

Contents

Special Report	
BJP IT vision.....	5
Vijay Sankalp Rallies	
Orissa.....	11
Uttrakhand.....	22
Special Article	
Constitution envisages only a Lok Sabha member as PM By Justice M Rama Jois....	20
Morcha Activity	
Mahila Morcha : Himachal.....	27
State Reports	
Uttrakhand.....	28
Tamil Nadu.....	28
Haryana.....	28
Orissa.....	29
Himachal Pradesh.....	29
Chhattisgarh.....	30
Delhi.....	30

Cover Photo : People with BJP.

Editor

Prabhat Jha, MP

Editorial Team

Amba Charan Vashishth

Shiv Shakti Bakshi

Ram Prasad Tripathy

Design & Layout

Dharmendra Kaushal

Contact

Tel: +91(11) 23381428

Fax: +91(11) 23387887

For Subscription : +91(11) 23073858

e-mail address

kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in

Subscription

Annual Rs. 100/- || 3 years Rs. 250/-

Publisher and Printer : Printed by Dr Nandkishore Garg
for Dr. Mookerjee Smruti Nyas, at Excelprints, C-36,
F.F. Complex, Jhandewalan, New Delhi-55 and Published
by Dr. Mookerjee Smruti Nyas, PP-66, Subramanya
Bharati Marg, New Delhi-03. Editor : Prabhat Jha.

यदहंकारमाश्रित्य न योत्स्य इति मन्यसे ।

मिथ्यैष व्यवसायस्ते प्रकृतिस्तवां नियोक्ष्यति ॥

If, taking your stand on egotism, you think, "I will not fight," vain is this resolve of yours; nature will drive you to the act.

Bhagavadgita, Ch. 18, Text 59

Editorial

Karyakartas can create history

At the time of its formation Bharatiya Janata Party had declared that it is a party different from all others. It appealed to the people's imagination. Even after 29 years of its life, people do wish that BJP continues to be a party with a difference. It has a great responsibility on its shoulders to come up to the expectations and aspirations of the people.

Everybody knows, people are losing their faith and patience with the Congress Party. There are only two political parties, BJP and Congress, which are national parties with an all-India standing. Rest of the parties today stand squeezed to one or two States. This is true of Samajwadi Party, BSP, DMK, Shiv Sena, NCP, Akali Dal, Lalu's RJD or the parties of Ms Jayalalitha or Ms Mamta Banerjee. Their area of influence does not go beyond the boundaries of their States. The CPI and CPI (M) too have not been able to come out of the two-three States where they hold their sway. That is why, the people of the country wish BJP to maintain its distinct identity and do not wish it to see it behave the way all other parties do. They wish BJP should not be inflicted by the ailment and those very shortcomings which plague other parties. For the people BJP is their last ray of hope. Anything untoward that happens in BJP rattles the people of the country. If BJP dashes their hope, what will happen to them and the country, the people ask.

People of the country entertain great hopes from BJP. They have faith and confidence in it. It is their future. It stands for development and progress. It is synonymous with *sushaasan*. It is their ideal. BJP is the epitome of people's hopes, aspirations and their feelings. It is the first choice of the youth. It stands for nationalism. BJP is miles away from the curse of casteism. For it, people are more important than the caste. It signifies *rashtra dharma*. It is the very nature of India. It is a protector of Hindutva. It is dead set against appeasement of any kind. It stands for justice to all. It is the guardian of country's unity.

If one ponders over the situation prevailing in the Congress, one finds that it no longer is a party of the people or of karyakartas; it stands reduced to a party of a particular family alone. People have now started calling it

"Champions aren't made in the gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside of them -- a desire, a dream, a vision. They have last-minute stamina, they have to be a little faster, they have to have the skill, and the will. But the will must be stronger than the skill." -- Anonymous

a 'son and mother' party. Congress today is suffering from bankruptcy of leadership who can keep the organisation united together. But this should not render it so helpless that it should stand squeezed to a single family only. This development is a dangerous omen for democracy. Congress today stands issueless bereft of principles; to gain power and to stick to power it can go to any length and it can ally with any individual or party which can help realise its narrow political objective. Congress stood exposed when it stooped too low to save its government by buying votes of MPs in July last year in a most shameless manner. There could not be anything more disgraceful than this incident in the history of Indian democracy.

The present political scenario is beyond people's comprehension. Newly developed friendship between LJP and RJD, support to Third Front by BSP, coming together of TDP, Deve Gowda and leftists in Third Front, Lalu's brother-in-law joining Congress and getting its nomination and numerous other instances are puzzling the mind of the common man. In the morning politicians use filthy, abusive language and in the evening, they embrace each other most affectionately as their most trusted friends. Nothing is certain. Nothing is permanent. These developments are heightening people's lack of faith in politics and generating a feeling of despair.

This situation has created a crisis of confidence. The only Party that stands out distinct and different and appeals to the imagination of the people is the Bharatiya Janata Party which has always been firm on its ideology and commitment. It has never compromised on principles. That is why it has

remained united, and never split. That is why Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri L. K. Advani have been able to stick to the coalition dharma and run the NDA government for six years without any serious trouble for the alliance or the country. During this period the esteem of the country rose high. This fact is recognised by one and all within the country and abroad. But the reverse happened during the present UPA rule. India's standing in the comity of nations could not be maintained and, on the contrary, went down drastically.

BJP is a great benefactor of the kisans. Even as a political organisation, it has never lost faith

in spiritualism. It is rooted in the Indian soil and ethos. BJP is a party that has a future and belongs to the future generation. It is the soul of democracy. It is a solution to the problems facing the nation. It is a party with a galaxy of the best minds in politics. This gives credence to the BJP slogan: *Jeetegi Bhajapa, jeetega Bharat* (If BJP wins, India will win.). The coming Lok Sabha is a challenge for every karyakarta of the Party. He has to dedicate himself to constructive contribution in every possible way to make the Party attain its goal. If the leaders and karyarkats of the Party could do it, they will certainly create a new history, otherwise..... ■

Sangma seeks Advani's help

Imposition of President's rule in Meghalaya unconstitutional



Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Shri P.A. Sangma on March 20 met NDA Prime Ministerial candidate Shri L.K. Advani in New Delhi to "seek his help" and brief him about the situation in Meghalaya, which is under president's rule.

