



Kamal Sandesh
Fortnightly Magazine

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Cover : Shri L.K Advani and other senior BJP leaders lighting the lamp on the foundation day at Party Headquarters in New Delhi.

HISTORIC PICTURE



May our flag always fly high!
Flag hoisting by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the foundation day of BJP in April 6, 1980 in Mumbai



Arjuna, this soul dwelling in the bodies of all can never be slain; therefore, you should not mourn for anyone – (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 30)

Arjuna, this soul dwelling in the bodies of all can never be slain; therefore, you should not mourn for anyone – (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 30)

QUOTES

"Farmers living in drought affected areas facing an acute agrarian crisis. Drought has adversely affected more than 11000 villages of Maharashtra "

-Rajnath Singh

"The Congress's model is faulty; the elected leader must have the last word, the ability to over-rule and take the biggest decisions."

-Arun Jaitley

"We need to move from PPP to PPPP, People Public Private Partnership"

- Narendra Modi

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

A language is a medium of expression. So, all languages must be respected. Treating English with kid glove and treating other languages in a step motherly attitude only widen the division in the society. I went through a letter, which was published in Kamal Sandesh, written by BJP leader Venkaih Naidu to PM on recently changed in UPSC syllabus. BJP timely stand on changed syllabus saved a large section of society from losing opportunity to crack IAS exams. Otherwise major section of youth was prevented from passing exams in the name of English.

-Sourabh
Delhi



Write to us

The Editor,



We welcome

Your views & Suggestions

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Prime minister's dignity in tatters

Editorial...

"I'll neither say 'yes' nor 'no'. What will be a better thing for me if Rahul Gandhi is ready to become the prime minister?" - these words uttered by prime minister of the largest democracy Dr. Manmohan Singh are a blow to the prestige and credibility of India, democracy, constitution and along with that of the post of the prime minister itself. Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and other Congress leaders should not treat him in the way so that he is under so much pressure and compulsions. It is true that Dr. Manmohan Singh is a Congress leader and the bigger truth is that he is the prime minister of the country. The country had never witnessed such a dark chapter of prime ministership in its history. Everyday insult to the post is taking place. The post is being degraded. The Congress which claims to have got freedom is now limited to a single family. The Congress should clarify whether its next prime minister will be Dr. Manmohan Singh or Rahul Gandhi. But if you don't want to make Dr. Manmohan Singh strong then you should also not compel him so much.

UPA has pushed the country into a blind alley. The government is not only unsuccessful on borders of the country, army, constitution, pillars of the democracy, foreign policy, border issues, law and order of the country and on many more aspects like this but it has now even become a laughing stock. The increasing aggression of China is not a matter of concern for India, the Pakistan backed terrorism continues unabated and the problems of northeast continue to haunt us. And all these things are happening just because our neighbouring countries including Pakistan and China know that for last nine years India instead of having a prime minister is having a man toothless, colourless, action-less and one involved with himself as its prime minister. Dr. Manmohan Singh may claim that he has been prime minister for last nine years but does it matter as to how much time he has spent as prime minister or what has he done in his tenure? It is an open challenge to him to declare before the people of India as to what he has done on which the country can feel pride. Scams in Rs.72,000 crore loan waiver scheme for farmers, MNREGA, direct cash subsidy, food security bill and many more – how low will we stoop for the politics of votes? How many more avenues of corruption will be opened?

India is crying with the corruption of Congress. But UPA is turning a deaf ear to this pain of the country. TRS was the first which went out of the alliance of UPA. TRS was followed by Trinamool, and then DMK, and now it remains in power with the support of either SP or BSP. There is not a single day when the leaders of these two parties are not attacking the prime minister. The dignity of the prime minister of India is in tatters. The future of India is more important. People have unchained Bharat Mata from slavery by sacrificing

their lives and no one has the right to let that sacrifice go in vain, neither the UPA nor the Congress.

Every Indian is in pain, he is waiting for the day to express his anger. Although the Congress might be planning to create tools to hijack democracy but it will never succeed. Entire country is now awakened and change is inevitable. Bharatiya Janata Party has to bloom like 'lotus' in such a challenging time. They will have to walk with each other, in sportsman spirit and will have to script new stories of dedication and devotion. India can now be led by the party which is filled with national spirit and has a vision for the future. The UPA government was formed by default for the last two times. BJP will have to engage itself with the preparations so that it becomes the strength of every one and 'lotus' blooms in the entire country. To realize this dream of the people lot of hard work is required at the ground level. ■

Status of women in India worse than in 18th century : Modi

Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi said the status of women in India has become worse than in the 18th century despite progress made by society in other areas.

"In our culture, mothers have the highest place. But a lot of bad things have crept into our society. In the 18th century female feticide had started," he said, addressing the annual general meeting of FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO) on 08 April 2013.

Shri Modi said that after independence it seemed that the country would move towards a modern India. It seemed "we will show the world what is a woman's place. But it seems that as we progressed, our society has degenerated".

"Sometimes I feel our situation has become worse than that in the 18th century. In the 21st century, girls are being killed in the womb. Both men and women are equally responsible for that," he said adding that this problem also existed in Gujarat.

Highlights of the speech:

- Have only done damage control of the damage done by my Congress friends. Now Gujarat is on level field.
- I have only filled the pits dug by the Congress in my first three terms
- In Gujarat, we exempted stamp registration fee for registering property in the name of women
- Reduce discrimination between men and women
- Driving force in tribal areas are women
- As a society, when will we recognize the power of women; we will have to accept that women and men are equal
- Impressed at feedback on FB, Twitter before I came here on issues of economy, country and society from women.
- Female feticide still a part of the society for which mothers are fathers are responsible.
- Gender imbalance due to female feticide.
- In 18th century girl child was much safer than today in our society.
- As a society, when will we recognize the power of women; we will have to accept that women and men are equal.
- I am happy our women are alive to social issues.

This is for the first time after the Gujarat elections that Modi is addressing an industry organisation. (FOC) ■



BJP rededicates itself to build a glorious India

A report by Vikash Anand

The BJP on April 6 celebrated its 33rd foundation day across the country and emphasised on need to accelerate the pace of nationalist movement for which Bhartiya Janata Party is known. The function at the National Headquarters of the party started with lighting of the lamp and with the pledge to rededicate to build a glorious India. On the occasion BJP National

present to commemorate the foundation day.

All BJP State units including Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Manipur, Andaman-Nicobar celebrated the foundation day in their respective states.

GUJARAT

Gujarat Unit celebration was attended by BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh. He was felicitated

on the taking over as the National President. Also felicitated were newly appointed Vice President Smt. Smriti Irani and General Secretary Shri Amit Shah. On the occasion Gujarat BJP organised Karyakarta Mahasammelan. Speaking in front of more than 2 lakhs Karyakarta Shri Rajnath Singh said that Narendra Modi ji walked on the path of Mahatma Gandhi and made Gujarat a model state of development, rising above divisive politics". He said, "If there is a most popular leader in India today, it is Narendra Modi." On



President Shri Rajnath Singh while addressing the party activists said "I want to assure all chief ministers, including BJP and non-BJP chief ministers, that we are not in favour of undue concentration of power at the Centre. We are not in favour of centralisation of power. We will ensure decentralisation of power to the states in economic decision-making. I want to assure the governments of AIADMK (Jayalalithaa), BJD (Naveen Patnaik) and TMC (Mamata Banerjee) among other non-BJP states about this commitment."

Addressing the party activists in the function Shri L.K Advani said, "I am active in politics with a dream to make India the greatest nation." Many office bearers including BJP Delhi State President Shri Vijay Goel, Leader of Opposition in Delhi assembly Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra, BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Ramlal and BJP National General Secretary Shri Ananth Kumar were present on the occasion. The proceeding were conducted by BJP National General Secretary Shri JP Nadda. A large number of party activists were

the development of Gujarat, Shri Singh said that even the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation that is headed by the Congress President lauded Gujarat's progress and so did a report from USA, which called him incorruptible. Referring to the various phrases and adjectives used against Shri Modi by Congress leaders, Shri Rajnath Singh affirmed, "It hurts when such as Chief Minister is called a 'Maut Ka Saudagar' (merchant of death) but the people have answered these elements very well. Congress got an answer for calling him 'Maut ka Saudagar' and this time when you called him 'Yamraj', the people will teach you a lesson, wait for 2014." Shri Rajnath Singh took on the Congress for running down the nation and asked why do prices rise only during Congress rule. He said that the BJP too was in Government for six years but they did not allow the prices to rise. He also took on the UPA over their attitude in the Italian Marines case.

Addressing the gathering Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Modi took a dig at the top Congress leadership for their poor understanding of India. He declared,



"I heard a speech of the Congress leader and I was pained. I wondered if they think like this for the nation! The Congress leader said India is a 'beehive'. For you it may be a beehive but for us, this nation is our Mother. Bharat is our Mata and its people are our brothers and sisters. This is a pure land and a land of saints and rishis." He added, "Do not insult our Bharat Mata. If you do not understand India go learn but do not do this."

Taking on the Congress leaders, both in Gujarat and in Delhi Shri Modi said, "There is a big water shortage but their leaders are not even aware of it." He affirmed that the Gujarat Congress leaders are misleading the people in the name of water and further pointed, "I tell them, if you are worried about the farmers, tell your Government in the Centre give permission to raise the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam. We cannot wait any longer to finish work on the Sardar Sarovar Dam. Congress will have to give an answer to the people."

