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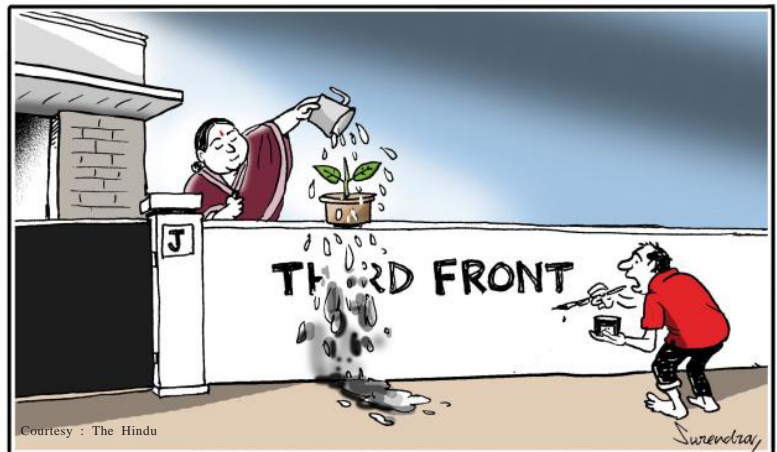
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O Arjuna, established in the science of yoga in actions, perform your activities giving up attachment and become equipoised in both success and failure. This equanimity in known as the science of uniting the individual consciousness with the Ultimate Consciousness – (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 48)

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“A new ministry, a new budget for tribal communities was made only when Atal ji was in power. If there is any government that has done best work to give land rights to tribal communities it is BJP governments”
 -Narendra Modi

“How long will India continue to sacrifice ordinary citizens and security personnel at the hands of this violence? How long will we allow them to hold up developmental agenda in these regions?”
 -Arun Jaitley

Rama Navami : 8th April, 2014



Rama Navami also known as Sri Rama Navami is a major Hindu festival, celebrating the birth of Lord Rama. Rama is the 7th incarnation of the Dashavatara of Vishnu. The Rama Navami festival falls in the Shukla Paksha on the Navami, the ninth day of the month of Chaitra in the Hindu calendar. Thus it is also known as Chaitra Masa Suklapaksha Navami, and marks the end of the nine-day Chaitra-Navratri celebrations.

At some places the festival lasts the whole nine days of the Navratras, thus the period is called ‘Sri Rama Navratri’. It is marked by continuous recitals, Akhand Paath, mostly of the Ramacharitamanas, organized several days in advance to culminate on this day, with elaborate bhajan, kirtan and distribution of prasad after the puja and aarti. Images of infant form of Sri Rama are placed on cradles by devotees. Since Rama is the 7th incarnation of Lord Vishnu having born at noon, temples and family shrines are elaborately decorated and traditional prayers are chanted together by the family in the morning. Also, at temples special havans are organized, along with Vedic chanting of Vedic mantras and offerings of fruits and flowers. Many followers mark this day by Vrata (fasting) through the day followed by feasting in the evening, or at the culmination of celebrations. Eight Prahar fasting is suggested by religious texts during Rama Navami. Which means devotees should

observe the fast from sunrise to sunrise. Rama Navami Vrat can be observed in three different ways, casual (uSfefÜkd) -which can be observed without any cause, continual (नित्य) - which can be observed throughout life without any desire and desirable (काम्य) -which can be observed to fulfill any desire.

In South India, in Bhadrachalam the day is also celebrated as the wedding anniversary of Sri Rama and his consort Sita. Sitarama Kalyanam, the ceremonial wedding ceremony of the celestial couple is held at temples throughout the south region, with great fanfare and accompanied by group chanting of name of Rama. Whereas the marriage is celebrated in Mithila and Ayodhya during another day on Vivaha Panchami as per Valmiki Ramayana.

The important celebrations on this day take place at Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh), Sita Samahit Sthal (Sitamarhi), (Bihar), Bhadrachalam (Andhra Pradesh) and Rameswaram (Tamil Nadu), and many other places in India thronged by lakhs of devotees. Rathayatras, the chariot processions and palanquin also known as Shobha yatras of Rama, Sita, Lakshmana and Hanuman, are taken out at several places, including Ayodhya where thousands of people take a dip in the sacred river Sarayu. ■



Time to say farewell to Congress!

As the polling dates are coming closer, Congress leaders are developing cold feet. Unable to face the people some are feigning illness while others are busy exploring pretexts on which to avoid contesting the polls. Congress is not only facing a bleak political scenario, it is disheartened, demoralized and apprehensive of its future. But for it Congress is itself to blame. It not only lost a chance to work for people, it has the responsibility of criminal wastage of country's decade. It cannot escape from this responsibility. It has failed on all fronts and now it's facing a rout in the elections. Not even less than 50 days are left when the country will get rid of Congress led UPA government. While people are getting ready to bid adieu to the Congress, political pundits are unanimous in writing its obituary. All the poll predictions are pointing to the possibility that Congress this time would sink so low that it will be difficult for it to rise again from its ashes. Congress seems ready to be pushed into the pages of the history.

Congress led UPA government is leaving behind a legacy of corruption, policy paralysis, economic downslide and misgovernance. It will be remembered for its refusal to take initiatives to bring back black money stashed abroad. It has broken all records in corruption and loot. Its name will be recorded in the history for countless number of scams - 2G, Coalgate, CWG, Adarsh, Augusta Westland helicopter deal and many more. It has also reserved its name for getting rebuked by highest court of the country for umpteen times. CAG indicted it on several occasions. CBI Director complained of undue pressure. Its dilly-dallying on Lokpal and refusal to take initiatives against corruption is an open fact. It headed an era of policy paralysis and economic slowdown. It will be remembered for its weak policies against Chinese and Pakistani threats on the borders. It was a saga of a weak government which refused to act even at crucial junctures.

Congress led UPA government will also be remembered for unprecedented price rise and rising unemployment. It has hit the people very hard and made the life miserable. Congress which had promised to bring down prices within 100 days of getting elected to power during 2009 Lok Sabha elections in place of fulfilling its promise helped increase the prices. Unmindful of the woes of the poor its policies led the food inflation to touch a whopping 18.5% at one time. While prices of the essential commodities sky rocketed, rise in unemployment was like rubbing salt to the festering wounds of the people. While the people kept on demanding relief the Prime Minister turned a deaf ear and blamed it on global recession and 'external factors'. He remained blind eye to his own inefficient government's misdeeds and misgovernance. Large scale corruption and loot resulted in unprecedented price rise and slowdown in economy leading to massive job cuts and unemployment.

The nation is responding to the calls of BJP Prime Ministerial candidate

Shri Narendra Modi to make India free of Congress. Congress today symbolizes corruption, loot and vices of various kinds in public life. It's symptomatic of the rot that has crept in the political culture of the country. Congress free India means an India which is free of corruption, loot of public money, culture of sycophancy and dynastic politics, unethical practices, attack on constitutional institutions and anti-people acts of omissions and commissions. The nation is looking forward for an era of dynamic and strong leadership which can usher in vibrant and development oriented policies. The Congress today has nothing to offer except hollow promises, uninspiring leadership which is confused and directionless intending to push the country towards chaos and pessimism. Its slogans have been repeated so often that they have been rendered redundant and can no more be fool the people. It has become a party of past and now people are ready to push it into the pages of history. That's why even Congress people are leaving the party in hordes and joining BJP in large numbers. Congress can no more offer them scope to work for national vision. In fact Congress has no vision for the nation today; its vision afflicted with myopia is limited to gaining power by hook or crook. It is today dipped in inertia, lack of vision and commitment for a developed and vibrant India. It's time to say farewell to the Congress! ■

Moody's projects BJP victory in general elections 2014



Projecting the ouster of the Congress led UPA government after a disappointing second term, research firm Moody's Analytics said the BJP is likely to form the next government after the general elections.

"The current Congress-led government is likely to be ousted after a disappointing second term. The economy is weak and business confidence and investment sit well below where they should be." The new government, likely to be led by BJP candidate Shri Narendra Modi, offers a chance for better governance," Moody's Analytics said in a report titled Asia-Pacific Outlook: A Slow Start to the Year.

The nine-phase Lok Sabha election, which starts on April 7, concludes with the counting of votes on May 16. Various opinion polls have suggested victory for the BJP-led NDA in the general elections. Referring to monetary policy, Moody's Analytics said India and Indonesia raised interest rates to help finance large current account deficits and support their currencies and the moves have been largely successful.

It said India's monetary programme has been more successful as higher interest rates were coupled with restrictions on gold imports and some opening up of the banking sector. The country's current account deficit fell to 0.9 per cent of GDP in the fourth quarter of 2013 from 6.5 per cent a year earlier, it said. ■

GJM to support BJP for Darjeeling Lok Sabha

Gorkha Janamukti Morcha has decided to back BJP candidate for the Darjeeling Lok Sabha seat in West Bengal. GJM President Bimal Gurung announced that GJM would back S S Ahluwalia as the BJP candidate in Darjeeling Lok Sabha seat in the coming parliamentary elections. GJM had earlier pledged support to BJP candidates in West Bengal, including the Darjeeling Lok Sabha seat. In the 2009 Lok Sabha polls too GJM supported senior BJP leader Jaswant Singh for the Darjeeling seat, who emerged as the winner. ■



'Vijay Sankalp Samabesh' at Sambalpur, Odisha

Nation wants to teach a lesson to those who have ruined the nation : Narendra Modi

From Our Correspondent

BJP's unending focus on development and the Congress' inherent attribute of making false promises was the core of BJP Prime Ministerial Candidate Shri Narendra Modi's address at the 'Vijay Sankalp Samabesh' rally at Sambalpur in Odisha on 14 March, 2014.