"I met Advaniji and briefed him about the situation in Meghalaya. We seek the BJP's help in different northeastern

states," Shri Sangma told reporters.

Shri Sangma has been enraged by the central government's decision on March 19 to impose President's rule in Meghalaya. The NCP, which headed the state's Meghalaya Progressive Alliance (MPA) government, is a member of the UPA that is ruling at the centre.

"It is not a question of NDA (National Democratic Alliance) or UPA (United Progressive Alliance), it is about the people of Meghalaya and every citizen should support the cause," the former Lok Sabha speaker said.

He said "The decision to impose President's rule is unprecedented and unconstitutional. After the MPA government won the trust vote on the floor of the house, there was no constitutional crisis and hence the decision is very sad," Shri Sangma said after the centre's decision. ■ (FOC)

Vision to transform India, Empower Bharat to plug corruption : Advani

From Our Correspondent

The Bharatiya Janata Party on March 14 in New Delhi laid out a grand vision for transforming India and empowering Bharat using the power of information technology (IT). Unveiling the BJP's IT Vision document, NDA's Prime Ministerial candidate Shri LK Advani said, "A future NDA Government, if elected to office in the coming parliamentary elections, would give high priority to the realization of this vision, which would help India overcome the current economic crisis; create productive employment opportunities on a large scale; accelerate human development through vastly improved and expanded education and healthcare services; check corruption; and make India's national security more robust."

Shri Advani said that he believed there could be a cent per cent financial inclusion through bank accounts, with e-banking facilities, for all Indian citizens wherein direct

would be given a free smart mobile phone, which will be used by even illiterate users for accessing and operating their bank accounts

"The BJP plans to convert all



transfer of welfare funds could take place, preferably to the woman of the house, so that corruption was checked and leakage of funds stopped. The account holders of every Below Poverty Line family

post offices into IT-enabled Multi-Service Outlets and upgrade telephone booths to Internet kiosks. Citizens will have a 1-800 BSNL Toll Free number, accessible 24x7x365 days, to contact their MP any day, any moment. There would be an E-Bhasha: National Mission for Promotion of IT in Indian Languages," Shri Advani added.

He said BJP's IT vision promises 1.2 crore (12 million) new IT-enabled jobs in rural areas, giving laptop computers at Rs 10,000 to 10 million students and interest-free loans for anyone unable to afford it. The document also talks about a National Digital Highway Development Project to create India's Internet backbone and Pradhan Mantri Digital Gram Sadak Yojana for last-mile access even in the remotest of villages.

He promised "Video conferencing would be made affordable and universally accessible. Primary health centre in

Rajnath Singh launches BJP's redesigned website

The party also used the occasion to launch its revamped website, <http://www.bjp.org/>. It was launched by BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh. On that occasion Shri Singh said way back in 1997, the BJP became the first political party in India to have its own website. The content of the past 12 years has not only been transferred to the redesigned site, but also several new features have been added. The new website will be used creatively to support the BJP's campaign for the elections to the 15th Lok Sabha. An important tool on the site is the Google-powered internal search engine. Another important feature is Feedburner-based 'Alert' system whereby anyone who submits his/her email ID on the site would get an automatic email-alert anytime a new press release is uploaded he said.

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Shri Jashwant Singh, Deputy Leader of Rajya Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj, former Union Minister Shri Arun Shourie, BJP National Spokesperson Shri Prakash Javadkar among others were also present.

every village would be linked to the National Telemedicine Service Network. A basic health insurance scheme would be provided to every citizen, using the IT platform”.

Shri Advani vowed he would ensure massive expansion in the use of IT in agriculture, rural development, SMEs, retail trade and informal and unorganized sectors of the economy, even as the National e-Governance Plan would cover every Government office from the Centre to the Panchayats. The ‘E Gram Vishwa Gram’ scheme of Gujarat would be implemented nationwide. He said a future NDA Government would give special focus to bringing women, SC/STs, OBCs and other weaker sections of society within the ambit of IT-enabled development.

It will standardize on “open standard” and “open source” software, while domestic IT hardware industry would be aggressively promoted to minimize dependence on imports. The document also promises to promote a domestic hosting industry to minimize international bandwidth charges.

The highlights of the IT Vision document are:

- ▶ Multipurpose National Identity Card (MNIC) with unique Citizen Identification Number (CIN) for every Indian citizen in 3 years; to replace all other identification systems.
- ▶ 1.2 crore (12 million) new IT-enabled jobs in rural areas.
- ▶ 1 crore (10 million) students to get laptop computers at Rs 10,000. Interest-free loan for anyone unable to afford it.
- ▶ National Digital Highway Development Project to create India’s Internet backbone, and Pradhan Mantri Digital Gram Sadak Yojana for last-mile access even in the remotest of villages.
- ▶ Broadband Internet (2 Mbps) in every town and village, at cable TV prices (less than Rs 200/

IT industry sees ray of hope in BJP tech vision

After the announcement of IT vision of the BJP on March 14, Indian IT firms unanimously welcomed the vision projects of BJP and most information technology (IT) firms are of the view that the IT vision of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is a good omen for the domestic IT industry which is buckling under the pressure of global meltdown for the past couple of quarters.

The BJP created a flutter in the industry circle when it announced a 30-page IT vision document which includes creation of 12 million IT-enabled jobs for rural India; providing laptops to 10 million students at Rs 10,000 a piece; immediate implementation of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP); protection of domestic hardware manufacturers against imports and promotion of usage of open source software. The party reportedly consulted the heads of at least 10 top IT companies before finalizing the document.

Shri Vinnie Mehta, executive director of MAIT, the body that represents the hardware industry in India, said: “We are glad that somebody has defined their IT agenda very clearly. It’s more gladdening to see that they have touched on the hardware sector, which has untapped potential to create lot more job opportunities. The announcement is very timely and pertinent, as the IT industry needs some succour due to the current economic situation.” “I think the BJP has really done well by including IT in their vision document. Many people feel that the government is facing a huge tax loss by promoting the IT sector. However, many IT-rich southern states, including Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, have experienced tax growth of over 40 per cent during the last four years, mainly because of IT.” “The IT vision of BJP will really come handy for creation of new job opportunities in the IT and ITes sector in India where we still have a large percentage of unemployed graduates struggling to provide their services for the growth of the country,” said Shri Vivek Kulkarni, former IT secretary of Karnataka, who is now the chairman and CEO of BrickWork India.