JAMMU

Entire leadership of State BJP, including state president, state office bearers, senior leaders, district presidents, MLAs, heads of Morchas and cells, visited different wards to participate in party's state wide programmes being organised at booth level to celebrate 33rd "Foundation Day" of BJP, which falls on April 6. In total, flag hoisting took place in more than 2,000 places at booth and mandal levels across the state. BJP State President Jugal Kishore Sharma hoisted party's flag in area falling under Booth Number 128 of Ward No 16 in presence of senior leader Chander Mohan Sharma, Vice-President Ramesh Arora, Mandal President Praduman Singh and Ward President Onkar Singh. Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma, while congratulating the party activists for this day, spoke on the circumstances which led to the

formation of BJP. He said that we have travelled over three decades in Indian politics. BJP achieved the distinction of being the only political party at national level to become main opposition party in such a short time after its coming into existence, he said and added that six year rule of BJP led NDA is still in the minds of people, who are eagerly waiting for its come back in 2014 with thumping majority.

MANIPUR

The Bharatiya Janata Party in Manipur celebrated 33rd foundation day at its Nityaipat Chuthek party office in Imphal. Addressing the gathering in the capacity of chief guest, BJP Manipur Pradesh core committee co-chairman Prof Gangmumei Kamei underscored the need to strengthen BJP both at the Centre as well as in the State starting from the grassroots level if the party should come to power. BJP is a political party which believes in nationalism. It was during the Prime Ministership of Atal Behari Vajpayee that the DoNER Ministry was set up with a long term vision for development of the North East region, the former Minister highlighted. He also initiated necessary steps for opening railway line to Manipur through Jiribam, claimed Prof Gangmumei. Shri Vajpayee stated that the Naga integration could not be accepted until and unless there was a consensus among the neighbouring States. Shri Vajpayee was one of the national leaders who did not wish to disturb the territorial integrity of Manipur, noted Gangmumei. Among other party leaders, former president Sh Shantikumar, Haobam Bhuban, M Bhorot, vice president N Ibohal and media in-charge Robin Blackie also spoke at the foundation day function.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

In Himachal Pradesh senior leaders of the party on the occasion exhorted the partymen to prepare for staging a comeback to the Centre in

2014 Lok Sabha polls. Former Chief Minister Shri Prem Kumar Dhumal, who was main speaker at the function at Hamirpur, urged the workers to work for making mission-2014, aimed at returning to power at the Centre, a success. The UPA government has miserably failed on all fronts and the people are eager to oust it and the BJP should become catalyst in this task, he said. Senior BJP leaders, including MLA and office bearers, addressed the various programmes held in different districts to celebrate the occasion.

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR

With hoisting party flag, Bharatiya Janata Party, A&N Islands started its foundation day celebration in the islands. Senior leaders addressed huge gathering party activists. The party flags were also hoisted in all mandal offices in other parts of these islands.

BIHAR

While celebrating the foundation day Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Sushil Kumar Modi and MP Shatrughan Sinha addressed the party activists at state office in Patna. "Without the BJP, no one will be able to form a government at the Centre. The next Prime Minister will be from the BJP," Shri Sushil Modi said while addressing the gathering. Stating that the BJP-ruled States had proved the party's ability to deliver good governance, he said, "Narendra Modi would not have become the Chief Minister for the fourth time. Gujarat is the top performer in the 20-point programme. That's the reason the Centre has not made data public. We need vision, leadership and foresight." The former Union Minister, C.P. Thakur, who was recently elevated to the position of national vice-president, said the country needed a powerful Prime Minister to bring about transformation.

MADHYA PRADESH

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in Madhya Pradesh observed the party's 33rd foundation day as "Vikash Parv" in all the 230 assembly constituencies in the state. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan dedicated an over bridge – constructed at a cost of over Rs 50 crore – in Chhola area to mark the occasion while former chief minister Kailash Joshi laid the foundation stone of a community hall – being constructed at

a cost of Rs 80 lakh – in Karond Mandal. Congratulating the party workers, the Chief Minister said "The BJP regime is unfolding a new chapter in the field of development and is endeavouring to take the state to a new height by aiming development as its main agenda". He claimed that the BJP-ruled states were doing better work than the states ruled by the Congress. Addressing the workers from six assembly constituencies in Morena, BJP state unit President Shri Narendra Singh Tomar said that the government was doing commendable work to uplift the common man and made them believe that this regime was working for the poor and the farmers.

Industry Minister Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya and BJP state unit Vice-President Shri Rakesh Singh also addressed rallies at Mhow in Indore district and Jabalpur respectively and mentioned about the development works. Several BJP leaders attended programmes in other districts also.

ODISHA

Celebrating party's 33rd foundation day, Odisha BJP took pledge to make the country free from fear, poverty and hunger (Bhay, Bhukh & Garibi). Addressing the gathering at Revenshaw college in Cuttack BJP State President Shri Kanak



Vardhan Singh Deo said, "People are feeling the governance deficit in the country and the state of Odisha. He said on this occasion of foundation day we, activists of BJP must take pladge to make the country free from fear,poverty and hunger".

Shri Vardhan explained how the minig scandal had exposed the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD government in the State. All office bearers and senior leaders attended the function. The foundation day was celebrated by every state units with enthusiasm and fervour. On the occasion the BJP Karyakartas took pledge to rededicate themselves to build a glorious India. ■

The Telecom Story

By Arun Jaitley

India's Telecom sector was a 'showcase' for the success of economic reforms. When the Government opened up the sector in 1994-95 to the private sector, there were many skeptics about the private sector being put in control of communications. Within years every critic was proved wrong. Public sector monopoly had led to a sluggish growth of the sector. India's tele-density at the time of opening out was 0.8 percent. Less than one out of every 100 people had access to a telephone. Contrary to popular perception mobile telephones proved to be a boon for the common and weaker sections. It hugely improved India's tele-density. The waiting list became a part of history. Costs were radically slashed down; linemen were no longer required. Most Indians felt better connected.

There were apparent mistakes made in the initial years –though made honestly. The licence fees regime could only ensure costlier telephony. The National Telecom Policy 1999 formulated by the NDA government corrected these mistakes. The switch over to revenue sharing reduced the cost to the operator and increased the volumes substantially. The increased volumes ensured much larger revenue to the government and cheaper services to the consumers. Technology began to converge between basic telephony, limited mobility and full mobility. This led to

Regrettably, the entire enthusiasm inherent in the success story has disappeared. Though services have substantially expanded, there are no takers for the spectrum auctions now. Fresh investors are reluctant to look at this sector and those who have invested in the sector despite having earned profits must be regretting the environment in which they function. How did this success story turn sour ?

universal access licence which were common to both the basic and the mobile services.

Telecom became the most visible face of the success of economic reforms. They attracted investments, increased employment and India became the fastest growing telecom economy in the world offering cheaper services. The UPA Government inherited this success story of telecom in 2004 and could only make it better.

Regrettably, the entire enthusiasm inherent in the success story has disappeared. Though services have substantially expanded, there are no takers for the spectrum

auctions now. Fresh investors are reluctant to look at this sector and those who have invested in the sector despite having earned profits must be regretting the environment in which they function. How did this success story turn sour ?

The Prime Minister initially gave the responsibility of telecom department to a Minister who apparently had a conflict of interest. Criminal cases against the first Telecom Minister of the UPA are under investigation. After he was dropped, his successor from the same party, the DMK, decided to run havoc with the Department. In 2007-08 spectrum was allocated at rates determined by the market mechanism of auction in 2001. The sector had hugely expanded in seven years and the value of the spectrum had substantially increased. Despite being cautioned that the price determined at the time of allocation be freshly undertaken either through auction or through indexing, he decided to allot the spectrum at a rate much less than the market prices. The mode of allocation was conspiratorial. The goal post was altered half way through. The criteria of first-come-first-served was changed to those who pay the entry fees ahead of others. This information appears to have been leaked out to the most favoured applicants. The result was disastrous. The report of the CAG shattered the confidence in the credibility of

governmental functioning. The CBI had to file charge sheets where the Minister, civil servants and investors were all arrested. The Supreme Court took the extraordinary step of cancelling the licenses. The biggest success story of economic reforms had now become a monumental scam.

Now the third minister was appointed to look after the Telecom Department. He wanted to get the sadistic delight out of the fact that the scams were not new to the telecom sector under the UPA government. He, therefore, selected a Judge of his choice to 'unearth' an NDA scam. The Judge's report was sent to the CBI. The CBI has now filed a charge sheet in the Court. The essence of the CBI case relates to the spectrum user charges. When the service expands, the operators need extra spectrum. Under the NTP 1999 additional spectrum charges is to be paid for through revenue sharing. The policy framed in 2001-02 was that on 4.4 MHZ the initial start up spectrum a 2% user charge would be paid; upto 6.2 MHZ a 3% user charge will be paid and for the entire slab from 6.2 MHZ to 10 MHZ the charge would be 4%. The entire allegation against the NDA is as to why the slab between 6.2 MHZ and 10 MHZ was not broken in two and between 8 MHZ to 10 MHZ an extra 1% charge was not levied.

The spectrum user charges are a tariff fixation. Tariff fixation is an Executive function. The Executive at a given point of time considers various factors while increasing or reducing tariff or while determining the size of the slabs on which a

particular tariff is charged. There is no scientific rationale on which this can be done. Tariffs are fixed on a commercial assessment of the market conditions. The underlying consideration has to be the promotion of the sector. An administrator may well feel that lower tariff can reduce costs and increase the volumes and hence benefit both the sector and the revenues. In this case slabs could have been fixed keeping in mind the parity between the basic and the limited mobility. Subsequent reports of the TRAI appear to have accepted the principle on which these tariffs were fixed. If tariff fixation becomes a ground for invoking the Prevention of Corruption Act clauses such as causing wrongful loss to revenue, every Finance Minister who reduces the customs or excise duty in the Budget may be subject to such an accusation. The CBI charge-sheet names my

then colleague, Shri Pramod Mahajan, as a conspirator in tariff fixation. Since he is no more he obviously cannot be prosecuted. As a Member of the then government I feel obliged after examining the charge against him to suggest that the charge is absolutely ill-founded and baseless.

