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Fortnightly Magazine

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***Shat-Shat
Naman!***



**Ambedkar
Jayanti**

14 April 2014



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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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“No chief minister in the country has been as hounded in the past as much as Modi, and that his sheen has increased with every attack.”

-Rajnath Singh

“NDA is going to people with assurance of providing a progress oriented & stable government to fulfill dreams of our youth.”

-Narendra Modi

“BJP alliance with Telugu Desam Party is definitely capable of sending a large contingent of members to the Lok Sabha in support of the NDA.”

-Arun Jaitley

Baisakhi : 14th April, 2014

Vaisakhi also known as Baisakhi, Vaishakhi, or Vasakhi is a festival celebrated across the northern Indian subcontinent, especially in the Punjab region by the Sikh community. More recently, this festival is also celebrated around the world by Sikh diaspora. For the Sikh community this festival commemorates the establishment of the Khalsa. It is also celebrated by Hindus and Buddhists for different reasons including the start of a new year. People in the Punjab Region regard Vaisakhi as a harvest festival.

The festival bears a great significance for the Sikhs due of the fact that on the Vaisakhi Day in the year 1699, the 10th Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh laid down the foundation of the Panth Khalsa, that is the Order of the ‘Pure Ones’. This day is also observed as the thanks giving day by the farmers whereby the farmers pay their tribute, thanking God for the abundant harvest and also praying for the future prosperity.



For Hindus, it is the start of the New Year, and is celebrated with requisite bathing, partying, and worshipping. It’s believed that thousands of years ago, Goddess Ganga descended to earth and in her honour, many Hindus gather along the sacred Ganges River for ritual baths. The action is centered in the holy cities along the Ganges in north India, or in Srinagar’s Mughal Gardens, Jammu’s Nagbani Temples– or anywhere in Tamil Nadu. Hindus plant poles (wrapped in flags of gold-embroidered silk) in front of their homes, and hang pots of brass, copper or silver on top.

In Kerala, the festival is called ‘Vishu’. It includes fireworks, shopping for new clothes and interesting displays called ‘Vishu Kani’. These are arrangements of flowers, grains, fruits, cloth, gold, and money are viewed early in the morning, to ensure a year of prosperity. In Assam, the festival is called Bohag Bihu, and the community organizes massive feasts, music, and dancing. Swami Dayanand Saraswati founded the Arya Samaj on Vaisakhi, in 1875.

Apart from the Sikhs and Hindus, Vaisakhi is an important day for the Buddhists as well and the name is Vesakha, Vaisakha, Vesak or Wesak. It commemorates the Birth, the Awakening and the Enlightened Passing Away of Buddha Gautama who was born as prince Siddharta. ■



'Mission 272+' within reach, time to aim for 300+ !

Editorial...

Elections this time appear unique in at least one aspect – the results are known even before a single vote is cast. No one is disputing the fact that Shri Narendra Bhai Modi is going to be the next Prime Minister of the country and BJP led NDA is going to form the next government. The campaign for 'Abki bar - Modi sarkar' is gaining momentum with every passing day, it is BJP and NDA all the way. People are full of enthusiasm and election fervor is in full swing. From urban cities to remote areas in the country, everywhere people are expressing their support to Shri Narendra Modi and BJP. As people are responding overwhelmingly to Shri Modi's call for 'Congress mukta Bharat', Congress is preparing itself to face the imminent rout.

Shri Narendra Modi becoming next Prime Minister of the country is only a matter of time. It is getting reflected in the mood of the country. Almost all the opinion polls conducted so far after the election process started have been unanimous in accepting that BJP led NDA is well ahead of others. India Today- C Voter opinion poll which had earlier projected 212 seats for NDA in a survey conducted between Dec 2013 to Jan 2014 has now projected in an opinion poll conducted under Times Now-India TV-C Voter 227 seats for NDA. ABP News-Nielsen has predicted 236 seats for NDA in its opinion poll in Feb 2014. CNN-IBN-Lokniti-CSDS had earlier projected between 212-232 seats for NDA in Feb 2014 has now revised itself while predicting between 234-246 seats for NDA in March 2014. Similarly NDTV-Hansa Research which had earlier projected 232 seats for NDA is now predicting 259 seats in its March 2014 opinion poll. All these opinion polls are also predicting a vote share of 31-36% for NDA. It has to be noted that while the results of these opinion polls are coming in, NDA is on expansion mode winning allies and friends across political spectrum and in every nook and corner of the country. While this editorial is being written, the news of Telugu Desam Party becoming part of NDA is grabbing the national headlines. All these opinion polls were conducted before TDP becoming part of NDA, now the new polls will further boost the prospects of NDA.

While NDA is gaining ground with each passing day, Congress led UPA is on downslide, hopelessly sinking as never before. Times Now-India TV-C Voter has projected 101 for UPA and 89 for Congress in its opinion poll conducted between Jan-Feb 2014. ABP News -Nielsen has predicted 92 seats for UPA in its Feb 2014 polls. NDTV -Hansa has given 123 seats in its March 2014 polls while CNN-IBN-Lokniti-CSDS has predicted 111-123 seats for UPA in its March 2014 polls. In all probability Congress will not be able to reach a 100 figure and it will be a never before rout for Congress, a complete decimation.

Opinion polls are unanimous in accepting the fact that NDA is moving towards a huge win in the elections 2014. As soon as elections were declared and different political parties announced their candidates the mood in the country became upbeat as people were eagerly waiting for change. The mood got reflected in the opinion polls as all the pollsters started giving higher number of seats to UPA while revising their earlier estimates. The misgovernance, corruption, price rise, unemployment, policy paralysis, weak leadership, crisis after crisis in governance, loot after loot of public fund – everything is fresh in people's mind, they have not forgotten these. Congress which believed in the dictum that 'public memory is short' will have to pay price for its misdeeds now, it is now a sinking ship. People are now remembering the days of NDA,

the days of fast development, nation building projects, stable prices, a regime free of scam and corruption and now new hope in the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi. Shri Narendra Modi and his track record in governance and development, his political will and determination, his leadership qualities, and his dream for a developed, prosperous and strong India has captured the imagination of the nation.

As the pollsters are revising their predictions in NDA favour, the 'Mission 272+' seems within reach. There is no doubt that NDA is poised to cross 272 seats. The enthusiasm of people who want to come out of a decade of hopelessness and despair and looking for change are giving their massive support to Shri Narendra Modi and BJP. The people's support is visible in the wave and it has been rightly observed that it is going to be transformed into a tsunami. The increasing support which is cutting across caste, community, religion, sex and region is a lesson for those who seek to divide society on these lines for their political gains. The massive support which Shri Narendra Modi is receiving across the country calls for revising the NDA's target. It is time to aim for 300+! ■

BJP releases 'chargesheet' against UPA government

BJP on April 4 released a 'Chargesheet' against the UPA government. The 'chargesheet', BJP claimed highlighted Congress' failure during its rule. Releasing the document, Deputy leader in Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad said, "UPA



government is a failure on all fronts." "Sonia Gandhi & Rahul Gandhi are equally guilty of all the ills in India along with Dr. Manmohan Singh," Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad alleged. The document included charges like disrespecting PM's chair, destruction of economy and endless scams. "Congress was never ready to probe any scam. If it weren't for opposition, court, media they wouldn't have investigated," Shri Prasad said. The document also accuses UPA of compromising on issues of national security; neglect of development of North East; corruption in healthcare; undermining CAG, CVC, CBI and failure to fulfil 2009 promises. "For the last so many years the PM has been an MP from North-east, yet there is no development there, why?" Prasad asked. Prasad went on to blame Congress for 'communalising' fight against terror. "UPA communalized fight against terror and devalued security agencies," he said. Prasad also raked the issue of foreign policy saying, "Indo-American relationship is at an all time low." Throughout its election campaigning, BJP criticized UPA government for the dismal economic situation of India. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Finance Minister P Chidambaram have been slammed by BJP for 'destructive' economic policy.

While releasing the 'chargesheet' against UPA Shri M.A. Naqvi, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Shri J.P. Nadda, Shri P. Muralidhar Rao, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and Smt. Aarti Mehra were present. ■

Rajnath Singh appointed MJ Akbar as BJP National Spokesperson

BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh appointed renowned journalist and author Shri M.J. Akbar as BJP National Spokesperson. Rajnath Singh also appointed Shri Arun Singh as in charge of the party's affairs in Odisha where assembly elections are also being held along with Lok Sabha elections. Shri Akbar recently joined the BJP. He said Narendra Modi is a leader who can offer a vision for India's future and hence backed him. He also said in a recent interview that the conditions of the Muslims have developed under Modi's administration and that the leader had to undergo a lot of scrutiny because of the riots while there are leaders like Mulayam Singh Yadav and Tarun Gogoi who never had to face any such experience despite their states facing serious riots. ■

BJP commits itself to build a modern, prosperous, and vibrant India- 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'

From Our Correspondent

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) released its manifesto on April 7 for the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh, BJP Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi, BJP Parliamentary Party Chairman Shri LK Advani, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj, senior leader and Chairman of the Manifesto Committee Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Deputy Leader in Rajya Sabha Shri Ravishankar Prasad, BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Ramlal, BJP National General Secretaries Shri Thawarchand Gehlot and Shri JP Nadda released of the manifesto in the presence of party functionaries, karyakartas, media and supporters in Delhi. In the 52-page manifesto BJP has

emphasized on the main slogans of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" (One India, best India) and "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas".

