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**Cover :** Prashikshan Varga for MP BJP MLAs

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इन्द्रियाणि पराण्याहुरिन्द्रियेभ्यः परं मनः ।

मनसस्तु परा बुद्धिर्यो बुद्धेः परतस्तु सः ॥

The senses are said to be greater than the body; but greater than the senses is the mind. Greater than the mind is the intellect; and what is greater than the intellect is He, the self.

**Bhagavadgita, Ch.3, Text 42**

**Editorial**

*We have a republic  
Let's make it real*

The sun has changed its course. So is the season gradually changing. The winter season is now making way for the spring season. The change in season is also heralding a change in the country's political and electoral atmosphere. All this change is making the political parties to gearing up for the great electoral battle ahead - Lok Sabha election due in April-May this year.

What happened in the country after change of government at the Centre in May 2004 will certainly make political observers say that whichever government may be voted into power in May, it will have to cope up with serious challenges left behind by the incumbent government. To find solutions to the burning problems of the country will be a gigantic task for the new government.

There is no country in the world which is not confronted with challenges. These should be there always. These are the very life of a nation. But the problem arises only when there is lack of effective leadership to take the tackle the problems head one. The challenges are growing and getting gigantic while those who have to surmount these are getting dwarfed. At the same time it is also true that we do have a galaxy of able leadership in some political parties who are devoting to their time and energy to do justice with their duties and responsibilities.

It is a sign of the strength of democracy that we have entered the 60<sup>th</sup> year of our republic. Yet, ironically, during the last 60 years we have failed to find 542 members whose conduct, with the exception of a few, is above board and nobody is able to raise a finger at them. There is virtual lack of commitment to the service of the Bart Mata. A time has come when people should resolve to send to Parliament only those individuals who are self-disciplined and vigilant public representations having before them the vision to usher India into a prosperous world power. Simultaneously the Ayaram-and-Gayaram culture that has, of late, crept in our politics too has to be purged from the Parliament premises whose only aim is to further their own selfish interests at the cost of the interests of the nation and weaken

**The very definition of a republic is 'an empire of laws, and not of men.'**  
--John Adams

the democracy by selling their conscious too often. These people are turning the democracy into *notecracy* (*NoteTantra*). To swell their vote bank they don't refrain from indulging in communalization of budget and go ahead with reservation on communal lines – something that is against the very letter and spirit of the Constitution. They take it a pride to provide glamour to the wretched life of crime and corruption.

Those who should rub their heels in jails are providing honour to the honourable houses of the people. On the strength of money and muscle power, there is end to mushrooming of leaders in the country. They are entering the houses of the people not to promote public good, but to further their own vested interests at the altar of national interest. For these self-seekers their own vested interest is much superior to that of the nation. They call religion as opium of humanity. Some of them live on the breath provided by Pakistan and other anti-national elements. The electorate of the country must rise to the occasion to kill these anti-national and anti-social dragons with the bullet of the ballot in the election to come.

The world renowned thinker Lee Kuan Yew had once said that India is in slumber and the moment it gets awake, it will cast a very deep impact on the world economy. He felt that Indians lack commitment and devotion towards their country. But he found these very qualities in abundance in the people of China. That is why despite China being the most populous country in the world, yet it has been able to revolutionise its economy and put the advanced nations in a great predicament. Unfortunately, India has enormous population yet it lacks sense of

commitment, responsibility, and discipline. On the other hand, we consider our license to do anything we want as our birth right.

All these years our country has not been able to make up its mind as to what should – and should not – be taught and what should – and should not – be shown to our children. Instead, we enjoy the liberty we enjoy the freedom to teach and see whatever we feel is in order. We are the slaves of our whims. The personal volition is proving superior to what the nation wants. It is the will of the nation and not of the individual that should reign supreme. Wish this should be happen in our country!

We have before us numerous national objectives to achieve. The routs of nationalism should get deeper and deeper. The country should get free from the bonds of casteism. Disparity should end and social harmony should prevail all over. Nobody should ever be able to cast an evil eye on the sovereignty and integrity of India. The tri-colour (Tiranga) should continue to flatter on our soil for ever. The spirit of

*Bharatiyata* (Indianness) should for ever blaze strong and stronger. The spirit of “Nation is mine - I belong to the nation” should always prevail. Our head should always remain high in the comity of nations. We should scale the Everest of development and progress. India should have a decisive role to play in the world. Unemployment should be a thing of past. Nobody should have to spend his night on the footpath. Such conditions should be created in which every citizen should feel a sense of pride to declare: “I am an Indian”.

We have to spread the message of our duty and devotion to the nation in every village and every corner of the country. The gulf between rural India and urban India should cease. The growing disparity between the poor and the rich has to be curbed.

The leadership of the country has to realise this objective through sincere work and conduct. Only then will we be able to bring smile on the face of Bharat Mata and move forward towards making her Vishwa Mata. ■

### *Madhya Pradesh BJP President*

## **Narendra Singh Tomar elected unopposed as RS member**

**From Our Correspondent**

Madhya Pradesh State BJP President Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has been elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha.

The by-election was necessitated by the demise of Shri Lakshmi Narayan Sharma, who still had about a year's tenure left. After this victory out of the total 11 Upper House seats from Madhya Pradesh, the BJP now holds 10 and the State's main Opposition Congress only one. ■



## Participate in House proceedings with devotion

Rajnath's advice to party MLAs

From Our Correspondent

**B**JP National President Shri Rajnath Singh on January 10 called on the legislators to take part in the proceedings of the Vidhan Sabha with devotion and commitment. It will not only strengthen the democracy but will also leave a mark of legislator's talent and personality.

Shri Rajnath Singh was inaugurating the two-day legislators' training workshop at BJP State headquarters at Bhopal.

He said a legislator has to play double role: he has to be sensitive towards the problem of his constituency and, at the same time, he should have commitment towards the party. He said with these responsibilities he has to fulfill his social commitments and duty towards the country.

"For successfully discharging duties, the legislators will have to be well-informed and down to earth. Homework plays an important role in the life of a legislator. This not only helps us to fulfill our accountability towards our people in the house but also helps us learn about the Parliamentary working," he added.

Recalling his days as a legislator in the UP Assembly, he said that the then Chief Minister Shri ND Tiwari was so much impressed with his debates that he called him in his room and patted his back. He called on the MLAs to keep away from arrogance and dutifully perform the work for which they have been elected.

Earlier, he paid floral tributes to Shri Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya and Shri Kushabhau Thakre and lighted the lamp on the occasion.

He said that Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan and State president Shri Narendra Singh Tomar have set an example for the State and the legislators should follow this.

Shun ego and work with devotion : Advani

Addressing the concluding session of the two-day *Prasikshan Varga* for BJP MLAs of Madhya Pradesh at Bhopal on January 11, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha and NDA's Prime Ministerial



candidate, Shri Lal Krishna Advani said that BJP is not just a political party; it is a nationalist movement. He advised the newly elected public representatives to work with self-confidence and shun ego in the discharge of their duties towards the people.

Shri Advani commenced his address by congratulating the people and the state party for the



grand success in the recent elections to Vidhan Sabha installing the BJP government once again.

Shri Advani said that it was because of the great role played by leaders like Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, Shri Kushabhau Thakare, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri Joshiji that the party has attained the present position in the country. We have to mould the party as per their *tyag* and *tapasya*.

Welcoming Shri Advani Madhya Pradesh State BJP President Shri Narendra Singh Tomar said that the party has chalked out its plan of action for the next three months to ensure that BJP records a creditable win in the coming Lok Sabha elections. Others present on the occasion included Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan, National General Secretary (Organization) Shri Ram Lal, National Vice-President Shri Vikram Verma, National Secretary Shri Prabhat Jha, MP and senior leaders Shri Sunderlal Patwa, Shri Kailash Joshi and others. State Vice-President Shri Anil Madhav Dave presented the highlights of the two-day *Prasikshan Varga*.

Shri Advani said that BJP is different from every other political party in the country. It has acquired recognition and standing in the eyes of the world.

Nationalism is the very foundation of BJP, he added.

Shri Advani said the objective of our party is to make the country great. There is no place for family-centric or caste based politics in the BJP.

Shri Advani called upon the public representatives to work with dedication, hard work, honesty and humility and to treat every person who comes to meet them with love and affection. He said wherever BJP has been in power it has established new milestones and standards of development and that is why people of the country want BJP-led NDA to be in power at Centre.

The Leader of Opposition said terrorism and rising prices are the two burning problems facing the country. Due to the recessionary trends, the jobs of about one crore people stand threatened.

Shri Advani said the people of the country are yearning to get rid of the present Congress led UPA government. People have great hope, faith and respect for BJP-led NDA. Shri Advani expressed hope that in the coming Lok Sabha elections BJP will record a still greater success in Madhya Pradesh.

The programme concluded with Madhya Pradesh Minister Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya thanking the participants in the BJP *Prashikshan Varga*.

Be easily accessible:  
Ananth Kumar

Earlier, addressing the participants, BJP National General Secretary Shri Ananth Kumar said, "The position of a worker in BJP is very



respectable and we should always be ready to protect his honour."

He said that it is our duty to be sensitive towards the issues agitating the minds of the people who voted us to power. "Being people's representative, we should be simple and easily accessible," he added.

He advised the legislators to be dutiful and called upon them to have transparent behaviour and to be near to the people.

Party unity and honesty paid in assembly elections : Prabhat Jha

Addressing the *varga*, BJP National Secretary Shri Prabhat Jha MP said the MLAs had their primary duty towards the people and they should reflect it with their conduct in the Legislative assembly.

He said, the newly elected MLAs have to learn a lot from their experience of the recent elections. Wherever the Party and MLA worked in cohesion and coordination and they were true and honest to the masses, they were rewarded by the people, he added.

He said the Party unity and excellent coordination between the government and the party organisation played a great role in our recent success.

He advised the MLAs to keep their fingers on the pulse of the people and have greater rapport with those who elected them. ■



## "Organisation is supreme", not the individual : Jaitley

Commenting on the exit of Shri Kalyan Singh, BJP National General Secretary said on January 21: "The organisation is supreme. Ever since the party was defeated under his leadership in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls in 2007, he had been sulking and had not attended any of the important party meetings. Neither has he given any opinion on important issues in the party."

Shri Jaitley said "Kalyan Singh's decision was of his own doing and that it was on expected lines". ■ (FOC)

## Obama takes over as President of USA

Barack Hussein Obama was sworn in as the 44th US President, taking his oath of office on January 20, 2009. In his inaugural address, he said "we know that our patchwork heritage is a strength, not a weakness. We are a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus - and non-believers."