The telecom story is a case where the UPA government and the Prime Minister have a lot to introspect. Having inherited a 'showcase' success story, the first Minister appointed by the UPA conflicted his personal interest with that of the sector. His successor got trapped in his own shenanigans. The third minister set out to teach the NDA a lesson. Former Civil servants and investors have become his victims. In the process he has damaged the sector further adding to its' instability. ■

(The writer is Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha)

RC Faldu re-elected unopposed as the Gujarat BJP President

On Tuesday 2nd April 2013 Shri RC Faldu was re-elected unopposed the President of the Gujarat BJP. This is his second consecutive term as the President of the Gujarat BJP. Congratulating Shri Faldu on the occasion, Shri Narendra Modi said, "Under his leadership the Party will continue to scale newer heights." On the morning of 2nd April 2013 Shri Faldu filed his nomination papers for the post of President at the Gujarat BJP Headquarters in Ahmedabad. Rajya Sabha Member Shri Parshottam Rupala was present on the occasion. ■

Khlor Sing Lyngdoh & Chuba Ao appointed as State President of Meghalaya, Nagaland respectively

The National President of BJP, Shri Rajnath Singh on March 31 appointed Shri Khlor Sing Lyngdoh as the Meghalaya State BJP President & Shri Chuba Ao as the State BJP President of Nagaland. Khlor Sing Lyngdoh has been appointed as the new Meghalaya State BJP President, Chuba Ao has been retained as the State BJP President of Nagaland.

Stage all set for Karnataka assembly elections

By Ram Prasad Tripathy

The trumpet for the Karnataka Assembly election was sounded with the announcement of schedule of election program by the Election Commission of India on April 10, 2013. With the issue of a statutory notification, the Commission has set the process rolling for the Assembly polls in the State. With it the Model Code of Conduct has also come into effect immediately from the date of notification. As per the schedule, elections will be held in Karnataka in a single-phase on 05 May.

The total number of Assembly constituencies in the State of Karnataka is 224 and out of it 36 seats are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and 15 for the Scheduled Tribes as determined by the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order 2008. The poll in Karnataka will be conducted at all polling stations using EVMs and counting of votes will take place on May 08, 2013. Noteworthy that the term of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly will expire on 03 June 2013.

As per the Commission's notification the electoral rolls of all the existing Assembly Constituencies in the State have been revised, with reference to January 01, 2013 as the qualifying date, and have been finally published in two phases

(for 178 ACs on 16.1.2013 and for the remaining 46 ACs on 28.1.2013). As per the final published electoral rolls, total electors in the State are 4,18,75,267 cr.

The elections for the 14th Karnataka Assembly is likely to be a three-way contest between the ruling BJP, the Congress, and the JD(S).

So far as the configuration of the present Assembly is concerned it is different from the one voted into power in 2008. Karnataka, which witnessed political instability after the 2004 Assembly elections threw up a fractured verdict and ultimately led to collapse of three coalition governments, turned a new leaf with the people voting into office the BJP government. BJP's 'lotus' bloomed for the first time in south India in 2008. The support from independent legislators to the BJP led government at the beginning of its term strengthened its position in the State Assembly. Now after the exit of 14 legislators the Party

enjoys a simple majority in the present Assembly. The current effective strength of the Assembly is 211; the BJP has 104 MLAs, the Congress and JD(S) combined have 97, and there are 7 independents.

Meanwhile, the Bharatiya Janata Party has released its first list of candidates for the Assembly elections. Opposition Congress and Janata Dal (S) have also released their first list of candidates on 05 April. Of the 224 Assembly constituencies for which elections are being held, the BJP's first list has 140 names, while the Congress and the JD(S) have announced 177 and 122 candidates respectively.

The BJP's list released in Delhi by the party's Central Election Committee has the names of all the senior leaders and most of the sitting MLAs. As per sources, now the party's core committee is scheduled to meet on April 8 to finalize the names of candidates for the remaining constituencies. Owing to the large number of aspirants,

Summary of the May 2008 Karnataka legislature election results

<i>Parties Seats</i>	<i>2004 Seats</i>	<i>2008</i>
Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	79	110
Indian National Congress	64	80
Janata Dal (Secular)	58	28
Others	23	6
Total	224	224

finalizing the first list of candidates in various constituencies has become a tough task for BJP. As per reports the number of aspirants touched 20 in some of the constituencies. Following this, the Party held two rounds of consultations with its district units to take their assistance in choosing the candidates. The main intention was to take them into confidence in the selection process as part of the efforts to ensure a unanimous selection to check the possibility of any dissidence.

Interacting with media persons after the release of the first list, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister Shri Eshwarappa said, "that almost all party legislators had been included in the list. The second list for the remaining seats was being prepared and the process would be completed soon. He further said BJP would not have any pre-poll alliance with other parties and urged the workers to organise the party at the grass roots and bring it back to power".

The campaign heat is yet to pick up in the State. However, to get a comprehensive victory for the second time the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party has

launched its 'Vijay Sankalp Yatra'. This has also marked the commencement of full-fledged election campaigning in the north Karnataka region. Apart from the Party's new State president Shri Pralhad Joshi, national general secretary Shri Ananth Kumar (MP); Chief Minister Shri Jagadish Shettar, Deputy Chief Ministers Shri K.S. Eshwarappa and Shri R. Ashok apart from all BJP Ministers and legislators would participate in the Yatra.

Briefing media persons on the first day of the Yatra Karnataka Agriculture Minister Shri Umesh V. Katti said that the Yatra was conceived with the objective of informing people about the achievements of the BJP government during the last five years, motivating Karyakartas to work for the success of the Party, and appealing to people to vote for BJP in Assembly elections. He said the Party took up several development works and so this Yatra is getting tremendous public support. He informed that BJP will not tolerate corruption and continue to fight against corruption by giving more powers to the Lokayukta to take

up cases against Ministers and legislators and will not bow down before the media pressure.

In the meantime, the BJP has exuded confidence about forming the next government in Karnataka. At the launch of the Vijay Sankalp Yatra, Karnataka Chief Minister Shri Jagadish Shettar led the attack, accusing the Congress led UPA government at the Centre of "step-motherly treatment" by denying the State funds for development work. "Not a single paisa was released under the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* (PMGSY) to Karnataka in recent times. I pleaded for the release of funds, but the Centre did not budge an inch. We even offered to share the cost of works by contributing 20 per cent of funds required, but the Centre did not come to our assistance," he said. Meanwhile, the State had released funds for work on 50 km of roads in rural areas in each Assembly constituency across the State, he said.

Shri Shettar also accused the Union government of not being cooperative in railway projects sanctioned under a cost sharing basis. "While the State government has provided its share on all railway projects, the Congress led Centre has not released funds, causing inordinate delays." The Chief Minister listed the zero per cent interest on crop loans and the agriculture budget, creation of new *Taluks* and implementations of the recommendations of the Najudappa committee report as the pioneering decisions taken by the BJP government. Therefore, he said, BJP will get peoples' support and form the next government in Karnataka.

Schedule for election to the Legislative Assembly of Karnataka

Event Date (day)

1. Issue of Notification 10.4.2013 (Wednesday)
2. Last date of making Nominations 17.4.2013 (Wednesday)
3. Scrutiny of Nominations 18.4.2013 (Thursday)
4. Last date for withdrawal of Candidatures 20.4.2013 (Saturday)
5. Date of Poll 5.5.2013 (Sunday)
6. Counting of Votes 8.5.2013 (Wednesday)
7. Date before which election shall be completed 11.5.2013 (Saturday)
8. Hours of Poll 8.00AM to 5.00PM

₹ 200 crore would be spent on conducting elections in Karnataka

Rs. 200 crore would be spent on conducting elections to the State Legislative Assembly of Karnataka on May 5, the State's Chief Electoral Officer Anil Kumar Jha said in Bangalore. The State government will bear the entire cost of the poll, he said. About Rs. 2.5 lakh would be spent in each constituency to create awareness on enrolment of names in the voters' list and taking up Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) plan.

In this surcharged atmosphere the poll pundits' predictions further charged the election atmosphere of the State. As per them the Bombay-Karnataka region consisting of 57 Assembly constituencies played a significant role in bringing the BJP to power in the last elections by electing 38 MLAs. This time, the BJP is united in this region and can win at least 45 seats.

Secondly, they believe BJP senior Lingayat leader from Belgaum and Rajya Sabha member Prabhakar Kore was included in the National Executive Committee. Therefore the Lingayats supported BJP in the last elections and will do so this time as well.

Thirdly, due to Agriculture Reforms in the State, Agriculture Budget and welfare schemes of BJP government for the poorer class and the laborer and farming community, they will wholeheartedly support BJP and it will enhance the support in rural

pockets of the State.