Senior BJP leader Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, who headed the BJP manifesto committee, told reporters that the focus is on five

things in the party's manifesto - Talent, Tourism, Trade, Tradition and technology. "Our country has moved backwards in the last 10 years. The BJP manifesto focuses on things that

corruption, scams and crime against women have been reached "unacceptable" level. There has been a gross misuse of government and institutions. There has also been erosion of authority of the office of prime minister. It further states, "The government dithered by each passing day casting gloom and doom on the country that was once under the NDA regime called the emerging superpower. Critical and urgent challenges facing the nation have been left unaddressed". Some of the important points are given below:

Under the chapter "Reform the System", the BJP manifesto promised good governance, which will be transparent, effective, involving and encouraging and include reforms of administration,

judiciary, police and election.

Corruption, the manifesto, said is a manifestation of poor governance. "Moreover, it reflects the bad intentions of those sitting in power. All pervasive corruption under the Congress-led UPA has become a national crisis. "We will establish a



will help the country bounce back," Dr. Joshi said.

Terming the period of UPA I and II as "the decade of decay", the manifesto said India had a "free fall" on all fronts, including governance, economy, diplomacy, foreign policy, border safety, etc. At the same time,

system which will eliminate the scope of corruption through public awareness, technology enabled e-governance, system based policy-driven governance, rationalisation and simplification of the tax regime and simplification of the process and procedures at all levels," the manifesto said.

Referring to the black money issue, the BJP document said its government will initiate process of tracking down and bringing back the black money stashed in foreign banks and offshore accounts. "We will set up a task force for this purpose and to recommend amendments to existing laws or enact new laws. The process of bringing back blackmoney to India will be put in motion on priority. We will also proactively engage with foreign governments to facilitate information sharing on blackmoney."

Giving high priority to revival of growth and job creation, the party promised to contain inflation, pursue tax reforms and promote foreign investments but said barring Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in multi-brand retail, the party was not opposed to the FDI as it will create employment.

"We need to create India as

a brand because if India innovates, India leads," Dr. Joshi said.

The manifesto accused the Congress-led UPA government of unleashing "tax terrorism and uncertainty" and engendering 10 years of jobless growth.

It promised to set up a price stabilisation fund to check inflation,

unveiling the road map for the future.

With regard to the agriculture sector, the manifesto promises to create a single 'National Agriculture Market' and increase public investment in the farm sector.

Referring to taxation, it said, "the UPA government has unleashed 'Tax terrorism' and 'uncertainty', which not only creates anxiety amongst the business class and negatively impacts the investment climate, but also dents the image of the country."

Promising tax reforms, BJP said its tax policy roadmap include focus on a non-adversarial and conducive tax environment, overhaul of the dispute resolution mechanisms, bringing on board all state governments in adopting GST (Goods and Services Tax) and provision for tax incentives to promote investment.

Dealing with "Decision and Policy Paralysis", the manifesto said the country has suffered a decade of maladministration and scams in addition to decision and policy paralysis, thus bringing growth and development to a grinding halt leading to a governance deficit.

"This situation will be

Highlights :

- **The party reiterates its stand to explore all possibilities within the framework of Constitution to facilitate construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.**
- **Reiterating its stand on Article 370 and discussing with all stakeholders for abrogation of the Article.**
- **Ensuring minimisation of black money and setting up of a task force for this purpose.**
- **Putting in place strict measures and special courts to stop hoarding and black marketing.**
- **Setting up a Price Stabilisation Fund.**
- **Unbundling FCI operations into procurement, storage and distribution for greater efficiency.**
- **Evolving a single National Agriculture Market.**
- **Promoting and support area specific crops and vegetables linked to food habits of the people.**
- **Developing high impact domains like labour intensive manufacturing, tourism, and strengthening traditional employment bases of agriculture and allied industry.**

ensure fiscal discipline and pursue banking sector reforms to deal with the problem of rising bad loans.

"The country has been dragged through 10 years of jobless growth by the Congress-led UPA Government. Under the broader economic revival, BJP will accord high priority to job creation and opportunities for entrepreneurship," it said while

changed and the engine of government will be ignited again with strong will power and commitment to public interest. We will also encourage the bureaucracy to take right decisions and contribute their might in building a modern India," it said.

The BJP said the biggest challenge that India faced today was to restore the credibility of and trust in the Union government.

"In recent years, the Union government has lost every semblance of credibility. Its intentions, integrity and initiatives are all questionable. The Congress party has not only lowered the dignity of the government but also the dignity of India.

"The BJP will work for restoring the trust and credibility of the government. We will also ensure that the chain of responsibility and accountability is built in the system," it said.

On price rise, the manifesto said the runaway food inflation has crippled household budgets and contributed to overall inflationary trend.

"However, the Congress-led UPA government has remained insensitive and indifferent to the plight of the people tying itself into knots with short term

misdirected steps," it said.

BJP will strategically develop high-impact domains like labour-intensive manufacturing and tourism. It will also strengthen the traditional employment basis of agriculture and allied industries and retail through modernisation as well as

other functionalities as equal partners," it said.

The party pledged to ensure fiscal autonomy of states while urging financial discipline. It will create regional councils of states with common problems and concerns with a view to seeking solutions that are applicable across a group of states.

It promised to encourage cooperation among states on security-related issues, inter-state disputes and removing inter-regional economic disparities and promoting tourism.

"The moribund forums like National Development Council and Inter-State Council will be revived and made into active bodies," the manifesto said and promised to involve state governments in the promotion of foreign trade and commerce.

In the field of foreign policy, the BJP promised to pursue friendly relations with neighbours but said "where required we will not hesitate from taking strong stand and steps".

India's nuclear doctrine will be studied in detail and will be revised and updated to make it relevant to challenges of current times, Dr. Joshi said.

Dr. Joshi said BJP in its manifesto promises a uniform civil code for gender equality in

Highlights :

- **Harnessing opportunities provided by the upgradation of infrastructure and housing.**
- **Encouraging and empowering youth for self employment and transforming employment exchanges into career centres.**
- **Eliminating corruption through public awareness, e-governance, rationalisation and simplification of tax regime.**
- **Harmonising Centre-state relations by evolving model of national development driven by the states.**
- **Setting up a Team India initiative which will include the PM and CMs as equal partners.**
- **Ensure fiscal autonomy of states and creation of regional councils of states of common problems and concerns.**
- **National Development Council and Inter-state Council will be revived and made into active body.**

stronger credit and market linkages.

Propounding a "Team India" concept, the BJP said the genuine grievances of every state will be addressed in a comprehensive manner and it will place Centre-State relations on an even keel through the process of consultation.

"Team India will not be limited to the Prime Minister-led Team sitting in Delhi but will also include chief ministers and

Highlights :

- **Involving state governments in promotion of foreign trade and commerce.**
- **Greater decentralisation through smaller states.**
- **Special emphasis on improving connectivity in Northeast region.**
- **Massive infrastructure development in NE region.**
- **Complete all pending fencing work along the India-Bangladesh and India-Myanmar border.**
- **Dealing with insurgency with a firm hand.**
- **BJP to draft a Uniform Civil Code drawing upon the best traditions and harmonising them with the modern times.**
- **Foreign policy will be guided through pragmatism and doctrines of mutually beneficial and interlocking relationships.**
- **Launching a massive Clean Rivers Programme with people's participation.**
- **Pursuing friendly relations with neighbours and at the same time not hesitate from taking strong stand when required.**
- **Reviving the anti-terror mechanism which has been dismantled by the Congress and putting in place swift and fair trial of terror-related cases.**

the country.

The BJP, in its manifesto, also assured effective implementation of UPA's pet projects - food security scheme and right to education.

Regarding the northeast, the party has promised "there will be special emphasis on massive infrastructure development, especially along the Line of Actual Control in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim".

The party poll document said it will take urgent steps for the safety of the migrant workers and communities from the northeast and other states.

It will also help states mobilise resources through investments in industry, agriculture and infrastructure," the manifesto said.

It also promised a national health insurance mission for accessible, affordable and effective health care for all in its poll document.

The BJP in its poll document promised house for all in the country. "We will roll out a massive low cost housing programme to ensure that by the time the nation completes 75 years of its Independence, every family will have a pucca house of its own," the manifesto said.

The party pledged to launch a national campaign for saving the girl child and educating her called "Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao".

It also said that if elected, a BJP government will create an acid attack victims welfare fund to take care of the medical costs related to treatment and cosmetic reconstructive surgeries of such victims. ■

- **Insulate intelligence agencies from political intervention and interference.**
- **Strengthening DRDO and encourage private sector participation including FDI in selected defence industries.**
- **Strengthening physical infrastructure with expediting work on freight and industrial corridors.**
- **Setting up of gas grids and national optical fibre network upto the village level.**
- **Launching of diamond quadrilateral project of high-speed rail network (Bullet trains).**
- **Setting up of agri rail network catering to needs of perishable farm products.**
- **Launching of 50 new tourist circuits for the development of tourism.**
- **Universalisation of secondary school education and skill development and establishment of national e-library.**
- **Implementation of national education policy.UGC to be restructured and transformed into higher education commission.**
- **Ensuring urgent steps for safety of migrant workers and communities from Northeast and other states.**
- **Pursuing an agenda of equal and rapid development of all three regions of Jammu and Kashmir – Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.**
- **Return of Kashmiri Pandits to the land of their ancestors with full dignity and security.**
- **Evolving further the PPP model into a People-Public-Private Partnership (PPPP).**
- **Strengthening self-governance and empowering Panchayati Raj institutions with a devolution of functionaries and funds.**
- **Consolidating Gram Sabha institutions, involving people, in policy formation.**

People want to punish those who have ruined the nation : Narendra Modi

From Our Correspondent

Addressing massive rallies at Nuapada, Balangir and Rourkela in Odisha, on 4 April, Shri Narendra Modi condemned the dynastic and destructive politics of the Congress and appealed to the people to give chance to a 'sevak' to serve the country.