Attacking the Congress' inherent attribute and expertise in building lies and making false promises, Shri Modi said that this nature of the Congress party becomes more evident during the time of elections. The crowd replied in negation to his question of whether

they were ready to forgive someone who had betrayed them. "It is not that the people want a BJP government or Modi as PM. Nation wants to teach a lesson to those who have ruined the nation," said Shri Modi.

He recalled his visit to Sambalpur during the 2009 elections, and spoke of how the Congress had made the promise of reducing inflation in 100 days then, but had miserably failed to do so. Condemning the introduction of the National Food Security Bill now, after being in power for 60 years, Shri Modi said, "The way they are,

the Congress can never do good for the poor. And they take 60 years to understand things, as now, they have remembered that we have to make a law to feed people. Did they forget this for so many years? The longer we tolerate them, the more injustice

has done best work to give land rights to tribal communities it is BJP governments," affirmed Shri Modi. He also spoke of how the Central Government was least bothered in giving adequate support to the dwindling handicrafts and art of



will be done to the people."

Elaborating further on the Congress' lack of concern for the Nation and its citizens, Shri Modi spoke of how the welfare of tribal communities was given due consideration only under the Prime Ministership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who had introduced a new ministry and a new budget for tribal communities. "Congress cannot worry about the poor and the tribal communities of India. A new ministry, a new budget for tribal communities was made only when Atal ji was in power. If there is any government that

Sambalpur, and also lacked the vision to equip the farming community of the State with the required technological updation.

The discriminatory approach of the Congress was put forth by Shri Modi when he spoke of how the farmers of Madhya Pradesh had to suffer huge losses in the recent hailstorm that hit the State, but were left out of any support from the Central government. "There was hail storm all over MP but Shivraj Singh Chouhan had to sit on a fast to wake up the Centre. Farmers of MP are our brothers, how can we let them

suffer. They don't see the farmers of MP as their own because they elected a BJP government. We all are one. Justice must be done to each and every person. One cannot see everything through a political prism," said Shri Modi.

He further stated that instead of bothering for the welfare of its citizens, the Congress had only one concern – that of finding a solution to Shri Modi. "We are looking for solutions to the nation's problems all the time but they are finding solutions to Modi. We say stop price rise, corruption, but they say stop Modi. They don't have an agenda apart from that," said Shri Modi.

The BJP Prime Ministerial Candidate also expressed shock at the statements made by India's Foreign Minister during his recent visit to London. He spoke of how the External Affairs Minister had abused the Election Commission in London, and had thereby degraded the institute's prestigious repute. "We are proud of our democracy. Our election process is quick and this is done by EC. We should be proud of our EC but the External Affairs Minister is abusing the EC in London. One reason they are abusing EC is that they fear defeat," said Shri Modi, while adding that the Minister had also abused the Supreme Court, while on a foreign land. "Their name 'INC' must be changed to 'Institutions Neglecting Congress'. Their habit is to misuse, abuse and reduce institutions," stated

'Jana Chetna Rally' at Wardha, Maharashtra

Shri Modi.

Even as he highlighted the phenomenal work done by the BJP governments in the neighbouring states of Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh, Shri Modi affirmed to the people of Odisha that he did not wish to comment on the State's Chief Minister who had no time for the people of his state.

Calling for the need to have a functional Government in Delhi, rather than having a Government merely for the sake of it, Shri Modi urged the people to vote for the BJP in the 2014 elections. "Bless me so that I can serve you and wipe your tears," said Shri Modi. He also spoke of the one aspect common to the 1857 revolt and the 2014 elections – that of the Lotus and the roti. Affirming the Lotus' key role during both times, Shri Modi said that while 1857 was about 'Swaraj ki ladai', the 2014 elections would be about 'Surajya ki ladai'. Shri Modi also remembered the momentous contribution of Veer Surendra Sai from Sambalpur, who had challenged the British even before the revolt of 1857.

Shri Modi acknowledged the support of the crowd who had turned out in huge numbers despite the heat, and stated that this wave of support will turn into a tsunami during the elections. He also expressed his condolences to the families of those who had lost their lives in the boat accident in early February.

Are the Jawan and Kisan safe under Congress rule? Can anyone say they are safe?

Safety and security of the farming community and the soldiers of India were the key aspects of BJP PM candidate Shri Narendra Modi's address at the 'Jana Chetna Rally' at Wardha in Maharashtra, on 20 March, 2014.

Stating that Congress promises were empty election slogans only to mislead the people, Shri Modi spoke of how special packages were announced during Elections, but unfortunately the beneficiaries never received the benefits. "It has become a fashion to declare a package after every crisis. Time to pack those who keep giving these packages that don't reach you," affirmed Shri Modi.

Speaking on the need for a visionary change,

he called for the need to create systems that wouldn't collapse in the long run, and stated one such approach whereby the agricultural produce could be transported within short time through goods trains.

Recollecting former Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri's words of 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan', Shri Modi spoke of how neither the Jawan nor the Kisan are safe under the UPA. He recalled that the clarion call by Shastri ji had filled the farmers with enthusiasm to engage in effective production of grains, but under the mis-governance of the Congress and its allies, the agriculture sector, as also the Nation, had been ruined. Speaking about

the beheading of soldiers under the Congress rule, Shri Modi affirmed that both, the farmer and the soldier were unsafe in today's scenario. He said, "Are the jawan and kisan safe under the Congress rule? Can anyone say they are safe? And the farmers, can any farmer trust the Government here or the Agriculture Minister? Our soldiers are beheaded, jawans are killed...if an Army Jawan is unsafe, then what we are talking about."

Expressing concern over the sorry-state-of-affairs in the agriculture sector, he emphasized on how the Central government had levied a cotton export ban when, in fact, the cotton industry was



flourishing. "Farmers are killed here in this region. We have great potential for agriculture but the farmer is dying. The Agriculture Minister should answer- when cotton harvest was good, global demand rose and farmers were getting good prices, why was the cotton export ban placed? For whose help was it? The Government has a problem if the farmer gets money, but does not mind giving subsidy for mutton export," said Shri Modi.

Expressing disdain at the Centre's lack of sympathy for the farming community, Shri Modi said, "Neither do they understand the nation nor do they know the path to take India ahead. They only want to win polls. Even if something happens to the farmer, the Centre is not bothered. If our farmer is ruined then how will we feed our stomachs."

Emphasizing on the need to adopt the 5F formula - from farm to fibre, fibre to fabric, fabric

to fashion and fashion to foreign - by the cotton producers, Shri Modi assured the farming community of a special focus for them when the BJP comes to power. "The first guarantee of a government must be that a farmer cannot be allowed to die. For a variety of reasons the farmer has to take debt and falls under a debt trap. I assure you that the farmers won't have to go to Shahukars to seek loans at exorbitant interest. BJP is committed to transform the agriculture sector. We want to increase farmer income and the purchasing power of villages," assured Shri Modi, while further adding the need to make adequate

water supply and latest technology available to the farmers for quality production.

Attacking the Congress for its inability to tackle larger concerns of national interest, Shri Modi spoke of how they were only bothered on finding a solution to stop Shri Narendra Modi. He urged the people to vote for the BJP in the 2014 elections and show their support for a

stable and strong government. "Be it Congress or NCP, don't send any of them to Delhi. They ruined things here and will make matters worse at the Centre. Make the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance victorious so that there can be a strong and stable government in Delhi," said Shri Modi.

Addressing the gathering former BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari spoke of how the Congress and NCP had betrayed the farmers and set a record in corruption, even as he highlighted the sorry-state-of-affairs under Union Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar. Affirming that the BJP-led government would bring about the much-needed change, Shri Gadkari spoke of how Shri Modi had dedicated his life for the Nation.

Maharashtra state Bharatiya Janata Party President Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Shri Vinod Tawde, Shri Raje Ambrishrao and other senior leaders were present on the occasion. ■

For the good of Bihar, we will do everything, and that will be our priority

Shri Narendra Modi addressed a large crowd of supporters at the Hunkar rally in Purnia, Bihar, on 10th March, 2014.

Talking about the lack of development in Bihar, Shri Modi mentioned how the State government

was sanctioning grants for dummy schools, and pocketing the money thereby. "There are schools for whom money is going but nothing is happening. Can 'paper schools' make the

future of Bihar's youth? We need schools not on paper but on the ground," said Shri Modi, while also speaking of the horrifying incidents where the elderly who had gone to pay their power bill were hit mercilessly in a police station. "Bihar needs to be free from terror and Maoism but he is not interested as it comes in the way of his votebank politics," said Shri Modi, making a direct attack on Bihar CM's indifferent attitude. He also spoke of how children – the future generation

– were made to suffer. "Be it Patna or Delhi, are they bothered about your children. Innocents were killed after eating mid-day meals. A committee was formed since a year by the Centre but not one meeting was held for the concern. It is not that they are

in Bihar, owing to the extensive water resources of the State, but mentioned how fishes worth crores were still being imported in the State. Ensuring that development must reach every person, irrespective of their caste, creed or community, Shri



spoiling today's Bihar. So immersed in votebank politics they are that they keep playing with your future," said Shri Modi. Citing the sorry conditions of jute cultivation in the State, Shri Modi said, "The Shahzaada keeps making allegations but is not willing to answer. What happened to the jute industry here. They let jute farmers get ruined but themselves are experts in Jhooth ki kheta (telling lies)."