Fourthly, due to huge corruption during the Congress led UPA government at the centre under Manmohan Singh, high inflation, sky rocketing price rise, negligence towards non Congress States and owing to a slew of anti people policies the Congress government has lost its credibility and image. Further the Congress in the State is also a divided house. Therefore, this will surely enhance the vote percentage of BJP in the urban areas and Congress will lose the biggest urban middleclass vote and will get a drubbing. They believe to brighten the prospects of the BJP, the Party National President Shri Rajnath Singh and other senior Leaders will also campaign for the candidates in the State and lastly this time the frustration of the common people against the Congress betrayal is out on the fore. It will surely brighten the prospects of parties other than the Congress. ■

US Parliamentary delegation exchanges views on the current global issues with Sushma Swaraj

A US Parliamentarian delegation led by Mr. Aaron Schock from the state of Illinois with Mrs. Cynthia M. Lummis from the state of Wyoming along with OFBJP Convenor Mr. Vijay Jolly & NIAPPI Chairman Mr. Shalabh Kumar met the Hon'ble Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha on April 2. The meeting at the parliament lasted one hour. Later they visited both houses of the Indian Parliament and the central hall. They lauded the Indian parliamentary system and India democracy.

The visiting US parliamentarians exchanged greetings and views on the current global issues including FDI in infrastructure development in India. Indian history on Punjab and Haryana including environment related issues were discussed at length.

Earlier in the day OFBJP Convenor Vijay Jolly led the US parliamentarians & business leaders to Gandhi Samadhi at Rajghat. Wreaths was placed by Mr. Aaron Schock, Mr. Vijay Jolly and Mrs. Cynthia M. Lummis. Later at Gurdwara Bangla Sahib, Ashok Road, members of Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee led by its President Sardar Manjit Singh GK and Gen. Sec. Sardar M.S. Sirsa felicitated the US delegation. Saropas were presented to the US guests. And they bowed their heads in reverence in the Gurdwara. Delhi Study Group later in the evening organized a grand reception with NIAPPI at Ashoka Hotel, Convention Hall, New Delhi where a galaxy of Indian opinion makers, diplomats, journalists & eminent citizens of Delhi attended. Lord Swaraj Paul from United Kingdom made a special appearance at this Gala Dinner followed by bollywood musical night. ■

Newly appointed BJP National Office Bearers

National President

Shri Rajnath Singh, MP: Born on 10th July 1951 in a farmer's family at village Babhora, District Varansi (now district Chanduli) UP to Shri Rambadan Singh and Srimati Gujarati Devi, he entered politics in 1974 and adorned the office of the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and also served as Union Minister for Agriculture in Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee led NDA government at the Centre. He became the BJP National President on December 31, 2005 and held it till December 2009. Shri Rajnath Singh got elected for another term as BJP National President on January 23, 2013.



VICE-PRESIDENT

Shri D. V. Sadananda Gowda:

hails from Karnataka and also a former Chief Minister of the State and a former Karnataka BJP President.

Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, MP

is the former Union minister and National Vice-President of BJP. He hails from Uttar Pradesh.

Dr. C.P. Thakur, MP

is former State president of Bihar and National Vice-President of BJP.

Shri Jual Oram,

is the former State BJP President and a former Union minister. He hails from Odisha.

Shri S.S. Ahluwalia

was the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and presently National Vice-President of BJP.



Shri Balbir Punj is elected from Odisha to Rajya Sabha and hails from Delhi.



Shri Satyapal Malik Ex. MP and former *Prabhari* of BJP National *Kisan Morcha*. He is National Vice-President of BJP.



Shri Prabhat Jha is elected as the MP(RS) from Madhya Pradesh and the former State BJP President. Shri Jha is also Editor of Kamal Sandesh and National Vice-President of BJP.



Sushree Uma Bharti is elected as MLA from UP and former Chief Minister of MP. She hails from Madhya Pradesh and now appointed as the National Vice-President of BJP.



Smt. Bijoya Chakravarty, MP represent from the Gauhati seat in the 13th Lok Sabha and presently National Vice-President of BJP.

Smt. Lakshmi Kanta Chawla

hails from Punjab and a former cabinet minister in the Punjab government.



Smt. Kiran Maheswari, MLA belongs to Rajasthan and a former National General Secretary, BJP.



Smt. Smriti Irani is MP (Rajya Sabha) and a former BJP National President of BJP Mahila Morcha.



GENERAL SECRETARY

Shri Ananth Kumar, MP belongs to Karnataka and a senior leader of BJP. Reappointed as BJP National General Secretary.



Shri Thawarchand Gehlot, MP hails from Madhya Pradesh and reappointed as the National General Secretary.



Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, MP belongs to Himachal Pradesh and reappointed as the National General Secretary.



Shri Dharmendra Pradhan MP, hails from Odisha. He is reappointed as the National General Secretary BJP.



Shri Tapir Gao, Ex-MP hails from Arunachal Pradesh and reappointed as BJP National General Secretary.



Shri Amit Shah belongs to Gujarat and a former minister in the Gujarat government. Presently appointed as the new BJP National General Secretary.



Shri Varun Gandhi is MP Lok Sabha and a former National Secretary of BJP. He is newly appointed as the BJP National General Secretary.



Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, MP belongs to Bihar and a former National spokesperson of BJP. He is newly appointed as the BJP National General Secretary.



Shri P. Muralidhar Rao hails from Andhra Pradesh and is a founding member of Swadeshi Jagran Manch. A former National BJP Secretary Shri Rao is newly appointed as the BJP National General Secretary.



Shri Ramlal, reappointed as the BJP National General Secretary (Organization).



Shri V. Satish, reappointed as the BJP National Joint General Secretary (Organisation)



Shri Saudan Singh, reappointed as the BJP National Joint General Secretary (Organisation)

TREASURER



Shri Piyush Goyal, MP hails from Maharashtra and reappointed as the Treasurer of the party.

SECRETARY

Shri Shyam Jaju

belongs to Maharashtra and reappointed as the BJP National Secretary.

Shri Bhupendra Yadav, MP

hails from Haryana and reappointed as the BJP National Secretary.

Shri P.K. Krishnadas

belongs to Kerala. A former State BJP President was appointed as BJP National Secretary.

Dr. Anil Jain

a Sr. Consultant Surgeon in New Delhi is newly appointed as BJP National Secretary.

Shri Vinod Pandey, MLC

hails from UP and appointed as BJP National Secretary.

Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat

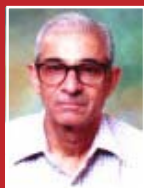
belongs to Uttarakhand and appointed as BJP National Secretary.

Shri Rameshwar Chaurasia
MLA

from Bihar appointed as BJP National Secretary.

Smt. Aarti Mehra

hails from Delhi and a former BJP National Secretary. She was reappointed as the BJP National Secretary.



Smt. Renu Kushwaha
belongs to Bihar and appointed
as BJP National Secretary .

Smt. Sudha Yadav, Ex-MP
hails from Gurgaon, Haryana
and appointed as BJP National
Secretary.

Smt. Sudha Malaiya
belongs to Madhya Pradesh
and appointed as BJP National
Secretary.

Smt. Poonam Mahajan
belongs to Maharashtra and the
former Vice President of National
BJP Yuva Morcha . She is newly
appointed as BJP National
Secretary

Smt. Louis Marandi
hails from Jharkhand and
appointed as BJP National
Secretary

Smt. Dr. Tamil Isai
belongs to Chennai, Tamil
Nadu and appointed as BJP
National Secretary

Sushree Vani Tripathi
belongs to Delhi and
reappointed as BJP National
Secretary

Headquarters In-charge

Shri O.P. Kohli, Ex-MP
reappointed as BJP
Headquarters In-charge

Parliamentary Party Office Secretary

Dr. Ramkripal Sinha, Ex-MP
reappointed as the BJP
Parliamentary Party Office
Secretary
Shri Shanmukhnathan
reappointed as the BJP
**Parliamentary Party Jt. Office
Secretary**



Smt. Nirmla Sitharaman
hails from Andhra Pradesh
and reappointed as BJP National
Spokesperson



Dr. Bizay Sonkar Shastri
belongs to Uttar Pradesh and
newly appointed as BJP National
Spokesperson



Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi
hails from Uttar Pradesh and
newly appointed as BJP National
Spokesperson

Official Spokespersons

Shri Prakash Javadekar,
MP
belongs to Maharashtra and
reappointed as BJP National
Spokesperson



Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi
hails from Delhi and newly
appointed as BJP National
Spokesperson

Shri Syed Shahnawaz
Hussain, MP
hails from Bihar and a former
Union Minister was reappointed
as BJP National Spokesperson



Capt. Abhimanyu
hails from Haryana and
appointed as BJP National
Spokesperson. ■

BJP launches 'Suraj Sankalp Yatra' in Rajasthan

The Rajasthan unit of BJP on April 3 launched its 'Suraj Sankalp Yatra' in Jaipur, to give the message among people about Congress Government's misrule in the State. The yatra was flagged off by BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh. The Assembly elections are due in the state later this year. Smt. Vasundhara Raje, the state unit president launched the Yatra from Charbhuj Temple, during which she called upon the people to make collective efforts to throw the Congress out of the power and to make a "new Rajasthan". "I see confidence in all of you and none can stop us from moving ahead. We need to make united efforts to throw Congress out of power," Smt. Raje said. The former chief minister blamed that the Congress government, which came to power four-and-a-half years ago, hatched conspiracy against her and formed a commission to investigate "false" allegations against her. "The Gehlot government failed to provide relief to farmers, youths, whereas the law and order situation has also deteriorated. Hence, the state needs a positive change," she said. Raje also accused Congress leaders of using "objectionable" language against her in their 'Sandesh Yatra', which the party began last week from Jaipur.