Emphasising how the 2014 Elections were about the people's voice of bringing a change and punishing those who have ruined the Nation, Shri Modi affirmed of the Congress' and BJD's wipe out and said, "Naveen Babu has been in power for almost 15 years. What has Odisha got? Naveen

of the Congress, Shri Modi cited many instances of their misdeeds that had disrupted the social and cultural identity of India. The Congress' hesitancy in addressing the serious issues of price rise, corruption, unemployment, poverty, safety and security of farmers and women, was clearly put forth by Shri Modi when he spoke of how youth from Odisha had to go to other states for job opportunities, despite the fact that the State had rich mineral resources. The vast yet untapped potential of port-led development and handicrafts-related prospects in Odisha was also stressed upon

Shri Modi, who further stated how the State and Central government were least bothered of tapping the tourism and development prospects of the region.

He also spoke of the insecurity under which women in the country were living, and stated how Funds like the Nirbhaya Fund created by



Babu, your days in power are numbered. Shahzade ji, Madam Sonia ji, the direction of the wind is clear."

Attacking the dynastic politics of the Congress and stating the destructive impact it has had on the democratic fabric of the country, Shri Modi spoke of how the Elections 2014 was about a fight between leaders with affluent political lineage on one hand and the son of a tea-seller who wished to serve the country on the other. "This is a democracy and dynasty is the biggest enemy of a democracy," affirmed Shri Modi.

Urging the people not to trust the false promises

of the Centre, lay unused. This, Shri Modi said, was among the many attempts of the Congress to fool the Nation. Questioning Smt. Sonia Gandhi over the recent National Crime records which had 7 Congress-ruled states amongst the top 10 states figuring in the list of states with most atrocities on women, Shri Modi asked if this was the Centre's take on women safety.

Former BJP president Shri Jual Oram, senior leaders Shri Dilip Ray, Shri Dhiren Senapati, Shri Kishen Sahu and Shri Upendra Pradhan were among the senior BJP leaders present during the rallies.

Rally at Vaishali in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh

From 'secularism' Congress moved to open communalism

A strong objection to the Congress' attempt at communalizing Elections and a clear picture citing their incompetence in tackling national concerns were the highlights of BJP PM Candidate Shri Narendra Modi's speech during his campaign rally on 3 April, 2014 at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Modi took strong objection to the Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi's recent appeal to

everyone is ours. Congress secularism is 'divide and rule', while we say unite, integrate and work for the nation. For Congress secularism is religion first but for us it is India First. It is an article of faith for us."

Commenting on the powerlessness of the Central government, which was evident in its feebleness at resisting assaults by foreign countries, Shri Modi called for the urgent need to form a



government that is strong and stable. Reinforcing the impact of U P 's contribution in forming the n e x t Government in Delhi, Shri Modi urged them to vote for the BJP, and said, "UP is going to have a big say in forming the n e x t

Muslim leaders to ensure that their votes were not split, and stated that it was yet another attempt by the Congress Party to communalize the Elections. Shri Modi said, "Congress is defeated, and so, now from 'secularism' they have moved to open communalism. What the Congress President said...to seek votes on the basis of religion is against the laws of this nation. *Suo motu* action must be taken. You tell me is it proper to appeal like this on religious grounds? Don't give empty slogans and then divide brothers. Sadly this has been the Congress tradition. Sonia ji has made the mistake of trying to mislead and divide the nation. People will never forgive this kind of politics."

Asserting that the Congress' idea of secularism was merely an election slogan which focused on 'divide and rule', Shri Modi said, "For Congress, secularism is votebank politics while for us

Government of India. We need maximum Lotuses from UP."

He also addressed the concern of farmer suicides and stated that this worsening of the agricultural sector was a result of the Congress' negligence towards it. He spoke of how the Congress was keen on encouraging Pink Revolution by subsidizing the export of mutton, but was unkind to the pitiable condition of farmers. He also cited animal husbandry focused initiatives of Gujarat and the positive results they had reaped.

Remembering the momentous contribution of Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw towards the Nation's security, on his 100th birth anniversary today, Shri Modi conveyed his reverence for the Field Marshal and expressed happiness that he could campaign for retired Indian army officer Shri V K Singh on this day.

Paisa Nahi, Pasina aur Pavitrata Jeetegi

In his rallies at Kurukshetra and Gurgaon in Haryana, on 3 April, Shri Modi affirmed of the Congress' defeat and reinstated the decisiveness of Elections 2014 by stating that this time the elections were about the hard work and sweat of the people on one hand and the power of money on the other.

Assuring that he will address the problems of Haryana at the earliest when the BJP comes to power, Shri Modi recalled Shri Atal Bihari

scams he has been linked to) would be one of the chowkidaars. "Is there any magician who doesn't have a penny but in 3 months gets crores in his bank? People here want to know as to who is the person who sold farmer lands and made crores. What is your relation with him," said Shri Modi. Adding on to the Congress' corruptive practises was Shri Modi's mention of how the Centre had indulged in coal scams and thereby kept the country in utter darkness. "Those who did not

spare coal, can they spare you," asked Shri Modi.

A direct attack on the Central government's indifference towards the progress of its people was stated by Shri Modi in his reference to the 'Incredible India' advertisements, which had miserably failed to highlight the tourism



Vajpayee's initiative of linking rivers and spoke of how the project had seen no progress under the Congress rule. He cited how this lack of foresightedness on the part of the Haryana government and the Centre, to provide with the required infrastructure for agriculture, had resulted in major losses for the farmers. "I know Haryana very well. I will not take any time to understand the problems of Haryana, its people & farmers," said Shri Modi.

Shri Modi retaliated to the Congress Vice President's statement on the Nation requiring crores of 'chowkidaars' by questioning the Congress VP if his corrupted brother-in-law too (referring to Robert Vadra and the land dealing

potential of regions like Kurukshetra. By not exploring this potential, Shri Modi said that the state was lagging behind in providing employment to scores.

Making a direct co-relation of Kurukshetra in Haryana and Dwarka in Gujarat, Shri Modi evoked the divine theories of Lord Krishna and remembered the ideologies of Swami Dayanand Saraswati, even as he spoke of how they had contributed to both the regions.

Shri Ram Bilas Sharma, Shri Manohar Lal, Captain Abhimanyu, Shri Ratan Lal Kataria, Shri Raj Kumar Saini and Shri Ashwini Kumar Chopra were among the senior BJP leaders present during the rallies.

Need of the hour is to make India Congress-free

On 2 April, Shri Narendra Modi addressed supporters at massive rallies in Nawada and Buxar in Bihar, and affirmed of the state's firm decision to take the lead and ensure a strong and stable government in Delhi in the 2014 Elections. "Ab Na Vaada, ab toh hona chahiye Iraada," affirmed Shri Modi, as he called for the need to make India Congress-free.

Recalling his association with Bihar, Shri Modi spoke of how he came from the 'Dwarika nagri' which was closely linked to the Yadav community. He condemned the misdoings that occurred during Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav's rule and expressed shock at how the leaders belonging to the Yadav community in Bihar had tied up with those engaged in cow slaughter. Shri Modi said, "The same Yaduvansh who worships Shri Krishna and the Cow, their leaders are with those who encourage killing of animals. I want to ask Mulayam ji & Lalu ji- you support those who encourage the pink revolution, a Gulabi Kranti."

He further stated how the Centre was, instead of promoting green revolution or white revolution, only engaged in 'Pink revolution' by giving subsidies for cow slaughter. The Central government's apathy towards farmers and their agricultural produce, and their preference for mutton exports instead, had ruined the cultural and social fabric of the country, said Shri Modi. He stated, "The Centre is very proud that they are setting records in exporting mutton. In Delhi subsidies for agriculture is not welcome but killing of animals invites subsidies."

Shri Modi also criticized the Bihar CM's refusal at sending farmers from Bihar to Gujarat for felicitation at a recent event, and said, "We were honouring progressive farmers from all over

but your Bihar Government did not allow the farmers to come because of politics. In politics we may have difference of thoughts and ideas but there can't be such enmity. However, when the arrogance is sky high, this happens." He highlighted the farmers' pitiable condition owing



to lack of water resources and regular power supply, and spoke of how Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had dreamt of linking the rivers but nothing progressed on that front under the Congress rule. He assured that with the BJP coming to power in 2014, things would speed up on this front.

Attacking the Congress for their incompetence in addressing national concerns of price rise, unemployment, poverty, return of black money from foreign shores, etc, Shri Modi stated that the time had come to get rid of the Congress' misrule. He assured the people that every penny of illegal money stashed in foreign banks would be brought back after the BJP comes to power, and used for the progress of the poor.

Disapproving the Congress' propaganda, Shri Modi questioned the Congress Vice President that if the making of the country's infrastructure blueprint took the Central government 60 years, it most certainly would take atleast 600 years to put it into place.

Affirming that Bihar would lead the change

the Nation needs, Shri Modi urged the people to vote for the BJP in the 2014 elections and make India Congress-free. Shri Modi also highlighted the development focus of BJP's candidate from Nawada - Shri Giriraj Singh - and urged the people to support him. Shri Modi also called for the need to create an India that ensures a home to every person, a home with all basic amenities, and ensures the progress of every individual. He spoke of ensuring such an India by the year 2022 when India would celebrate its 75th year of

Bareilly, **Uttar Pradesh**

Send over 300 MPs for NDA so that we can provide a strong and stable govt for the people

Addressing a massive crowd in Bareilly (UP), on 1 April, Shri Narendra Modi affirmed of ensuring a stable government under the BJP and spoke of the imminent destruction of SABKA -- SP, BSP and Congress.

