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## ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: A ROLE MODEL FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

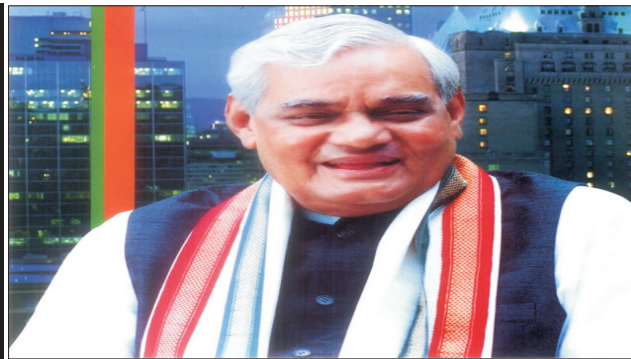
Ravichandra Walikar<sup>1</sup> and Dr. S.N.Hullannavar<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar Dept of Political Science.

<sup>2</sup>Associate Professor Dept of Political Science Karnatak Arts College Dharwad.

### ABSTRACT

**A**tal Bihari Vajpayee Was an Exceptional figure whose influence on Indian Parliamentary system cannot be quantified. A deep Thinker, Versatile genius, exceptionally gifted orator, eminent Academician, Brilliant political leader and an outstanding parliamentarian. He was elected to the Lok sabha nine times and twice to the rajya sabha, the only Parliamentarian to have been elected from four different states at different times UP, MP, Delhi and Gujarat. He was highly respected for his enlightening Contributions to the deliberations of the house. He was well known for his brilliant, strong and highly researched arguments and legendary oratorical skill. in the parliament he was spoken with authority on almost all aspects of Indian life. This article takes an account of his firm



convictions, clear thought and creative idea he made remarkable contributions in enriching our parliamentary institutions and overall development of our Nation. undoubtedly Vajpayee is a bright star in the galaxy of eminent parliamentarians our country has produced.

**KEYWORDS:** Atal Bihari Vajpayee, legendary oratorical skill, sports, environment, firm industry.

### INTRODUCTION –

**“ Parliament is the mirror of the time and symbol of the hopes, and aspirations of the society. Therefore, peoples acrimony, grudges, dearth and injustice, if any done to**

**them, are always reflected and must be reflected....(but) what is the need of stalling the proceedings for several days?”**

### ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has been on the central stage of national politics for a period longer than any other leader since independence. His parliamentary career commenced in 1957 and for four decades he has been influencing the politics of India both from inside and outside the parliament. His every public utterance is news and his speech's are listened to with attention by his friends and foes alike. If his imitable oratory, repartee and humour

capture the hearts of the people, his tolerance width of vision and reasoning base on facts and figures influence their minds. In parliament he has spoken with authority on almost all aspects of Indian life- whether it is international affairs, national budget, procedural matters in parliament, judiciary, education, sports, environment, firm industry, defence, social reforms, five year plan canter state relations. His speeches on an array of subjects were full of critical analysis and constructive criticism which made several parliamentarians better informed and clearer in perception.

He was determined to optimally utilize the forum of parliament for redressal of grievances of the people and the nation. Vajpayee always stressed the point that “it is not for relaxation but for serious work and in parliament, there is more than plenty to do.

“he believed that the aspirations of people should be reflected on the floor of parliament through their representatives. In parliament Vajpayee was determined to challenge those government policies and programmes which were not people oriented. In several instances, he offered his own interpretations. His speeches were logical; through provoking as well as analytically inspiring.

### HIS OUTSTANDING ORATORICAL SKILL

Much has been said and written about A.B. Vajpayee's oratorical skill. His choice of words, poetic language, debating skill and his wit and humour Linguistic excellence and the deep convictions with which he spoke mesmerized everyone and made him the role model of an eminent parliamentarian. He was one of the most articulate members of the house; no debate on any important issues would be completed without his informed participation. He is one of those who used Parliament as an educational forum as well as a political weapon and enhance the prestige of the parliamentary institution. His speeches covered a vast array and broad spectrum of subjects like the international situation, foreign policy, public policy, education, unemployment etc...