The oath ceremony was witnessed by about 20 lakh people who had assembled in the Capitol Hill and viewed by billions of people all over the world. The outgoing President George Bush and Bill Clinton were present at the oath-taking ceremony. ■ (Agencies)



# Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors' Summit 2009

More than 8,500 MoUs for over Rs. 12 lakh crore investment

From Our Correspondent

The two-day 'Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors' Summit 2009' concluded on 13 January in Ahmedabad, with promises of investments of over Rs. 12 lakh crore in the coming years. Announcing this at the valedictory ceremony of the summit, Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi said more than 8,500 MoUs were signed between the State government and the intending investors, creating additional over 25 lakh job opportunities. The announcement was greeted with resounding noise of clapping with even foreign delegations and prominent industrialists from the country and abroad giving Shri Modi a standing ovation for the achievement by a State in attracting industrial investments at a time when the global economy was facing recession.

Drawing a comparison, Shri Modi pointed out that while the last three editions of the 'Vibrant Gujarat' summit in 2003, 2005 and 2007 together received promises for investment of over Rs 6.34 lakh crore, the 2009 summit alone had inked MoUs to invest 12 lakh crore. Before the beginning of the summit, the government had expected signing of about 3,000 MoUs and investments of about Rs. 10 lakh crore, which itself would have been more than double the investment promise of Rs 4.61 lakh crore in the last summit with over 61 per cent implementation.

Speaking on that occasion, both ESSAR group Chairman Shri

Shashi Ruia and Bharati group Chairman and immediate past President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Shri Sunil Mittal said these MoUs were not merely "paper works to be signed and forgotten." Giving their own examples, they said the industrial houses who have declared their commitment to invest in the State would be serious to implement the

developmental methods of Shri Modi ignoring his personal image should be "the recipe for all politicians." He also pointed out that it was the first time that his country had signed an MoU with a State instead of a country.

An overwhelmed Shri Mittal wondered what the other States would do when Gujarat alone had cornered so much of investments.



same considering the conducive industrial atmosphere in the State. Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group Chairman Shri Anil Ambani also said the "environment" in Gujarat was different than the rest of the country and in the world. Commending the efforts of Shri Narendra Modi, he said: "Here people know how to convert adversity into opportunity."

Sri Lankan Tourism Minister Shri M. Moragoda, who said his country also signed an MoU with the State government for development of mutual tourism, went to the extent of saying that he highly appreciated Shri Modi's "vision and foresight." He said the

He said the success of the Gujarat summit had also demolished the myth that the industrialists would not venture to come to the State ruled by a party opposed to the government at the Centre. The summit had also proved wrong that the Central government alone could drive the economy of the country. Shri Modi was the "best Chief Executive Officer" running a State instead of a company, he said.

We're proud of Modi: BJP

BJP National Spokesperson Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy on 15 January said that BJP is proud of having leaders like Shri Narendra Modi who symbolizes good governance. He

said, "We are also proud to have Chief Ministers like Shri BS Yeddyurappa, Shri BC Khanduri, Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Dr. Raman Singh. All, including Shri Narendra Modi, draw inspiration from party stalwarts like Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri LK Advani and by dint of their sheer labour and dedication they have created history in the areas of governance and development in their respective States," Shri Rudy added.

He said that it is a matter of pride for the party if the good works of Chief Ministers were acknowledged by corporate sector. He further said it only shows how progressive our CMs are and also shows that the BJP has a generation of future leaders". Shri Rudy launched a tirade against the Congress for doubting the figures about investment that different companies have pledged to make in Gujarat. "Everyone understands whose statistics would be correct, the Congress spokesperson's or that of the investors who were going to pump in money in the State," Shri Rudy added. ■

## I need no certificate on secularism : Modi

Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on January 9, dismissed a suggestion from a delegate of overseas Indians flocked to the Gujarat session at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to listen to him that he reaffirms his commitment to communal harmony so that he could be more welcome in the US, which had earlier denied him a visa.



"No one should preach secularism (to me). I need no certificate on secularism from any corner of the world," Shri Modi said, answering a question from an overseas Indian who said he could get the Barack Obama administration to lift the 'ban' on his visiting the US, only if he made a public commitment to communal harmony.

"Secularism is in our blood, our mythology, our philosophy. Harmony is part of our culture. We are dedicated to communal harmony and committed to the Constitution," Shri Modi declared.

He was speaking at the Gujarat session at the ongoing conclave of overseas Indians, which drew the highest attendance among state-specific sessions. The chief minister, who drew repeated applause from the audience as and when he spelt out details of his administration. Answering a query over pendency of cases in Indian courts he said that in 2003, Gujarat had 45 lakh cases pending before the courts. It went up to 1.10 crore over the years. However, by opening evening courts, extending working hours for regular courts and cutting down holidays, the pendency had been brought down to 22 lakh. "By 2010, it will be nil," he said. ■ (FOC)

### DDA Scam

## Reddy and Maken should resign : Goel

BJP National General Secretary, Shri Vijay Goel, has demanded the resignations of Union Ministers Shri S Jaipal Reddy and Delhi MP Ajay Maken for the alleged DDA scam. He also suggested the dissolution of DDA and formation of NCR Development Corporation to meet the growing housing demand.

In a Press Conference on January 21 Shri Goel held Urban Development Minister Shri S Jaipal Reddy and Minister for State Shri Ajay Maken directly responsible for the DDA flats scandal.

He said: "DDA has now been converted into a looting agency 'Property Dealer' whose only aim is to earn hefty profits by selling lands. The DDA was set up with the aim of providing plots and houses. But the DDA has slowly assumed the status of private builders and started earning heavy profits by auctioning housing and industrial plots."

Shri Goel further suggested that the NCR Development Corporation be set up after dissolving the DDA and the proposed Corporations be kept free from Governmental

pressures. He added that Delhi is reeling under the pressure of population and there is no space for habitation left.

"When there is a shortage of about 26 lakh homes for the citizens in Delhi, what was the need for inviting applications from across the country? Many of the allottees from outside Delhi will just take the possession of the flats through draw and lock them up or sell them. The Government should have a mechanism to control and give homes to the needy," he added. ■ (FOC)

# Let's Empower Young India to Build Stronger India

From Our Correspondent

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and NDA's Prime Ministerial candidate Shri LK Advani unveiled a statue of Swami Vivekananda in front of the Ramakrishna Ashram in Bangalore, on 12 January (National Youth Day). Addressing a huge gathering, Shri Advani said, "Swami Vivekananda was a luminous star that cast its radiant light at a time when India was passing through one of its gloomiest nights. The defeat in the First War of Independence of 1857, and the bloody suppression that accompanied it, had created despair and despondency among the people. It even generated an inferiority complex in a section of the population, newly educated in English, that the British were ruling India because they were a superior race and had a superior culture. Colonialism of the mind is always the worst form of colonialism. India's glorious past was being derided, her spiritual heritage and cultural mores were being denigrated, and many Indians had begun to accept that 'civilizing' this ancient civilization was a "White Man's Burden".

It was at such a grim time that Swami Vivekananda roared like a lion. He awakened Indians from their slumber. He injected patriotism and national pride into the veins of our people. He ignited young minds with

words like the ones below:

- ▶ "Brothers and sisters, the long night is at last drawing to a close. Miseries and sorrows are disappearing. Ours is a sacred country. She is gradually waking up, thanks to the fresh breeze all around. Her might no one can overcome."



physique. You should shape your mind through study and meditation. Only then will victory be yours."

- ▶ "I loved my motherland dearly before I went to America and England. After my return, every particle of the dust of this land seems sacred to me."

As a student in Karachi, where I spent the first twenty years of my life, and as a young *Swayamsevak* of the RSS, which I joined at the age of 14, I was myself deeply influenced by the thoughts of Swami Vivekananda. The influence was all the greater because it was reinforced by one of his greatest disciples,

Swami Ranganathananda, who was then the head of the Ramakrishna Mission in Karachi. I used to attend Swami Ranganathananda's weekly discourses on the Bhagavad Gita, which he would interpret from the perspective of the teachings of Swami Vivekananda.

Shri Advani said Vivekananda was not a political personality. He never took part in any political activity associated with India's Freedom Movement. Nevertheless, he became one of the greatest inspirers of the movement because he re-energized the spirit of nationalism with the mighty force of his ideas and idealism. Let me recall

- ▶ "Are you prepared for all sacrifices for the sake of our motherland? If you are, then you can rid the land of poverty and ignorance. Do you know that millions of our countrymen are starving and miserable? Do you feel for them? Do you so much as shed a tear for them?"
- ▶ "Have you the courage to face any hurdles, however formidable? Have you the determination to pursue your goal, even if those near and dear to you oppose you? You can be free men only if you have confidence in yourselves. You should develop a strong

here the words of Swamiji, when he returned to India in 1897 after his hugely successful tour of Europe and America, during which he also delivered his historic address to the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893. His ship landed in Madras, where he was accorded a rousing welcome. In his reply, he said something prophetic:

For the next fifty years ... let all other vain gods disappear for the time from our minds. This is the only god that is awake, India, our own race... These are all our gods — men and animals; and the first gods we have to worship are our own countrymen. Swamiji had given this clarion call ‘for the next fifty years’ in 1897. Exactly fifty years later, India won freedom from colonial rule.

He said Vivekananda captured the imagination of Indians, belonging to both pre- and post-Independence generations, because he was unlike most traditional spiritual leaders of India. Although he was proud of India’s past, he was not blind to the ills that had crept into our society. He did not mince words in exhorting his people: “You rejoice that you belong to the race of the great sages. But until those who belong to the upper classes help to uplift the downtrodden, and until exploitation ends, India will only be a grave. May Mother India step forth anew from the humble dwelling of the peasant! May she appear in the hut of the fisherman! May she step forth from the cottages of the cobbler and the sweeper! May she become manifest in godowns and factories! May the song of New India echo and reverberate amidst mountains and in forests and valleys!”

Shri Advani said Swamiji was a Hindu monk who presented the true face of Sanatana Dharma both to

Indians and to people abroad. Although he exhorted Hindus to be proud of India’s spiritual heritage, he respected all other faiths and never hesitated to extol their good aspects. His writings and speeches, especially his celebrated speech at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893, have a universal appeal. With their emphasis on tolerance, harmony and mutual assimilation, they provide the right guidance to today’s world, which is threatened by the ideologies of

***Shri Advani said India today is a young country. We have the youngest population in the world today. Our children and our young men and women are our richest resource. They are also the brightest sources of hope for India’s future.***

exclusivism, extremism, terrorism and militarism.