Industry body Nasscom is also quite enthusiastic about the inclusion of IT in the manifesto of political parties.” The potential of IT in the creation of job opportunities in India is still enormous and I am delighted that the BJP has come out with a strong vision statement for the IT industry,” said Shri Ganesh Natarajan, chairman, Nasscom. The industry feels the IT vision document by BJP is ‘very practical’ and can be implemented.

“The proposals laid down by BJP in their vision document are very practical, and I see no reason why these can’t be implemented,” says Shri Natarajan who is also the chairman of Pune-based Zensar Technologies. “A great degree of these are achievable, provided they implement this in the first year of the new government, if they come to power,” says Shri T V Mohandas Pai, Head of Administration and HR, Infosys Technologies.

- month).
- ▶ All schools and colleges to have Internet-enabled education.
 - ▶ 100% financial inclusion through bank accounts, with e-Banking facilities, for all Indian citizens. Direct transfer of welfare funds, preferably to the woman of the house.
 - ▶ Every BPL family to be given a free smart mobile phone, which can be used by even illiterate users for accessing their bank accounts.
 - ▶ Number of mobile subscribers to be increased from 40 crore at present to 100 crore in five years. Internet users to equal mobile subscribers. India to equal China in every IT parameter in five years.
 - ▶ Video conferencing to be made affordable and universally accessible.
 - ▶ Primary Health Centre in every village to be linked to the National Telemedicine Service Network. Basic health insurance scheme for every citizen, using the IT platform. Cashless hospitalisation.
 - ▶ India's ranking in the United Nations' Human Development Index, which is currently 128, to be improved to 50 in five years, with the long-term objective of bringing India within Top Twenty by 2020.
 - ▶ Massive expansion in the use of IT in agriculture, rural development, SMEs, retail trade, and informal and unorganized sectors of the economy.
 - ▶ National e-Governance Plan to cover every Government office from the Centre to the Panchayats. The 'E Gram Vishwa Gram' scheme, launched by Shri Narendra Modi in Gujarat, to be implemented nationwide.
 - ▶ Government spending to be made corruption-free. A former Prime Minister had once said, "If I put Rs. 100 in the pipeline in Delhi, only Rs. 15 reach the end beneficiary." In contrast to Congress governments' Leaky Pipeline, the BJP's IT Pipeline will ensure 100% benefit to people. Those who misappropriate public funds will be punished.
 - ▶ All post offices to be converted into IT-enabled Multi-Service Outlets. All telephone booths to be upgraded to Internet kiosks.
 - ▶ Citizens will have a simple 1-800 BSNL Toll Free Number, which will be accessible 24x7x365 days of the year, to contact their Member of Parliament.
 - ▶ Unlimited VoIP access to all
 - ▶ E-Bhasha: National Mission for Promotion of IT in Indian Languages.
 - ▶ Special focus to bring women, SC/STs, OBCs and other weaker sections of society within the ambit of IT-enabled development.
 - ▶ Use of IT for the protection of India's priceless cultural and artistic heritage.
 - ▶ Government to standardise on 'open standard' and 'open source' software.
 - ▶ Domestic IT hardware industry to be aggressively promoted to minimise dependence on imports.
 - ▶ Domestic hosting industry to be promoted to minimise international bandwidth charges.
 - ▶ An independent body, Digital Security Agency (DSA), to be set up for cyber warfare, cyber counter-terrorism, and cyber security of national digital assets. ■

India's growth rate slowing dramatically : IMF

The International Monetary Fund on March 17 according to *the Pioneer* report said India's economy is slowing dramatically and uncertainty surrounding the economy. The IMF forecast that India's gross domestic product growth would slow to 6.3 percent in the 2008-2009 fiscal year, ending in March, and to 5.3 percent the following year. That would be well below the 9 percent growth rate in the 2007-2008 year. "Policy measures to stimulate the economy and a good harvest should support domestic demand," the IMF said.

"The uncertainty surrounding the forecast is unusually large, with significant downside risks. The main upside risk stems from a larger-than-anticipated impact of the stimulus measures that the authorities have already implemented."

The Fund cautioned that India's debt as a percentage of GDP was already high, so a big expansion of the deficit could raise concerns about fiscal sustainability. Any additional stimulus should be focused on "high-quality infrastructure and poverty-related spending" or to recapitalize banks if needed. The IMF said given the budget constraints, monetary and structural policies would have to do the heavy lifting.

Mohan Bhagwat new RSS SarSanghchalak KS Sudarshan announces retirement

From Our Correspondent

In the concluding session of ABPS on March 21, 2009 at Nagpur, Sar Sanghachalak *param pujaniya* Shri KS Sudarsahnji announced his decision to retire as Sarsanghachalak citing age and receding health as main causes. He appointed Shri Mohanji Bhagwat, current Sarkaryavah as his successor. *Param pujaniya* Shri Mohan Bhagwat became the 6th Sarsanghachalak of the RSS. Shri Bhaiyyaji Joshi succeeds *param pujaniya* Shri Mohan Bhagwat as Sarkaryavah.

Param pujaniya Shri Mohan Bhagwat hails from Chandrapur in Vidarbha, Maharashtra. Born on September 11, 1950 Shri Bhagwat obtained his graduation in

Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry (BVSc) from Punjabrao Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola, Maharashtra. Hailing from a family that had strong RSS roots (his father

Sciences towards the fag end to plunge into the Sangh work as a Pracharak. He became a Pracharak towards the end of 1975 at the time of the infamous Emergency.

Rajnath congratulates Shri Mohan Bhagwat



On March 21, 2009 BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh congratulated *param pujaniya* Shri Mohanrao Bhagwat for assuming the responsibility of Sar Sanghchalak of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Shri Singh expressed confidence that Shri Mohanrao Bhagwat, in keeping with the highest tradition of the RSS, will give a new dimension to the Sangh Karya that has been dedicated towards preserving and propagating esteemed nationalist values among various areas of society.

was the Prant Pracharak of Gujarat for some time) Shri Bhagwat left his Masters course in Veterinary

After working underground during Emergency he was given responsibility of Akola in 1977 and subsequently rose to become Pracharak of Nagpur and Vidarbha region. He was elevated to Akhil Bharatiya Saha Shareerik Pramukh in 1987 and subsequently became Akhil Bharatiya Shareerik Pramukh in 1991, the responsibility he held till 1999. In 1999 he was made the Akhil Bharatiya Pracharak Pramukh for one year.