Disapproving of the Congress' strategy of fooling the people all year round by making false promises and divisive strategies, Shri Modi urged the people of India to vote for the BJP and give a chance to a 'sevak' to serve the country.

Shri Modi came down heavily upon the lack of good governance witnessed under the Congress rules since 2004, and stated that the time had come for taking action instead of merely doing paperwork. He stated that this misrule will only end when the reign of SABKA - SP, BSP and Congress - will end. "Sitting in AC rooms they make schemes to run the nation from Delhi but things remained the same. Governments need to hear common people," stated Shri Modi.

Unforgiving of the Congress' incessant lies, Shri Modi spoke of how their Manifesto was yet another 'Dhokha Patra', which repeated many unfulfilled promises made by them in the past decade. He urged the people of Uttar Pradesh to vote for the BJP and give chance to a 'sevak' to serve the country.

Comparing how Bareilly had developed under

Independence. "If our villages are strong then our cities will also gain strength. Our focus is to make villages developed.

The facilities that are available in a city, they should also be available in the villages. Bless us so that we can create an India where no one is homeless," said Shri Modi.

Shri Nand Kishore Yadav, Shri Giriraj Singh, Shri Ashawani Chaubey and Shri RK Singh were amongst the senior leaders present during both the rallies.

the governance of Shri Santosh Gangwar ji, Shri Modi said that today the region had bettered on the development front, more than Rae Bareilly, which boasts of strong leaders as their MPs. Shri Modi highlighted Bareilly's contribution to



Gujarat's flourishing kite industry and said, "Without the Manjha of Bareilly, the kite of Gujarat cannot fly. Such is our bond. Our kite industry has integrated poorest of the poor. Most of the people involved in the industry belong to Muslim community. We have taken Gujarat's Kite Industry to Rs. 500 crore and this has helped the poor people."

Empathizing with the sorry condition of

farmers and soldiers in the country, Shri Modi expressed shock at the Congress' indifference towards incessant farmer suicides and terrorism-led killings of soldiers. This unsympathetic approach of the Congress, Shri Modi said, had contradicted Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri ji's mantra of 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' and created a new mantra of 'Mar Jawan, Mar Kisan'. He spoke of how the poor only figured in the Congress' votebanks, and was addressed to during the Elections time. Confronting this insensitive approach of the Central government, Shri Modi said that understanding the poor and relating to their

poverty could only be done by someone who has lived poverty, but the Congress was miles away from this. "For Congress all 365 days are April Fools' Day. They keep talking of poor before elections and their leader says poverty is a state of mind," said Shri Modi.

Shri Modi empathized with the crowd who had been waiting since long and assured them that their perseverance will not go in vain. Shri Modi also extended greetings on the occasion of Cheti Chand. State BJP President Dr. Laxmikant Bajpai, Senior leaders Shri Rajesh Agrawal and Shri Dharampal were present on the occasion.

Bharat Vijay rally in Koderma, Gumla and Chatra, Jharkhand

Voice of poor must be heard and that is what we want to do

Shri Narendra Modi addressed a massive rally at Koderma in Jharkhand on 2 April. Emphasizing on the concept of 'Jan Bhagidari' to ensure the Nation's progress, Shri Modi assured the people of the BJP's focus on the development of all sections of the society, especially the poor. Shri Modi also called upon the people to

out by Shri Modi when he spoke of how the produce, grown by the tireless efforts of the farmers, lay rotting due to lack of initiatives by the Centre to ensure proper storage and distribution. The uncaring Congress further worsened its doings by giving away the grains to alcohol manufacturers at throw-away prices, even as lakhs of poor people were left hungry.



Citing how the Congress had failed to tap into the potential of farm production in Jharkhand, especially in areas like production of Mica (abhtrak), by promoting technological advancements and value-addition, Shri Modi said, "Natural resources kept getting looted. And the people are suffering due to that. When India's development journey is decided in AC rooms then there is no connect with the poor of the nation."

Shri Modi also focused on the need for innovative strategies in agricultural production and stated how Gujarat had keenly worked towards ensuring this for its farmers, and had even applauded progressive farmers from across the country, 12 of whom belonged to Jharkhand. "Delhi should have honoured the progressive farmers but they are not bothered. We had the privilege of honouring the farmers from here," said Shri Modi.

Calling for the need to bring the change the Nation needs, Shri Modi assured that as a 'sevak'

decide if a Congress government with tainted ministers was capable enough to protect the country.

Congress' ignorance and negligence to empower the farming community to improve upon the agricultural production was clearly brought

he would eliminate the misdoings of the past 60 years and ensure the Nation's progress in a span of merely 60 months. He urged the people to Vote in the 2014 Elections and send 300 Lotuses to Delhi so as to ensure a government that is strong and stable.

Speaking on the occasion, Former Chief

Minister of Jharkhand Shri Arjun Munda referred to Shri Modi as the future Prime Minister of India and spoke of the wave that had swept the Nation – the wave to vote for Shri Modi and ensure 'Bharat Vijay'. BJP State President Shri Ravindra Rai and senior leader Shri Sarju Rai were present on the occasion.

Gumla, Jharkhand

If there is any party that can serve the Adivasi communities it is the BJP

Urging the people to show their support for a new era of India's development by voting for the BJP in 2014 Elections, Shri Narendra Modi, addressing the 'Bharat Vijay' rallies at Gumla and Chatra in Jharkhand, on 27th March, said, "This Election is for the 16th Lok Sabha, in the year in 2014 and for 14 seats of Jharkhand. Lotus must shine on all 14 seats here."

introduced in the mining sector in Gujarat, like a separate mining policy, satellite mapping of the work in mining, computerization and introduction of GPS in monitoring the vehicles, etc, Shri Modi spoke of how this introduction of technology had risen the royalty received by manifold. This initiative – termed as MAGIC (Mineral Administration and Governance using ICT – was



Appealing to the Maoists to drop their guns and stop spreading terror, Shri Modi urged them to instead pick up the plough and the pen, and work towards bringing development. Shri Modi recalled Mahatma Gandhi's message of 'Ahimsa' and requested the youth, who had taken the Maoist route of terrorism and killings, to follow the path of peace and progress.

Highlighting the revolutionary reforms

also awarded at the national level for its momentous contribution in reducing corruption and bringing efficiency. Shri Modi also spoke of how the basic initiative of providing adequate water to the farmers could also be a revolutionary step in the betterment of the farming

community. Putting forth Gujarat's success story in agriculture through ensuring adequate water to the farmers by employing drip irrigation and other reforms, Shri Modi emphasized on how such an approach would work wonders for Jharkhand too.

Former CM Shri Arjun Munda, senior leaders Shri Raghuvardas, Shri Sudarshan Bhagat, Shri Kamlesh Rao, Shri Vijay Mishra and Smt. Vimla Pradhan were present on the occasion.

People of Delhi should make a choice on the basis of their recent experience

Addressing a massive rally in Delhi, Shri Narendra Modi made a strong pitch to the people of Delhi to elect the BJP candidates in all 7 seats. He exposed both the Congress and the Aam Admi Party, which he aptly described as the B-Team of the Congress Party. Shri Modi took on the Congress Party over their manifesto saying that while manifestos are supposed to be pure things for every party, the Congress has reduced it to a joke and repeated all those promises they have not been able to fulfill since their 2004 manifesto.

Shri Modi said that the Congress does not believe in the sanctity of institutions. Giving an example he said, "Shahzada introduced a new system of primaries. He said this would change politics. 15 such seats were identified and the winners would be given tickets. A lot was even written about it but what happened in the end? The system suffered a premature end. In Vadodara a candidate was chosen. But overnight his name was removed. He had won on his own strength but overnight his name was removed. His crime- he is a Dalit. He was pressurized to withdraw. Is it's crime to be a Dalit? Should a Dalit not get a chance?"

Taking on the AAP for their opportunism and immaturity, Shri Modi affirmed that the Party is not yet reached that maturity that is required in a democracy. He described the Party as a B Team of the Congress. He observed, "What kind of an

experience did you have in Delhi? You saw the Congress A and the Congress B. What a coalition! 1st make a government with Congress then resign and travel all over India to help Congress and hand over the administration of Delhi to the Congress through back door." He asked why is it that despite losing the elections the Congress is in charge of administration in Delhi. "They are not bothered about India...they only want to help Congress," remarked Shri Modi.

Shri Modi recalled that the BJP and the Jan Sangh has spent years in opposition, including times when the number of corporators winning on their ticket was minor. Yet, the party worked tirelessly, kept the governments in check and remained close to the people. He questioned those who went to Delhi's night shelters with cameras why they have forgotten the people of Delhi. "The maturity needed in a democracy was clearly lacking. People can forgive mistakes but not betrayals. People of Delhi must decide on the basis of their experiences," he opined.

All 7 Lok Sabha candidates of the BJP, Dr. Harshvardhan (Chandani Chowk), Meenakshi Lekhi ji (New Delhi), Shri Mahesh Girri (East Delhi), Shri Parvesh Verma (West Delhi), Shri Ramesh Bidhuri (South Delhi), Dr. Udit Raj (North West Delhi), Shri Manoj Tiwari (North East Delhi) were present during the rally. Shri VK Malhotra and Shri Vijay Goel were also present during the occasion.

Amravati, Akola and Nanded , Maharashtra

Those who have looted the nation know where their place is after 16th May

BJP PM Candidate Shri Narendra Modi addresses a large rallies in Amravati, Akola and Nanded in Maharashtra on 30 March 2014. Shri Modi urged the people to support the BJP-Shiv Sena- RPI and Shetkari Mahayuti and

make Pujya Balasaheb Thackeray's dream of a Congress and NCP free Maharashtra and India come true. He said, "The respected Balasaheb Thackeray is not here among us but he lives on in our hearts. It is upto us to fulfill his dream of a

Maharashtra and India that is free from Congress and NCP." Shri Modi said that the 2014 Lok Sabha Elections is a battle between good governance agenda of the NDA versus the misgovernance and corruption of the UPA.