He said Swamiji’s ideas speak to the modern mind because he was very modern in his outlook. Always open to new ideas, he deeply understood the power of the revolutionary advances in industry, science and technology for bringing about India’s renaissance. He enthusiastically blessed Jamshedji Tata’s idea of setting up an indigenous steel plant in mineral-rich eastern India and the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. He actively campaigned for the establishment of IISc by sending his worthy disciple Sister Nivedita and three others to England to meet British authorities. Swamiji urged the youth to be full of faith but free of fear. While he emphasized spiritual strength, he exhorted them not to neglect physical, mental and other

strengths in life. He said, “You will be nearer to God through football than through the study of the Gita... You will understand the Gita better with your biceps, if your muscles are a little stronger.” How relevant these words are to our students and youth even today!

Shri Advani said India today is a young country. We have the youngest population in the world today. Our children and our young men and women are our richest resource. They are also the brightest sources of hope for India’s future. I was recently reading Bangalore-based Shri Nandan Nilekani’s book *Imagining India: Ideas for the New Century*, in which he describes the tremendous “Demographic Advantage” that our country enjoys. But he also cautions that this potential demographic resource can be harnessed only by empowering our children and youth with good education and productive skills.

Shri Advani further said, “today, on the occasion of National Youth Day, I would like to present five ideas for empowering Young Indians so that they can build a stronger, more prosperous and more secure India. If elected, a future NDA Government at the Centre would pursue these ideas vigorously with appropriate policies and programmes.

**1. Education for Man-Making and Nation-Building:** We have seen how quality education has enriched a small part of India’s demographic resource. Our well-educated and highly talented young professionals have scripted many success stories, many of them in Bangalore itself. These young achievers have made India proud, and raised India’s prestige globally. But imagine how much more India would accomplish when every



young Indian is similarly empowered with good education. And by good education I refer to what Swami Vivekananda described it as “Education for Man-Making and Nation-Building.” I believe that it is our moral duty to ensure that every Indian child irrespective of caste, religion, class or language grows to her or his fullest potential.

**2. Physical, Mental and Spiritual Health:** Health is the foundation and a pre-requisite for happiness and progress. We should revolutionize the healthcare system in India by ensuring that the basic needs of every citizen are taken care of. Facilities for sports, recreation, adventure, yoga, meditation and nutrition will have to be expanded manifold. Promotion of excellence in sports must be made a national campaign. After all, Sachin Tendulkar, Vishwanathan Anand, Sania Mirza and Abhinav Bindra are popular not only because of their individual achievements. Rather, it is because their achievements make every Indian proud. We should have hundreds of them in the years to come. Similarly, the limitless cultural and artistic talent among our youth should receive adequate opportunities to show their class on the national and international stage. All this will require a massive rejuvenation of governmental and non-governmental institutions. To begin with, we should create sports facilities in every school, a sports stadium in every taluka, and a youth hostel in every district.

**3. Employment-Intensive Economic Growth:** Today, when job losses have become widespread due to economic recession, the greatest concern of young Indians is employment. Although India has achieved relatively higher rates of GDP growth in the post-liberalisation era, this growth has not resulted in

a concomitant increase in employment opportunities. This can lead to ruinous consequences. Our economic policy must therefore ensure productive employment to every able-bodied individual.

**4. Promotion of Patriotism and National Values:** I have always believed that young people are innately patriotic and idealistic. Their patriotism and idealism can be and should be further nurtured by enabling them to participate in activities that make them more knowledgeable about India’s history, culture, our diverse spiritual and scientific heritage, and our past and contemporary achievements. For this, it is necessary to create immensely more opportunities for our students, especially those belonging to disadvantaged backgrounds, to travel across the country. For example, places like the Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanyakumari should become mandatory destinations for school excursions. (I played a small role in the establishment of this Memorial in 1970, by assisting Eknathji Ranade, who was the mastermind of this project.) The library movement has to be vastly expanded by promoting good literature. And the power of the Internet must be fully harnessed to promote national integration.

**5. Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam - Promotion of Volunteerism among the Youth:** Like patriotism, the spirit of voluntary service comes naturally in young age. This needs to be nurtured and directed to accomplish big and challenging tasks in nation-building. Is it not possible, by revamping programmes like NCC and NSS, to channelise the enormous energy of our students and youth to achieve goals such as Swachha Bharat (Clean India), Swastha Bharat (Healthy India),

Saakshar Bharat (Literate and Educated India), and Surakshit Bharat (Secure India)? Is it not possible, for example, to mobilize all the resources of the nation – the voluntary service of the youth, the blessings and participation of religious leaders, and the financial, administrative and policy resources of the central and state governments – to undertake a massive nationwide campaign to clean up our holy rivers, the places of pilgrimage, and our own cities and towns, on a sustainable basis? Is it not possible to revamp and vastly expand the scope of NCC and NSS in our schools and colleges so that every student gets to serve the nation in some ways? It is possible. Indeed, it is necessary. As a first step, even before a comprehensive plan is drawn up by the future Government, I appeal to my young friends to take up in their own neighbourhoods, educational institutions or workplaces a national service campaign that may be called *EK KAAMDESH KE NAAM*. As a matter of fact, tens of thousands of young people are already engaged in such voluntary activities – tree plantation, blood donation, literacy drive, tuitions for poor students, care of the elderly, promotion of sports, arts and culture, etc. I urge them to write to me about their activities and these shall be publicized on my website [www.lkadvani.in](http://www.lkadvani.in).

As I said, these will be the commitments of a future NDA Government. To aim at anything less would not be a befitting commemoration of Swami Vivekananda’s Jayanti.

Apart from him Karnataka Governor Shri Rameshwar Thakur, Chief Minister Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa, and the former Chief Minister, Shri S.M. Krishna were present on this occasion. ■

## “Pradesh Bachao, Jail Bharo” agitation in Uttar Pradesh **BJP demands CBI inquiry into murder of engineer in U.P.**

- *Several senior leaders of the party court arrest in different parts of the State*
- *President of U.P. unit Shri Ramapati Ram Tripathi led the demonstration in Kanpur*
- *Nearly 24,000 Karyakartas and leaders were arrested during the protest*

The UP Unit of BJP organized a demonstration in Uttar Pradesh on January 12 against the Mayawati Government. Participating in the “Pradesh Bachao, Jail Bharo” agitation in Kanpur BJP U.P unit President Shri Ramapati Ram Tripathi, demanded a CBI inquiry into the murder of the PWD engineer in Auraiya last month. Shri Tripathi, was among the BJP workers who were lathi-charged by the police in Kanpur, causing injuries to some.

BJP had also been agitating in protest against alleged extortion by BSP functionaries to raise funds for Chief Minister Mayawati’s birthday on January 15.

In Lucknow, the BJP staged a massive demonstration near the District Collectorate and submitted a memorandum to the district administration demanding a CBI inquiry and dismissal of the Mayawati Government. The party leader in charge of the BJP’s UP



affairs, former Member of Parliament Shri Kalraj Mishra, Leader of the BJP Legislature Party Shri Om Prakash Singh, and former Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly, Shri Lalji Tandon, led the demonstrators in the State capital.

According to the Lucknow district administration, nearly 24,000 BJP workers and leaders were arrested during the protest. The

police used water cannons to disperse the demonstrators. The spokesperson of the party’s State unit claimed that 30,000 party men courted arrest in Lucknow.

Former Union Minister Shri Shahnawaz Hussain in Agra, and Shri Manvendra Singh, Shri Ravindra Shukla and Shri Mahendra Singh in Jhansi were the other BJP leaders who courted arrest.

Member of Parliament Shri Yogi Aditya Nath and former Ministers Shri Surya Pratap Shahi and Shri Surya Pratap Shukla led the protest in Gorakhpur.

The BJP spokesman said that over one lakh people courted arrest all over the State on January 12.

It is important to note that the agitation of the BJP, which was launched on January 1, entered its third phase on 12 January with several senior leaders of the party courting arrest in different parts of Uttar Pradesh. ■



**Shri Narendra Modi participating in the International Kite Festival 2009 held in Ahmedabad (Gujarat).**



## Raman Singh: Is it wrong to fight Naxal terror?

*Dr Raman Singh who began his second term as the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh in December 2008, discusses the state BJP's development agenda for the next five years and speaks up about anti-Naxalite movement, Salwa Judum, in his interview to the Indian Express, recently.*

➤ ***What are the priorities of your government for this term?***

Other than the Naxal menace, lack of infrastructure and development is one of the basic problems in Chhattisgarh, where more than 45 per cent of the people live below the poverty line (BPL). Among the schemes that have been chalked out to benefit the poor are subsidized rice, agricultural loans at a 3 per cent rate of interest, free power of up to 5 Hp for irrigation pumps and a bonus of Rs 270 per quintal - the highest in the county- on paddy procured on support price.

➤ ***The subsidized rice scheme and bonus to farmers on paddy procurement alone will incur an annual expenditure of about Rs 1,500 crore. How will the government fund such schemes?***

We will make provisions for all these schemes in next year's Budget. We will also adopt innovative measures for resource mobilization.

➤ ***More than half the 18 districts in Chhattisgarh are affected by Naxalism. How does the government plan to deal with the situation?***

Naxalism is a national problem affecting more than 30 crore people spread over many states. The Centre and the states facing this challenge have already geared up to tackle the problem through multi-pronged strategies. But Bastar is the only region where the local people themselves have stood up against the Naxalites (Salwa Judum). The Punjab problem was solved after the people turned against the militants. Bastar tribals showed the way and this will also happen in other states. Creating awareness among the people and development will also lead to a solution.

➤ ***For about 18 months or so, there have been no known Salwa Judum rallies or public meetings. Has Salwa Judum lost its momentum, or has it simply gone underground?***

People are yet to understand Salwa Judum. It is not

an agitation, dharna or demonstration but a non-violent movement against Naxal violence. It is a spontaneous movement of the people, who were driven to desperation by more than three decades of bloodshed. The so-called intellectuals opposing Salwa Judum can't comprehend it. Is it wrong to fight against Naxal terror? Naxals butcher innocent people, blow up school buildings. When the tribals rise in protest, there are 'highly educated' people who cry foul over it. Their perceptions will change only if they visit Bastar and understand the sufferings of the tribals. We are not worried about such criticism. It's the state government's responsibility to give security to the tribals for the peace movement.

➤ ***What about complaints of human rights violations by Salwa Judum activists and fake encounters in Bastar? A controversy is still raging over a recent encounter in a South Bastar village in which 17 people, including women were killed.***

An inquiry has been ordered into the November 9 encounter following the allegations. We have also initiated action on the cases pointed out by the Human Rights Commission. But though we will always investigate such complaints, some attempts are being made to tarnish the state's image, using the excuse of human rights violations. Unfortunately, when Naxalites kill civilians and security personnel and uproot power lines, no one talks about the rights of these victims.