Several BJP MPs, MLAs and its state Vice-President Shri Arun Chaturvedi were present on the occasion. The Yatra, which is going to end in July, will cover over 200 places in the seven divisions of the state. The Suraj Sankalp Yatra will cover a distance of 1,380 kms in Udaipur division in first phase till April 16. In total, the Yatra will cover over 200 places in 33 districts of the state and 35 mass meetings will take place during the period. Earlier the State BJP Pariwartan Yatra in 2003 had played a key role in bringing the BJP to power. ■

All sectors of economy are heavily under debt : Dr. Joshi

The economy of the country during 8-9 years has been relegated to its status in 1990-1991. The Prime Minister himself has admitted that our economy is not in a good position and we are going back to its position in 1990-91. We should not blame circumstances. On the pretext of deterioration of export, rise in budget deficit and current account deficit the Government cannot escape its responsibility. The global meltdown did have adverse effect on our economy. So there were some economic hardships.

The Government want to show that its GDP is improving. The growth in GDP itself does not signal the betterment of the standard of life. It may be merely an index. It is not the indication of inclusive and sustainable development. The growth should not be confined to the growth of the GDP. There are some other indicator and monitor of the growth which have not been mentioned here. Here the growth is without jobs, growth without health, growth without education. It is just an eyewash where figures have been fudged. Nowhere in the budget we find any reference to the culture or values. If the Government really wants the progress of the country, it should not go for a hackneyed model. Here no Washington consensus or a G-formula or a G-8 formula will work.



Synopsis of the speech delivered by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi in Lok Sabha on March 13 on General Budget 2013-14.

Rather the Government should evolve a consensus with the people of the country. It is not the issue of a particular party, it is the issue of the whole country, the issue of over 120 crore people here. We have to think afresh. The country is faced with umpteen challenges. In India, we do have other suitable model where the poor are taken care of, where not only humans but also their livestock are taken care of. The purpose of a Budget and the job of the Finance Minister are to create economic space and find resources to achieve the socio-economic objectives.

However, it is the job of the Finance Minister to create

The Government want to show that its GDP is improving. The growth in GDP itself does not signal the betterment of the standard of life. It may be merely an index. It is not the indication of inclusive and sustainable development. The growth should not be confined to the growth of the GDP.

economic space and consider how it can be done and also as to how the resources for this purpose could be mobilized. Therefore, my first submission is that one needs to understand India first. One also needs to know as to what is the expanse of economic space of India at present and what it will be in the future. As the Finance Minister of the country, he should have envisaged and dared to achieve one and a quarter to one and a half times as much economic space and share in world economy as we had during the sixteenth century. However, you are going nowhere. I failed to understand as in what direction you want to lead the Indian economy. There is a need for taking Indian economy and resource mobilization to new heights. This is a country of one billion twenty crore people which abounds in prosperity, talent and energy but the Government is only making the economy to hover around a figure of 1.25 per cent and 2 per cent.

The Government is taking India back towards 1990-91. I am very sorry to learn as to what kind of Budget and financial system it is and what kind of economic philosophy is guiding it. Nowhere the Government have spelt out the economic objectives in this Budget. There should be a national consensus on the

economic objectives of the nation and it should be to cross that 24 per cent share of world GDP India once had and also that there will be nobody hungry in this country.

Foreign investment should not be the only imperative of the Government. The inherent strength of the country should be enhanced first and then one must pave the way for the foreign money as per the requirement of the country. However, there is an inherent contradiction in economic policies of the Government. There is no clarity in the priorities and objectives of the Government. Studies tell us that a lot of the unrest in the country is because of the fact that development schemes of the Government are creating disturbance in the lives of the people. The Government has itself accepted the fact that inflation continues to be on higher side. Lack of proper storage facility for foodgrains and lack of clear cut policy in regard thereto are the major contributors to the food inflation. On one hand, farmers are dying and on the other foodgrains are rotting and starvation is rampant. This is not right. Fiscal deficit has been shown as reduced only by jugglery of figures. Fiscal deficit has been tried to be contained by cutting down on the expenditure of various ministries. There was no need for such jugglery. The Government also says that they have shown a lot of favour to the Scheduled Castes and other backward people but I would like to say that only few fortunate ones have got this benefit.

In the field of health, the Government has said that efforts are being made to bring Ayurveda, Homeopathy and Unani to the mainstream of this sphere. I would like to know whether these systems of medicine had not been in our mainstream from the ages? Instead of saying that these systems of medicine will be recharged and reenergized, the Government is talking about bringing them to the mainstream. This is not right.

All the sectors of our economy are heavily under debt. Whether it is tele-communication sector or whether it relates to NPAs of the banking sector, the entire country is under heavy burden of debt. The exposure of the loans of banking sector is very huge and lopsided towards only a few sectors. It is a matter of concern.

All the sectors of our economy are heavily under debt. Whether it is telecommunication sector or whether it relates to NPAs of the banking sector, the entire country is under heavy burden of debt. The exposure of the loans of banking sector is very huge and lopsided towards only a few sectors. It is a matter of concern. The US is facing a severe drought and India has witnessed a bad spell of monsoon this year. Under these conditions, how is the Government going to control the food inflation? Food is the major contributor to inflation. How will the Government control it? Food inflation is the main component of overall inflation. The contribution of agriculture in economy has shrunk from 53 per cent earlier to 13-14 per cent at present. Where are the jobs? There are no jobs in

manufacturing sector. Only a handful of jobs have increased in services sector.

The Government had stated that they are going to create one crore jobs if our country grows at the rate of 8 percent. However, how will the economy grow at the rate of 8 per cent when the European economy is shrinking? The Government did not develop other markets. The moot point is this as to how the Government is going to achieve the target of growth rate if the exports do not expand and internal resources are not enhanced. The Government had set up a target to invest Rs. 55 lac crore during the 12th Five Year Plan which comes to annual target of Rs. 11 lakh crore. From where

the Government is going to get this amount of Rs. 11 lakh crore in a year? The Government also maintains that the private sector will contribute 47 per cent and the remaining will be contributed by the public sector. This 47 per cent comes to around 5 lac 17 thousand crore. From where this money is going to be mobilized? When you talk about road construction you have reduced the allocation to the states for the road construction. As it is an election year, all the schemes formulated by the Government have been made with an eye on electorate. The schemes like Direct Cash Transfer and the announcement of loan waiver in the past are few of the examples. Items to be exported and how these items have to be exported should be discussed here. Items from every state whether Madhya Pradesh,



Rajnath demands complete loan waiver to farmers living in drought affected areas

BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh reached Aurangabad on April 1 on his two day visit to drought affected areas of central Maharashtra. Starting his journey from Aurangabad district Shri Singh met farmers and other locals who apprised him of the worsening drought situation in the region.



Addressing farmers at Chara Chavni and Pimpri Shri Singh said, "Farmers living in drought affected areas facing an acute agrarian crisis. Drought has adversely affected more than 11000 villages of Maharashtra and nearly 50 percent crops in more than 3500 villages have been damaged."

Demanding complete loan

waiver to farmers living in drought affected areas the BJP President said the farmers should be given input subsidies, free seeds, subsidised fertiliser and hundred percent subsidy on drip irrigation system for at least two years. "Farmers should be given fresh agricultural loans at zero percent interest rates and steps should be taken to ensure enough supply of fodder to the livestock", he added.

Calling the drought relief package announced by the Centre inadequate Shri Singh said, "The central government's relief package worth Rs 1200 crore is insufficient because the state government itself demanded nearly Rs 1800 crore for drought relief. The government should increase the amount allocated for drought relief and a central monitoring team should be constituted to keep a vigil on drought relief package implementation."

Blaming the current ruling

dispensation in the State for rampant corruption in irrigation projects Shri Singh said, "A scam worth more than Rs 70000 crore was committed in implementing many ambitious irrigation projects and even then only 0.1 percent of irrigated land has been added to the total cropped area of the State in the last ten years." Expressing concern over the receding water level in the drought affected areas he said, "Although the state has enacted Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority Act (MWRRA) but it has not been able to prevent widespread diversion of precious water away from common man, farmers and rural poor. There is an urgent need to amend the MWRRA to prevent the misuse and diversion of water."

"Drought has forced rural poor and farmers out of employment and people are migrating from villages to the cities in large numbers. The government should address this problem by widening the scope of MNREGA and link it with agriculture", he added.

Shri Singh also assured the farmers that the issue of drought in Maharashtra will be raised in both the Houses of Parliament. ■

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Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan or any other states can be exported.

A lot of revenue can be generated by developing the tourism sector. Nothing has been done for the benefit of weavers. Tax on marble and silk has been raised. It is repeatedly said that people shy away to do business in India. It is because of faulty policies and lack of good governance. Only a well defend and well-protected state can discuss the economy, all the plans and policy. The well-established accounting system should not be ignored. Even the Kautilya endorsed the strict compliance of auditing. Mr. Finance Minister should not depend too much upon the foreign wisdom and upon the foreign money. Try to invoke the inner strength of India. It is the civilizational consciousness of India which has to be rekindled and reawakened. And with that spirit if you come before the nation, I think the nation will respond as it responded to Lal Bahadur ji, and as responded to Atal Bihari ji. ■

Union Budget uninspiring and Deceptive : Venkaiah Naidu



Points made by Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, MP while initiating the discussion on the union budget 2013-14 in Rajya Sabha on march 18, 2013.