He also cited the tremendous potential of the fishing industry

Modi affirmed, "Our focus will be the states on the Eastern part of India and bring them at par with the rest of the states. Bihar Badlega tabhi desh me vikas ki bahar aayegi. Bihar needs the change and the help to shine. Be it special package, status or attention...for the good of Bihar we will do everything, and that will be our priority."

Attacking the Congress for the misgovernance witnessed, Shri Modi stated that the arrogance of ministers in the

Central government was on the seventh heaven. He spoke of how Bihar wanted freedom from the Jungle Raj, but today the entire Nation was under the Jungle Raj, and urged the people of Bihar to take the lead and free the Nation.

Making a scathing attack on the Congress government's lack of accountability for their deeds in the past decade, Shri Modi stated how the 'Shahzaada' spoke of introducing technology and giving mobile phones to the people, but asked if the entire country had regular electricity supply to charge the phones. He further added, "Schools in Bihar don't have computers - in a state where there are so many bright youngsters, is this a good thing? The coming age is about technology, but only 2% schools have computers. Shahzaade ji, what is the Centre doing about this." Shri Modi also asked if the Congress minister's claim of making the Akash tablet available to all was met by, and if not when would it be made." One of their "intelligent" Ministers said we will give Akash Tablet but when will the tablet come on earth? Which hands took the money?" said Shri Modi.

Attacking the Third Front, Shri Modi said that these were only a set of parties made to either support the Congress or save them. The crowd roared in negation, when Shri Modi asked them if the Third Front had ever visited them during the Kosi floods, when the farmers were suffering, or whether they had made peace during the communal violence in UP and Assam, or showed support during the Gujarat earthquake,

or if they had raised their voice when the heads of soldiers were beheaded. "They rise when the poll bugle is sounded...only to sleep and rise during the next elections," said Shri Modi.

Expressing surprise at the recent breaking of the BJP-JDU alliance, Shri Modi said that this could have possibly been because of the Bihar CM's dreams of becoming the Prime Minister. Adding that this fallout would definitely pain stalwarts like Jay Prakash Narayan and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Shri Modi said, "I was thinking for days - why was our very happy alliance broken. I was really trying to understand and thought a lot. Some people said arrogance, some said he stabbed us in the back. I thought how would JP and Dr. Lohia be feeling - imagine their pain. But a few days ago we understood why he broke the alliance - the dream of becoming PM did. And he thinks so highly of himself, it is higher than the Everest... he feels nothing is possible without him."

Recollecting Bihar's refusal to accept support from Gujarat, Shri Modi said that the government in Bihar was so arrogant to have refused help in times of a natural calamity. He stated that such arrogance was not acceptable in a Democracy, and expressed hope that this arrogance would not come in the way of Bihar's development when the BJP forms the government at the Centre in 2014 elections.

Affirming the significance of coalitions in politics, Shri Modi shared the 3 forms of politics

witnessed in today's society, and these were - the politics of G h a t b a n d h a n , Bhrashtabandhan and Lathbandhan. "BJP is doing "gathbandhan". Congress is doing "brashtbandhan" and the criminals are doing "lathbandhan". Our politics is about coalitions. Every coalition where we are part of as leaders, has been successful. BJP is not going to the people only to form a government. We have come to the people to give stability and a development oriented government," said Shri Modi. He urged the people to vote for the BJP in the 2014 elections and called for the need to move ahead with the 'Mantra of development - Vividhta Me Ekta, Bharat Ki Visheshta'.

Recalling the contribution of the Yadav community, and the association Gujarat shared with them. "Yaduvansh se humara nata hai...lot of these families are in dairy. The community produced CMs, Ministers but did justice happen to farmers," stated Shri Modi as he spoke of how the farmers in Bihar were given less prices for their milk earlier, and after Amul's intervention, the situation had improved now.

Stating forth how political parties had played politics in the name of secularism and Muslim communities, Shri Modi put forth facts from the Sachar community report, which highlighted how the poverty in urban Muslims was 45% in Bihar and only 24% in Gujarat, in rural Muslims this figure was 38% in Bihar and 7% in Gujarat, the per month expenditure for an urban Muslim in Bihar was Rs. 550 and Rs. 875 in Gujarat, and for a rural

Muslim was 426 in Bihar and 670 in Gujarat, the literacy in Muslims was 42% in Bihar and 74% in Gujarat, infant mortality rate was 100 per 1000 children in Bihar and 50 in Gujarat. Also, the Integrated Child Development Skill programme ensured that only 2% Muslim kids got the benefit in Bihar, while 32% got it in Gujarat. "Gujarat's secularism is true secularism...it works for every section of society," affirmed Shri Modi.

Recalling the bomb blasts in Patna in October 2013, during a BJP rally, Shri Modi commended the courage of the people of Bihar, and said, "When history is written, 27th October will be remembered. I won't talk about the bombs and the lows of politics, but I will bow to the people of Bihar. Despite the blasts they did not move. Such sights are unprecedented." Shri Modi also extended greetings to all for the upcoming festival of Holi and affirmed that along with the colours of Holi, the colour of the BJP too would spread all over the Nation soon.

Senior BJP leaders spoke on the occasion and urged the crowd to show their support for BJP in 2014 elections. Speaking on the occasion, Former Deputy CM Shri Sushil Modi spoke of how Biharis were insulted in Congress ruled Assam and Maharashtra but given due respect in Gujarat. He affirmed that the people of Bihar would vacate any seat to make Shri Modi the PM of India. "When Modi ji was declared as PM candidate we were alone but now parties from all over are joining us. Make a strong PM

and Government," said Sushil Modi.

Leader of Opposition Shri Nand Kishore Yadav spoke of the lack of development and how people were cheated of the special status under Shri Nitish Kumar. He said, "Every section of the society is admiring Narendra Modi. He does not see society on the basis of caste. Is this a crime," even as he questioned the Opposition's stance at rebuking Shri Modi's humble upbringing.

BJP National Spokesperson Shri Shah Nawaz Hussain spoke of how the BJP believed in integral humanism, and affirmed that if the BJP came to power, they would do development work instead of merely giving speeches. Calling Shri Narendra Modi as the future PM of India, BJP National General Secretary Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy said that the people wanted Shri Modi to unfurl the Tricolour from the Red Fort this August. "People want Modi so that Pakistan is taught a lesson," said Shri Rudy.

Bihar BJP President Shri Mangal Pandey stated that the Nation was standing at the threshold of change and affirmed that Shri Modi will bring this change. He said, "The future of the 10.5 crore people of Bihar is in your hands. We await the day you become the PM."

Champanan MP and former Bihar BJP President Radha Mohan Singh urged the people to break the barriers of caste or creed and make Narendra Modi the PM of India. He compared the progress in Gujarat with the slow pace of development in the rest of the Nation and stated that the slogan '*Har-Har Modi, Ghar-*

Ghar Modi' was popular across the length and breadth of India.

Former Bihar Minister Ashwini Kumar Chaubey affirmed that if everyone came together and voted, then BJP would certainly cross the 272 mark. Stating that voting for Nitish Kumar would be similar to voting for terrorists, he urged the people to vote for Shri Narendra Modi, affirming that Shri Modi popularity had cut across borders and made him an international icon.

Lok Sabha member Uday Singh spoke of how the entire Nation is looking for a change and how that change is none other than Narendra Modi. Citing the lack of development in Bihar, he said, "Narendra Bhai, people want to listen but they also want to tell you- they are placing their trust in you."

Lok Sabha member Kirti Azad questioned Bihar CM Nitish Kumar's claim of being fit to become the PM, stating that under his rule the BPL families of Bihar were falling into the APL category and vice versa, even as the State lacked good infrastructure, be it in case of schools or hospitals.

Dr. CP Thakur called for the need to make BJP victorious in all seats of Bihar by voting for Shri Narendra Modi and stated that Shri Modi would be with everyone, be it the poor, rich or Hindus, Muslims, Christians or Sikhs. Dalit leader Shri Ram Chandra Paswan recalled his close association with Shri Modi since 1999, and said, "Jitna unka naam bhari hai, utna unka kaam bhari hai aur samman bhari hai...leave caste, creed and vote for NDA." ■

BJP weaves grand alliance in Tamil Nadu; seals deal with DMDK, PMK, MDMK, IJK, KMDK

BJP-led alliance will achieve huge victory in Tamil Nadu : Rajnath Singh

From Our Correspondent

In its new electoral venture in Tamil Nadu, the BJP on 20 March announced the formation of a six-party grand alliance in Tamil Nadu for the Lok Sabha election. The announcement about the sealing of the alliance was made by BJP

8 constituencies each. Vaiko's MDMK has been allotted 7 seats while IJK and KMDK have been given one constituency each.

On the occasion Shri Singh said that the fishermen and Sri Lankan Tamils issue were also on the 'top priority' of his party.

Shri Rajnath Singh's announcement of seat-sharing was made in the presence of actor turned politician Vijayakant, Anubumani Ramadoss (PMK), Vaiko, IJK's Pariventhar and KMDK's Easwaran.

Shri Singh described the



National President Shri Rajnath Singh in Chennai who described it as a 'historic' moment for Tamil Nadu and also for the country as seven parties had come into NDA-fold.

Flanked by alliance partners, Shri Singh told a Press conference that out of the 39 seats, actor-politician Vijayakant's DMDK will fight for 14 seats while PMK and BJP will field candidates in

"Their (fishermen) release will be our topmost priority and also protecting their livelihood," he said.