➤ ***What steps are being taken to fulfill the agenda of development of Naxal areas, particularly in Bastar?***

MoUs had already been signed with Tata Steel, Essar Group and the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) in our last tenure for setting up steel plants in Bastar. Now we are looking to ensure that these projects are implemented on time. Similar development initiatives have also been proposed in Naxalite-infested Sarguja region. ■

## BJP wants Centre to stop Bangla infiltration : Ravishankar

**M**ounting pressure on the Congress led UPA Government at the Centre to plug all loopholes in the anti-terror mechanisms, the BJP has asked the Centre to effectively check infiltration from Bangladesh, since the Union Government had admitted that infiltration from across the eastern borders was a threat to the nation.

Interacting with the media persons in New Delhi on January 12, BJP National Spokesman Shri Ravishankar Prasad remarked that its vote bank consideration never allowed the Congress led UPA Government to consider Bangladeshi infiltration a serious problem. "It is curious to learn that, with just four months left for the Government, Union Home Minister Shri P Chidambaram has found Bangladeshi infiltrators a threat to the nation, causing demographic changes".



Shri Ravishankar Prasad said that if Union Home Minister, Shri Chidambaram was really serious, then the Government should take immediate steps to deport all illegal Bangladeshi immigrants. Start it from Assam, which is the most affected State and ruled by the Congress party. A monthly quota should be fixed for the affected States so that they could deport illegal immigrants and keep the Central Government informed of the proposed action, Shri Prasad said. ■ (FOC)

## SC says stop all benefits to Bangla immigrants

**T**aking serious note on problems posed by illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, Chief Justice of India K.G. Balakrishnan on Thursday said a mechanism should be developed so that the influx of migrants could be halted.

"A situation should be created to ensure that they (illegal Bangladeshi migrants) do not lead a normal life. They would like to stay if they get better facilities and are able to send their children to school and travel without restrictions. No country will allow this," he said while hearing two PILs highlighting the problem.

Balakrishnan said education, employment, ration and other benefits should be restricted to them and anyone providing employment to any illegal migrant should be punished.

He said the Bangladeshis were probably enjoying more privileges than Indian citizens. A national identity card for citizens has become essential to separate the wheat from the chaff, he suggested.

"A message should be sent by taking stern steps... they will be afraid (to enter the country) if they land in jail, he said.

After the Centre informed the court that there was a proposal to issue multi-purpose national identity cards to citizens, he directed the government to submit a report within eight weeks.

Additional solicitor general Amarendra Sharan, appearing for the Centre, said the government is taking steps and it believes illegal Bangladeshis have no right to stay in the country.

Balakrishnan said the government should direct village

authorities to register citizens and record all births. It wouldn't be a tough job in this age of computers, he added.

The petitioners alleged that the government was not doing enough—such as the fencing on the Indo-Bangla border - to prevent Bangladeshis from entering the country.

The apex court said the government should set up adequate number of tribunals across the country to deal with cases involving illegal migrants. It should post adequate forces on the India-Bangladesh border and expedite the ongoing fencing along the border.

The court allowed a plea by the Centre to give eight weeks to file a status report on all these issues. ■

(Courtesy : Mail Today)

# BJP demands fresh election

From Our Correspondent

The Congress-led UPA Govt. at Centre on January 19, 2009 imposed President's rule in Jharkhand, ending a 14 days long drama that began after JMM Chief Shri Shibu Soren was forced to resign as CM following his defeat in the Tamar bye-poll on January 8, 2009.

Despite every effort at permutation and combinations to stick to power, UPA failed to reinstall another government in Jharkhand and was left with no other option but to go in for President's rule because Soren was adamant on installing his party MLA Shri Champai Soren as his successor, much against the wishes of the UPA leadership. The assembly will remain in suspended animation.

UPA has kept the hope of stitching another government before the Lok Sabha poll. It dreads to face the electorate once again so that people are given a chance to give a mandate to a new government.

State elections are due in early 2010.

Shri Shibu Soren tried his best till the last to stick to the post after losing election, much against moral ethics and democratic spirit. He should have stepped down from the post of chief minister the moment he lost the bye-election.

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) Chief Shibu Soren sworn in as Chief Minister of Jharkhand in August last year and needed to be elected to the state assembly within a period of six months as per provisions in the Constitution. That period ends on February 27.

Shri Soren suffered the ignominy of losing the bye-election to a lesser known

candidate by more than 9000 votes. It indicates decreasing popularity as Guruji. His rejection by the people in by-election has shown growing maturity of voters and their being judicious in using

their franchise.

Meanwhile, Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded immediate dissolution of the Jharkhand Assembly and fresh elections in the State. ■

## UPA's relief package for *Kisans* has not worked : Advani

During an interaction with a group of *kisan* representatives from various parts of the country in New Delhi, on January 13 the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri LK Advani told them that relief packages announced for farmers by the Congress-led UPA Government at the centre had "not worked" and promised far-reaching policy and pragmatic measures to revive agriculture if the NDA is voted to power.

Shri Advani said the UPA Government had announced a farm loan waiver to the tune of Rs 75,000 crores in the last budget. But the relief packages announced by the Government have clearly not worked, since farmers' suicides have continued in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh and both of which have Congress and Congress-led Governments."

He also took note of the suicides by handloom weavers in recent months in Andhra Pradesh. "This is a totally unacceptable situation and a future NDA Government, if elected to office, will take the most far-reaching policy and strong measures to revive Indian agriculture," Shri Advani added.

Shri Advani also promised to initiate "revolutionary measures" to

promote agriculture-based value-addition industries in rural areas. Development of rural infrastructure like roads, power, irrigation and storage facilities will also receive a massive fillip, he said.

He said 60 per cent of the country's population was dependent on agriculture and if this sector is "properly promoted", it could produce largest number of employment opportunities. Shri Advani also lamented the decreasing share of agriculture to India's GDP. ■

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Global Summit of the Jain International Trade Organization in Ahmedabad

# Terrorism is the most extreme and inhuman form of violence : Advani

From Our Correspondent

**I**naugurating the Global Summit of Jain International Trade Organization (JITO) in Ahmedabad, on January 10 the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri LK Advani said I have participated in many conferences of business platforms such as FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM. These organizations are focused almost entirely on business and economy. But this conference is different. This is because the JITO does not concern itself only with trade matters. Its outlook and activities are far more holistic, embracing many other aspects of life and society. He said JITO's philosophy is encapsulated by five noble commitments: Seva (Service of Humanity), Shiksha (Education), Arthik Sudharata (Economic Uplift), Samajik Utkarsh (Social Progress) and Adhyatmik Unnati (Spiritual Elevation). I compliment your organization because it is actively promoting programmes in each of these areas.

Jainism's holistic approach to life

Shri Advani said this holistic approach to life is not surprising because Jainism itself presents a profound and all-encompassing outlook towards life. Its ideals like satya, ahimsa, and *aparigraha* are both universal and eternal in their relevance. And in every century,

Jainism has produced saintly figures who have both embodied these ideals. In our own times, I can think of two venerable personalities – Acharya Tulsi and his worthy disciple Acharya Mahapragya. I consider it my good fortune that I have sat at the feet of both these great Acharyas.

He said one of the great



qualities that I have observed among Jain organizations is how they have tried to follow the teachings of the Tirthankars to practice philanthropy by enhancement of business. The spirit of volunteerism and social service that they display is truly remarkable. I remember that, at the time of the massive earthquake in Kutch and other parts of Gujarat in 2001, some of the best relief and humanitarian work was done by Jain organizations. I commend JITO for supporting this praiseworthy tradition.

Jainism the most ancient Green Movement in world history

Shri Advani said in popular consciousness, Jainism is associated with its insistence on ahimsa or non-violence. Indeed, the greatest apostle of nonviolence in the modern era, Mahatma Gandhi, has written in his autobiography that he had a Jain 'spiritual mentor', a young diamond merchant named Shrimad Rajchandra. We often do not appreciate why Jainism attached such paramount importance to ahimsa. However, we should remember that two of the greatest challenges before the world today Terrorism and Climate Change are both manifestations of violence.

He further said terrorism is of course the most extreme and inhuman form of violence. And we have seen its evil face in Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Delhi, Bangalore, Guwahati and, most recently, in Mumbai. Violence of this kind must be put down with a firm hand. But there is another form of violence which the world has been much slower to recognize, and much more hesitant to take firm action against. I am referring to the violence being inflicted on Mother Earth by our materialistic civilization. The destruction of the environment, which is evident in the alarming levels of pollution of our land, water

and air resources and which is now climaxing in Climate Change, has catastrophic implications for man and other species on our planet.

He said it is when we reflect on the challenge of Climate Change that we begin to appreciate the enormous contemporary relevance of the Jain philosophy of ahimsa and jiva daya. We realize that Bhagwan Mahavir and the other Jain Tirthankars were great environmental conservationists. They taught us that we human beings are merely trustees of this planet. We need to re-learn their teachings in our times. If we do so, we realize that eco-friendliness is not a mere fashionable phrase, it has to be interwoven into our development paradigm and also into our day-to-day living. In a sense, we all have to become *adivasis* or tribals who know how to exist in harmony with the earth. The earth takes care of us, and so we have to take care of her. In this sense, Jainism is the most ancient Green Movement in world history.

Shri Advani said I would like to assure the audience here, and the people at large in our country, that, in the event of the BJP and the NDA elected to form the next government in New Delhi, we shall take appropriate steps to deal with both forms of violence – Terrorism and Climate Change.

**Vibrant Gujarat: A role model for other states**

Shri Advani said this conference is taking place at a time when Gujarat is once again hosting another prestigious meet: The Vibrant Gujarat summit. This annual event has now become an advertisement, both nationally and internationally, for the highly impressive achievements of the Government of Gujarat, under the leadership of its dynamic Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

## 'Aiye, Chura -Dahi khaiye'



On the occasion of Makar Sankranti and Pongal on January 14 'Aiye, Dahi-chura khaiye' was celebrated at BJP's Central Office in New Delhi. These festivals are celebrated in almost all parts of the country in myriad

cultural forms, with great devotion, fervor and gaiety.

BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh and NDA Prime Ministerial candidate, Shri Lal Krishna Advani and many other senior leaders joined the celebrations and greeted those present.

About 3000 people including party workers, senior leaders, journalists and writers took part. Others who joined the gathering included former Union Minister Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, acting NDA Convenor Shri Sharad Yadav, General Secretary (Organization) Shri Ram Lal, BJP Headquarters Incharge Shri Shyam Jaju, BJP spokespersons Shri Rajeev Pratap Rudy, Shri Ravi Shanker Prasad and Shri Prakash Javadekerlong with Shri Shah Nawaz Hussain, Shri Dileep Singh Judeo, Shri Saudan Singh and Shri R.K Sinha . ■ (FOC)

Even our political and ideological opponents have to grudgingly recognize that Gujarat has now become the No. 1 destination for investments. Recently, a Member of Parliament from Kerala belonging to the CPI(M) publicly lauded Shri Modi and said that the Communist-led Government in Kerala should emulate the example of Gujarat.