In 2000, Shri Mohan Bhagwat got elected to the post of Sarkaryavah for three years. He got re-elected to the office of Sarkaryavah on the next two successive occasions in 2003 and 2006.

Bhayyaji Joshi elected new Sarkaryavah

Shri Suresh alias Bhaiyyaji Joshi was elected to the office of Sarkaryavah following the demitting of office by Shri Mohan Bhagwat in the Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha that met at Nagpur on 20-22 March.

Advani calls on RSS Sar Sanghchalak Shri Mohan Bhagwat



NDA's Prime Ministerial candidate Shri L.K. Advani on March 22 attributed his achievements in political life to RSS. "Whatever I am today, I owe it to the RSS," Shri Advani told mediapersons in Nagpur. On a visit to the RSS headquarters in Nagpur, Shri Advani met the new Sar

Sanghchalak *Param pujaniya* Shri Mohan Bhagwat and Sar Karyawaha Shri Bhaiyyaji Ji Joshi. Interacting with media persons Shri LK Advani said he was here to meet the new leadership during the concluding day of the three-day Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha, the apex council of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. He said, "A new era of RSS has begun," referring to the change of guard in the RSS hierarchy. He recalled the history of the 83-year-old organisation and his association with it when he had visited it first time before Independence as 'Bal Swayamsevak'. Shri Advaniji also met Shri KS Sudarshan, who stepped down as Sar Sanghchalak after 9 years of glorious service.

Shri Sureshji Joshi, popularly known as Sri Bhayyaji Joshi was born in 1947 at Indore in Madhya Pradesh. He did his graduation in the faculty of Arts (BA) from the Thane College affiliated to Mumbai University.

He served in a company for a few years before deciding to plunge into Sangh work full time and became a Pracharak in 1975. After working underground during Emergency he became a district Pracharak in 1977 and led the Sangh work in Thane, Dhule, Jalgaon and Nashik as Zilla and Vibhag Pracharak between 1977 and 1990.

He served as the Maharashtra Prant Seva Pramukh between 1990 and 95. He oversaw the entire relief work after the calamitous earthquake that struck Latur and surrounding areas in 1993. It was under his guidance that the Sangh undertook massive relief and rehabilitation work in that area.

Between 1995 and 1997 he was the Kshetra Sewa Pramukh before being elevated to Akhil Bharatiya Saha Sewa Pramukh in 1997. He became the Akhil Bharatiya Sewa Pramukh in 1998 and served in that capacity till 2003. In 2003 he was given the responsibility of Saha Sarkaryavah and continued in that position till 2009.

Shri Bhaiyyaji Joshi is a widely travelled leader who has vast experience in both Shakha and Sewa activity. He has been guiding Sewa activities of the RSS for the last two decades.

New Executive Council Announced

In the concluding session of Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha, Shri. Bhaiyyaji Joshi, the newly elected Sarkaryavah of RSS, announced the executive council members.

Shri Madan Das, who was Saha-sarkaryavah [joint general secretary] until now, will now hold the responsibility of 'Akhil Bharatiya Pracharak Pramukh'.

Shri Suresh Soni, who was Saha-sarkaryavah, will continue to carry the responsibility.

Shri Dattatrayaji, who was 'Akhil Bharatiya saha -Bouddhik Pramukh' for the last 3 years, will now be the Saha-sarkaryavah. ■

BJP-Shiv Sena alliance has stood test of time : Rajnath

Castigating the Manmohan Singh dispensation for miserably failing to control the prices of essential commodities during the last five years, BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh on March 20 in Mumbai charged that the Congress-led UPA Government did not show courage of even handing a stern warning to Pakistan, let alone taking the neighbouring country head-on, in the wake of 26/11 Mumbai attack.



Launching the BJP alliance partners' joint campaign for the Lok Sabha poll in Maharashtra along with Shiv Sena's executive president Shri Uddhav Thackeray at Swan Mills compound at Sewree in south Mumbai, Shri Singh said: "The UPA Government was scared of even handing a stern warning to Pakistan about its involvement in the Mumbai attack, let alone taking some concrete action against our neighbour". Shri Singh said that his party was all for the UPA Government taking the international community into confidence and blowing up the terrorist camps in Pakistan.

"But, the UPA Government failed the country by not taking an aggressive stand against Pakistan in the wake of 26/11 attack," he said. Criticising the UPA Government for its failure to control prices of essential commodities during its tenure, he added: "Unlike the Manmohan Singh dispensation, the BJP-led NDA Government had kept the prices of essential commodities under control in full tenure". Dwelling on the tie-up between the BJP and Shiv Sena, Shri Singh said that the alliance had stood the test of time.

"In fact our alliance is like the kind of relationship that Vapjayeji and Advaniji have enjoyed over five decades now," he said. Stating that the Sena and BJP would not only work shoulder-to-shoulder but also heart-to-heart during the electioneering, Shri Singh hoped that our alliance would win 30 to 35 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra. The BJP president said that among the top priorities of the NDA -if voted to power - would be to go ahead to hang Afzal Guru- a thing the UPA Government did not do in its effort to practice vote-bank politics. "Now that the UPA Government has failed in hanging Afzal Guru, we as NDA are saying now that if voted to power at the Centre, we will do so" he added.

The rally was also addressed by the BJP National General Secretary Shri Gopinath Munde, Maharashtra state BJP President Shri Nitin Gadkari, former Union Minister Shri Ram Naik and former Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Manohar Joshi. The BJP will contest 22 seats and the Shiv Sena will contest the remaining 26 seats in the state. Soon after the rally, Shri Rajnath Singh called on Shri Bal Thackeray at his residence. ■ (FOC)

I will work towards creating a “just society”: Rajnath

Hundreds of Muslim leaders joined the BJP on March 16 in the presence of BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh. The Muslim leaders from the Ghaziabad also vowed to work to ensure the victory of the BJP in the ensuing polls. “We have been betrayed by the Congress for over half a century. We have joined BJP with a hope for better future. We all will work towards victory of the party in the Lok Sabha polls,” Shri Raja Matin Nuri, leading the group, told reporters in Shri Singh’s presence.