Lashing out at the Congress-led UPA for the travails faced by Sri Lankan Tamils, he said "under UPA, India was not able to impress Sri Lanka to resolve Tamils issue. NDA will work to impress Sri Lanka as it is also in our security interest."

coming together of these parties as a historical moment for the entire country. "All these parties have come together with the purpose of ending the decade-long misrule of the UPA and to make Narendra Modi the Prime Minister of the country. We are sure to win 25 out of the 39 seats at stake from Tamil Nadu," he said.

This is the first-of-its-kind

grand alliance in the political history of Tamil Nadu without either the AIADMK or the DMK.

The DMDK, led by actor-turned-politician Vijayakanth, had cornered 10.3 per cent of the total votes polled in the 2009 Lok Sabha election from Tamil Nadu.

It has strong presence in constituencies in northern and central Tamil Nadu. Interestingly, in the 2009 Lok Sabha election from Tamil Nadu, in 26 constituencies, the BJP and the DMDK polled more votes together than the margin between the winner and the runner up. The two together polled 12.5 per cent of the total votes.

Both the PMK and the MDMK were allies of the AIADMK in the 2009 Lok Sabha election. The PMK is a Vanniyar dominated party and is strong in northern and central Tamil Nadu. The MDMK, led by Vaiko, had polled 3.7 per cent votes and has strong presence in southern Tamil Nadu.

The Indian Jananayaga Kachi led by educationist Patchamuthu is contesting the election for the first time. It has pockets of influence in constituencies like Kallarkurichi and Perambalur. Similarly, Kongunadu Munnatra Kazhagam is an outfit floated by the Gaunders, a powerful caste in western Tamil Nadu. All these factors together with the Modi wave is expected to yield good result for the NDA in Tamil Nadu, according to Manian.

Soon after his arrival in Chennai, Shri Rajnath Singh was closeted with leaders of allies for nearly four hours, giving final touches to the alliance and also ironing out

Uttarakhand Congress MP Satpal Maharaj joins BJP

In a major setback to Congress in Uttarakhand, its MP from Garhwal Satpal Maharaj joined

BJP on 21 March, saying the country needs strong leadership. Maharaj, who is a spiritual leader with considerable following in the region, accused Congress of ignoring the plight of victims of the natural tragedy in the



State last year. Satpal Maharaj said he wanted Narendra Modi to become the Prime Minister as a strong leadership was the need of the hour for the country.

BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh said Maharaj's presence in the party will strengthen it further, adding that it indicated people's faith in Modi's leadership and frustration with the current regime. Maharaj attacked the Uttarakhand Government, accusing it of doing nothing for the victims of floods and said people were leaving the hills for the plains in search of livelihood. "People are suffering and nothing has been done by the Central government for them. Hills are in danger as people are relocating to plains for making a living," he said. ■

differences among the partners over certain seats. The BJP National President managed to convince PMK to give up the claim on Salem seat and accommodate the request by DMDK.

Now the State BJP leaders are hopeful that the State will return a sizeable number of MPs from the State towards achieving formation of a Narendra Modi-led NDA Government at the

Centre.

A popular political weekly in Tamil Nadu has found in their opinion poll that the BJP-led front including the DMDK, the PMK, and the MDMK would corner 32.4 per cent votes in the upcoming election while the AIADMK led front would come first with 34.2 per cent. The weekly also found that the DMK would finish a poor third behind the BJP-led front. ■

Are we willing to learn the lessons from 1962 ? : Arun Jaitley

Neville Maxwell, the author of “India’s China war” who has been a critic of India’s military strategy has released large parts of Henderson Brook’s report . The report was prepared by Lt. General TB Henderson and Brig. Bhagat. The two officers were examining the lapses in India’s military operations in the 1962 war with China. In the last 52 years the report had been kept as a closely guarded secret. All governments in the last 52 years did not feel the necessity of making the document public. This raises a legitimate question with regard to the de-classification of archival records. Are archival records are to be kept away from public gaze indefinitely. If the document pertains to internal security there may be some public interest served in keeping them a secret for some time. However, to keep these documents ‘top secret’ indefinitely may not be in larger public interest. Any Nation is entitled to learn from the mistakes of the past. The security relevance of a document loses its relevance in the long term future. Any society is entitled to learn from the past mistakes and take remedial action. With the wisdom of hind sight I am of the opinion that the report’s contents could have been made public some decades ago.

What has been made public



The contents of the report also raise some legitimate questions. The military strategy of the then government has been seriously questioned. The intelligence assessment of the Chinese attitude was a flawed one. The military strategy in creating ‘forward posts’ has been criticized as providing to the Chinese a pretext for invasion. It further appears from the report that the Prime Minister and his favourite set of officials both in the Army and in the Intelligence establishment were flawed in their assessment.

is Part-I of the report? It has been reported in the media that pages 112 to 167 are still not known. Is it because these pages contain some material which can be embarrassing to those in power in 1962? The first 111 pages having been made public, it is

now necessary that the balance pages also be made public rather than allow public opinion be influenced by unauthentic sources .

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The leaked contents of the report serve as a lesson for us today. How prepared are we in our military strategy? Contemporary evidence indicates that our defence procurement has suffered. This adversely hurts our armed forces who are professionally amongst the best in the world. Are we willing to learn the lessons from 1962 ? ■

Nehru's flawed Forward Policy exposed by leak of classified Henderson report

From Our Correspondent

A large section of the classified Henderson Brooks report on the 1962 Sino-India War blaming then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's "flawed" 'Forward Policy' and the Army leadership for the humiliating defeat became public adding to the woes of the beleaguered Congress-led UPA Government.

According to the report, the political leadership headed by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the military top brass are to be blamed for the 1962 debacle in the 15-day war. New Delhi actively pursued the "Forward Policy" to have military outposts in areas claimed by Chinese and carrying out aggressive patrols which increased the chances of conflict. This happened under the false impression that China will not use military force, the report stated. However, the report pointed out that India lacked military wherewithal and the muscle to sustain such an operation.

The startling revelations are part of the famous Henderson Brooks report. Retired British journalist Neville Maxwell, now settled in Australia, has now put large portions of the "Top Secret" document on the internet leading to a political storm in India.

The Army had asked then Major General Henderson Brooks and Brigadier PS Bhagat to submit a report about the lapses and weaknesses leading

to the 1962 debacle. The two officers gave the detailed report in 1963 but that has been kept under wraps since then despite repeated demands to make it public.

Maxwell uploaded 126 pages of the report, which maintained that the then political and military leadership misread the intentions of the Chinese and thought China would not escalate hostilities whereas militarily Indians should have thought "exactly opposite."

It pointed out during various top-level meetings, one of which was attended by Nehru, the Army Headquarters and the then Intelligence Bureau Director were of the view that China was unlikely to use force against Indian posts even if they were in a position to do so. "The review, undertaken as Forward Policy, was primarily introduced to baulk the Chinese claims in Ladakh. Had the developments stemming out of it been correctly apprised by the Army Headquarters and correlated to NEFA (Arunachal), it is possible we would not have precipitated matters till we were better prepared in both theatres," the



Maj. Gen. Henderson Brooks

report said.

Moreover, the Army leadership had also overruled the concerns raised by the Western Command, which said it was ill-prepared to implement the policy and it would be "defeated in detail" in case of hostilities, the report said. The Western Command's position was realistic, the report said, but Army Headquarters apparently stuck to their belief that the Chinese would not resort to any large-scale hostilities, a presumption belied by its attack as its Army ran through Arunachal Pradesh and captured large parts of Ladakh. "The General Staff Branch Army Headquarters not taking note of

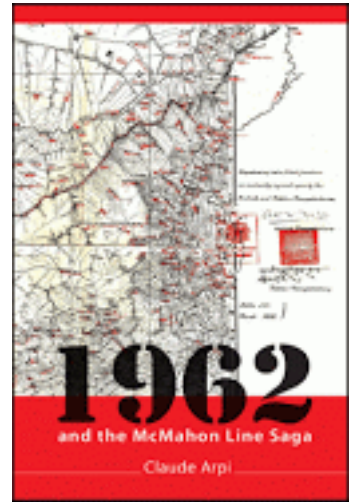
this warning of Western Command could only be attributed to an incorrect assessment of Chinese reactions, together with a sense of complacency that nothing would happen," it said.

The report said Army Headquarters chose to ignore Western Command's caution about military weakness on the ground as the Forward Policy was being executed. In fact, the Western Command had submitted to the Army Headquarters a "Reappraisal of the situation on ground as on August 15, 1962", setting forth long-term and short-term recommendations which were brushed aside. "This review is not concerned with the probability of conflict with or without the Forward Policy but with its introduction the chances of a conflict certainly increased. What is pertinent here is whether we were militarily in a position to implement this," Brooks report said.

"We acted," it said, "on a military 'unsound' basis of not relying on our strength but rather on believed lack of reaction from the Chinese. "Militarily, it is unthinkable that the General Staff did not advise the government on our weakness and inability to implement the Forward Policy," it said, questioning the actions of Lt General BM Kaul, the then Chief of General Staff, who played a key role in shaping the Policy and resigned following the debacle.