Gujarat today is a role model for Good Governance, for Development and an uncompromising approach to Security. It has also set an example for an uncompromising approach to Corruption. Let me assure you that a future NDA Government in New Delhi will replicate this model nationally. We shall take bold and quick steps to revive the economy out of the recessionary crisis that it

is in today. Our policies will help create more employment, self-employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for young Indians. In this, we would actively seek the cooperation of organizations like JITO. Shri Advani further said the successes of Indian entrepreneurs in recent times, both in India and abroad, have been spectacular. But as Gandhiji used to exhort, business without ethics is sin. Even if a few business organizations indulge in unethical practices, they bring a bad name to the business community as a whole. I am saying this I am distressed by the recent shocking disclosures about financial fraud in a major IT company in Hyderabad. Corporate India must put its house in order. The Government cannot turn a blind or lenient eye to such fraudulent practices. ■

# Contribution of Swami Vivekananda and Sri Aurobindo towards regeneration

By JAGMOHAN

Swami Vivekananda and Sri Aurobindo were the two towering figures of the Indian renaissance who contributed most to the regeneration of the Indian mindscape and the consequent reflowering of the Indian culture. About the former, whose birth anniversary was observed on January 12, the latter had recorded: "British rule has been the record success in history in the hypnosis of a nation. It persuaded us to live in a 'death of the will', creating in ourselves the condition of morbid weakness the hypnotist desired, until the master of a mightier hypnosis laid his finger on India's eyes and cried, 'Awake'. Then only was the spell broken, the slumbering mind realised itself and the dead soul lived again."

This awakening created a great turning point in Indian history. For about a thousand years after the fall of Harsha's empire, decay and degeneration had set in, and the Indian mind had suffered a long spell of drought and desertification with a few meadows of green appearing here and there.

The lofty thoughts produced by the once powerful and profound mind were submerged in the desert sand of the times. And society was plagued with scores of evils ~ superstitions, fatalism, caste oppression, sati, child marriage, callousness towards women, etc.

In the early phase of British rule, an influential section of leadership even attempted to bury the few strands of the Indian culture that were still visible from

underneath the desert sand. Lord Macaulay made the intentions clear in his well-known Minute of 1835: "We must have a class of persons, Indians in blood and colour, but English in taste, in opinions, in morals, and in intellect."

He went to the extent of saying: "Who could deny that a single shelf of a good European library is worth the whole native literature of India." At that time, even a large section of educated Hindus openly denounced Hinduism and said that they were ashamed of their origin.

It was in those dreary and depressing circumstances that Swami Vivekananda appeared on the scene like a hurricane, blowing out the desert sand and bringing to surface the treasures of Indian thought and philosophy. In a voice ringing with poetic perception and passion, he declared: "Here is the same India whose soil has been trodden by the feet of the greatest sages that ever lived. Here first arose the doctrines of the immortality of the soul, the existence of a supervising God, an immanent God in nature and in man ... We are the children of such a country."

Such stirring declarations, made by Swami Vivekananda, during his extensive tours in the country, generated a wave of self-confidence in the nation and also a will to stand up and be counted. An intellectual and spiritual environment conducive to the growth of the freedom movement was created.



Being a cultured savant par excellence, Swami Vivekananda did not denounce the western civilisation or the Indian baiters like Macaulay but showed them the deep chinks in their civilisational armoury: "You,

Christians, who are fond of sending out Christian missionaries to save the souls of heathens, why do you not try to save their bodies from starvation. It is an insult to a starving man to offer him religion."

At the same time in a dignified tone and tenor, Swami Vivekananda brought home to the outside world how superior was the pattern of Indian thought and how unique was the Hindu religion. In his famous address to the Chicago World Parliament of Religions, delivered in September 1893, he expounded the essence of Indian civilisation and culture with unmatched eloquence and clarity: "I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance... The Hindus regard all religions as so many attempts of the human soul to realise the Almighty, determined by the conditions of its birth and association and each of these marked a stage of progress. Every other religion lays down certain fixed dogmas and tries to force society to adopt them. It places before society only one coat which must fit Jack and John and Henry, all alike. If it does not fit John or Henry, he must go without a coat to cover his body".



The impact of his speech was tremendous. Indian civilisation and culture was placed on the highest pedestal. So too was the prestige of Indians. This is evident from a comment in the American press: "We send missionaries to Vivekananda's people. It would be more fitting that they should send missionaries to us." Later, reflecting upon Swami Vivekananda's visit to America, Sri Aurobindo observed: "It was the first visible sign that India was awake, and she was awake not only to survive but also to conquer."

Sri Aurobindo expanded the ambit of Swami Vivekananda's thoughts and took the movement for cultural regeneration to greater heights. Functioning from his somewhat secluded ashram in Pondicherry, he served the country as a powerful lighthouse of inspiration, showing to its people the right way ~ the way of emancipating the soul of India and building a great future for her on the foundation of her great past. He infused confidence in the otherwise diffident nation by constantly reminding the people: "Ours is the eternal land, the eternal people, the eternal religion, whose strength, greatness and holiness may be overloaded but never, even for a moment, cease". Time and again, he said: "India of the ages is not dead, nor has she spoken the last creative word; she lives and has still something to do for herself and the human people."

What did Sri Aurobindo mean when he talked of India's destiny and India's religion? He himself provided the answer: "When it is said that India shall rise, it is the Sanatana Dharma that shall rise. When it is said that India shall be great, it is the Sanatana Dharma that shall be great. That which we call

the Hindu religion is really the eternal religion because it is the universal religion which embraces all others. If a religion is not universal, it cannot be eternal. A narrow religion, a sectarian religion, an exclusive religion can live only for a limited time and limited purpose." Such views, propagated through his extensive writings, thrilled a good part of the nation and created new confidence, new urges and a new sense of mission. They also made the Western world take greater interest in India and look at her with greater respect.

Sri Aurobindo wanted *Poorna Swaraj*, complete freedom, for India. This, he thought, was absolutely

necessary not only for the well-being of the country but also for the well-being of the rest of the world. She alone could "free the world from its enslavement to materialism and to point out the way towards a dynamic integration of Spirit and Matter and to make life perfect with Divine Perfection".

Unfortunately, only a few strands of the great movement for the cultural regeneration of India are visible now. Today, she is without any great inspiration, without any elevating philosophy which could serve as a guiding star for activities in various walks of life. ■

(The writer is a former Governor of J&K and a former Union minister.)



## 'Janakrosh yatra' flagged off in Haryana

BJP Minority Morcha President, Shri Shahnawaz Hussain MP flagged off *Janakrosh yatra* at Narnaul (Haryana) on January 14 and said if NDA is voted to power, the alliance would change the fate of farmers. The *Yatra* was being taken out under the leadership Rajya Sabha MP Shri Ajay Singh of INLD, an alliance partner of NDA.

Describing the UPA government a failure on every front, he said terrorism "got support in the country during the UPA rule". He said debt-ridden farmers were committing suicide. He claimed that during the NDA government, the country had registered tremendous progress in every field.

BJP spokesperson Shri Prakash Javadekar said the "*Janakrosh yatra*" would lead to awakening among the people. Lashing out at the State government, he said crime during the Congress rule in the state was on the rise. Referring to the 26/11 attacks, he said the Congress government remained a mute spectator during the attacks and Pakistan was not heeding the warnings of the country.

"UPA leaders are just making statements and no one dares to take action against Pakistan," he said, adding that the country was surrounded by "dangers" and only the NDA "can bring the nation out of these".

Shri Javedkar promised the farmers remunerative prices for their produce. The Congress government "befooled" the farmers in the name of waiving off loans whereas only banks derived benefit out of it. He said the farmers would be given loans at 4 per cent interest and all rivers would be interconnected when NDA came to power. ■ (FOC)

# SATYAM SCANDAL

## Corporate India's Biggest Fraud of Rs 8000 crores

From Our Correspondent

**S**atyam is by far the largest accounting fraud in Indian corporate History. Over the years Ramalinga Raju had shown false profits on the Balance sheets of Satyam Ltd. And he has also shown a huge cash reserve (Around Rs.3000 crore or more) on Satyam's Balance Sheet. But in reality this was only "On Paper" Cash Reserve or we can say it was an accounting fraud or a Virtual Money. Raju has falsely manipulated and inflated Company's Balance sheets. So many people are involved with him but it is not as yet



proved that which other people are also involved in this. Raju has also shown falsely low liabilities in his Balance Sheets. Consequently there was a combined a Black Whole of around Rs.7000 Crores.

Government of India, SEBI, shareholders and Investors remained unaware of what was cooking up in Satyam. Now this Rs.7000 Crore fraud was getting bigger and bigger. Raju had planned a Master Plan to convert this Rs.7,000 Crore Black hole into real Assets. The Plan was to buy his both of two sons' Real Estate and Construction Companies Mytas

### Sequence of events about "Satyam Fraud"

**December 16:**

Satyam gets board's approval for acquisition of Maytas Infrastructure and Maytas Properties for USD 1.6 billion

**December 17:**

Defers Maytas' acquisition on stiff investor resistance.

**December 18:**

Schedules board meet for the proposal of buyback of shares on December 29.

**December 18:**

British mobile solution provider Unpaid files a law suit against Satyam in a district Court in the US over Maytas deal.

**December 24:**

World Bank bans Satyam for 8 years on charges of data-theft. Satyam objects to World Bank's statements; asks Bank to apologize to the company or face legal action.

**December 25:**

Mangalam Srinivasan, non-executive and independent director resigns from the board.

**December 27:**

Promoters disclose that their entire holding in Satyam pledged with institutional lenders since 2006.

**December 28:**

Two independent directors - Krishna G Palepu, Vinod K Dham - resign from the board. Another independent director, M Rammohan Rao also resigns from the board on 29 December.

**December 30:**

Forrester Research warns that companies that rely on Satyam might ultimately need to stop doing business with it. "Firms should take the initial steps of reviewing the exit clauses in their current Satyam contracts," in case management or direction of the company changed.

**January 2:**

Promoter holding in Satyam drops to 5.31 per cent from 8.27 per cent after sale of pledged shares by lenders.

**January 6:**

IL&FS Trust company sales 2.45 crore shares of Satyam pledged to institutional investors by the promoters. Raju family holding in Satyam falls to 3.16 per cent after sale of pledged share by lenders

**January 7:**

Satyam Chairman Ramalinga Raju sends letter to board tendering his resignation and admitting to fraud in accounting books. Satyam Managing Director B Rama Raju also resigns. DSP Merrill Lynch terminates its advisory engagement with company.

Properties (100% Stake) & Mytas Infra (51% Stake) for a total of US \$ 1.6 Billion (Around Rs.7,000 Crores) and turning this fraudulent Rs.7000 deficit into a legal and white asset. Had this plan been executed, none of us would have known about this huge Satyam Financial Fraud forever.