Addressing the gathering, Shri Singh promised to work towards creating a “just society” with opportunity and progress for all if the party is voted to power under the leadership of Shri L K Advani.

Shri Singh said “Sachar committee has revealed the double standards adopted by Congress in its five decades of rule. The six year NDA rule is there for everyone to see. NDA in power led by Shri LK Advani would work for a society with justice for all”. The function was also attended by BJP’s Minority Morcha President Shri Shahnawaz Hussain and hundreds of Karyakartas of the UP unit of BJP. ■ (FOC)

Advani launches Bengal campaign with three-point agenda

Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) and NDA prime ministerial candidate Shri L.K. Advani launched his party's poll campaign in West Bengal on March 6 in Kolkata with a three-point agenda of development, good governance and security, saying no single political party will enjoy absolute majority in the near future.

Addressing a huge gathering Shri Advani said, “We believe that India can be one of the leading countries of the world. But for that there has to be a proper government which will work towards the development of the nation. The BJP has decided to push through a three-point agenda in the coming Lok Sabha elections - development, good governance and security - for the betterment of the country” . Seeking people's participation in translating his party's dream to reality he said, “The government

cannot make everything happen. People should also come forward and take a leading role in that process. Firstly, they (people) need to do elect a good government for better administration.”

molestation and dacoity against their name. “Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said this was a constraint of coalition politics. I don't agree, he said.”

“We are in the coalition age.



“There will be no third alternative at the centre. The people of this country have a strong belief in bipolar politics” he added.

Lambasting the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government, he said when it took office there were half a dozen central ministers who had cases of

And no political party, in the near future, will get absolute majority, but that does not mean we will compromise with corruption and our ideology,” he said. Shri Advani was in Kolkata as part of his Sankalp Yatra and he addressed a political conference of his party at the Netaji Indoor Stadium here. ■ (FOC)

Naveen Patnaik betrayed BJP and people of Orissa : Sushma

From Our Correspondent

Addressing a massive Vijay Sankalp Samavesh at PMG Square in Bhubaneswar, Orissa on March 16 the Deputy Leader of Rajya Sabha Smt Sushma Swaraj said “Shri Naveen Patnaik, as an individual, has betrayed BJP as well as the people of Orissa,” and the act of betrayal would be the main plank in the ensuing election.

alliance, he would no more be able to come to the power again,” she said.

Terming the breaking off alliance as a blessing in disguise, she said on the direction of Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee and Shri LK Advani, the party workers in the State tolerated everything silently. “Even after the brutal murder of the

Orissa it was a case of an individual. “People will give the right answer to the traitor,” she said.

She also wondered how in a single day the BJP became communal in Orissa. “For the last 11 years, we were with the BJD. How in a single day, the BJD become secular and the BJP become communal in Orissa,” she wondered.

Smt Swaraj also said the anti-Congress vote was already divided. “The BJP will not lose anything in Orissa. The people would turn up and bring the NDA at Centre and the BJP in State,” she maintained. She further said that BJD will regret its decision to be part ways with the NDA after the general election.

Smt Swaraj further said issues like inflation, UPA Government’s inability to tackle terrorism; attack on the Hindu values by ignoring the very existence of the Ram would be the main election planks. “The recent rise in prices of essential commodities has made the life of poor people miserable,” she said adding that loss of employment would be one of the major election planks of the party.

Terming the Third Front as coalition of unlimited prime ministerial candidates, she said it would never take birth. She also pointed out how the BJD, in a desperate move to remain in power, contacted the leaders of the Third Front. “When Shri Jaya Panda and Shri Naveen came to attend a dinner meeting hosted by the NDA, they were welcomed with a great heart. But the time has changed. Now they



Launching the election campaign for the party, Smt Swaraj said, “Shri Naveen Patnaik is a traitor. The people of Orissa, like that of Karnataka, will teach the Naveen-led Government a lesson,” she said, adding that the people would never accept the act of cheating.

In a bid to expose Shri Naveen’s inability to learn Oriya even after 11 years in power in the State, Smt Sushma started her introductory speech in Oriya language. “On BJP’s strength, Naveen Babu has been able to remain in power for such long. With the split of the

revered saint Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati, the party’s central leadership maintained maximum restraint. But now time has come to raise each issue,” she said, adding that once the BJP came to power in Orissa, steps would be taken to arrest the accused involved in the murder of Shri Saraswati.

Urging the party activists to take a pledge to throw the Naveen-led Government out of power, she said the people’s anger would be converted into ballot in ensuing election. She said while in Karnataka there was a betrayal by a party. In

were going to attend the dinner party with a plea that they should be accommodated in their camp," she said .

She also hinted that BJP would introduce rice at Rs 1 per kg. "We have successfully introduced these schemes in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh," she said, adding the AIIMS would be completed in Orissa within three years if BJP came to power. On the issue of projecting a chief ministerial candidate, she said the Parliamentary Board would take a decision to this effect later.

Speaking at the rally, BJP Rajya Sabha member Shri Chandan Mitra said the people of Orissa would teach the betrayer a lesson. BJP Legislature Party leader Shri Biswabhusan Harichandan said "Naveen and his BJD ministers are Nikamma (worthless)" . "Do not believe Shri Naveen. He will certainly bite you". BJP's national Vice-President and MP Shri Jual Oram said it is a matter of shame for the entire state that its chief minister cannot speak Oriya. "BJP will bring a bill (if comes to power) prohibiting any person from becoming Chief Minister unless having knowledge in Oriya." Among others State BJP President Shri Suresh Pujari and National Secretary Shri Dharmendra Pradhan spoke on the occasion. ■

Naveen's comment 'blatant lies'

Naveen broke alliance in one minute : Pujari

The Orissa BJP State unit on March 18 strongly refuted the remarks of Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik that 'it was the BJP, which betrayed the BJD and broke the 11-year-old alliance within 11 minutes'. Reacting to the Chief Minister's comment at several public meetings in Berhampur on



March 18 State BJP President Suresh Pujari told mediapersons that it is nothing but 'blatant lies'. "Not in 11-minutes, BJD supremo broke the alliance within 1 minute," BJP State President Shri Suresh Pujari said.