Addressing a historic rally in Nanded, Shri Modi called upon the people of Nanded to defeat former Maharashtra Chief Minister, Shri Ashok Chavan. He came out all guns blazing against the former Maharashtra Chief Minister and the Congress leadership over the Adarsh scam, even



questioning the commitment of Congress VP Shri Rahul Gandhi to combat corruption. He reminded the Congress Vice President over his recent comments on investigation against Shri Ashok Chavan and questioned whether rewarding him with a ticket Congress' definition of investigation. He described the giving of the ticket as shameless and commented on the very 'Adarsh' set of leaders the Congress has.

He went on to say that for him, Adarsh is not only about corruption and about giving one's relatives flats but it symbolizes the disrespect the Congress has for the armed forces. Mincing no words, he said, "On this pure land of Guru Gobind Singh I assure the people that we will not spare those who looted the heroes of Kargil. We stand for clean politics and I assure you that we will put systems in place where corrupt belonging to each and every party have their cases disposed in one year. The guilty will be punished and those who were wrongly implicated will be relieved. I don't care which party the leader will belong to."

Not sparring Shri Ashok Chavan for the manner in which he ensured the withdrawal of

sitting Nanded MP and his brother-in-law, Shri Modi commented that in our Indian culture we are taught to give our sisters as much as we can but here is a person who has taken away from his sister!

Equally critical of the lack of concern of Union Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar, the NDA's PM candidate said, "The Agriculture Minister of India is from Maharashtra but he is unable to save farmers. He has time to talk about cricket but no time to talk about suffering farmers." In Akola he took up the issue of the suffering of the cotton farmers and questioned the Agriculture Minister on the manner in which export ban of cotton export was placed. He added that while the UPA government bans cotton exports, it encourages mutton exports.

Shri Modi did not spare the rampant corruption and misgovernance by the Congress-NCP leaders both in the State and the Centre. He affirmed that Maharashtra is the same land that gave us Shivaji Maharaj, who is a torch bearer of good governance but today, leaders from the State are involved in Adarsh and

CWG scams.

Exposing the Congress and its allies, Shri Modi avowed that usually coalitions are formed to defeat the incumbent government but this time there are all sorts of efforts being made to prevent him from winning in the elections. "The reason is clear. Those who have looted the nation know where their place is after 16th May," Shri Modi said, receiving a thunderous applause from the audience.

Extending GudiPadwa greetings to the people of Maharashtra, he urged the people to take a pledge to defeat the Congress-NCP and usher in an era of good governance.

Those present on the occasion included Amravati MP and Shiv Sena leader Shri Anandrao Adsul, senior Shiv Sena leader and MLA Shri Subhash Desai, Maharashtra BJP President Shri Devendra Fadnavis and other leaders of the Mahayuti. In Nanded, Shri Gopinath Munde expressed confidence that Mahayuti will win all seats in Maharashtra and that former Maharashtra CM Shri Ashok Chavan will be defeated. He assured a toll-Mukt Maharashtra and a state where interests of farmers are safeguarded. ■

Congress' Manifesto 2014 is a document of deceit, another fraud committed on people : Naidu

Reacting on the Congress Party manifesto former BJP National President and Rajya Sabha Member Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu on March 27 termed the Congress' Manifesto 2014 as a document of deceit.

Congress' Manifesto 2014 is a document of deceit, another fraud committed on people and it has no credibility. It wants to fool people with false promises and fraudulent means, but people are wise enough. The Congress party is clearly exhausted and bereft of new ideas after two terms in government. Its 2014 manifesto is a reflection of that. It is only repackaged old ideas. Some of the promises of 2014 are the failed ones of 2009.

The Manifesto is full of claims that are impossible to achieve by them, like the one to increase the growth rate from the present 4% to 8%. On the contrary, you have brought it down from 8.5% to less than 5% in last ten years.

Congress president says that 90 per cent of what was promised in 2009 has already been implemented. If that were really the case, the Congress would not be where it is today. Forget about 90% you have not implemented 10% of the promises made. What can be farther from truth than this claim of her? It is a slap on the face of the people.

It's an absolute betrayal of the promises made. Congressmen, do you remember the promises made in 2009 and the ones made in 2004?

- To set up a number of commissions including the Administrative Reforms Commission, the National Commission on Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector, the National Farmers Commission, the National Knowledge Commission and the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council.

What happened to them? Any follow-up?

- We will accelerate the process of police reforms.

What happened?

- Subsidised community kitchens will be set up in all cities for homeless people and migrants with the support of the Central government.

Where are they?

- Will ensure a comprehensive cover of social security to all persons who are at special risk including (i) single-woman headed households; (ii) disabled and the elderly; (iii) urban homeless; (iv) released bonded workers; (v) members of primitive tribal groups; and (vi) members of designated "most backward" dalit communities.

Where are these social securities?

- Setting up of one model school in every block of the country. Every year, over the next five years, we will add one more model school in every block.

Where are they?

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) and procurement will be ensured at the doorsteps of farmers - What happened to the Swaminathan commission recommendations, 8 years over.

No action

- All controls on the free movement of farm commodities and processing of agricultural products and all regulations that depress incomes of farmers will be systematically eliminated

No action

- The implementation of the recommendations of the Sachar Committee is already under way and an Equal Opportunity Commission will be established by law.

What happened? Sachar review panel says "No special efforts by the center in addressing concerns of the minority districts"

- Your promise for reserving 33% of the seats in the Lok Sabha and the State legislatures is passed in the 15th Lok Sabha and that the elections to the 16th Lok Sabha are held on the basis of one-third reservation for women.

What happened to that? Now elections are announced!

- Over the next five years, the Indian National Congress will endeavor to ensure that at least half of the country's rural women population will be enrolled as members of self-help groups linked with banks and that they will get loans from banks at moderate interest rates.

No progress, forget 50% not even 10% is in Self Help Groups.

- The Indian National Congress will introduce special incentives for the girl child to correct the adverse sex ratio and to ensure education of girl children.

No Progress!

- The Indian National Congress will also upgrade the technical capabilities of Panchayat institutions.

No Progress.

- It also pledges to connect every village to a broadband network within three years.

No Progress.

- Promised social security to all, quality education to all, quality health to all -

Nothing has been implemented.

- The Indian National Congress pledges a targeted cluster-based approach to the growth of Small & Medium Enterprises.

No action

- The Indian National Congress will design and launch a voluntary national youth corps which would enable young men and women in the age group of 18-23 to serve up to two years in constructive nation building activities for which they will be suitably compensated.

No action

- The Indian National Congress has declared the sacred Ganga as a "national river" -

It's only on paper.

- Judicial reforms by setting up of Gram Nyayalayas at the headquarters of the intermediate panchayats and mobile courts in the rural areas.

Where are they?

- Foreign policy in regard to Tamil speaking people, guaranteeing to enjoy equal rights within the framework of a united Sri Lanka. *Thousands are killed -*

Situation is violent over there, but your government is Silent here.

- What happened to the promise of bringing down inflation in 100 days and controlling

prices?

- What happened to the promise of bringing back the black money stashed in foreign shores within 100 days of their coming to power? ***The highest court of the country has had to rap the government time and again on this issue. But still no action.***
- What happened to the promise of creating two crore jobs a year? **On the contrary youth are losing jobs.**
- What happened to the promise of giving top priority to agriculture?

It is collapsing.

- Where is the *Samajik Sadbhavna*, the *Yuva Rogzgar*, the *Grameen Vikas*, the *Arthik Navotthan*, the *Mahila Sashaktikaran*, the *Saman Avsar*. ***These six packages of 2004 are forgotten.***
- Congress has cut the Plan expenditure by 75,000 crore for the FY12-13 and by 1 lakh crore for the FY 11-12.

The Congress government has completely failed on all fronts. It has betrayed the people on its promises and pushed the country into a debt trap on account of a totally mismanaged economy. It has misused, compromised and lowered the image of institutions. It is neck deep in corruption and on account of its mis-governance the country is now experiencing chaos. *Policy Paralysis, Governance Deficit, Trade Deficit, Ethical Deficit and Trust Deficit* are now the hallmarks of the almost one decade long period of Congress misrule.

Performance of Congress-led UPA in an election year with that of BJP-led NDA (See Table)

- NDA handed over a robust economy to the UPA in 2004 at 8.4%. Today it is 4.6%. Slowest and lowest in the decade.
- NDA managed inflation in single digits. UPA's mismanagement let it remained in double digits. At one time in UPA regime it went up to 18 - 20%!
- Macro-Economic indicators - Fiscal Deficit, Trade Deficit and Inflation -remained far higher than normal during UPA's tenure. As a result rupee fell substantially.
- NDA could create 6.7 crore jobs in 6 years whereas the UPA, in its 10 year tenure, could create only 1.54 crore jobs. And they are now promising 10 crore new jobs!

#	Item	NDA (2003-04)	UPA (2013-14)
1	GDP Growth	8.4%	4.8%
2	Fiscal Deficit	4.57%	4.6% (5.7%)*
3	Public Debt	17 (lakh crore)	51 (lakh crore) (Estimate)
4	Industrial Production	6.9%	0
5	Current Account Deficit	8.7 Bn. US\$ (Surplus)	4.5 Bn. US\$ (Deficit)
6	Inflation (CPI)	3.77%	9.33%
7	Manufacturing growth	+7.3	-ve (-) 0.1 (Dec 2013)
8	Rupee depreciation vs. US\$	0.8	41.2%
9	Agricultural growth	9.6%(2003-04)	3.6% (2011-12)

* Petroleum, Fertilizer, Food subsidies, Cut in Plan Expenditure together account for 1.2 lakh crore which FM cleverly pushed to 2014-15, when added to current year fiscal deficit will raise to 5.7%.