- ▶ The budget failed to address the two main issues – One is corruption which is eating into the resources of the country and the other is inflation which is breaking the backbone of the poor and middle class.
- ▶ Slow growth rate, growing unemployment, agriculture crisis and presence of black money within the country and stashed abroad. FM couldn't address any of these challenges.
- ▶ The last budget had returned the country to pre-reforms growth rate of 5%. This budget also has the potential of carrying forward the same.
- ▶ It is not clear how the fiscal deficit of 4.8% will be bridged. There are only two ways – to print new notes or to borrow. The first will increase inflation and the other will lead to insolvency.
- ▶ The Central Plan outlay BE for next year (2013-14) is 5,55,322 crore. It was 5,21,025 for the current year. RE for the current year is 4,29,187 crore. If you compare RE for the current year with BE of next year, it is up nearly 30%! If you compare Budget Estimates for the current and the next financial years, the increase is a mere 34,297 crore i.e., 6.58% which is lower than the rate of inflation and hence a fall in real terms. It is the same story with education, health and so on. In most cases, the increase in terms of BEs barely covers inflation or is even less.
- ▶ The gloomy situation is the making of the UPA only. Earlier, our PM and FM were assuring us that "India will not be affected by the slow down and our fundamentals are strong." And FM himself said in a HT Conclave that 'India well insulated from US financial crisis, no cause for alarm'. What went wrong then?
- ▶ Even the IMF says India's problems are domestic and largely of its own making. It reasoned that the slowdown is mainly led by falling infrastructure and corporate investment.
- ▶ Earlier, the UPA blamed the Left for creating road blocks. Now that the Left has left the UPA, what are the right things this government has done to set right the economy.
- ▶ After completely denying many a times about any slowdown, the government is now using global slow down as an *alibi* to cover up the consequences of its own mismanagement of economy.
- ▶ For the first time, the external debt is more than forex reserves.
- ▶ Mismanagement of economy and policy paralysis have led to the present situation.
- ▶ Even a soft spoken and noted industrialist, Sri Kumar Mangalam Birla, openly complained of the country's inconsistency and lack of transparency in business policies.
- ▶ Even in the face of adverse external environment, 48 countries grew faster than India in the year 2012. (27 grew faster than 7%, 10 grew faster than 9%). All that required is prudent economic management, good governance and revival of domestic policies.
- ▶ May I remind you that the growth rate target for the present year was 7.6% but achieved was only 5%. Even you couldn't reach your own mid-year review target of 5.7 - 5.9%! Going by your governance and performance records, it is very hard to achieve the projected growth rate of 6.1% to 6.7% next fiscal.
- ▶ Morgan Stanley and HSBC downgraded India's growth rate to 6% for 2013-14. Earlier

their estimate was 6.2%.

You had inherited a robust economy

- ▶ UPA assumed office with the economy growing at 8.1%, the fastest in 14 years. In 2012-13 the rate fell to 5%, the slowest and the lowest in the decade.
- ▶ The present FM, while presenting UPA's first budget in July 2004, himself accepted that the "economic fundamentals appear strong and the balance of payments is robust." Who brought nation's economy to such a pass?
- ▶ Even the initial higher growth under the UPA was because of the good work done, foundations laid, schemes initiated by Shri Vajpayee led NDA.
- ▶ UPA government has miserably failed to build on BJP's growth initiatives and destroyed the country's reputation and credibility with policy paralysis and corruption scandals.

Inflation – The UPA has given up 'Aam Aadmi'

- ▶ Inflation was targeted to be around 6.5%, but it remained above 7% for the most part of the year. Food inflation February figure is 10.91%.
- ▶ The prices of almost everything are skyrocketing – be it electricity, water, gas, diesel, petrol, pulses, wheat, rice etc. This budget offers nothing for home makers.
- ▶ Price rise - in case of LPG during February price rise was 26.21% as against 4.28% in January. In case of petrol price rise was 6.25% as compared to 3.77% in January.
- ▶ Food and primary articles have shown higher annual price rise of 11.38% and 9.70% respectively. Common man's food items have all become dearer. Onions went up by 154.33%, rice by 18.84%, wheat by 21.63%, cereals by 19.19%, fruits by 8.93% and milk by 4.57%.
- ▶ Vegetables compared to last year has risen by 26%; sugar by 13%, edible oils by 15%, cereals by 17.4%. The proposals made by the Railway Minister will further escalate inflation because he has declared that every six months there will be revision of tariff linking transport charges with oil prices. Food grains, cooking gas, cement, coal, iron & steel – all products will go up.
- ▶ Prices of petroleum products were increased before and after the budget; in all 30 times, Also, fertilizer prices have gone up 14 times. Then what is the sanctity of budget?

Fiscal Deficit

- ▶ Deficit Deficitdeficits everywhere. Fiscal deficit, revenue deficit, current account deficit and above all trust deficit?
- ▶ The Fiscal and Current Account Deficits are almost as bad as 1991. The rate of growth is lowest in the decade. Current Account Deficit has risen to unacceptable level of 5.4% of the GDP.
- ▶ Fiscal Deficit was 2.5% in 2007-08 and now at 5.2% and you hope it to be brought down to 4.8% next year. Where is the roadmap?
- ▶ The rupee has fallen by more than 20% in the last one year.
- ▶ The FM was able to achieve the 5.2% fiscal deficit number largely because of the massive cut on spending and deferment of payments on fertilizer and other subsidies and thus saved Rs.91,838 crore from the budgeted plan expenditure of Rs.5,21,025 crore for the current fiscal. FM reduced budget allocations and expenditure by almost 18%, the steepest cut in expenditure

Words for the poor and Deeds for the rich

Withdrawal of subsidies – The poor and farmers are doomed

- ▶ In the current financial year, the total subsidy is expected to rise to Rs.2.47 lakh crore against the budgetary target of Rs.1.79 lakh crore. Much of the increases in outlays will be absorbed by the likely increase in prices, particularly subsidies.
- ▶ What happened to your *aam aadmi* slogan? Your policy is words for the poor the deeds for the rich.
- ▶ But in contrast, the additional giveaways from 2008-09 corporate sectors have caused a tax expenditure of Rs. 7.5 lakh crore between 2009-10 to 2013-14. The giveaways have risen from Rs.2.85 lakh crores in 2007-08 to average Rs.5 lakh crore every year, totaling Rs.25 lakh crore for the last 5 years. Even the Economic Survey mentions about this.
- ▶ In 2012-13 alone, the aggregate revenue forgone from Central taxes on account of tax concessions to the rich and the corporate sector are projected to be Rs.5,73,627 crore. If one adds the Rs.5,33,583 crore of forgone tax revenue in 2011-12, the total is a whopping Rs.11,07,210 crore. According to a study, revenue foregone

since 2005-06 under Corporate Income tax, Excise & Customs is Rs.31,11,169 crores.

- ▶ NPAs under the CORPORATE CATEGORY as on 31.12.12 constitute 53.68% amounting to nearly 1,00,000 crore. Total Income Tax arrears as on 31.12.12 is Rs.4,18,696 crores and the government is not able to recover this huge sum for reasons best known to them.

Allocations

Lowest Defence Budget

- ▶ Lowest Defence Budget increase in over 30 years. The allocation of the Defence has been reduced. This year China has increased its defence budget by 20%.
- ▶ India remains the world's biggest importer of weapons during 2008-2012. India's imports were 109% higher than that of China. We need to develop our weapons indigenously. How do you do that with reduced allocations?

Meagre allocations

Women's safety

- ▶ Allocation of Rs.1,000 crore fund for women's safety and welfare is far from adequate in covering the rehabilitation and medical costs of survivors of gender violence. Where is the money for speedy justice, fast track courts, filling up of vacancies in judiciary?
- ▶ Justice Verma committee suggested provision of adequate safety measures and amenities in respect of women. With a mere 1,000 crores under the so-called *Nirbhaya Fund*, how this is possible?

Skill development

- ▶ The UPA government has allocated a mere Rs.1,000 crore for skill development. Contrast this with the Rs.800 crore that just one State, Gujarat, has allocated for skill development. Madhya Pradesh allocated 476 crores. If one State gives 800 crores, then what is 1000 crores for the entire country. You boast it as a major initiative for growth.

Disabled persons

- ▶ 12th Plan promised higher allocations for the disabled persons. The outlay for the Inclusive Education for the Disabled at the secondary stage has been reduced from Rs.63 crore in 2012-13 to Rs.45 crore in this budget. See your concern for the poor and disabled.

One Women's Bank

- ▶ How that one bank in one corner of the country is going to help or empower the women-

entrepreneurs? Should we understand that the other banks are absolved of their responsibilities towards women?

- ▶ Instead of creating one bank for the entire country, you could have taken steps to incorporating women within the existing public and private banking systems. A nation-wide bank is less effective than enhancing the existing banking services to ensure ease of access to women.

Agriculture

- ▶ Agriculture is basic culture of the country. In 1950-51, agriculture used to contribute 53% of GDP now it is at 14%. From 19% in 2004-05, it dropped to 18.3% in 2005-06 and to 17.4% in 2006-07. It further dropped to 16.8% in 2007-08, 15.8% in 2008-09 before reaching 14% in 2011-12.
- ▶ From 19 percent in 2004-05, the percentage share of agriculture & allied sectors in GDP dropped to 18.3 percent in 2005-06 and then to 17.4 percent in 2006-07. Reuters

- ▶ Why mum on Swaminathan Commission's recommendations? The key recommendation that MSP should be cost of production + 50% has not been implemented so far.

