it indicated Modi's foresight and capability to think and strategise in advance' said Deodhar in an interview. He had also by then launched his NGO 'My Home India' to help the people of northeast in the rest of the country in whatever way they needed and that strengthened his bonding with people of northeast.



Sunil, as he is fondly remembered in Meghalaya, his place of posting, had also worked tirelessly to lay the foundation of BJP in the tribal dominated state. He had picked up 'Khasi' language to communicate effectively with the tribal population and moved all over the state by a bicycle or a motor bike. But it was here in Tripura that he had started laying the foundation of BJP's spectacular victory in the just-concluded election after being posted here since early 2015. 'I was struck by the impoverished condition of tribals and non-tribal people here in the rural areas and hilly interiors of the state; I had taken a vow that as long as CPI (M) remained in



power I would not consume meat of any kind and I stuck to it till our success in the election' said Deodhar. Moving through the length and breadth of the state Sunil Deodhar managed to win over the confidence of the tribal and non-tribal people to lay the foundation for BJP's success over the three year period. It was a smooth and easy run after young Biplab Deb had been appointed the state party chief in early

2016. 'I do not wish to talk about myself much, this is not our culture; I will remain in Tripura as long as the party wants me to; I have great love for this state' said Deodhar. He has by now learned the tribal 'Kokborok' and Bengali languages and can freely communicate in both.

A great lover of music Sunilji, as he is known to the media, can sing from memory at least five thousand Hindi songs including 'Bhajans'. 'But my favourite is Lata Mungeshkar, her lilting melody gives me strength and inspiration and whenever I feel a little bit tired I listen to songs of Lataji and refresh myself' said Sunil Deodhar. A truly phenomenal memory which also helps him in socio-political work as evident from the outcome of the just-concluded assembly polls. At a time when there is no dearth of people flaunting their contribution to BJP's success, the gentle giant in Sunil Deodhar remains perennially self-effacing soul seeking the meaning and purpose of life in hard work for the people and the country embodied in the idea of 'Bharat Mata'! He is now in high demand to the BJP leaders and workers in West Bengal.

(Inputs from interview in cable channel)