- NDA government put National Highways on fast track. 50% of NHs laid in last 32 years was during Vajpayee Rule. This is UPA government's own admission before the Supreme Court of India. NDA constructed 23,814 km of NHs in 5 years. The UPA laid only 16,000 km in 10 years.
- Exchange rate of US \$ was in the range of 40 to 42 during NDA regime. It has gone beyond 60 during UPA rule at times reached 70.
- During NDA regime -
 - No scam kewal *Kam*,
 - No shortage but surplus
 - Inflation lowest and prices under control
 - Fiscal, Revenue, Current Account and Trade deficits under control
 - Rupee strong and stable
 - Highest forex reserves
 - India was recognized and respected internationally
 - Connectivity revolution
- During UPA regime
 - Completely failed to build on the growth initiatives of the NDA
 - Scams..Scandals...2G, CWG, Coalgate, Aadarsh, railgate...list goes on.
 - Deficit..Deficit...Deficit everywhere
 - Policy paralysis leading to negative industrial growth
 - Prices hit the roof...inflation broke the

backbone of aam aadmi

- Fuel prices increased many times ... LPG capped/rationed.
- Lowest foreign exchange reserves .. weakest rupee
- Country lost its prestige in international community
- Country's foreign policy is at its worst.. country commands no respect even from its neighbours.
- No Unity - No Clarity.

- No clarity to lead Coalition

- Mere passing of laws will not suffice. What is required is not a Bill, it is the political will which you don't have.
- Right to education is only on Paper in the last 3 years.
- Right to food, food security is only for vote security, kept silent for 9½ years brought the bill just before the election.
- You promised 6% of GDP on Education not even 4% allocated in last 10 years. On health 2-3%, not even 1.3% of GDP is allocated.
- During your regime hundreds of factories become sick and lakhs of workers are forced to go to streets, becoming unemployed.

It's decay in the decade. *It is not Manmohanam its Sarvasanam*. There is a huge public anger about the Congress' betrayal on the promises made to the people. As a result of this, there is a clear urge among the people to elect a BJP led government at the centre. A massive ground swell of support is clearly evident for Sri Narendra Modi.

The Congress has betrayed the people. People are eagerly waiting for an opportunity to teach them a lesson and throw them out of power. Congress will be out, there will be total rout, let there be no doubt. You are becoming untouchable and unwanted and the dynasty is coming to an end. Happy news for India. ■

People's Choice, not a dynasty's nominee

By Balbir Punj

The rising support for Narendra Modi is seen not just among the vast masses of people across the country, but also among many intellectuals who had earlier been critical of the BJP's prime ministerial candidate

At one level, journalist and former MP from the Congress MJ Akbar, and at another level, former JD(U) leader Sabir Ali, have answered the self-styled secular parties' charge against BJP's prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi by praising his party. In a lucid statement on why he is supporting Mr Modi, Mr Akbar distinguished between the expectations of those above 40 years of age and those in their 20s. Pointing out their different aspirations, he went to the heart of the major issue in this election:

"For those on the wrong side of 30 or 40, five years is just another passage in life. For those who are 25 years, it is the difference between aspiration and despair. If a young person does not find a job in these five years, he or she begins to lose that vital energy which comes from self-confidence. If the young do not power the economy then the economy will be stuck in the quagmire of idle waste.

"There is only one way forward. And there is among the visible choices, only one person best suited to lift the nation out of a septic swamp."

The rush to join the BJP, powered by their individual evaluation of that choice, several other leaders like NK Singh, a former Union Finance Secretary,

and RK Singh, a former Union Home Secretary, have shown the way to the electorate. They are among several others at that level whose ability to make an independent choice and not be blinded by the endless divide the other political parties are making to tar the BJP's prime ministerial candidate, is beyond question.

At the other end, the Congress, clinging on to the last days of its power, is almost turning shameless in displaying

has gone unexplained while its inappropriateness is all too evident. The two persons have given two different versions why they had to meet. Former Union Home Secretary RK Singh had revealed days before this meeting that Mr Shinde had sought to interfere with the 2G scam being investigated by the CBI.

Mr Shinde has only confirmed what Mr Singh had revealed. That despite an

The rush to join the BJP, powered by their individual evaluation of that choice, several other leaders like NK Singh, a former Union Finance Secretary, and RK Singh, a former Union Home Secretary, have shown the way to the electorate. They are among several others at that level whose ability to make an independent choice and not be blinded by the endless divide the other political parties are making to tar the BJP's prime ministerial candidate, is beyond question.

its corruption-tainted hand. Look at the appointment that Union Minister for Home Affairs Sushil Kumar Shinde gave to the 2G scam-accused entrepreneur Shahid Balwa. What made Mr Shinde meet a major accused in a prime case of corruption involving the UPA Government functionaries and who is on bail, has not been made clear.

The urgency of this meeting

election campaign going on, the Union Home Minister gives an appointment to a major accused in a case involving the functionaries of the Government, exposes the depths to which the UPA has sunk; it's still sinking unashamedly. Unashamedly because it is itself convinced that it is not going to return to power for years to come. So why not celebrate the last days of its rule!

Even irrespective of the outcome of this general election, the political situation that has evolved in the last 12 months leaves little room for excluding the conclusion that the Congress will be out of power almost across the country and the stage is set for the Bharatiya Janata Party-led partnership to take the centre-stage.

The last instalment of elections to the State Assemblies, re-confirmed the BJP as the popular choice for running the State Governments for the third time in succession in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, and earlier in Gujarat. This time, Rajasthan was added to the list where the then ruling Congress was decimated. Central India is now totally BJP-ruled, and in the west, besides the thrice-confirmed dominance of the BJP in Gujarat, the party with its allies is well entrenched to challenge the Congress-Nationalist Congress Party combine in Maharashtra.

The Congress as a national party is now threatened with a total eclipse from the national scene. Across the entire Gangetic plains, the only State that the Congress holds on to is Haryana. In eastern India, only Jharkhand has a Government in which the Congress is there in the State regime as a junior partner.

In the south, entire Andhra is lost to the Congress. In this election it does not have even a local ally in this region where it was the dominant party only as recently as in 2012. In Tamil Nadu, for 50 years, it has had to hang on to the coat-tails of either of the two rival Dravida parties to gain a share of power or get a

Meanwhile, the apex court has overturned many of its pet schemes, the latest being the Aadhaar card on which thousands of crores have been expended and which has now become a dud. The exodus of the Congress's leading figures such as Union Minister for Finance P Chidambaram from the electoral arena sends out a message of a ship whose officers have decided that it is sinking.



few Members of Parliament at the Centre.

It's only in Kerala and Karnataka where the Congress has a major presence. But in Kerala it is the allies in the ruling UDF that are having a major say in the State Government that is reduced to a single-member majority in the State Assembly.

The Congress faces the prospect of being virtually out of power in the entire country except perhaps in Assam, North-East and Karnataka. Its State Government in Uttarakhand is shaky, and in Himachal Pradesh the second most powerful figure in that party has joined the BJP.

Corruption charges and inquiries are swirling round it – the CBI has questioned Mr TKA Nair, who was Secretary to the Prime Minister when the coal scam took place. To what extent will the earlier 2G scam sully the Government, will shortly be

known once the court verdict on the issue comes.

Meanwhile, the apex court has overturned many of its pet schemes, the latest being the Aadhaar card on which thousands of crores have been expended and which has now become a dud. The exodus of the Congress's leading figures such as Union Minister for Finance P Chidambaram from the electoral arena sends out a message of a ship whose officers have decided that it is sinking.

The decision of Mr Modi to contest also from Varanasi with its significant Muslim population, especially of the grassroots artisans like weavers, itself exposes the communal card as ineffective and irrelevant. Besides, Varanasi is also an Indian cultural centre where the most holy shrines of Hindu religion and environment proclaim a history of several thousand years, going back to the origins of India's culture and philosophy.

In that ancient city, there is also a convergence of people and cultures and saints and musicians, artisans and artists. The choice of Varanasi as his proving ground for leading this nation of great diversity led by its majority religion, is itself an act of both courage and affirmation of national leadership for Mr Modi.

The next Prime Minister will not only be from the BJP but also truly represent the nation, sharply contrasting with his predecessor who was, as some analysts mocked, a mere nominee. ■

(The writer is BJP National Vice President)

UPA-I reaped what NDA sowed and UPA-2 suffered the toxic harvest of UPA-1 : Ravi Shankar Prasad

Deputy Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad lambasting UPA finance minister Shri P Chidambaram explained how UPA has brought Indian economy in complete mess.

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad on March 29 said, "BJP is happy that on behalf of Congress, Mr. Chidambaram spoke on the economy, but worried that he got retired hurt in the very first ball." Reacting to Shri Chidambaram's pitch that economic growth till 2008 was good, Shri Prasad said, "UPA-I reaped what NDA sowed and UPA-2 suffered the toxic harvest of UPA 1."

The critical state of Indian Economy because of gross mismanagement of the congress led UPA government

1. When the NDA Government had assumed office in the year 1998, India's growth rate was 4.8%. When it left office in May 2004 India was at a robust growth rate of 8.5%. This was achieved in spite of many inhibiting factors like Pokhran II sanction, Kargil War, attack on Indian Parliament, 2002 drought and others factor. Even Mr. Chidambaram was compelled to concede in the Economic Survey 2005 that the economy had registered a growth rate of 8.5% the highest in last 30 years except two year.