Henderson Brooks Report Highlights

- 'The background to the Government's decision on 'Forward Policy' is not known. Nor are the minutes of the meeting laying down guidelines for Forward Policy available' In a meeting in the Prime Minister's Office on November 2, 1961, attended by the Defence Minister, Foreign Secretary, Chief of Army Staff and the Director of Intelligence Bureau (DIB) 'it appears the DIB was of the opinion that the Chinese would not react to our establishing new posts and they were not likely to use force against any of our posts even if they were in a position to do so'
- 'This was contrary to the annual Army Intelligence review-China-Tibet 1959 which clearly indicated that the Chinese would resist with force any attempt to take back territory held by them'
- 'The Chinese had deployed a well-equipped division with supporting arms opposite Ladakh with well developed roads. However, we were thinly spread out with no supporting arms worth the name and with poor communication within various sectors. Thus in case of hostilities we would be defeated'
- Western Command had given a realistic picture of Army preparedness but 'the General Staff Branch Army Headquarters not taking note of this warning of Western Command could only be attributed to an incorrect assessment of Chinese reactions, together with a sense of complacency that nothing would happen'. ■



BJP savages Congress for hiding behind 'classified' truth

The Bharatiya Janata Party charged the Congress with 'hiding' facts about the 1962 Indo-China war and demanded it to be made public. "What is the UPA Government trying to hide by making the Indo-China war report classified," BJP asked.

"It is high time that the current and future generations know and debate as to who worked for the security of India; Jawaharlal Nehru or Sardar Patel," said Deputy Leader in Rajya Sabha Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad.

The request that Henderson Brooks report be declassified had earlier been made by BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh in the Lok Sabha. Defence Minister AK Antony had then stated in Parliament that the report could not be made public as it contains sensitive information and also because the contents of the report had current operational value. ■

So that 1962 is history

By Hardeep S Puri

Following the country's humiliation in 1962, the then chief of the army staff (COAS), General J.N. Chaudhury instituted an "operational review" to inquire into the reverses suffered by the army. Established on December 14, 1962, the two-man inquiry committee submitted its report, classified as "top secret", in April 1963. The terms of reference given to Lieutenant General Henderson Brooks, assisted by Brigadier P.S. Bhagat, were to inquire into "what went wrong" with training, equipment, the system of command, the physical fitness of troops and the capacity of commanders at all levels to influence the men under their command. The inquiry committee was neither mandated to nor did it directly comment on the failures and lapses of the political leadership. And yet, the report provides interesting insights on political decision-making.

On September 2, 1963, the then defence minister, Y.B. Chavan, who had taken over from the disgraced V.K. Krishna Menon, told Parliament that Indian reverses were the result of poor military leadership and high-level "interference" in tactical operations. Other reasons listed for the Indian defeat: the Indian troops' unpreparedness for mountain warfare and unfamiliarity with Chinese tactics, equipment shortages during training and

On September 2, 1963, the then defence minister, Y.B. Chavan, who had taken over from the disgraced V.K. Krishna Menon, told Parliament that Indian reverses were the result of poor military leadership and high-level "interference" in tactical operations. Other reasons listed for the Indian defeat: the Indian troops' unpreparedness for mountain warfare and unfamiliarity with Chinese tactics, equipment shortages during training and combat, mountain communications difficulties, inadequate military intelligence, the unexpectedness of the Chinese assault, Chinese numerical superiority. Chavan also said only 24,000 Indian troops had been involved in the fighting.

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R.D. Pradhan, who was Chavan's private secretary between 1962 and 1965,

provides some insights on the issue, "During the conduct of the inquiry, Chavan was apprehensive that the committee may cast aspersions on the role of the prime minister or the defence minister. Chavan's main worry was to find ways to defend the government and at the same time to ensure that the morale of the armed forces was not further adversely affected." He concluded that Chavan had "earned the gratitude of the prime minister". The classification of the Henderson Brooks report was clearly politically motivated.

Defence Minister A.K. Antony, answering a question on the report, told Parliament in 2010 that it could not be made public because an internal study by the army had established that its contents "are not only extremely sensitive, but are of current operational value". This has been contradicted by several army chiefs.

To maintain that a 51-year-old report is of operational value contradicts the doctrine of common sense. The 112 pages selectively leaked and uploaded by Australian journalist Neville Maxwell on his website on March 17 raise serious questions about the conduct and professionalism of the highest levels of the political and military leaderships.

During a discussion on the Forward Policy in a meeting at the prime minister's office, then

director of the Intelligence Bureau B.N. Mullick's view that the Chinese would not react was bought hook, line and sinker by the others, even though this was contrary to the view of Military Intelligence. The Forward Policy was meant to check the Chinese incursion in Ladakh, but no thought was given to its consequences in the Northeast Frontier Agency (NEFA). The Henderson Brooks report says: "Once we disturbed the status quo in one theatre, we should have been militarily prepared in both to back up our policy." The Forward Policy was introduced without the means to implement it effectively. It was dependent entirely on the expectation that the Chinese would not react. The fault of the general staff (headed at that time by B.M. Kaul) is also brought out in a section relating to Ladakh, where the report says that "the army was not even prepared to meet a limited operation... No army should be placed at the mercy of the enemy on the off-chance that the latter would not react."

India's response to the Chinese build-up was negligible. This almost reads like 2013-2014. It notes that the Srinagar-Leh road had just been completed, and that several forward bases were air-maintained. This continues to be the case in 2014 and that is why we had Depsang last year.

After a meeting in the defence minister's room on September 22, 1962, the army chief's assessment was that the Chinese may send more reinforcements to Dhola, or retaliate in Ladakh. The COAS asked for written orders and the

following orders were given. The army should prepare and throw the Chinese out as soon as possible. The COAS was accordingly directed to take action for the eviction of the Chinese in the Kameng Frontier division of NEFA (where the Thagla Ridge was) as soon as he was ready. The army headquarters issued the orders to the western and eastern commands.

The Henderson Brooks report is critical of the army HQ for not presenting the political authorities with a written appreciation of the situation and leaving them to make the political decision. "To base major military actions on a doubtful intelligence (that the Chinese will not react) is breaking all precepts of war and inviting sure disaster."

The report cites Kaul's testimony to point out that, at a number of meetings held by the defence minister, and attended

by the COAS, the chief of general staff (Kaul himself), the IB director, representatives of the defence and external affairs ministries, "the general view was that the Chinese would not provoke a showdown".

The contents of the report point to three extremely disturbing trends that were in evidence in the 1960s. Some of these have continuing relevance even 52 years later. These merit a full national debate in order to prevent the recurrence of a 1962-type fiasco. They relate to a continuing civil-military disconnect, serious gaps in training and provisioning of equipment, inadequate or flawed intelligence which contributed to bizarre decision-making at the army headquarters and by the political leadership in the ministries of defence and external affairs, and at the PMO. ■

(The writer is, a retired diplomat.)

Hari Babu & Kishan Reddy appointed as Presidents of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana BJP



BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh appointed Shri K. Hari Babu as President of Andhra Pradesh (Seemandhra) unit of the BJP and Shri G. Kishan Reddy as the President for the New State of Telangana.



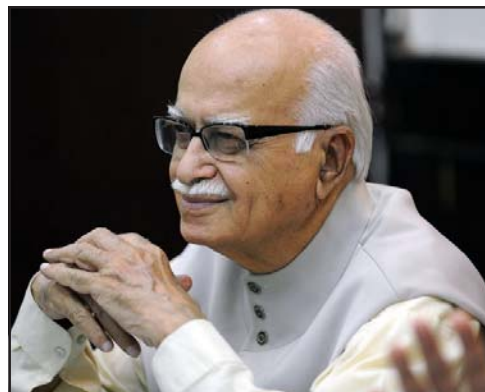
Sri Somu Veeraju is appointed as the Convenor of the Election Management Committee of Andhra Pradesh (Seemandhra). ■

Rajnath Singh appoints Palden Wanchuk new Sikkim BJP President

BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh appointed Shri Palden Wanchuk as new Sikkim BJP President. He was Vice President of the State BJP earlier. ■

Mahatma was perhaps not right, says Rajmohan

By L.K Advani



My second compilation of blogs released in December, 2013, under title “MY TAKE” has quite a few blogs about Sardar Patel, the remarkable integration of princely states that he accomplished, and the manner in which he made the Nizam of Hyderabad who had decided not to sign the Instrument of Accession to the Indian Union to eat the humble pie.

Not many are aware that Prime Minister Pandit Nehru was not at all in favour of taking army action against the Nizam and as in the case of Jammu and Kashmir State, wanted the Hyderabad issue also to be referred to the U.N. Security Council !

Anyone who analyses the history of those early years would readily feel that if Gandhiji had chosen Sardar Patel instead of Pandit Nehru to become free India’s first Prime Minister, it is quite likely the history of those early years may have been quite different.

Going through Rajmohan Gandhi’s excellent biography of Sardar Patel afresh these days, I feel that what Rajmohan has said in his preface is significant. The Preface opens with Rashtrapati Rajendra Prasad’s observations that, generally speaking the Government of India has not been

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fair to the Sardar. Rajmohan writes:

The establishment of independent India derived legitimacy and power, broadly speaking, from the exertions of three men, Gandhi, Nehru and Patel. **But while its acknowledgements are fulsome in the case of Nehru, and dutiful in the case of Gandhi, they are niggardly in the case of Patel.**

“That there is today an India to think and talk about,” President Rajendra Prasad wrote in his diary on May 13, 1959, “is very largely due to Sardar Patel’s statesmanship and firm administration.” “Yet,” added Prasad, “we are apt to ignore him.” Falling in 1989, the centenary of Jawaharlal’s birth found expression on a thousand billboards, in commemorative TV serials, in festivals and on numerous other platforms. Occurring on

October 31, 1975 – four months after Emergency had been declared, the Patel centenary was, by contrast, wholly neglected by official India and by the rest of the Establishment, and since then the curtain drawn on the life of one of modern India’s most remarkable sons has been only occasionally and partially lifted. To fling it wide and let today’s generation see Vallabhbhai Patel’s life is my privilege. It is not a perfect man’s life and I have neither wanted nor tried to hide Patel’s imperfections. But some at least may feel after knowing his life that Patel is a man to remember gratefully in good times and as a benchmark of India’s potential when the times seem depressing or daunting.

