

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## India Rises above Caste Barrier by Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'



On July 2, 2022, something unique happened in India. Droupadi Murmu got elected as the 15th President of India. Her elevation to the position of the country's head of state is hailed as a historic moment. This is primarily because Murmu is India's first tribal President. Murmu won the election by receiving 64.03 percent of the total votes polled.

Murmu's election as president brings a ray of hope among the tribals of India. It is, indeed, historic in the discourse of India's social justice politics as India not only has never had a president from the tribal community before. Murmu's inspirational journey from her humble origins as a tribal leader to the presidency is an undeniable testimony of India's democratic credentials.

The Indians, especially the tribal community and so-called backward class are celebrating the moment as a harbinger of a new India. Her background and her previous efforts to protect tribal land rights

during her stint as Jharkhand (a state in India) governor raise the expectations that as president she will boost the focus on the marginalization and the unprivileged community in the country and will ensure greater protection of these vulnerable sections of the society.

"In India, the president is the head of the state and is indirectly elected by the electoral college which is constituted of the members of the Parliament and members of all legislative assemblies. The Constitution lays down that the President should act as per the aid and advice of the prime minister and the Council of Ministers. However, that doesn't entail that the office of the President of India is entirely titular in nature. There are certain conditions under which the President of India can perform the indispensable function of providing a stable democratic government and preserving the sanctity of the Constitution. For instance, in case no party is able to get

an absolute parliamentary majority in the national elections or the ruling party has lost its majority, the president has the power to decide which party forms the government.

Another crucial discretionary power of the President of India is to ratify the bills passed by the Parliament. In case the president has reservations about the bill, she can send it back (except Money Bill) to the Council of Ministers with her recommendations. In case the president has reservations about the bill, she can exercise the discretionary

power of Veto by not taking any action on the bill—neither sign it nor send it back to the Council of Ministers for reconsideration. In that case, the bill remains pending till the end of the President’s tenure. “ (Observer Research Foundation, Ghosh Ambar Kumar, July 25, 2022)

The sanctity of the office of the president lies in remaining above partisan politics and offering stability to national unity. India seems to accomplish that by choosing Murmu as the supreme commander of the country.

**I Can't Wait Anymore  
Ashokkumar Lal**

Vision is weak, hearing is bad,  
Steps are wobbly not steadfast,  
Spirit is low and mood very sad,  
That's I feel since old age I had.

Kids mock me, I don't like dog,  
Noise stirs me, don't like horde,  
Often weary and remain bored,  
Sunshine no more, see only smog.

Twilight leads to sleepless night,  
Full of nightmare, I flee and fright,  
Since morning I wait for the night,  
During the night I wait for the light.

Nothing remains no joy anymore.  
My life is spent nothing to look for,  
I had my share of joy, glee galore,  
Good bye dear, now I am aboard.