Addressing a Press conference in Bhubaneswar he said in order to save the skin, BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik has started telling blatant lies to create confusion on the collapse of the alliance. "When Shri Advani's special envoy Shri Chandan Mitra reached Naveen Niwas on March 7, Shri Patnaik categorically told him that it was all over and the BJD and BJP should go to the election separately. When Shri Chandan Mitra insisted that he would talk with the Central leadership, Shri Patnaik dissuaded him from calling them and handing over the mobile to him (Patnaik). Shri Patnaik asked Shri Mitra to make a call from outside Naveen Niwas," he said, adding that without thinking for a minute over the BJP's contribution in making him the leader, Shri Patnaik broke the 11-year-old alliance in just one minute. Later, Shri Patnaik came out and announced to the waiting mediapersons the fall of the alliance, Shri Pujari said.

Coming down heavily upon Shri Naveen Patnaik for trying to mislead the public, Shri Pujari said before the talk on seat sharing, Shri Patnaik had made up his mind to snap the ties. "He had never turned up once to attend the meeting on the seat sharing," he said, adding that the whole media and Lord Jagannath was witness to the fact who had snapped the ties first. On the allegations of BJP making unreasonable demands, Shri Pujari said the BJD has started telling all lies about it. "We never demanded for more seats. We only insisted that the early equation on seat sharing should continue," he said. ■ (FOC)

UPA's double standard exposed : Prakash Javadekar

BJP National Spokesperson Shri Prakash Javadekar on March 20 condemned UPA government for its double standard applied in two states of Orissa and Meghalaya. In Orissa the voting on the floor of the house was not properly conducted and was not even recorded. The Governor also has submitted report to this effect. BJP has demanded immediate imposition of President's rule in Orissa. UPA government turned deaf ears to the demand and allowed Shri Naveen Patnaik Govt. to continue in office. He said this is clear violation of the spirit of Constitution. On the other hand in Meghalaya UPA government imposed President's Rule even though a proper voting was carried and registered on the floor of the house. The government survived on the casting vote of the speaker in Meghalaya. He said the UPA government resorted to imposition of President's Rule on selective basis as a political game plan. This is nothing but subversion of democracy. UPA has done this time and again to subvert democratic institutions in its five year of misrule. BJP demands imposition of President's rule in Orissa and restoration of government in Meghalaya. ■ (FOC)

BJP will go to peoples' court for justice

Joint Statement issued by

*BJP National Spokesperson & MP Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad and
National Secretary & MP Shri Dharmendra Pradhan in New Delhi on March 10.*

The unilateral betrayal of the people's mandate by Shri Naveen Patnaik on the eve of simultaneous Vidhan Sabha and Lok Sabha elections presents a remarkable opportunity to make a new beginning for Orissa. By associating with the CPI(M), B-team of the Congress, the BJD has abandoned the anti-Congress legacy of the State. The people of Orissa are fully aware that during the 11-year alliance with the BJD, the BJP gave unstinted support to the Chief Minister to overcome every political difficulty he faced. When the NDA was in power under Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's dynamic leadership, Orissa's development was top priority for the Union Government. Much of the State's present prosperity is a result of the BJP's resolute commitment to this goal.

Given this reality, people of Orissa must be told why a perfectly harmonious, development-oriented alliance was abruptly broken off without any provocation from the BJP? Was it only because of differences over seat sharing or was there a hidden agenda? Shri Patnaik has to answer the fundamental question: Why did he break an alliance that had done so much for Orissa's development? He must also answer why he has chosen to associate with Left parties that have denounced him loudly for over a decade?

Shri Patnaik must also come clean why he has opted to ally with

the JMM which openly champions the breaking up of Orissa and merger of at least three districts with Jharkhand? He must also tell the people why the Church, which should stay away from politics, has complimented him for breaking the alliance with the BJP?

Other intriguing aspects of his inexplicable decision also need to



be highlighted. How come the Congress, the principal opposition party, has reacted so mutedly to this development? Is it because they realise that, by this action, Shri Naveen Patnaik has abandoned the anti-Congress space, which has been the cornerstone of his politics all these years?

The people of Orissa now have a great opportunity to affirm their faith in good governance, all-round economic development and empowerment of tribals, Dalits and

other underprivileged sections. The BJP is the only party that can resolutely implement this agenda because unlike others, it does not believe in opportunism, shifting alliances and political somersaults. The BJP has taken up this challenge with renewed commitment and determination.

In order to provide an efficient, clean and purposeful Government in the State, our party will contest all 147 Assembly seats. We are confident that the people will give an opportunity to the BJP to form a Government on its own to make Orissa's dream a reality. For that to be achieved it is necessary that the BJP comes to power not only in the State but also that the NDA gets a clear mandate for Delhi. Accordingly, the BJP will contest all 21 Lok Sabha seats from the State so that Orissa's voice is powerfully represented in Delhi. An unequivocal mandate for the BJP to form a Government in Orissa and head the Government in Delhi under Shri Lal Krishna Advani's decisive leadership will ensure unimaginable transformation of the State and the nation. ■ (FOC)

Murali Dhar Rao attached to President



BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh has attached the newly-elected member of the Party Executive Committee Shri Murali Dhar Rao to his office. The earlier attachment of Shri Prabhat Jha with the National President in his capacity as the National Secretary of the Party will continue as before. ■ (FOC)

Advani promises Nationwide implementation of 'Ladli Laxmi Yojana'

From Our Correspondent

Shri L.K. Advani, Prime Ministerial candidate of the NDA, on March 17 made two important promises for the development and empowerment of women in India. Using his blog (www.blog.lkadvani.in) as a platform of communication, Shri Advani affirmed that India can be empowered only by empowering Indian women. He paid tribute to Indian women by describing them as the personification of Devotion, Culture and Strength: "Naari Tum Shraddha Ho" (Woman, you are Devotion); "Naari Tum Samskaar Ho" (Woman, you are a *samskar*); and "Naari Tum Shakti

Ho" (Woman you are Strength). However, he bemoaned that the actual development status of Indian women, as revealed by statistics, is a matter of deep concern. He, therefore, made two important promises:

Ladli Laxmi Yojana:

Shri Advani said "Poverty is one of the main reasons for the discrimination against the girl child at home. This has resulted in lower literacy rates and higher dropout rates among girl children. Clearly, it is the moral duty as well as

democratic responsibility of both central and state governments to strive their utmost to remove gender imbalance and promote gender justice in every area of development.