Mismatch between MSP & cost of production

- ▶ The latest calculation of Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACPC) is testimony to this reducing margin for the farmers. Input costs like cost of seeds, pesticides, fertilizer, diesel, power, water have all gone up. According to Haryana government, the cost of producing one quintal of paddy in the State is Rs.1,566. The government buys paddy at 1,280 per quintal. So, the government does not even pay the cost of production, let alone profits, to the farmers.
- ▶ It is true that MSPs have been hiked. What you forgot is the fact that cost of production has also gone up by 300% thereby even surpassing hiked MSPs.
- ▶ There has been abnormal and manifold rise in the prices of agriculture inputs like fertilizers, pesticides, diesel and labour wages.
- ▶ Between January 2008 and January 2012, prices of crucial farm inputs went up sharply, impacting cost of cultivation across States. Yet, the government announced MSPs are lower

than the cost of Production of the most kharif crops.

1. Fertilizers	300%
2. Farm power	20%
3. Lubricants	62%
4. Fodder	60%
5. Diesel (pumpsets)	44%
6. Diesel (tractors)	34%

- ▶ What happened to Hooda Committee's recommendation of Rs.10,000/- compensation to farmer for loss of crops?
- ▶ A massive loan waiver scam has been unearthed by C&AG. More than 34 lakh farmers who were eligible for loan waiver were not benefited on account of the faulty implementation of the scheme. More than 24 lakh ineligible farmers became beneficiaries.
- ▶ Farm suicides have continued unabated during your regime. 19000 farmers committed suicides in 2011 and 14000 in 2012. This budget fails to address any of these farmers' problems. Now we are getting reports from AP that the distress farmers are selling their organs to come out of agriculture debt trap.
- ▶ Look at the BJP-ruled states. Karnataka came with a separate 'agri budget' which was extremely innovative. Madhya Pradesh showed a double digit agri-growth rate at 18.2%, the highest in the country. Gujarat is growing at 10.8%.
- ▶ What are the steps taken to ensure lower interest rates on agriculture credit? Swaminathan Committee recommended credit to be given at 4%. Some of the BJP ruled states are giving at the rate of 0% interest, and some at 1% or 2%. Then the States with their limited resources can provide loans at lower interest rates, why not the Centre? This speaks of your attitude towards agriculture and welfare of farmers.
- ▶ Contrary to PM claims, only 1/4th of the farmers are getting agriculture credit from the banks forcing the remaining to borrow from private lenders, according to the Rangarajan Committee.

Industry & Investment Climate

- ▶ Government should know why the investments have fallen. Land acquisition, rehabilitation and clearances are a few of the other main reasons. The coal linkage problem is also affecting Rs. 5 lakh crore investment proposals.

- ▶ Stable tax policy is essential to encourage investments in the businesses. However, investors have lost confidence due to repetitive retrospective amendments.
- ▶ As per the World Bank and International Finance Corporation's Doing Business 2013 data, India is ranked a lowly 132 out of the 185 countries analyzed. In the category of "Paying Taxes", India's ranking is further low, at 152 which has worsened from 149 in the year 2012. This clearly indicates that India is losing out on its competitiveness vis-à-vis other countries.

Infrastructure

- ▶ Infrastructure has received mere lip service. The problem in infrastructure is of clearances, administrative bottlenecks and interest rates.
- ▶ 37 projects sanctioned under BoT in the last three years are yet to take off. Nobody is coming forward due to lack of resources, banks and financial institutions are not providing adequate loans. Last year, there were no takers for NHAI's 11 projects for expansion of 4-lanes to 6-lanes.
- ▶ During the NDA regime, construction of highways achieved a level of 11 kms. per day. Today it stands at an abysmal low of just 3 kms. per day despite their tall promise of building 22 kms. every day.
- ▶ Power generation which was targeted at 78,000 MW in 11th plan actually achieved only 54,000 MW. The performance of other sectors of infrastructure like rail, ports, oil and gas is also lack luster.
- ▶ With all round failure to address the power sector's pervasive and crippling problems, the UPA government is succeeding in pushing the country to kerosene lantern days again. In Andhra Pradesh, from 6.00 am to 6.00 pm there will be no power! Andhra Pradesh has now become *Andhera Pradesh*.

Black money

- ▶ When UPA-2 came to power in 2009 PM promised to bring back black money in 100 days. Many such 100 days have gone by. Nothing happened.
- ▶ You are silent even on your government's 'White Paper on Black money'. Your predecessor promised a more effective policy response. Where is that more effective policy

response?

Employment

- ▶ Economic Survey says India will face a shortage of about 17 million non-agricultural jobs by 2020 if labour reforms and high-growth policies are not taken up immediately.
- ▶ The BJP led NDA could create 12 million jobs in its tenure, the UPA could create only 2 million. What the UPA so far offered the country is “jobless growth”.
- ▶ 17 lakh applications for 1500 posts in SBI!. 2 lakh applications for 100 posts in DRDO!. Today the headlines in Economic Times is disturbing - 13 IIMs unlucky for placements. Even in IIMs that is the situation.
- ▶ Economic Survey warns that by 2020 India could be faced with upto 16.7 million ‘missing jobs’.

Flagship programmes

- ▶ Flagship programmes are flagging.
- ▶ MNREGA, originally provided for Rs.40,000 cores, In the past two years, this amount has been reduced to Rs.33,000 crores.
- ▶ Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) got 24,000 core in the last budget but could spend only Rs.10,000 crore.
- ▶ The 26 schemes covered under the Under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme, have a budgetary allocation of Rs.5595 crores. Till today the actual expenditure is only Rs.5.38 crore. This scheme according to UPA is a game-changer of Indian politics, finally it will end as regime changer.
- ▶ Over 28,78,41,507 Aadhaar numbers have been generated as on February 28, 2013. That means less than 25% of the population have been issued Aadhaar cards. *Aadhar* is not going to enhance your *Janadhar*. It will make you *Niradhar*.

- ▶ The estimated requirement of food subsidy in the government’s National Food Security Bill was Rs.1,17,000 crore for distribution of 7 kg. of foodgrains per person per month. The Parliamentary Standing Committee projected a subsidy demand of Rs.1,12,000 crore for the distribution of 5 kg food grains per person per month. They suggested a coverage of 67 per cent of the population.
- ▶ Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission : Allocation in 2012 was Rs.10,500 crores. 11,000 crores in 2013. Token increase.
- ▶ Rajeev Gandhi Grameen Vidyudekaran Yojana : Allocation for 2012 was 4,900. For 2013 it is 4,500 crore. Reduced.
- ▶ Grameen Telephony : Allocation for 2012 was 3,000 crore and it is the same in FY 13. No change.
- ▶ Rural Irrigation Project : Allocation for 2012 was 1,081 crore. 2013 it is 1,207 crore. A meager hike only.
- ▶ Either the allocations were reduced or remained stagnant. Even if hiked, they are nominal.
- ▶ UPA-II has done worse than UPA-I in social sector spending

Average Annual Growth in Budget Allocations

	Education	Health	Women & Child Development
UPA 1(2004-10)	25.7%	19.0%	29.8%
UPA 2(2010-13)	21.7%	16.2%	25.4%

Source : Budget at a glance, Ministry of Finance 2004-2013

Sir, this budget is totally disappointing, lacks direction, does not inspire confidence and does not add to growth. I conclude by saying that Mr. Chidambaram seems to have followed BJP’s policy, of course, in reverse – we say ‘*appeasement of none and justice for all*’ and his motto seems to be ‘injustice for all and appeasement of none’. ■

“I am busy uniting entire population, irrespective of their caste and community” : Narendra Modi

A group of active representatives of minority communities, led by Mr. Zafar Sareshwala, called on Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Gandhinagar on April 04 and congratulated him on his being elected as the Chief Minister for successive fourth term and for providing a successful leadership for the development of the state. Speaking with the group, Shri Modi talked about Gujarat keeping itself free for the last twelve years from the grave dangers of the mainstream vote bank politics out to divide the nation.”I am busy uniting the entire cent percent population of the society around the process of development, irrespective of their caste and community, with a view to make each one of them partners of progress, which alone could absolve the nation from the poisonous cycle of vote bank politics,” he said. ■

BJP is not only a political party but part of National and Cultural Movement : Advani

Uttar Pradesh BJP organised its two day national executive meeting at Ramayana Mela Parishar's Nanaji Deshmukh Sabhagar in Chitrakoot. The executive meeting presided by UP BJP President Shri Laxmikant Vajpayee and inaugurated with lighting of lamp by former Deputy Prime Minister Shri L.K Advani. On the occasion, Shri L.K Advani said that BJP is not only a political party but part of national and cultural movement and with this vow we'll have to move ahead. Elections will come and go, sometime we'll win sometime we'll loss. But in every situation we have to go ahead.



He added, socialist thinker Dr. Rammanohar Lohia was convinced with Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya's thinking. Shri Advani said, it is said that BJP made its identity due to Ram temple but Lohia had recognized very early political concept of Ram. That is why he organised *Ramayana mela* in Chitrakoot. Lohia would say "I am sure a socialist but I have great respect for Jansagh's *Rastravad*(nationalism)."

Corruption and misrule of UP and Central government has plagued the common people. He announced to launch *People Awareness Campaign* against corruption, anti-people policy and appeasement policy of Congress, BSP and Samajwadi Party in statewide.

In the meeting two resolutions- first political and second on problems in Bundelkhand were passed.

UP BJP President also said that building Ram Temple is not an election issue but it is an issue of faith. He assured if BJP is voted to power in center it would build magnificent Ram Temple in Ayodhya through the proper legal process.