Whether or not Gandhi was unjust to Patel when the moment arrived to select free India’s first Premier is a question that frequently crops up. The answer disclosed by my inquiry will be found in these pages. **But the opinion of some that the Mahatma had been less than fair to Vallabhbhai was a factor in my decision to attempt to write the latter’s life. If a wrong had been perpetrated, some reparation from one of the Mahatma’s grandsons would be in order.** In addition I seek to discharge the obligation of a citizen to a founder of his nation.

I may be allowed also to refer

to a personal contact, though of the slenderest kind and occurring when I was 14. Some time in 1949, during a visit that my parents, siblings and I made to 1 Aurangzeb Road – the Sardar’s home in New Delhi, I somehow found myself alone with him on his lawn. We sat in chairs facing each other and about six feet apart. He was smiling at me with his lips and his eyes – mocking and inspecting me, I thought. I felt uncomfortable and wanted to take my eyes off him but did not – I guess my pride came in the way. Then I chanced to look more closely into his eyes and noticed affection in them. From that moment I knew that the Iron Man had a warm heart.

For Rajmohan, Gandhiji’s grandson, virtually to say openly that Gandhiji had perhaps not been right in the decision he took about Prime Ministership, and, so merited some ‘reparation’ from one of his grandsons not only revealed his own greatness and magnanimity but also endorsed the general view that Sardar would have been a more appropriate choice.

TAILPIECE

This book by Rajmohan Gandhi has also effectively nailed the Congress Party’s slanderous campaign against the RSS in respect of Mahatmaji’s assassination.

At page 472, the author has quoted the letter dated 27.02.1948 written by Sardar Patel to Jawahar Lal Nehru, which is being quoted below:

“I have kept myself almost in daily touch with the progress of the investigation regarding Babu’s assassination case. I devote a large part of my evening to discussing with Sanjeevi (head of intelligence and I.G. of Police, Delhi) the day’s progress and giving instructions to him on any points that arise.

*All the accused have given long and detailed statements... **It emerges clearly from these statements that the RSS was not involved in it at all.** ■*

Eminent personalities who joined BJP

- ▶ Gegong Apang, former Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh
- ▶ Bappi Lahiri, noted music director, Bollywood
- ▶ RK Singh, former Home Secretary
- ▶ RS Pandey, former Petroleum Secretary
- ▶ Hardeep Puri, retired diplomat who served as India’s permanent representative at the UN
- ▶ Sunil Shastri, son of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri
- ▶ Dharam Singh, former retired Railways official
- ▶ Rajesh Verma, former BSP MP
- ▶ Kaushal Kishore, Samajwadi Party leader
- ▶ Dharmendra Singh, grandson of socialist leader Raj Narain, who in 1977 defeated Indira Gandhi from Rae Bareilly
- ▶ Smt Putul Singh, Independent MP from Banka (Bihar) and wife of Digvijay Singh, former Union minister and Samata Party leader
- ▶ Om Prakash Yadav, Independent MP from Siwan, Bihar
- ▶ O Landhoni Devi, wife of O Ibobi Singh, Congress CM of Manipur, along with three prominent leaders of Manipur – T Hangkhanpao (former Minister), Dr Naorem Binoykumar Singh (former general secretary of Samata Party Manipur) and Dr AK Manglemjao Singh (retired Associate Prof. from WK College).
- ▶ Nishikant Thakur, Senior Journalist
- ▶ Sushil Singh, sitting MP from Aurangabad Bihar
- ▶ Jagdambika Pal, Former Congress leader & Ex chief minister
- ▶ Raju Srivastava, Comedian
- ▶ Sushree Heena Gaveet, Former NCP leader
- ▶ Udit Raj, Prominent Dalit leader and Social activist
- ▶ Chandra Mohan Patowary, Former AGP President
- ▶ Satpal Maharaj, Sitting MP from Pauri Lok Sabha, Uttarakhand
- ▶ Satyapal Singh, Former Police Commissioner, Mumbai
- ▶ Shriramulu, Senior Politician, Karnataka
- ▶ M J Akbar, Editor Sunday Guardian & Senior Journalist
- ▶ N K Singh, MP Rajya Sabha [JD(U)], Bihar
- ▶ Tejashwani, Former MP (Congress), Karnataka

To be continued.....

Maoists Strike Again

By Arun Jaitley

The Maoists have struck again. Several policemen belonging to the CRPF and the Chhattisgarh Police have lost their life. They have been martyred for the cause of protecting India.

Maoist threat continues to be a serious problem confronting



India. A large number of districts in the Tribal heartland of central India are under Maoist control and influence. These are areas of Maoist dominance. The average citizen in these areas is oppressed. The writ of the District Administration runs very little. It is the Maoists who collect taxes. They have paid volunteers in every village. They are heavily armed. The Maoists are not misguided ideologues. They are not social reformers. Maoism is not a poverty eradication scheme. It is an ideological movement which is intended to overthrow India's parliamentary democracy and replace it with an ideological dictatorship. Within the Maoists

scheme of ideas there will be no democracy, no freedom, no right to life and liberty, no rule of law, no free speech. People will be subjected to the kind of tyranny which ideological dictatorship world-over has seen.

How does one counter Maoism? Do we follow a theory

put forward by some bleeding hearts that economic progress alone will eliminate the threat of Maoism. This is not even a half truth. For any government to enter the areas of Maoists influence, restoration of peace is a condition precedent. The landmines have to be eliminated. The arms in control of the private armies have to be flushed out. Extortionism of the average citizens has to end. How will a District Administration or the PWD contractors enter these areas and start developmental activities such as building

schools, colleges, hospitals, Panchayat Bhawans etc.

The source of arms and ammunition in these areas has to be smashed. The Maoists are depending on arms either smuggled from across the border or looted from the police armories. The Maoists believe that the enemy's armoury is the Maoists' armoury. The enemy in this case is the state or the police.

How long will India continue to sacrifice ordinary citizens and security personnel at the hands of this violence? How long will we allow them to hold up developmental agenda in these regions? Can we allow them to further destroy buildings and assets which are created for the benefit of the tribal population? We must be clear that the first right to national resources must belong to the tribals.

We must alienate the tribals from the Maoists. The battle against Maoism can never be half a battle. The full might of the Indian State must confront them.■

(The writer is Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha)

Naxal attacks in Chhattisgarh

On March 11 another Naxal attack took place in Sukma District of south Chhattisgarh. Fifteen security personnel were killed in a Maoist ambush on March 19 in Sukma District of south Chhattisgarh. One civilian, Vikram Nishad, also died, while three were injured in the same area where a Maoist ambush had killed 27 people last May. It was the second major attack on security forces in the past fortnight. On February 28, five security personnel were killed in a Maoist attack in Dantewada.

Kid-Glove approach to insurgency is suicidal

By Balbir Punj

As the general election approaches, the Red ultras will become more determined to thwart the democratic process. They have already proved as much with the latest attack in Chhattisgarh

Once again, the Maoists have massacred our security forces. Once again this has happened in the tribal district of Bastar. And once again it is the so-called human rights activists who have been blaming the Indian state and its inability to fix the supposedly underlying socio-economic problems for this armed insurrection in the country. Also, after last week's Maoist attack on security forces that were going to protect workers involved in a road construction project, in the extremely backward Bastar district, it appears that all that the nation can do is wait for the next round of attacks by these rebels.

The search for a solution is lost in the debate that such attacks spark. Much of the conversation is a distraction. The first part of the debate is about who is to blame: The Union or the State Government concerned? For now, it is mostly Chhattisgarh that bears the brunt of the Maoists' challenge to democracy, but Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra and Maharashtra also suffer.

The short answer to this question ought to be that

eradicating an insurgency is the joint responsibility of the Union and the State Governments. The Union Government provides special forces like the CISF, the CRPF and the aerial reconnaissance teams while the State Police takes responsibility for gathering ground-level intelligence and providing other



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support systems.

Recently, the Union Government introduced the Under Vest Restraint System to scan Maoist-infested areas and provide intelligence on the movement of the insurgents. It also must keep a tab on movement of arms and money to the Maoists, who mislead the poor tribals into believing that they can seize the state apparatus through insurrection and that will go a long way in improving the economic situation of the marginalised sections of society.

Unfortunately, the tribals of Bastar never get to know about what happened to similar movements in other parts of the world. For example, they do not know that Soviet Russia was overthrown by the people when they realised that even after 75 years of Marxist rule, they still did not have two meals a day or minimum comforts. Similarly, in China, even though a communist party is in power, it has had to adopt free enterprise to push itself to the top. On the contrary, because the regime in North Korea has persisted with communism, that country is one of the poorest in the world, even though its neighbour, South Korea, is an upper middle-

income country.

The Maoists destroy schools and seek to block all sorts of development works that connect the forests to the outside world and provide relief to the people. This is proof of their intent to retain a vice-like grip on the tribals who they want to keep poor, deny education and basic

hand from the Supreme Court. How can the State Government – or for that matter the Union Government – deal with armed insurgency in such a situation?

There is, of course, the need for both the Union and the State regimes to work with each other to eliminate the Maoist menace. It is equally important that the

ground that mere intellectual justification of violence against the state cannot be a crime.