He said in this context, I commend a scheme called the "Ladli

least upto the pre-college level. Under the scheme, the state government buys savings certificates of Rs. 6,000 each year for five consecutive years for every girl born into a family. The girl gets Rs. 2,000 after she completes the

5th standard, another Rs. 4,000 after she completes the 8th standard, Rs. 7,500 after she completes the 10th standard; Rs. 200 per month in her 11th standard; and a lumpsum amount of Rs. 1, 18,000 after she enters the 12th standard or, alternatively, attains the age of 18.

He said, "It is my promise that, if elected to form the next government, the NDA will implement the Ladli Laxmi



Laxmi Yojana" started by the BJP Government in Madhya Pradesh in 2006. In a very short time, it has proved to be one of the most successful social welfare schemes in the history of the state, thanks to the political will and sustained personal attention that Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan has brought to bear on its implementation.

He said the principal aim of the "Ladli Laxmi Yojana" is to eliminate school dropout among girl students and to encourage them to study at

Yojana in every state. It will be our endeavour to make every girl in India a "Lakhpati" by the time she attains maturity and is ready to enter a new phase in her life."

'Beti Bachao' campaign against female foeticide:

Shri Advani expressed serious concern over the declining gender ratio in India 1000 (male) to 933 (female). He said "In some states like Punjab and Haryana, the situation is precarious. Nearly two million female fetuses are reportedly aborted every year. We have a

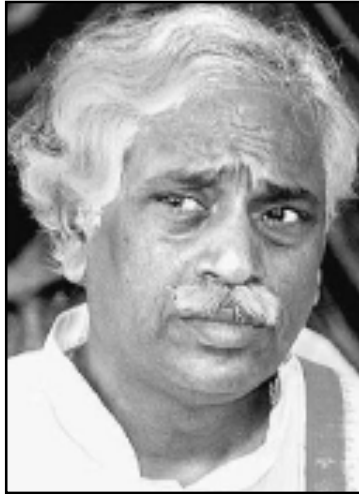
Continued on page 24....

Party strengthening itself in other regions too : Dattatreya

Speaking to media persons in Hyderabad on March 15 after several leaders including Shri V. Sreeram, an NRI, hailing from Nalgonda and Shri Jwala Bapu Reddy and Shri Giridhar Yadav of Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) joined the BJP; party State President Shri Bandaru Dattatreya said there was an exodus of leaders from different parties to the BJP leaving others in a quandary. He said over a period of time BJP has emerged as a formidable force in Telangana and was strengthening itself in other regions of Andhra Pradesh too.

Stating that the TRS joining hands with the TDP had come as a boon for the BJP, Shri Dattatreya said a new enthusiasm was being witnessed in the party. On Union Minister Pranab Mukherji's comments on the Telangana issue, he described it as one more ploy of the Congress to cheat the people of the region. He said during the last five years rule of Congress led UPA they have promised several times for a separate state of Telangana and every time they cheated the people. He said Telangana will give a fitting reply to the Congress party this time.

He scoffed at rumours on former Union Minister Shri Krishnam Raju distancing himself from the party and added, "He is very much associated with the BJP and there is no need to have any doubts." This time the party would contest all the 42 Lok Sabha seats and a surprise was in store for the Hyderabad seat. He said there was no question of extending support to any



independent, when asked about Hyderabad Lok Sabha seat.

Shri Dattatreya ridiculed TDP Chief Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu's claims on ushering in the IT revolution and said the credit goes to BJP leader and former Union Minister late Shri Pramod Mahajan.

Others who joined the party included Shri Ajmera Krishnaveni Naik, convener, Lambada Chaitanya Vedika. Shri Dattatreya said more leaders from Rayalaseem and Coastal districts of the State would be joining the BJP in the next some days. ■ (FOC)

BJP seat sharing arrangements finalised with JD (U), Sena

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on March 13 finalized the seat sharing arrangements with the JD(U) on 40 seats for the Lok Sabha elections in Bihar. BJP National General Secretary Shri Arun Jaitley told reporters in New Delhi after the talks with JD (U) chief Shri Sharad Yadav and Bihar Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar that "We will fight together. The BJP will contest 15 seats and the JD (U) 25. According to the arrangement BJP has ceded the Kishanganj seat to the JD (U).

Shri Kumar met NDA Prime Ministerial candidate Shri LK Advani over lunch at his residence, where the agreement was sealed. Shri Sharad Yadav and Shri Jaitley were also present at the meeting.

The BJP also struck a deal with

the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra. Both the BJP and the Shiv Sena have agreed to stick to the old formula of 26:22 even as they thrashed out the differences over swapping of a few seats whose boundaries were altered in the delimitation exercise. According to reports, the BJP has conceded the Kalyan, Washim-Yavatmal and South Mumbai Lok Sabha seats, in return for which it has got Bhiwandi, Jalgaon and Mumbai North-West.

After the finalization of the seats BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh and Sena Executive President Shri Uddhav Thackeray have decided to launch a joint poll campaign in Maharashtra. The State has been under the Congress-NCP rule for almost a decade now. ■ (FOC)

Advani supports ex-servicemen's "One Rank, One Pension" demand

From Our Correspondent

NDA's Prime Ministerial candidate and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Shri L.K. Advani appealed to the country men to elect a strong government at the Centre so that the government and the people can together save the nation from the scourge of terrorism, votebank politics and corruption. He was speaking at a function in New Delhi on March 16 to release the memoirs, titled 'Guarding India's Integrity', by Lt Gen (Retd) S.K. Sinha, PVSM, former Governor of Assam and Jammu & Kashmir.

Shri Advani said "When I look at what is happening in Pakistan these days, I can understand why people like Lt. Gen. Sinha shudder at the thought of another weak government coming into being in New Delhi." He said.

"India's very existence would be in peril if we have another government like the UPA which is neither capable of taking a strong and self-reliant foreign policy approach to Pakistan nor following a zero-tolerance approach to terrorism within the country – all for petty votebank considerations."