Addressing the first day of meeting Bharatiya Janata Party National Vice-President Sushri Uma Bharti termed SP supremo Mulayam Singh Yadav as a "pseudo Lohiaite" and said there could never be an alliance between BJP and SP. "Mulayam Singh Yadav in no way is the representative of Lohia. The manner in which he ran the government is totally opposite to the ideology of Lohia therefore he is a pseudo Lohiaite," Uma told reporters. She said that Mulayam was not a real Lohiaite. "Only we can realise the dreams of Lohia and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya and not a person like Mulayam, she said."

Other leaders who attended the meeting were National Secretary Vinod Pandey, former State presidents Vinay Katiyar, Shri Omprakash Singh, Kesarinath Tripathi, Dr. Ramapatiram Tripathi, Surya Pratap Sahi, State General Secretary (Org.) Rakesh Kumar along with all state office bearers and member of UP BJP Executive Committee. ■

US ambassador Ms Nancy J Powell calls on Rajnath Singh

The US ambassador to India Ms Nancy J Powell on March 25 called on the BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh at his residence in New Delhi. The meeting lasted for nearly 70 minutes in which Shri Singh highlighted the significance of warm and cordial bilateral ties between both the countries. Sharing his views on a wide range of issues Shri Singh emphasized the need to increase mutual cooperation and collaboration. Keeping in mind the proposed withdrawal of NATO forces from Afghanistan beginning in 2014 he also expressed his concerns over the evolving security scenario in the South Asian region. Other prominent issues that figured in the discussion were the menace of terrorism, FDI in retail, partnership in trade and technology. ■

Madhya Pradesh will become a model state for entire country : Dr. Kalam

Former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam has said that Madhya Pradesh will become a model state for entire country. Dr Kalam was launching ambitious scheme of 24-hour power supply in Bhopal district under *Atal Jyoti Abhiyan* on April 04.

Describing supply of power for 24 hours to non-agriculture consumers and 8 hours to agriculture consumers under *Atal Jyoti Abhiyan* as a great achievement, former President Dr Kalam congratulated Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and the State Government. He said that availability of power creates possibility of manpower generation. He said that every citizen of Madhya Pradesh will be empowered with implementation of scheme for making the state power-surplus by the year 2014.

Referring to importance of energy in development and prosperity of human society, Dr Kalam said that energy conservation is the best way of energy generation. For this, social awareness is necessary. He said that power distribution losses are quite high in some states. Energy consumption can be reduced by upto 50 percent. Lauding the initiative for empowering people through availability of energy, Dr Kalam said that all the people will

get the chance to earn livelihood. He said that Madhya Pradesh's efforts for energy generation, distribution and marketing are unique experiences.

Referring to distribution capacity, the former President said that power transmission and distribution should be with minimum losses.

Regarding energy conservation, Dr Kalam said that buildings should be constructed

Madhya Pradesh most important state in the country and world by providing employment to all, water to every field and supplying power for 24-hours. Under the campaign, all the villages in the district will get 24x7 power supply. Bhopal is the seventh district in the state to get facility of 24-hour power supply under *Atal Jyoti Abhiyan*.

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that it has been resolved to make Madhya Pradesh the most prosperous state of the country through creative manipulation of rural youth power. A network of small industries will be laid in rural Madhya Pradesh. In it, 24-hour power supply will play an important role. Shri Chouhan said that no hike has been effected in power tariff in Madhya Pradesh at



through eco-friendly modern technology for reducing power consumption. He said that every citizen should be provided energy security. Referring to concept of PURA for rural prosperity, the former President said that PURA can be a mission for Madhya Pradesh since the state is rich in there major resources including energy, water and youth power. The mission will bring people over poverty line.

Addressing a grand function held on the occasion, MP Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that he will make

a time when all other states are increasing it. Amidst uproar of cheers, he said that power tariff in the state will be reduced by 5 percent next year. Madhya Pradesh will be the first state to reduce power tariff. He said that people call me 'merchant of dreams'. Accepting this, Shri Chouhan said that he dreams for integrated development of the state and also works towards their fulfillment dedicatedly. As a result, Madhya Pradesh is the pioneer state in the country now with 10.02 percent growth rate in Agriculture. (FOC) ■

ANDHRA PRADESH

Five-day hunger strike against power tariff hike Now BJP will take the fight to streets : Ravi Shankar

The five-day long fast by three BJP legislators, including AP State BJP president Shri G. Kishan Reddy was called off on April 03 following an appeal by Deputy Leader in Rajya Sabha Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad.



Shri Prasad, who was deputed by BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh, visited Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences

(NIMS) and urged the party cadres to break their fast and take the fight against power tariff hike to the streets. The three legislators called off the fast after they were offered lime juice by Shri Prasad.

Notable, the leaders were shifted to NIMS after the police forcibly removed them from the hunger strike camp at Old MLA quarters.

Earlier, Shri Prasad held discussions with senior BJP leaders including Shri Bandaru Dattareya, Shri Ch. Vidysagar Rao and others and also spoke on telephone with BJP's all India Organizing General Secretary Shri Ram Lal.

He said Andhra Pradesh once used to be a good State for investment, industries, IT and growth. But it was literally crying for power now, he said while blaming inefficient Congress government for the problem. ■

GOA

Mining companies should not lay off workers : Manohar Parrikar

Mining companies should be able to "support" workers, instead of laying them off following the mining ban, Goa Chief Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar said the State legislative assembly in Panaji on 03 April 2013

Shri Parrikar was responding to a question

from Congress legislator Atanasio Monserrate over the fate of about 40,000 mining sector workers who have been rendered jobless following the ban enforced by the Supreme Court. "The mining companies should be supporting them. They (companies) have earned from mining for over 20 years. I don't see why they cannot sustain their workers for at least two years. And the ban has been on only for six months," he said.



Noteworthy, mining in Goa has been banned by the Supreme Court since October last year, following a petition by local green lobby activists and noted lawyer Prashant Bhushan. Last year, a judicial commission headed by Justice M.B. Shah had exposed a Rs.35,000 crore illegal mining scam during the Congress government in which politicians, bureaucrats and mining companies were linked.

Chief Minister Shri Parrikar, who has already announced compensation for unemployed mining workers, truck drivers and river barrage owners working in the mining sector, also warned the mining companies not to displace workers. He said when the mining work will recommence the workers would have to be taken back by the companies. ■

CHHATTISGARH

Raman Singh to embark on 2,700-Km Vikas Yatra

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh will roll out his 2,700-km long 'Vikas Yatra' from May 6 as the State goes to polls later this year. The blueprint for the six-phased yatra was drafted and approved at a key meeting at the State BJP headquarters in Raipur which was attended by senior party leaders, including the BJP State President.

Interacting with media persons BJP State General Secretary Shri Shivratna Sharma said, "Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh

will embark on a 2700-km long journey on May 6 from Dantewada with prayers at Maa Danteshwari temple; the journey which will cover 81 out of the total 90 Assembly seats will conclude on June 15 in tribal heartland Surguja”.

According to that communication Industry



Minister Shri Rajesh Munat has been appointed as coordinator of the yatra, while Shri Subhash Rao will be the co-coordinator.

Shri Singh, who is heading the government since December 7, 2003, will mostly cover the ‘Vikas Yatra’ by road.

During the yatra Dr. Raman Singh would make announcements of a series of development works and welfare wherever he visits during the yatra and would also brief people about the development works being carried out by his Government for welfare of the people and it will set a tone for BJP’s hat-trick victory in the State that has 2.55 crore population with 32 per cent tribals. ■

CM approves 2,700 Cr to construct 49 roads in Naxal-hit districts

A sum of Rs. 2,719.63 crore had been approved by Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh as a Special Action Plan for the construction of the roads in Naxal affected districts in Chhattisgarh. The State Public Works Department has undertaken the task of constructing the 49 roads measuring 1,970 kms, said an official statement of the government in Raipur on 03 April.

As per the Departmental Administrative Report of the last financial year (2012-13), the PWD had already completed construction of nine roads out of 49 while incurring an expenditure of `199.83 crore.

Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh with a view to providing a momentum to the development work in the Leftist insurgency affected backward areas had accorded top priority to the construction of

roads in such districts for efficient implementation of the welfare schemes in larger public interest.

As a sequel to the road projects in the Naxal affected areas, the State Government has also sent a proposal to the Central Government to contract roads under a special project (LWE) in the undivided seven districts. The upgradation work of the roads would also involve making them two lane and also strengthening them. The small and large bridges on the way of the roads would be constructed from a scratch, he added. ■

DELHI

BJP demands CM's resignation over CAG expose

Referring to the CAG report tabled in the Delhi Assembly on April 04, Delhi BJP said the report has exposed rampant corruption in the Government. Stating that it is high time that Delhi Chief Minister Smt. Sheila Dikshit should resign, Delhi BJP President Shri Vijay Goel said the Government in connivance with power companies had cheated the common man.

Addressing the Media persons Shri Goel said, “The report has been unable to find a single facet of life which remained unaffected and uncovered by the incompetent and corrupt malpractices of the Government. Be it life saving health care, transportation, water, power, sewerage, policing, housing, girl child etc and the list goes on”.

He further said that the Government has violated all the norms, schemes are not completed, and the flats that were supposed to give shelter to the poor are not completed yet. “Out of 10,000 only 85 are just allotted. Poor people are compelled to pay more for LPG and power. It is shocking that 50 per cent of people in Delhi are not getting water. Most of the money is being spent on wrong places,” Delhi BJP State President said.

Citing the mention of pathetic state of health infrastructure in the Capital, Shri Goel said hospitals are not offering any facility to the poor people, even ambulances or medicines are not available.

“Funds are misused and there is grave irregularity in every phase and department. BJP will also knock the doors of court against the power companies involved in the conspiracy and after consulting legal experts,” he said. ■