According to Raju, “the Mytas deal was the last attempt to fill the fictitious Assets with Real Ones”. But some how the deal couldn’t be executed because Institutional Investors have refused to agree with this deal to take over troubled Real Estate Companies.

## Advani demands strictest action against financial fraud

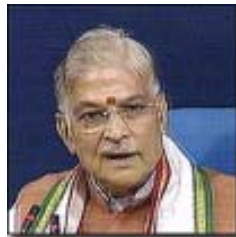


Leader of the Opposition (Lok Sabha), Shri L K Advani on 10 January, in Ahmedabad has demanded the strictest action against those involved in perpetrating the Satyam scam, where Rs 7000 crores have vanished off the balance sheet and the fate of 55000 employees hang in the balance. The Government cannot turn a blind or lenient eye to such fraudulent practices, he added.

Shri Advani said that India has all the potential to grow into a giant economy. The successes of Indian entrepreneurs in recent times, both in India and abroad, have been spectacular. “But as Gandhiji used to exhort, business without ethics is sin. Even if a few business organizations indulge in unethical practices, they bring a bad name to the business community as a whole. Corporate India must put its house in order.”

## PM should come out with a statement on Satyam fiasco : Dr. Joshi

Former Union Minister and senior BJP leader Dr. Murali Manohar Joshi, has demanded Central regulatory agency to probe into Satyam Fiasco and role of SEBI, MCA, IT Deptt., Stock Exchanges, ROC and Chartered Accountancy firms. The Fraud was continuous over the years. It appears that all the agencies whether regulatory, monitoring or assessing have failed to discharge their responsibility leaving lacs of Small investors lost their hard earned money. He further emphasized the action against the officers involved or who failed to discharge



their reasonability immediately.

He has further demanded that the Prime Minister who is holding Finance Portfolio should come out with a statement on this fiasco & to restore confidence of crores of small investors. This episode has created great distrust between small investors and Large Corporates.

Dr Joshi said the Satyam scandal that rocked India Inc on Wednesday (7 Jan 2009) has devastated Millions of Small investors in India. This is the first scandal in Indian Corporate world. Satyam fiasco has adversely affected the image of Indian Corporates across the World and has shaken the confidence of Indian small investors on Indian Corporates. This is the first and biggest scandal in India’s corporate history, B Ramalinga Raju, promoter and chairman of Satyam Computer Services Ltd, the fourth largest software company in the country, admitted to his board and others that he had been concocting the company’s accounts for the last several years he added.

Dr Joshi said the future of 53000 employees of Satyam is at stake. Thousands of small investors have lost more than ten thousands crores. Life Insurance Corporation of India (a Government of India undertaking) has lost crores of rupees invested in Satyam. The Indian Banks have an outstanding debt of Rs. 253 crores in Satyam. The stake of B. Ramalinga Raju has reduced from 26% to 8 % and later to 2.6%. However regulatory agencies failed to detect & made this information public

He also said this Satyam Scandal throws a big question not only about corporate governance in India but a bigger question remains about role played by auditing companies, Rating Agencies, Role of SEBI, Ministry of Company Affairs, Banks & Financial Institutions, Role of Independent Directors & Disclosure norms. It is quite impossible that the auditors could not have detected such huge financial irregularity in the balance sheets for so long over a period of time.

It is highly likely that they were hand in glove with the management about the issue.

He said the thousand crores of rupees collected from security transaction Tax(STT) & accumulated in Investor Protection Fund with MCA has been misutilised and not being used for educating & protecting the small investors. He demanded the utilization of this fund should be made public and lambasted the UPA Govt for gross mismanagement of the entire economy and said this govt has failed on all front of the economy & protecting the interest of “*aam aadmi*”. ■

## I am a 'Sevak' not a 'Raja' : Chouhan

Our youthful CM of Madhya Pradesh sets an example !

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and the leader of the masses, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has ensured that people consider him as a common man instead of a Chief Minister. During a function while celebrating Makar Sankranti in Bhopal on 14 January he took serious note of the folk dancers who presented a song highlighting him as a king of Madhya Pradesh. He openly declared that he was simply a common man and *Sevak* (server) to the common people. He said the song should be repeated by making necessary changes in it. The Kala Pathak troupe which has presented the folk song terming the Chief Minister as *Raja Hai Shivraj*, later, on the objection of the Chief Minister, immediately changed the song and once again sung it with workings - *Raja Nahin Sevak Hai Shivraj*. Shri Chouhan likes people call him Shivraj *Bhaiya*, *Sevak* or *Mama*. Whenever he addresses any public meeting in rural areas, he publicly announces that he was *Bhaiya* for the villagers and *Mama* for the girls. For this amiable character he has now become as a role model for many of his ministerial colleagues and common people of the state.



*Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan lends a helping hand for the ongoing "Apna Sarovar-Apni Dharohar," the drive to remove silt from the Upper Lake in Bhopal, on January 18 in Bhopal. He devotes an hour every week for this activity.*

## Shivraj Singh Chouhan launches *ideasforcm* website

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the website [www.ideasforcm.in](http://www.ideasforcm.in) at Bhopal on 19 January, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh

years. He added that "This website is in continuity of this effort of the State Government. With the help of it people can provide their ideas for better governance from all over the

initiated to make people aware of their responsibilities and they will become the medium for standing the society with the Government, he added.



Chouhan said this website would play an important role in the development of the State. The Government will seriously consider the suggestions and ideas received by the citizens of the State, he said. The website was prepared by the State Government.

He said there should be continuous people's participation in running a Government and the common man of the State should apprise the State Government with his novel ideas, for which various Panchayats were organised in the last three

nation and world".

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said representatives of various categories suggested many changes in the Government schemes and even suggested new ideas in the Panchayats held during the last three years. It was on the suggestions of the people that schemes like making agriculture a profitable business and *Laadli Laxmi* scheme to provide honour to daughters were started. Panchayats will carry on and 'ideasforcm' would also be utilized for the purpose. This step has been

Shri Chouhan further said politics is not only the means for getting power, but it is also for doing social service. His aim is to utilize politics for the welfare of the people of the State and its speedy development. Samadhan online programmes organized on a monthly basis are helping people in solving their problems and grievances. This website should be used for sending such ideas which could be implemented and are useful and beneficial for the State. Information of such systems could be provided to the Government through this website which are being implemented at other places. People whose ideas would be selected for implementation would be honored, he added. ■ (FOC)

## BJP will sweep Lok Sabha polls : Prof. Dhumal

Having registered a magnificent win in the Assembly poll a year back, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal is confident to sweep the coming Lok Sabha elections, for the development works his government has done during the last one year in the Himalayan state.

In an exclusive interview to *The Pioneer*, Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal said "Going by our performance in a year since we took charge, I do not see any reason why we should not sweep the coming Lok Sabha polls".

"People vote for development and your connectivity to them at the grassroots level. Our Government has led the State to a new era of development. We do maintain close contacts with them to ensure their developmental and other needs are effectively addressed," added Shri Dhumal.

He said BJP Government is looking beyond the customary electoral manifestos, as they have been able to fulfill all major promises just in a span of 12 months.

He further added "When you have to serve the people and the State, why one should restrict oneself to just the electoral promises? It is this spirit and commitment, which have driven us to achieve in a year what otherwise would have taken many more years."

Apart from regularly monitoring development projects and the implementation status of key decisions, Shri Dhumal himself talks to the officials concerned wherever there is delay or any hiccups.

Shri Dhumal said, "It is the team *dharma* that is being adhered to.

The ultimate goal for each of us is working to the people's satisfaction. We have been voted to power to serve them better, and we have proved this too".

He further added that in the last Assembly election, the BJP ousted the traditional rival

Congress from the corridors of power by wresting 41 seats in an Assembly of 68 members, thus clinching a nearly two-thirds majority. "It will be replicated in the coming Lok Sabha polls as well. People of Himachal Pradesh have not yet forgotten the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Our performance will win the BJP all parliamentary seats in the coming polls".

Prof. Dhumal said a few major achievements of BJP Government



are the appointment of over 11,000 youth in various services, regularization of nearly 13,500 daily wagers, pre-matric scholarship scheme for the children from other backward classes, upgradation of roads and empowerment of

women." It is an inclusive growth in the real sense of the term," he said.

Prof. Dhumal further said, "Of course, recession, inflation and terrorism are major ammunitions of the BJP to take on the Congress. These will be electoral issues at the national level, and will certainly tilt the scale in favour of the BJP and allies in the parliamentary poll. Himachal Pradesh will not be an exception, but people will also reward us for our outstanding and transparent performance". ■

### BJP ST Morcha meet

## Morcha gears up for the Lok Sabha elections

A meeting national executive of the BJP Scheduled Tribe Morcha was held under the chairmanship of the Morcha President Shri Anant Naik at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi.

Addressing the gathering Shri Naik expressed happiness that after delimitation, the number of Parliamentary constituencies for ST has risen to 47 from 42. "Out of 47, BJP will contest in about 35 seats in alliance with its partners" He expressed the hope that the Party would win in most of the seats. All the participants in the meeting pledged to work hard to install a BJP-led NDA government at the Centre in the place of present the UPA after the Lok Sabha elections. Addressing the meeting former MP Shri Babu Devdas Apte and prabhari of the Morcha, exhorted the participants to gear up for the next Lok Sabha poll and energise the State units for this task. BJP General Secretary (Organization) Shri Ramlal, and National Secretary Shri Kanjibhai Patel MP (Rajya Sabha) also gave guidance to face the challenges ahead. ■ (FOC)

## Delhi BJP President announces his team

Prof. O. P. Kohli has taken over as the new President of the Delhi Pradesh BJP. Presently, he was the Secretary of the BJP Parliamentary Party. He occupies this office for the second time.

He has also announced his team.

Shri Nand Kishore Garg, Shri Pawan Sharma, Shrimati Meera Kanwaria, Shri Abdul Rashid and Anil Jha are the new vice-Presidents.

Sarvshri Ramesh Bidhuri MLA and R P Singh are the General Secretaries.

Sarvshri Pravesh Varma, Ashish Sood, Satish Upadhaya, Ramcharan Gujarati have been appointed the Secretaries. Shri Praveen Khandelwal is the new treasurer, Shri Uday Sharma is the office secretary and Shri Adesh Kumar Gupta is the Co-office Secretary. ■ (FOC)

## Different News Channels editors meet L.K. Advani TV Channels should evolve a code of self-regulation

The editors and senior executives of different TV News Channels met the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani in New Delhi, on January 14 and conveyed their grievances against the proposed curbs being contemplated by the government in view of the proposed amendments in the cable network rules 1994.