Following last week's Maoist attack, we are now being told that the insurgents were sending a message to the Indian state to not go ahead with the upcoming Lok Sabha election. Ironically, the same tribals, whose loyalty the Maoists claim, voted in large numbers in the State Assembly election held only four months ago. Their strong participation in the coming parliamentary election will demonstrate that the tribal people are beginning to see through the propaganda of the Maoists and that they now understand the value of a free and fair election as a game-changer.

After all the Raman Singh Government in Chhattisgarh has been acclaimed for its success in making the Public Delivery System successful and pro-people. If it has been elected three times, it is certainly on the basis of the relief it has brought to the people in the State. Obviously this success is now visible to the tribals as well as such information cannot be totally blanked-out, even in the thick of the jungles.

By this logic, it is quite certain that the frustrated Maoist leadership – which has already lost some of its top fighters – will organise more attacks to destroy the morale of the security forces. Civil society activists have an obligation to understand the dangers such an armed insurgency poses to orderly progress. ■

(The writer is BJP National Vice President)

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healthcare facilities.

It is worth recalling that in the Sukma district of Bastar area when a young Collector, Mr Vineet Krishna, succeeded in setting up schools and health centres, the Maoists abducted him and held him prisoner for almost a month. That was also a warning to other officers of the State to not work for the people.

Unfortunately, the intellectuals of the country seem to have their eyes closed towards these means and methods of the Maoists. Instead, they keep repeating ad nauseam that the entry of security forces into Maoist-held areas is a violation of human rights. The doctor from Raipur who justified Maoist violence and decried police intervention even got a helping

Union Minister for Home Affairs inspire the security forces to give their best, even in the hostile environment of Bastar and other Maoist-infested areas. The incumbent Home Minister, and most of his predecessors during the two tenures of the UPA, have been feeble.

Only Mr P Chidambaram was an exception. But even he was busy eyeing the Finance Ministry for much of the time and, thereby, could not give his best to the Home Ministry.

Besides, how could the Congress lead this fight against the Maoists when it is suffering from cleft feet? That the party is confused in its approach to the Maoist menace is clear from the fact that it supported the campaign for Binayak Sen on the

Extended honeymoon for AAP is over

By Tavleen Singh

In all my years of covering politics and governance in Delhi I have never known a political leader to have had as long a honeymoon with the media as Arvind Kejriwal. It is true that Rajiv Gandhi was much loved and forgiven everything for a very long time but the media in those days was not what it is today. It consisted in the 1980s of a handful of national newspapers in English and Hindi and a handful of powerful regional newspapers whose boundaries were limited by language.

Literacy levels were much lower than they are today and if you travelled in rural India the sight of one man reading a newspaper to a group in a chai shop was a common sight. Sometimes it was only schoolmaster who could read in a whole village.

I can remember villages in the vicinity of Delhi where nobody had ever seen a newspaper. So, the Indian media did not have the capacity that it has today to influence people into believing in a leader. The first time I noticed the power that the Indian media now has to influence public opinion in a significant way was when Anna Hazare was hailed as India's saviour by TV anchors who made him out to be a new mahatma when he came to Jantar Mantar to begin his fast against corruption. They brought their studios to Jantar Mantar and reported his every move.

Case of perjury and fraud against Arvind Kejriwal

Please remember that although Arvind Kejriwal was by his side all the time and although he himself fasted for many days afterwards in Jantar Mantar he was not treated with the same kind of reverence and so he went almost unnoticed except as Anna's constant companion. Arvind Kejriwal's own honeymoon with the media began later. Much after he formed his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). He tried grabbing headlines on a daily basis by one antic or other but it was only when he exposed the financial dealings and mysterious wealth of Robert Vadra that he became a media star. When he continued to take on people that the media rarely dares to he became a really big hero and TV reporters took to following him around and slavishly reporting all the things he did and said.

Under AAP, India will go the USSR way

When his first foray into electoral politics last December won him the Government in Delhi most political commentators reported the event as a 'game changer'. We knew that his decision to take a metro to his swearing-in ceremony was really just a gimmick but this is not how we reported it. Not until the new Government's Law Minister conducted his midnight raid on a supposed house of ill repute did some of the gloss start to peel. But, even then the

Government of Mr Kejriwal was given more grace points than most and Arvind Kejriwal himself was portrayed as a rare kind of new leader despite not being able to come up with anything resembling governance while he was the Chief Minister. Not even when he pulled his own Government down to concentrate his attention on AAP contesting the Lok Sabha election did he get any flak for betraying the people of Delhi.

When he went on his tour of Gujarat two weeks ago with the clear intention of maligning Narendra Modi a huge contingent of TV reporters followed his every move. It is possible in the best governed States to find disgruntled people and Arvind Kejriwal sought them out assiduously. He announced before TV cameras that the farmers of Gujarat hated Modi and that the only 'development' in the State had benefitted billionaires like Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani but somehow the TV reporters who travelled with him did not think it worth asking how Modi could have won three elections if he was so unpopular.

Of fake skull caps and cheating the Muslim voter

It is only in recent days that Arvind Kejriwal has started to get bad publicity. It started with his decision to take a private plane from Jaipur to Delhi to

attend the India Today conclave. He tried to explain this away by saying there were no commercial flights that could have brought him here in time but his story was mocked in the media and then before we knew it he announced that if he became Prime Minister, he would throw inconvenient journalists into jail. That comment ended the long honeymoon and as someone who has seen through his antics and his wiles from day one I admit to being very pleased that the honeymoon is over.

It is wrong to treat political leaders like messiahs even if they themselves believe they are. Arvind Kejriwal has indicated more than once that he is convinced that he is a real messiah and not just a politician. Notice the way in which he said he started believing in God because his party had done so well in the Delhi elections. Notice how he talks about himself always in the third person. Notice how he says, ad nauseum, that he is 'nobody' and that whether he wins or loses the credit for victory and the blame for defeat will rest on the shoulders of the 'janata'. Notice how he speaks of himself as someone who has come to rid India of corruption. If these are not signs of megalomania it is hard to think what are. It is the responsibility of political journalists to draw attention to them but this has not happened so far because we have been so mesmerised by Kejriwal. It would not be wrong to say that we helped create the messianic image that Arvind Kejriwal has. So if today he is threatening to jail journalists we in the media

have only ourselves to blame. Watch Ashutosh running away from aam admi!

Arvind Kejriwal is an extremely clever politician who has succeeded in building a political party in a remarkably short time. He has drawn attention to some of the most glaring flaws in Indian political parties and he must be given full credit for this. He has brought hope to millions of urban, middle class Indians

who had become cynical about elections and political leaders in general and for this he must be given fullest credit. What he is not is a messiah and it was very wrong of us in the media for having portrayed him as one. Now that he has shown his disdain for the media we must hope that there will be some real political reporting about Arvind Kejriwal and his political career. ■

(The writer is a renowned columnist)

Uttarakhand

BJP to win all seats in the State : Ajay Bhatt

The Bharatiya Janata Party said that the party would easily win all the five Parliamentary seats in the upcoming Lok Sabha election in the State. Leader of Opposition in Uttarakhand, Shri Ajay Bhatt expressed hopes that BJP candidates can easily win in all the five seats and further alleged that the Congress-led State Government of misusing Government machinery and violating the model code of conduct. Interacting with media persons Shri Bhatt alleged that announcement of new schemes and projects by Chief Minister Harish Rawat was a clear violation of the model code of conduct and further charged that the Cabinet Ministers and MLAs from Congress were addressing political gathering in the Government run rest houses, which was a clear violation of the model code of conduct. He said that transfer of 25 division development officer from rural development department which issued on March, 13, was also the clear violation of poll code of conduct.

He said that the Congress-led State Government should seek clearance from Chief Election Office before issuing any transfer list of division development officer and claimed that the State Government had completely failed to take concrete steps for carrying rehabilitation work in the disaster affected areas of the State despite the fact that more than 10 months have passed since the disaster struck Uttarakhand in the month of June last year.

He said voters will cast their votes in favour of BJP candidates as the residents have learnt that BJP-led NDA was the only party that could push the country further on the path of development. He also termed Congress rule in the State and Centre was complete failure as both the Governments failed to keep a tab on the rampant corruption and inflation across the country.

Shri Bhatt also alleged that the Government was yet to draft plans for improving infrastructure in the mountainous parts of Garhwal and Kumaon divisions of the state. ■

Gujarat ranked 'Top State in Economic Freedom' for second time in a row

From Our Correspondent

According to the latest Economic Freedom of the States of India 2013 report, Gujarat is the top state in economic freedom.

The Economic Freedom of the States of India (EFSI), 2013, estimates economic freedom in the 20 biggest Indian states, using a methodology adapted from the Fraser Institute's Economic Freedom of the World (EFW) annual reports.

According to the report, Gujarat has widened its lead at the top of the economic freedom table, with an index score of 0.65 (on a scale from 0 to 1.0). Gujarat, which was ranked at 5th position in the first report in 2005 with a score of 0.46, has been ranked at 1st position in the 2013 report with a score of 0.65.

Prepared by renowned economists Mr. Bibek Debroy (Professor - Centre for Policy Research), Mr. Laveesh Bhandari (recipient of best thesis award by the EXIM Bank of India in 1996) and Mr. Swaminathan S. Anklesaria Aiyar (research fellow at the Cato Institute), the report has been published through a joint effort of the Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit, the Cato Institute and the Academic Foundation, New Delhi. The report seeks to measure the level of economic freedom within vast, diverse

India, and has, this year, highlighted the importance of state-level policy improvements and experimentation to produce better economic and social outcomes.