With this very robust and stable economic foundation which the UPA inherited it systematically destroyed each and every component of the economy

as would be evident from the chart (see chart-1).

Even the Fiscal deficit of 5.2% in 2012-13 and 4.6% in 2013-14 could be achieved by hugely cutting planned expenditure of 90,000 Crores and 79790 Crore in the respective Budget (Source: Budget speech, Planning Commission databook for Deputy Chairman dated 18/12/2013, Economic Survey 2004-05, CSO data and RBI's Handbook of Statistics on Indian Economy for 2012-13).

2. Failure to control price rise :

The NDA Government left the office with consumer price index at 3.86% while the rate of inflation of the UPA Government is as follows:

Year	UPA
2004-2005	3.9
2005-2006	4.2
2007-2008	6.8
2008-2009	9.1
2009-2010	13.0
2010-2011	9.5
2011-2012	9.0
2012-2013	8.0
Average	7.93

(Source: Planning Commission databook for Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission dated 18th Dec. 2013)

Therefore, the average Consumer Price Index

remains at a high of nearly 8% (7.93%). It is to be noted that in 2009, Dr. Manmohan Singh and Smt. Sonia Gandhi had publicly promised to control inflation in 100 days, yet nothing meaningful could be done for nearly five years and the Aam Aadmi suffered the most because

Chart-1

S.No.	Indicator	1997-98	2003-04	2012-13	2013-14
1	Growth rate of GDP	4.3%	8.5%	4.96 %	4.6% (till Dec. 2013)
2	Industrial growth rate	4.01 %	7.32 %	2.1 %	-2% (Manufacturing)
3	Gross Fiscal deficit as % of GDP	5.66 %	4.34 %	5.2 % (5.7 % in 2011-12)	
4	Savings rate as % of GDP	24.1 %	32.41 % in 2004-05	30.2 %	
5	Current account deficit as % of GDP	-2 %	+2.7% (surplus)	-4.8% (deficit)	
6	External debt (billion dollars)		\$ 112.7 billion	\$ 390 billion	
7	Short term external debt as % of GDP		3.9 %	24.8%	

of complete indifference of the Government. In fact the entire intention of the Congress led UPA Government is seriously suspect in this connection. It was never interested in controlling price rise because of vested interest apart from gross mismanagement of our food economy.

3. Rising unemployment – The biggest failure of the UPA Government

With the critical state of economy because of gross mismanagement, with industrial production and manufacturing seriously crippled, it was no surprise that unemployment is seriously down. It is no surprise that UPA record at Job creation has been extremely poor. As per National Sample Survey Data the number of Jobs created between 1999-2000 and 2004-05 (6 Years of NDA) was 6.07 Crore while in between 2004-05 to 2011-12 (8 years of UPA) the total number of Job created was 1.54 crore. A good number of Jobs were created during the NDA regime in the manufacturing and services sector while the same has slump into minus in the UPA regime. The NSSO 61st, 66th and 68th Round Survey confirms the following chart-2 :

Chart-2	1999-2000 to 2004-05	2004-05 to 2011-12
Number of jobs created (in Crore)	(6.07 Cr)	(1.54 Cr)
Average number of jobs created per year (in Crore)	(1.21 Cr)	(22 Lakh)

	Absolute increase in employment (in lakh)	
	1999-2000 to 2004-05	2004-05 to 2009-10
Manufacturing	117.2	-72.3
Services	187.7	-04.8

Therefore inspite of massive employment opportunities created by the NDA the UPA deliberately destroyed it by mismanagement, policy paralysis and gross corruption endangering the future of young India.

4. Making a mess of infrastructure

Good infrastructure is the backbone of any economy. Main pillars of infrastructure of any economy are the roads, power, iron and steel industry, mining industry with coal as one of the main components and ports through which a country conducts its foreign trade. Years of neglect of

infrastructure by UPA, policy paralysis, corruption in grant of approvals, scams impacting investment climate and delayed approvals and rent seeking in the Ministry of Environment has crippled crucial sectors of our infrastructure.

Roads

Year	National Highway Length KM	Addition KM	Duration Years	Annual Addition per year
1951	22193			
1997	34298	12105	46 years	263
2004	65569	31271	7 years	4,467
2012	76818	11249	8 years	1,406

The statistics below taken from Ministry of Surface transport tell a **sad** story of their own.

In 46 years Congress added 12105 Km of National Highways while in seven years from 1997 to 2004 NDA added 31271 km of NH. NDA added 4467 Km of National Highways per year from 1997 to 2004 as compared to 1406 Km per year done by UPA from 2004 to 2012.

(Source: Basic Road Statistics from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways website: <http://www.morth.nic.in/showfile.asp?lid=839> and <http://www.morth.nic.in/showfile.asp?lid=417>)

www.morth.nic.in/showfile.asp?lid=839 and <http://www.morth.nic.in/showfile.asp?lid=417>)

5. Power

Power generation is an important for country's growth. Nearly 68% India's power generation is thermal based. The NDA Government made power generation de-licensed under

the Electricity Act of 2003. However, the coal scam has caused a serious dent and apart from loss of more than 1 lakh crore to public exchequer the power generation performance has seriously suffered because of erratic supply. Further as per the KPMG report "recharging the Power Sector" released in November, 2013, powers units of capacity of around 33000 MW stranded due to lack of coal and natural gas supply making an investment of more than Rs. 10,000 crore unviable. Further at the end of 2011-12, 78 power projects with planned capacity of 10300 MW were pending for environmental clearances. UPA II

has done nothing to move India to self-sufficiency in Power. India continues to have a peak power deficit of 13% at the end of the 11th Five Year Plan.

Plant Load Factor (PLF) is a very important index to estimate the capacity utilisation of power plan. The comparison between the NDA and UPA regime on this index clearly shows the real story.

As Under

	1998-99	2004-05	2012-13
Plant load factor	64.6%	74.8%	69.9%

(Source: Central Electricity Authority's yearly reports at website www.cea.nic.in/reports/yearly_report.html)

6. Mining in complete mess due to scams and a draconian environment ministry:

Coal, Bauxite (used to produce Aluminium) and Steel are three resources which form the backbone of every economy. Statistics show clearly how UPA completely messed up this most important area of infrastructure.

(i) Coal :

India has the fourth largest coal reserves at 286 billion tonnes sufficient for the coming 200 years. In the year 2003-04, the gap in production and requirement were only 23.57 million tonnes. In the year 2012-13 we imported 140 million tonnes of coal against India's production of 557 million tonnes. (Source: Economic Survey - 2012-13; Coal Ministry Website and Coal Ministry's Annual Report for 2004-05)

(ii) Bauxite - (Used to produce Aluminium) :

India has fifth largest bauxite reserves in the world at 3.5 billion tonnes. Our production has **actually fallen** from 22.6 million tonnes in 2006-07 to 12.8 million tonnes in 2011-12 !

(Source: Indian Bureau of Mines)

(iii) Steel:

Steel production is the backbone for any economy. India produces 73.4 million tonnes of steel against China's 716 million in 2012. India's Iron ore deposits are seventh largest in the world at 28.5 billion tonnes. Instead of using our reserves to produce steel,

we are importing steel in even bigger quantities.

- India exported 18.37 million tonnes of Iron ore in 2012-13.
- Once a surplus producer of steel, we have become net importer of steel! And exporter of iron ore! We have thus gone back to colonial days when we exported raw materials and imported finished products!!

Table: Trade Surplus/ Deficit of Steel in India in the period 2003-03 and 2011-12 (Million Tonnes)

	2003-04	2011-12
Import	1.75	6.83
Export	5.21	4.04
Surplus/Deficit	+3.45	-2.79

(Source: Annual Report of Steel Ministry for 2004-05 and 2012-13)

(iv) Ports -

90 % of India's exports are transported through ships. An important parameter of Port productivity is **Average turnaround time for ships** which is basically an indicator of how long a ship takes to load or unload cargo and become free to sail. It is an important parameter as it reduces cost of imports and exports and increases our competitiveness.

Average turnaround time at our ports **in days** :

Year	Turnaround time in days
1996-97	7.8
2004-05	3.41
2011-12	5.05

(Source: Economic Survey for 1997-98, 2005-06 and 2012-13)

The UPA could not even sustain the gains in efficiency achieved by NDA !

Conclusion:

The above are only some illustrative example concerning the core sector of Indian Economy as to under what critical condition they are? The rank of mismanagement of India's economy under an economist Prime Minister leading to price rise higher unemployment and the near destruction of all engines of economy is one of the biggest shames of the ten year misrule of the Congress led UPA. ■

TDP joins NDA

The Telugu Desam Party on April 6 joined the National Democratic Alliance led by BJP for the upcoming Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh. As per the pre-poll tie-up agreement with TDP, BJP will contest five Lok Sabha seats and 15 Assembly seats in Seemandhra, which has 25 Lok Sabha and 175 Assembly constituencies. BJP will field its candidates in eight Lok Sabha seats and 47 Assembly seats in Telangana, which has 17 Lok Sabha and 119 Assembly constituencies. ■

Modi and Muslims : Veto versus Vote

By Kanchan Gupta

If this summer's election sees Muslims casting their vote instead of exercising their veto, then Narendra Modi can claim to have turned yet another conventional political belief on its head. Veteran journalist and noted author MJ Akbar joining the BJP may not have gladdened bleeding heart Left-liberals but it has surely come as a boost for the party and its Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi.

It could be argued that Akbar is just another opportunist jumping on to the Modi bandwagon as much as others who joined the party in recent days. Everybody, after all, loves to be on the winning side — barring those who see virtue in defeat and seek victimhood.