What distinguished his speeches was the fact that he always came well- prepared for a discussion. Through his knowledge –based, non partisan approach, he raised meaningful discussions in the house. His speeches loaded with his intellectual acumen and analytical skill left the house spell-bound and was listened to with rapt attention by everyone alike. His mastery over the language be it Hindi, English, Sanskrit had a special impact on the members; it was said of him that he had a Golden voice and silver tongue.

### A DEVOTED PARLIAMENTARIAN

Vajpayee belonged to that rare band of devoted parliamentarians who pursued politics not to gain anything but to give voice to genuine issues of the common man in the chambers of our legislatures. He had tremendous knowledge of parliamentary rules, practice and procedure. For him, the service of the masses was the only aim. And parliament was the most important institution to service that objective. Being an elected representative of the people it was an honour to Vajpayee and he believed that every member should endeavour to safeguard the trust and faith reposes in him by his constituents.

### A CONSTRUCTIVE PARLIAMENTARIAN

Atal Bihari Vajpayee has dedicated over sixty years of his life in service of the country. He served the country as a member of parliament for five decades and as prime minister of India for six years. He used the parliament as an educational forum as well as political weapon and hence the prestige of parliamentary institution. He did not mince words when criticism is due or warning necessary but his criticism has not hurt his opponents his sharp intellect and wit is almost tailor made for parliamentary debate. Vajpayee often rises above party politics consideration, and he always appreciated well taken opposition point of view. However his constructive role as parliamentarian is hidden in the documents of parliamentarian so well known he introduced 22 bills in all including 20 when in opposition of which nine were constitutional amendment bills and when he was the foreign minister of India they show is painstaking exercise in strengthening the democratic foundations of our country, his deep concern for health and welfare for the people faith in independence of judiciary, fanning money power in election and above all human touch towards weak and handicapped people. Shree Vajpayee has been elected to the Lok Sabha nine times and to the Rajya Sabha twice. A record by itself.

He has served on a number of important committees of parliament he was chairman, committee and government assurances ( 1966-1969) public accounts committee 1967-1970, member general purpose committee 1986, house committee and business adviser committee Rajya Sabha 1988 to 1990, chairman committee on petitions Rajya Sabha in 1991-92, chairman public accounts committee Lok Sabha 1991-1993, chairman standing committee external affairs 1993-1996.

At the time of Chinese aggression in 1962, Vajpayee played an important role in keeping the public morale high and arousing national feeling for extending full support to the armed forces. During the Indo-Pak war of 1965, the extended full cooperation to the government, putting aside all political difference and this was appreciated by the late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri because of Shri Vajpayee's political perspicacity and gift of

oratory; shri lal bahadur Shastri selected him to explain the Kashmir policy of the government of India to the African countries. For this purpose, Vajpayee visited Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Malawi as a member of a parliamentary delegation. His speech's created a stir in these countries. The Pakistan diplomatic missions could not hide the fact that their country had committed aggression in Kashmir.

Vajpayee does not believe in opposition for opposition's sake, nor is he ever a party to character assassination. His opposition has been based on the principles and policies. These press referred to his speech in the lok sabha on the Pondicherry licence scandal as the best speech of his parliamentary career. But there was not a single bitter word against the late Lalit Narayan mishra. His speeches during Bangladesh war were acclaimed as historic by even his opponents. It was due to nationalism view point that pandit Nehru nominated him to the national Integration council in 1962. He was also including in the reconstituted integration council in 1968. In reorganisation of his services to the country shri Vajpayee was in 1992 awarded Padma Vibhushana by the president of India. In 1994, the then prime minister P.V.Narasimha Rao decorated him as the best parliamentarian. In 2015 receives Bharat ratna India's highest civilian award. Life and works of this great man created an epoch-Making period in the history of Indian polity.

## CONCLUSION

Great Personalities are often the products of their own times. Political, Religious, Social, Economic and Cultural environment mould them and they in turn, remould it. It is also said that some make history and some are made by history. It is into first category that the Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. A leader of firm convictions, a champion of masses, as a unique parliamentarian, his ideas and ideals would continue to inspire the future generations and help inculcate the values of parliamentary democracy in the leaders and people of our country. As a constructive parliamentarian, foreign minister, prime minister, who made significant contributions towards the development and strengthening the nation. His intellectual honesty and objective viewpoint added lustre to his parliamentary life. Atal Bihari Vajpayee has left an indelible imprint in the annals of Indian parliament owing to his varied contributions.

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