The Economic Freedom Index is based on 3 parameters – 1. Size of Government (expenditures, taxes and enterprises) 2. Legal structure and security of property rights and 3. Regulation of Labour and Business. Each state is scored and ranked on these three areas

social welfare programmes and water resource management. All of this is being achieved without an inordinate increase in the size of the government." It may be noted that Shri Narendra Modi has served as the state's Chief Minister for the entire period that is being mentioned by the authors of the report.

Gujarat has also witnessed significant improvement in its index values and retains its pre-eminent position in 'Regulation of Labour and Business.' The



and then given an overall score and rank.

Analyzing the aspect of Size of Government, the report states, "Gujarat's is a well-known success story through much of the 2000s. Moreover, it has had major successes in agriculture,

report states, "Gujarat has consistently been the best state in this area. It has also recorded the maximum improvement in index score since 2011, and its score of 0.87 is far ahead of the state at the second position. A host of factors have contributed

to Gujarat's continuing improvement. A sharp decline in man-days lost due to strikes and lock-outs, higher market wage rates compared with minimum wage rates, and a decline in pendency of cases are some major factors."

Enhancing the growth & accolades: A robust vision, a determined mission

From USA Congressional Think Tanks, Brookings Institutions, Financial Times, Wall Street Journal, policy organization Legatum Institute to TIME Magazine and India's ASSOCHAM and India Today, among several other organizations and groups, Gujarat's development has been hailed universally.

Giving a strong impetus to these dazzling heights of progress is a solid vision, a mission to ensure that each and every citizen of Gujarat is integrated in the development journey of the state. It is the farsightedness of Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi that has made the state a strong engine of growth over the last 13 years.

As far as economic freedom is concerned, Shri Narendra Modi has a very clear vision that has been appreciated far and wide. Speaking to the Economic Times in a past interview, Shri Modi had said that the government has no business to be in business. He envisions the role of the Government as that of a facilitator, helping stimulate growth in every way possible. Shri Modi went on to share how in Gujarat things such as greasing the palms of bureaucrats and politicians

simply do not exist - there is coherence in policies which is more than enough.

He encapsulated his stand as - "No Red Tape, only Red Carpet is my policy towards investors."

Today, in a time when crony capitalism and policy paralysis is plaguing the nation, Gujarat comes across as a breath of fresh air. Shri Modi himself says on many occasions that he has no son or son-in-law so who will he accumulate money for? Under his watchful eyes, the money that was earlier used up in enriching

the pockets of a handful of middlemen, is now being utilized for the development of the state. Thus, on one hand there is freedom to grow and

innovate, while on the other, the fruits of development are reaching the common people of Gujarat!

The force behind Gujarat's development - 6 crore people of Gujarat!

On many occasions Shri Modi has been asked to whom can the development in Gujarat be attributed? And each time he is asked this question, quickly comes his reply - the 6 crore people of Gujarat! The development that the state has seen in the past 13 years has the scent of hardwork and sweat of

6 crore Gujaratis. The people of the state have shown amazing determination, zeal and commitment to take the state to newer heights of progress every single moment.

Recently, Asia's leading brokerage house CLSA called Gujarat among the fastest growing states in India and called its development model most unique. It lauded Gujarat's success in industry, agriculture and particularly praised the Government policies that have drawn investment in the state.

One of the key points CLSA



noted is that Gujarat's growth is characterized by low reliance on central funds.

This yet again vindicated what Shri Modi says - that the growth of Gujarat is due to the people of Gujarat, no Hand can take imaginary credit for the growth of the state!

It is great to see Gujarat's growth receive such encouraging words very often. It surely will inspire the people to further work hard and touch heights of progress never-seen-before, by following the Mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' (Collective efforts, inclusive growth). ■



“NaMo Chai Party” in Nigeria, New Jersey & Honkong

with the high participation of women professionals, homemakers and students.

Senior BJP leaders from Delhi BJP Headquarters with Press and media also joined in the discussions online through video conferencing and shared their views on national and international issues over tea. The speakers lauded the efforts of the NRI's for their contribution towards welfare, development and well-being of both Nigeria and India and urged them to keep contributing towards enriching and enhancing the

Jersey Chapter Coordinator); Suresh Jani and Jayesh Patel (Past Presidents); Ram Kamath, Nimesh Dixit and other office bearers and members.” The Newark Avenue where Rajbhog Sweets is located is considered as a mini India. The entire Newark Avenue had a festive look with posters of “NaMo for PM” splashed in front of Rajbhog Foods and nearby, The attendees wearing NaMo T-shirts chanted slogans praising India and NaMo. OFBJP's youth volunteers distributed flyers, spoke to people, registered new

The public outreach programme in support of BJP prime ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi organised by OFBJP is reaching to people of Indian origin residing abroad. BJP has launched a sustained campaign in 35 countries across the globe, targeting various professional groups to support the BJP in achieving its Mission 272+.

The Nigeria Chapter of Overseas Friends of BJP (OFBJP) on Sunday, 9th March 2014 became the first overseas destination to host a Grand NaMo Tea Party outside India. In spite of the hot weather over 500

NRIs turned up at the Geeta Mandir Hall, 18 Cappa Avenue, Palm Groves in IluPeju, Lagos for the interactive session to promote Narendra Modi as the Indian PM candidate. The event was facilitated by eminent NRI Industrialist, Entrepreneurs, Professionals, Doctors and students. The event was marked



cordial relations between both countries.

In New Jersey Overseas Friends of BJP (OFBJP) organized a Chai Pe Charcha program in front of Rajbhog Sweets in Jersey City, NJ on March 15, 2014. A large number of people participated in the program including Arvind Patel (New

volunteers and of course enjoyed “chai” with the people. The volunteers appealed to people in several Indian languages which attracted attention of the people who had come for the shopping in this mini India mart. The same event *Chai Pe charcha* also organized by OFBJP Hong Kong and in the adjacent Macau. ■

Sishya (Disciple)

By Sri Swami Sivananda

A disciple is he who follows the instructions of the Guru to the letter and spirit, and who propagates the teachings of the Guru to less evolved souls in the path till the end of his life.

A true disciple is concerned only with the divine nature of the Guru. The Guru's action as man is not the disciple's concern. He is totally oblivious of it. To him, the Guru is Guru even if he acts unconventionally. Always remember that the nature of a saint is unfathomable. Judge him not. Measure not his divine nature with the inadequate yardstick of your ignorance. Criticise not your Guru's action which is done on universal vision.

True discipleship opens the vision. It kindles the spiritual fire. It awakens the dormant faculties. It is most necessary in one's journey along the spiritual path. Guru and disciple become one. The Guru blesses, guides, and inspires the disciple. He transmits his spiritual power to him. He transforms and spiritualises him.

WHO IS QUALIFIED TO APPROACH THE GURU?

To approach a Guru, you must be a proper Adhikari (qualified person). Correct understanding, non-attachment to worldly objects, serenity of mind, restraint of the senses, absence of base passions, faith in the Guru, and devotion to God are the necessary equipment with which the aspirant has to approach the Guru.

The Guru will impart

spiritual instructions only to that aspirant who thirsts for liberation, who duly obeys the injunctions of the Shastras, who has subdued his passions and senses, who has a calm mind, and who possesses virtuous qualities like mercy, cosmic love, patience, humility, endurance, forbearance, etc. Initiation into the mysteries of Brahman will fructify only when the disciple's mind becomes desireless, and will produce Jnana in it.

GURU-SEVA

Aspirants should direct their whole attention in the beginning towards the removal of selfishness by protracted service to the Guru. Serve your Guru with divine Bhava(feeling). The cancer of individuality will be dissolved. The captain of a ship is ever alert. A fisherman is ever alert. A surgeon in the operation theatre is ever alert. Even so, a thirsting hungry disciple should be ever alert in the service of his Guru.

Live to serve the Guru. You must watch for opportunities. Do not wait for invitation. Volunteer yourself for the Guru's service. Serve your Guru humbly, willingly, unquestioningly, unassumingly, ungrudgingly, untiringly, and lovingly. The more your energy you spend in serving your Guru, the more the divine energy will flow into you.

He who serves the Guru serves the whole world. Serve the Guru without selfish ends. Scrutinise your inner motives while doing service to the Guru. Service must be done to the Guru

without expectation of name, fame, power, wealth, etc.

OBEDIENCE TO THE GURU

Obedience to the Guru is better than reverence. Obedience is precious virtue, because if You try to develop the virtue of obedience, the ego, the arch-enemy on the path of Self-realisation, slowly gets rooted out. Only the disciple who obeys his Guru can have command over his lower self. Obedience should be very practical, whole-hearted, and actively persevering. True obedience to Guru neither procrastinates nor questions. A hypocritical disciple obeys his Guru from fear. The true disciple obeys his Guru with pure love, for love's sake. Learn how to obey. Then alone you can command. Learn how to be a disciple. Then alone you can become a Guru.

Give up the delusive notion that to submit to the preceptor, to obey him, and to carry out his instructions is slavish mentality. The ignorant man thinks that it is beneath his dignity and against his freedom to submit to another man's command. This is a grave blunder. If you reflect carefully, you will see that your individual freedom is, in reality, an absolutely abject slavery to your own ego and vanity. It is the vagaries of the sensual mind. He who attains victory over the mind and the ego is the truly free man. He is the hero. It is to attain this victory that man submits to the higher spiritualised personality of the Guru. By this submission, he vanquishes his lower ego and realises the bliss of infinite consciousness.

To be continued

Courtesy: *The Divine Life Society*