It would, however, be unfair to call Akbar an opportunist. The shift in his politics, as reflected in his writing, has been gradual, gathering speed over the past couple of years. He turned against the Congress long ago; he embraced the BJP a week ago. In between he grappled with the question that even truly secular Muslims who have an identity beyond their name and faith are confronted with: Should they dare the community by breaking ranks? In the end, Akbar decided to do so.

The timing of Akbar joining the BJP is at best coincidental though the message is all the more powerful because of it. The spectacular collapse of the Congress would have perhaps not mattered had the JD(U), the SP and the BSP, all of whose leaders believe they alone have the right to the Muslim vote, held their ground in the Hindi belt. Fortunately for the BJP (and

unfortunately for these parties and their sanctimonious supporters among the Left-liberal intelligentsia and the commentariat that dominates our 'national' mainstream media) the Modi Wave has flattened the hopes of these contenders and pretenders to power.

In a sense, the Muslim voter today is confused. This summer's election, irrespective of the results, has already shattered many conventional beliefs in politics, among them the unshakeable faith that the Muslim in India casts his (or her) veto, and not vote, on polling day. This stems from the long-held notion that Muslims vote to a pre-decided pattern, tactically voting not for the party that will

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**The spectacular collapse of the Congress would have perhaps not mattered had the JD(U), the SP and the BSP, all of whose leaders believe they alone have the right to the Muslim vote, held their ground in the Hindi belt. Fortunately for the BJP, the Modi Wave has flattened the hopes of these contenders and pretenders to power.**

best serve their interest but that which can defeat the BJP. The vote, therefore, is not necessarily symbolic of reposing trust in the party of their choice but a veto to block the BJP.

Muslim fears of the BJP as a monster that will devour them were reinforced, and understandably so, after the ghastly rioting in Gujarat in 2002. Amplification by media, especially 24x7 news television channels which brought the riots into posh drawing rooms and the subsequent campaign to pin the responsibility on Modi served to strengthen these fears. An equally devious role was played by foreign-funded NGOs and 'human rights' activists who discovered the 2002 violence could be milked for money — maligning Modi and defaming the BJP formed the foundation of a profitable business model. A closure by way of swift prosecution of those guilty of murder and arson was prevented by taking recourse to frivolous but long-drawn litigation. Jaundiced stories did the rest.

In the cacophonous din of activists and journalists who wear their secularism on their sleeves, facts were sought to be buried. Thousands killed,



hundreds raped, wombs of pregnant women ripped open were some of the template descriptions of the riots. That all this and more was fiction, that the death toll was 1,044, including 790 Muslims and 250 Hindus, that the rioting followed the grisly burning of coach S-9 of Sabarmati Express in which 48 Hindus returning from Ayodhya were killed, that Gujarat had for long been a tinder box of communal violence with riots erupting over the most

with their co-religionists in Gujarat. Wallowing in poverty is no longer the preferred option and many young Muslims would hesitate to indulge in manufactured victimhood.

News television is a strange beast – it calibrates news and formulates views in a manner so as to best push ratings and grab eyeballs. With Modi's popularity rising by the day, they hitched their fortunes to the man against whom they had run a campaign of hate and calumny.

**Meanwhile, Teesta Setalvad, the 'human rights' activist who led the most ferocious campaign against Modi, now stands exposed as a fraud and a trickster. Victims whose interests she claimed she was protecting have turned against her, charging her with feathering her nest at the cost of their misery. The Special Investigation Team set up by the Supreme Court has absolved Modi of all charges leveled against him (and hence it has been slammed by those who profited from the 'Hate Modi Industry').**

insignificant of disputes, that far worse had happened in Congress-ruled States, found few takers among Muslims.

It took a decade for perceptions to change. Modi's amazing record of governance, Gujarat's stunning economic growth and development, the communal peace that has been maintained for more than 10 years now and the prosperity of Muslims in that State have coalesced to trigger rethinking. The start to 2002 was without doubt ominous. Twelve years later, 2014 has begun on more than new hope – there is new expectation and aspiration among Gujarat's Muslims. The Gujarat Story has been carried far and wide: Muslims elsewhere now have the urge to be at par

Newspapers, which take their cue from news television, have begun to sing a different tune. True, the odd opeditorial berating Modi and questioning his proven track record still surfaces. It is equally true that news television lapses into Modi-baiting whenever the opportunity arises. But there is no denying that Modi is now looked at differently, almost reverentially. The establishment wallahs know the tricks of survival and those who live on the crumbs from Delhi's high table usually manage to land on their feet no matter who comes to power.

Meanwhile, Teesta Setalvad, the 'human rights' activist who led the most ferocious campaign against Modi, now stands

exposed as a fraud and a trickster. Victims whose interests she claimed she was protecting have turned against her, charging her with feathering her nest at the cost of their misery. The Special Investigation Team set up by the Supreme Court has absolved Modi of all charges leveled against him (and hence it has been slammed by those who profited from the 'Hate Modi Industry'). Representatives of self-righteous foreign Governments that had 'boycotted' Modi are now tripping over each other to get his darshan and for a photo-op while shaking hands with him.

Times have changed. So have Muslim perceptions. This is not to say Muslims will stop exercising their veto instead of casting their vote, but to underscore the fact that more and more Muslims are now clamouring for what Modi has delivered in Gujarat: Peace and prosperity. The response to Modi's reach-out to the Muslim community when he undertook the Sadbhavana fast was tentative; it is now firm and palpable. Akbar endorsing Modi and joining the BJP both highlights this point and sends out this message.

It is immaterial whom Muslims vote for (though BJP would obviously like them to vote for the party's nominees) in this election. So long as they do not exercise their veto, and so long as they demand prosperity while shunning poverty in the guise of faux safety, Modi can claim that he has won and his detractors have lost. ■

*(The writer is BJP National Executive Member)*

# Sishya (Disciple)

By Sri Swami Sivananda

## Surrender and grace

If you want to drink water at the tap, you will have to bend yourself. Even so, if you want to drink the spiritual nectar of immortality which flows from the holy lips of the Guru, you will have to be an embodiment of humility and meekness. The lower nature of the mind must be thoroughly regenerated. The aspirant says to his preceptor: "I want to practise Yoga. I want to enter into Nirvikalpa Samadhi. I want to sit at your feet. I have surrendered myself to you". But he does not want to change his lower nature and habits, old character, behaviour, and conduct.

One's individual ego, preconceived notions, pet ideas and prejudices, and selfish interests should be given up. All these stand in the way of carrying out the teachings and instructions of one's Guru. Lay bare to your Guru the secrets of your heart. The more you do so, the greater the Guru's sympathy, which means an accession of strength to you in the struggle against sin and temptation.

The aspirant, before he desires the grace of the Master, should deserve it. The supply of divine grace comes only when there is a real thirst in the aspirant, and when he is fit to receive it. The Guru's grace descends upon those who feel utterly humble and faithful to him. Faith is confidence and trust in the Guru. Faith is firm conviction of the truth of what is declared by the preceptor by way either of testimony or authority, without any other evidence or proof. The disciple who has faith in the Guru argues

not, thinks not, reasons not, and cogitates not. He simply obeys, obeys, and obeys. The disciple's self-surrender to the Guru and the Guru's grace are interrelated. Surrender draws down the Guru's grace, and the grace of the Guru makes the surrender complete.

The Guru's grace works in the form of Sadhana in the aspirant. If an aspirant sticks to the path tenaciously, this is the grace of the Guru. If he resists when temptation assails him, this is the grace of the Guru. If people receive him with love and reverence, this is the grace of the Guru. If he gets all bodily wants, this is the grace of the Guru. If he gets encouragement and strength when he is in despair and despondency, this is the grace of the Guru. If he gets over the body-consciousness and rests in his own Ananda Svarupa (the form of bliss), this is the grace of the Guru. Feel his grace at every step, and be sincere and truthful to him.

## How the Guru teaches

The Guru teaches through personal example. The day-to-day conduct of the Guru is a living ideal to the disciple who is observant. The life of the Guru is a living sermon to the sincere disciple. By constant contact, the disciple imbibes the virtues of his Guru. He is moulded gradually. Study the Chhandogya Upanishad. You will find that Indra stayed with Prajapati for a period of a hundred and one years and served him whole-heartedly.

The Guru alone knows the spiritual needs of his disciples. He will give Upadesha (spiritual advice) according to the disciple's

temperament and evolution.

## How the Guru tests

The Sadguru communicates the secret knowledge of the Upanishads to his trusted disciples only after repeated entreaty and severe testing. Sometimes, the Guru may even tempt his disciple, but the latter should overcome the temptation by firm faith in the Guru.

In days of yore, the tests were very severe. Once Gorakhnath asked some of his students to climb up a tall tree and throw themselves, head downwards, on a very sharp trident or Trisula. Many faithless students kept quiet. But one faithful student at once climbed up the tree with lightning speed and hurled himself downwards. He was protected by the invisible hand of Gorakhnath. He had immediate Self-realisation. The Guru tests the students in various ways. Some students misunderstand him and lose their faith in him. Hence they are not benefited.

## Four classes of disciples

The best disciple is like petrol or aviation spirit. Even from a great distance, he will instantly react to the spark of the Guru's Upadesha. The second class disciple is like camphor. A touch awakens his inner spirit and kindles the fire of spirituality in him. The third class of disciple is like coal. The Guru has to take great pains in order to awaken the spirit in him. The fourth class of disciple is like a plantain stem. No efforts will be of any avail over him. Whatever the Guru may do, he remains cold and inert.

The disciple has but to cleanse himself, purify himself, and make himself a perfectly faultless piece of marble, and placing himself under the expert guidance of his Master, allow to be carved out and chiselled into the image of God. ■

Courtesy : *The Divine Life Society*