Shri Advani conveyed to the editors that in view of the reaction of the people to the TV coverage of the recent terrorist attack in Mumbai it is imperative that TV Channels evolved a code of self-regulation which ensures that anti-national elements, terrorist etc. are not able to take advantage of the freedom of media in the country. However, any curb should not be imposed by the government, which can be abused. In this connection, the editors of different TV News Channels brought to the notice of Shri Advani guidelines for telecast of news during emergency situations, which has been drafted under the supervision of Justice Shri J.S. Verma, former Chief Justice of India.

Shri Advani emphasized that self-regulation must be implemented honestly and every effort must be made to ensure that anti-national elements should not abuse freedom of media in a democratic country. The country can never forget the kind of extreme censorship the media had been subjected to during the Emergency of 1975-77, Shri Advani recalled. ■ (FOC)

## 62 sentenced to life term in Marad Hindus massacre

The Special Court, according to *The New Indian Express*, dealing with the Marad massacre sentenced 62 of the 63 persons convicted in the case to rigorous life imprisonment and a total fine of Rs 25,000 each on 15 January, in Kozhikode (Kerala). The case related to the incident in which eight Hindus were chopped and hacked to death by a gang of assailants at Marad, a fishing hamlet in Kozhikode district on the night of May 2, 2003. Stating that the case was a rare one, the

Prosecution awarded life imprisonment to such a large number of people, perhaps for the first time in India. The Special Court on 27 December had declared 63 of the total 139 accused as guilty of crime under various charges, including murder and attempt to murder. Out of them 62 convicted persons were awarded punishments on seven different charges. The 63rd convicted, Lateef, who was the secretary of the Marad Juma Mosque committee at the time of the massacre, was sentenced to five years imprisonment and Rs 2,000 as fine for misusing places of worship for keeping weapon and explosives. Lateef was 139th accused in the case. The Prosecution expressed satisfaction at the verdict though it had requested the court to grant the severest punishment to the convicts. Reacting on the verdict former BJP State President Shri P S Sreedharan Pillai said that the Hindu community in Marad received only partial justice through the Special Court's verdict. He said the government had the responsibility to ensure full justice to the victims of the terror attack. ■



## Mahila Morcha has greater responsibility in LS elections - Sushma

A meeting of the office-bearers of the BJP Mahila Morcha was held on January 20 at BJP Headquarters in Ashok Road, New Delhi. The meeting was presided over by BJP Mahila Morcha National President Smt. Kiran Maheshwari. Mahila Morcha Prabhari Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, MP, General Secretary (Organization) Shri Ram Lal and Deputy Leader of BJP Parliamentary Party in Rajya Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj also gave *margdarshan* in the meeting.

Smt. Kiran Maheshwari took stock of the tours undertaken by the officer bearers of various states.

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan stressed the need for working in coordination with the *prabharis* and for greater communication with the state office-bearers.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj said that a great responsibility has fallen on the shoulders of the Mahila Morcha workers in the coming Lok Sabha elections. They should spread out to every home and village in the country to motivate people to vote for the BJP led NDA candidates so that we can realize our dream to have Shri Lal Krishna Advani as our next Prime Minister. In his address, General Secretary Organization Shri Ram Lal said that the Morcha had to get into action and increase its activities so that the party gets more and more seats in the Lok Sabha elections.

The meeting also decided that a big Mahila Sammelan should be organized in every state of the country before March 15, 2009. ■ (FOC)



## BJP demands sacking of Arjun Singh for seeking Batla House probe

The Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded that the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh immediately sack his Cabinet colleague Shri Arjun Singh for demanding a probe into Batla House encounter.

Speaking to media persons, BJP National General Secretary Shri Arun Jaitley said, on the one hand, the Government is considering conferring Ashoka Chakra on slain Mumbai ATS chief Hemant Karkare, on the other it was politicising the martyrdom of Inspector MC Sharma, who was killed in the Batla House encounter.



Accusing the Human Resource Development Minister of attempting to interfere with due process of justice, Shri Arun Jaitley asked when the judicial process is on and the Home Minister has reiterated that police probe into the matter had been fair, why is he demanding a probe into the matter. "He should not be allowed to influence the matter. It appears to be a sinister attempt to create an environment that helps the accused," he said.

Directly hitting at the Prime Minister, Shri Jaitley

asked Dr. Manmohan Singh to exercise "whatever authority he was left with" and sack Shri Arjun Singh who has breached the concept of "collective responsibility".

"He (Arjun Singh) has no right to continue as member of the Council of Ministers. The Prime Minister must sack him immediately," Shri Jaitley demanded.

Shri Jaitley wondered how could a Minister toe a line that Home Minister has contradicted that too when police have completed the probe, a chargesheet has been filed before the court and the judicial process

was on. "Let the judiciary look into the merit of the case and take a call on the matter. Who is Arjun Singh to give his judgement over the matter? It can amount to contempt of court," Shri Jaitley argued.

Shri Jaitley said it also highlighted the in-built contradictions within the Government, which on the one hand was considering conferring Ashok Charka on Inspector MC Sharma and on the other hand a senior Minister was raising doubts over the genuineness of the encounter. ■ (FOC)

# Miliband's remarks a rebuff to UPA

## Biggest diplomatic disaster : Jaitley

**B**JP National General Secretary Shri Arun Jaitley has termed the three-day visit of British Foreign Secretary David Miliband as "one of the biggest diplomatic disasters" faced by the country in recent years.

Speaking to media persons in New Delhi Shri Jaitley said: "At the end of his visit, we were having nothing but some pro-Rahul Gandhi and pro-Pakistan comments. The nation stood as one when the Government said

that it was taking diplomatic initiatives to corner the Pakistan government. The entire effort of the last 52 days has, however, come to a naught by this visit."

He said that "by not criticising terror but talking about the root cause theory instead," Miliband has endorsed not only the Pakistani stand, but that of the al Qaeda as well. "Miliband has taken the stand taken by former Pakistan president Pervez Musharraf in Agra, a stand which India opposed," he added. ■ (FOC)

Press statement issued by BJP National Spokesperson  
Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy MP on January 15

The statement of British Foreign Secretary David Miliband confirming that Pakistan state actors were not involved follows an earlier similar statement of US Ambassador to India, David Mulford. Both statements are contrary to the statement of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh that Pakistan state agencies were involved in planning and executing 26/11 Mumbai attacks. These assertions by David Miliband and David Mulford are a dazzling blow to the Indian government's stated stand. In face of the repeated assertions of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the Home Minister and the External Affairs Minister and after presenting the incriminating evidence dossier to the world and also categorically stating the involvement of Pakistan intelligence agencies in the CM's conference held earlier this month, it is indeed an unfortunate situation where we have a government which is down on its knees totally failing to react to these statements.

The complete failure of the UPA government to clearly rebuff the startling assertions by David Miliband gives weight to Pakistan PM's assertion that India has given proof and not evidence. It seems that after belittling their own position the government is now even shifting its stand. Even worse is the stoic acceptance of the External Affairs Minister that trial of fugitives in Pakistan is acceptable. The entire nation deserves an explanation about this U-turn of the government.

Omar Abdullah remarks disturbing

The remark made by the newly appointed Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Mr. Omar Abdullah asking for a third party intervention to settle the issue of Jammu and Kashmir is very disturbing. Mr. Omar has held the position of the External Affairs Minister and his remark bypassing the established norms is most inappropriate. His appeal to David Miliband to mediate with J&K issue is completely unacceptable and the BJP condemns it. This defies the federal fabric of our Constitution. ■

## BJYM-NGO Chintan-Baithak

A *Chintan-Baithak* was organized by Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (NGO Department) on January 13 on the topic "NGO and its role in every village". Around 100 NGO representatives participated in the meeting on the eve of *makar sankranti*. The meeting was inaugurated with the lighting of lamp by Delhi state BJP President Shri OP Kohli, Sarvashri Kirti Azad, Shyam Jaju, Sheshadrichari and Anand Sahu. It was presided over by BJYM National President Shri Amit Thakar. BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Ramlal gave the concluding speech. All the speakers highlighted the positive role of NGOs in nation building by focusing on the hitherto neglected rural areas. It was emphasized that the focus should be on reviving the links between indigenous knowledge and development. It was also felt that NGO works should be undertaken by adhering to traditional ethos and values which was ignored by the government in the last sixty years of independence. ■ (FOC)



## BJP finalized 18 candidates for the ensuing Lok Sabha

The Central Election Committee of the BJP met on 19 January under the Presidentship of Shri Rajnath Singh. Shri L.K. Advani, Leader of Opposition (Lok Sabha) apart from other Hon'ble members of the Committee were also present. The Committee has finalized the candidate for the ensuing Lok Sabha Elections 2009 in following parliamentary Constituencies of different States.

| Sl. | Name of State        | Constituency No. & Name |                           | Name of the Candidates        |
|-----|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1   | Kerala               | 1                       | Kasargod                  | Shri K. Surendran             |
| 2   | Kerala               | 3                       | Vadakara                  | Shri K.P. Sreeshan            |
| 3   | Kerala               | 5                       | Kozhikode                 | Shri V. Muraleedharan         |
| 4   | Kerala               | 7                       | Ponnani                   | Shri K. Janachandran Master   |
| 5   | Kerala               | 8                       | Pallakkad                 | Shri C.K. Padmanabhan         |
| 6   | Kerala               | 12                      | Ernakulam                 | Shri A.N. Radhakrishnan       |
| 7   | Himachal Pradesh     | 1                       | Kangra                    | Dr. Rajan Sushant             |
| 8   | Himachal Pradesh     | 2                       | Mandi                     | Shri Maheshwar Singh          |
| 9   | Himachal Pradesh     | 4                       | Shimla (SC)               | Shri Virendra Kashyap         |
| 10  | Jharkhand            | 3                       | Hazaribagh                | Shri Yashwant Sinha           |
| 11  | Jharkhand            | 8                       | Dhanbad                   | Shri Pashupatinath Singh      |
| 12  | Jharkhand            | 10                      | Ranchi                    | Shri Ramtahal Choudhary       |
| 13  | Jharkhand            | 12                      | Khunti (ST)               | Shri Karia Munda              |
| 14  | Chandigarh           | 1                       | Chandigarh                | Shri Satya Pal Jain           |
| 15  | Manipur              | 1                       | Inner Manipur             | Shri W. Nipamacha Singh       |
| 16  | Tripura              | 1                       | Tripura West              | Shri Nilmani Deb              |
| 17  | Tripura              | 2                       | Tripura East (ST)         | Shri Pulin Behari Dewan       |
| 18  | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 1                       | Dadra & Nagar Haveli (ST) | Shri Natubhai Gomanbhai Patel |

**The following BJP candidates were elected to J&K Legislative Assembly in the elections held last month:**

| S.NO | NAME OF THE MLA        | CONSTITUENCY  |
|------|------------------------|---------------|
| 1.   | Sh. Ashok Khajuria     | Jammu East    |
| 2.   | Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta | Jammu West    |
| 3.   | Sh. Bharat Bhushan     | Raipur-Domana |
| 4.   | Sh. Jugal Kishore      | Nagrota       |
| 5.   | Sh. Durga Dass         | Hira Nagar    |
| 6.   | Prof. Gharu Ram        | R.S. Pura     |
| 7.   | Sh. Baldev Raj         | Reasi         |
| 8.   | Sh. Jagdish Sapolia    | Basohli       |
| 9.   | Master Lal Chand       | Bani          |
| 10.  | Ch. Sukhnadan          | Marh          |
| 11.  | Ch. Shyam              | Suchetgarh    |

## Raghubar Das is new Jharkhand BJP President

**From Our Correspondent**

*Former Jharkhand Finance Minister Shri Raghubar Das has been appointed the new President of the Jharkhand State BJP. He takes over from Shri Pashupati Nath Singh, who would contest the coming Lok Sabha elections from Dhanbad.*

*BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh announced Shri Das' name after the incumbent State president expressed his willingness to contest the Lok Sabha elections while expressing his desire to give up the post of State President. ■*

## Karnataka

### Govt. beats recession with more tax collections : Yeddyurappa



Unveiling the performance report of the BJP government in Karnataka on completion of 200 days in office; Chief Minister Dr B S Yeddyurappa on 09 January in Bangalore claimed that the state

government had recorded an increase of 12 per cent in overall collection of taxes despite the economic slowdown. While the collection of commercial tax was up by 14.8 per cent compared to the corresponding period in 2007, excise duty collection had gone up by 14.9 per cent. The collection of motor vehicle tax was 9 per cent higher than the previous year, he added.

Expressing satisfaction over the performance of his government, Dr Yeddyurappa said that Rs 9,488 crore had been spent under plan expenditure up to December 2008, which was 23 per cent higher than the previous year. By the end of this fiscal, the plan expenditure would touch 90 per cent, he stated.

Dr Yeddyurappa said that the progress in implementing various budgetary programmes would have been much better if there were no by-election. The absence of 40 IAS officers who were sent as observers to six northern states also slowed down the programme implementation, he added.

## Chhattisgarh

### ATS constituted to tackle terrorism

Chief Minister Shri Raman Singh led BJP government in Chhattisgarh has decided to set up an Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) to counter any Mumbai-like terrorist strikes in the state. Unveiling the details in Raipur on 12 January the Director General of Police (DGP), Chhattisgarh, Shri



Vishwa Ranjan said, "The Chhattisgarh ATS came

into existence on January 10 and the ATS commandos are now ready to respond to any terror challenge at a very short notice".

He said the commandos of the squad will not only tackle terror attacks, like those witnessed by Mumbai in November last year, but will also be employed for anti-Maoist insurgency operations during any emergency.

Shri Ranjan said commandos up to the age of 30 years will be employed in the state's ATS and the state government will provide "tough training" to the commandos in a phased manner. Also, the Central government will be requested to provide their "highly specialized commando training" to the Chhattisgarh ATS.

He said "Anti-terrorist control rooms have also been set up in all the 18 districts to deal with possible terror attacks and Maoists".

## Himachal Pradesh

### Recruitment in Forces should be on merit : Dhumal



Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal on 07 January requested the Central government to introduce merit-based recruitment policy for armed forces instead of making recruitments on basis of population.

Speaking in the 28th meeting of Kendriya Sainik Board in Vigyan Bhawan at New Delhi, he said present RMP (Recruitable Male Population) policy had adversely affected the intake from sparsely populated hill States and deprived the talented and deserving youth of opportunity to serve in the Army. He said while all the Central government Ministries had formulated merit-based recruitment policy, armed forces were the only exception continuing with population-based recruitment policy.

Prof. Dhumal further asked the Central government to formulate a national policy for compensations to the soldiers, who laid down their lives while fighting the enemies and announced comprehensive package for the welfare of their dependent families. A compensation of Rs 10 lakhs was sanctioned for the martyrs' families of Kargil, but the amount had been subsequently reduced to Rs 5 lakhs. He urged that compensation of Rs 10 lakh should be restored to the families of martyrs and added that both the Military and Para-Military

personnel should be treated on par in this respect. He asked the Union government to hand over the security of prestigious projects like Common Wealth Games, Delhi Metro, etc to the ex-servicemen, who are better trained and equipped to deal with the situations.

Prof. Dhumal suggested setting up of Eco task force of ex-servicemen to properly utilize Catchment Area treatment funds collected from various developmental projects by Union Ministry of Forests and Environments and urged the Ministry of Defence to come out with a comprehensive proposal for constituting the task force. Making a strong plea for accepting the “one rank, one pension” demand of Ex-servicemen, Prof. Dhumal said that this issue was hanging on fire for more than two decades and should not be delayed further.

## Hydro-engineering college to be set up in HP

National Hydro-Power Corporation, National Thermal Corporation, Sutlej Jal Vidyut Nigam and the State Government would jointly set up a hydro-engineering college in Himachal Pradesh.

A decision to this effect was taken at meeting between Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal and Union Minister of State for Power Shri Jairam Ramesh at New Delhi on 08 January.

### Punjab

## Install NDA Govt. for faster development in Punjab



Addressing a rally in Muktsar, on 13 January, Punjab Chief Minister Shri Parkash Singh Badal sought people’s support to ensure landslide victory for Bharatiya Janata Party -Shiromani Akali Dal (BJP -SAD) alliance in the coming Lok Sabha election.

Shri Badal said, “The installation of BJP-led NDA government at the Centre will ensure justice and equity for Punjab and the state can get judicious attention from the Centre.” Shri Badal, who also paid rich tributes to 40 *Muktas* (liberated ones), who sacrificed their lives for the cause of righteousness, asked the people to follow rich legacy

of Sikhism by raising voice against oppression and tyrannical forces.

Shri Badal further said, “The NDA Government will usher in an era of overall development and progress on every front — agriculture, industry, education, employment generation, healthcare and inter-state issues — which have been blatantly ignored by the Congress led UPA government.” He said the policies of the Centre were inimical to the interests of Punjab and the Centre had deliberately devised stringent parameters for the eligibility of the centrally sponsored schemes and grants.

Citing an example of how Punjab was excluded from the schemes like construction of link roads and rural electrification, Shri Badal lamented the Centre’s unwillingness to recognize Punjab’s record contribution in the national food pool. “Had the Congress been serious to the welfare of the farming community of Punjab, the Centre would not have pushed them deep into the vicious circle of debt trap,” Shri Badal added.

Shri Badal further said, “Agriculture is no more a profitable occupation due to negligible returns on farming arising out of the non-remunerative and stagnant minimum support price for which the Centre had always adopted an approach of negativism”.

### Bihar

## Won't seek vote if BJP- JD(U) Govt. fails to deliver : Nitish

Embarking on his ‘Vikas Yatra’ from Bagha, Bihar Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar on 19 January said that he would not knock at the doors of the people for votes if the BJP- JD(U) government failed to keep its promises of ensuring all-round growth of the State.



“Please don’t treat this yatra as a poll plank. I assure you that I have never worked for votes as I am always engaged in doing good work for you,” Shri Kumar said while addressing a gathering after launching welfare schemes of Rs 136 crore for this backward region along the Indo-Nepal border.

He said “Development works, including construction of roads, improvement in education system and electricity, are visible everywhere”. “I will not come here asking for votes if I fail to address the people’s

concerns and development, which has been taken up as a mission by my government," he said.

Turning to the law and order situation in the state, Shri Nitish Kumar said there had been remarkable improvement in this front." Just in three years of the NDA rule, 28,000 people have been convicted," he said. "Now girls are seen moving freely on cycles in the State. It is only because of the good job being done by the security personnel," Shri Kumar said. He said the number of youths leaving the State for jobs had been checked to a large extent as "we have created job opportunities for them and the NDA government will ensure all round development of the State".

## Madhya Pradesh

### **Ladli Laxmi Yojana has turned 1.5 lakh girls 'Lakhpatis'**

*Ladli Laxmi Yojana* launched by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has yielded good results. Interacting with the Media persons in Bhopal, on January 09



Minister of State Smt. Ranjana Baghel said this *Yojana* is turning out to be a milestone in increasing status of girls in the society and so far, 1,50,657 girls have turned 'Lakhpatis' in Madhya Pradesh due to the scheme.

Smt. Baghel said that Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has simplified its rules and formalities further. Now, the first girl born after April 2008 is being given scheme's benefit even when her parents do not go in for family planning. Due to this measure the number of scheme's beneficiaries have increased four fold. She informed that instructions have been given to Women and Child Development Department for better implementation of the scheme. Smt. Baghel said that she will also keep monitoring the scheme from time to time. All the collectors have been asked to help maximum number of eligible girls get the scheme's benefit.

She said this scheme will not only prove to be effective for girls' uplift and progress but will also change the outlook about girls in the society and added that no financial crunch will be allowed to come in the way of this important scheme.

Smt. Baghel hoped that with the effective

implementation of this scheme, the mother and child mortality rate and population of the state will also come down, literacy rate will rise and girls will be married at the appropriate age.

## Delhi

### **Issue a National Identity Card to every legal citizen: O P Kohli**

Delhi State BJP President Prof. Om Prakash Kohli has demanded that in the light of latest direction of the Supreme Court, the Delhi and the Central Governments should immediately initiate the process of preparing and issuing National Identity Card to every citizen. This will go a long way in facing the threat of terrorist and other crimes in the country, he said. .



Prof. Kohli reminded that the BJP has been demanding for the last many years that every genuine citizen of Delhi should be issued a National Identity Card. This Identity Card should be multipurpose and it should be the duty of every citizen to carry it with him. The BJP has already reiterated this promise in its election manifesto.

Shri Kohli said the BJP has always been of the view that stern law should be framed against terrorism but the government did not awake till the terrorist attack on Mumbai. Now the Central Government has taken initiative to frame law against terrorism, he said.

Prof. Om Prakash Kohli said the problem of illegal Bangladeshis has taken the form of cancer. If the Congress continues to play the game of appeasement and does not obey the directions of Supreme Court then that day is not far off when the illegal Bangladeshis with the connivance of anti-India forces shall demand partition of India.

Delhi BJP President said the number of Bangladeshi prisoners in Tihar Jail is increasing due to their involvement in various crimes day by day. The illegal Bangladeshis are providing shelters to the terrorists and are active in anti-India activities. Many such illegal Bangladeshis have clandestinely obtained residence certificate, voter identity cards, ration cards etc. These people are using the basic amenities in Delhi without paying for it. They are also involved in power theft, Prof. Kohli alleged. ■