Shri Advani paid glowing tributes to Lt. Gen. Sinha, calling him a soldier that India is proud of. "We have in our midst a person who, as a young newly commissioned Army officer, fought for the honour of the Tricolour in Kashmir when Pakistan waged its

first war on India in 1947-48. "Even in the post-retirement phase of his life, Lt. Gen. Sinha has continued to serve the Nation as a soldier for the defence of democracy; in the crusade against corruption; for safeguarding India's vital interests in Assam; and for defending national unity in Jammu & Kashmir," he said.

Shri Advani used this occasion



to lend his support to the ex-servicemen community's long-pending demand for 'One Rank One Pension'. He agreed with the remarks of Lt. Gen. Sinha, who worked on personnel matters in the Indian Army, that there is a need to provide a long career for both officers and personnel below officer rank in the Army. "A soldier in the Army retires at a young age, in the prime of his life, and most of the officers retire many years earlier than their civilian counterparts. This has created serious anomalies in pension benefits to ex-servicemen. The issue of 'One Rank One Pension' has been agitating them for quite some time. I was pained to

see that many ex-servicemen recently gave up their bravery medals in protest against the non-fulfillment of this demand. My party has considered this matter in its totality. Many delegations of ex-servicemen have called on me in recent months.

I am convinced of the justness of this demand. We are fully committed to implementing the 'One Rank One Pension' policy if we win the people's mandate in the forthcoming parliamentary elections."

He promised to take effective steps to stop infiltration of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, a problem which the Supreme Court has described as "external aggression".

He charged the Congress party and the UPA Government "with having colluded in this external aggression by not following the Supreme Court's directive of taking "effective action" to check the influx from Bangladesh."

Shri LK Advani lauded Lt. Gen Sinha's principled stand on last year's Amarnath controversy and criticized the UPA government for having shown "disrespect for the majority community's sentiments". Saying that the separatist campaign in Kashmir and the Amarnath controversy are two sides of the same coin, he remarked, "I wonder if the Congress party would have conducted itself in a similar manner

if the issue concerned allotment of land to a minority community.”

Quoting from the book, Shri Advani listed several instances of how several leading members of the UPA government and the Congress party “stooped to shocking levels to appease anti-national forces on the issue of terrorism :-

- ▶ “Two Cabinet ministers opposed the banning of SIMI, a well-known outfit sponsoring terrorism. The Supreme Court had to do the needful.
- ▶ One Cabinet minister demanded that all illegal Bangladeshi immigrants be given Indian citizenship.
- ▶ One minister justified the use of government funds allocated to a university to defend students in court, who are being prosecuted for involvement in the terrorist incident in Batla House in Delhi.
- ▶ Another minister advocated an inquiry into this incident to determine if the whole thing had been faked by the police.
- ▶ A minister went to the UN to represent India and forgot to mention that among the killed in Mumbai carnage were Jews and 20 percent of the victims were Muslims.
- ▶ Yet, another minister issued a statement insinuating that Hemant Karkare, the ATS chief in Mumbai, was killed on 26/11 as a result of conspiracy by Hindus and not by a Pakistani terrorist. The Prime Minister condoned this, saying that to err is human.
- ▶ And in this Theatre of the Absurd, a senior Congress general secretary allowed his imagination to run wild. He claimed that the UPA Government did not yield to terrorist demands in Mumbai to

Advani attends Ex-Servicemen protest at Jantar Mantar

BJP to implement ‘One Rank, One Pension’ on coming to power

BJP’s Prime Ministerial candidate Shri L K Advani on March 19 assured retired soldiers that he will meet their ‘one rank one pension’ demand. Shri Advani attending the protest at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi as a sign of solidarity to the ‘One Rank One Pension’ demand of Ex-Servicemen addressed a massive gathering of veterans who have been protesting for the last 3 months.

Shri Advani said “If we come to power in the next general elections, it is my promise that I will persuade my colleagues to give priority to the fulfillment of the long overdue ‘One Rank, One Pension’ demand.”

He said considering the fact that the soldiers serve the best years of their lives in defense of the country in life-threatening environments and retiring early, the ‘One Rank One Pension’ demand deserves to be implemented in an expedient way.

Meanwhile, in pursuit of this demand retired soldiers of varying ranks have returned more than 10,000 medals to the President. Lt Gen N S Malik, Convener of the Defence Cell of the BJP and Shri Rajeev Chandrashekar, Member of Parliament, were also present at the protest.

The BJP is supportive of the ‘One Rank, One Pension’ demand for several reasons:

- ▶ The ‘One Rank One Pension’ issue has been raised before both the V and VI Pay Commissions.
- ▶ The issue is about the considerable disparity in

pension between pensioners that retired pre-1996, between 1996-2006 and post 2006.

- ▶ Since the pay scales were revised by the V and VI Pay Commissions, the tie up with the last drawn pay had widened the disparity in pensions.
- ▶ The V Pay Commission, in 1996, has recommended parity in pension between pre- and post-1986 pensioners. This was a follow up to the KP Singh Deo report in 1984 and a one time increase in 1992 towards bringing parity in pensions. But the V Pay Commission’s recommendations on the pension of ‘post-1996’ retirees, was still tied to the last drawn pay.
- ▶ The V Pay Commission has also made provisions for neutralization of price rise.
- ▶ The VI Pay Commission has given a ‘fitment benefit’ to all retired employees, both civilian and defense, to partially compensate for the disparities in the pre-2006 and post-2006 retirees.
- ▶ Also in order to compensate for the reduced employment of defense personnel period, a ‘year weightage’ is included in calculation of benefits.
- ▶ It is a highly emotive issue, since the soldiers retain their titles post retirement and the financial benefits accruing to them are determined by the retirement date.
- ▶ Fiscal outlay for implementing the ‘One Rank One Pension’ is going to be modest—only in the order of Rs.1500 crores. ■

release Afzal Guru. This was despite the fact that no communication had ever taken place with the terrorists in Mumbai.”

Shri Advani said that he endorsed every word contained in the last paragraph of Lt. Gen Sinha’s book : “Parliamentary elections are round the corner. I hope that the Indian electorate will be mature enough to elect a government, which can effectively meet the grave national security challenges we face today. India is emerging as a great power and our human resource material has shown its high caliber in our outstanding achievements in various fields.

All those gains can be lost if we do not successfully overcome the national security challenges, underscored so dramatically by the tragedy of 26/11 in Mumbai. Irrespective of which party wins the 2009 elections, we need to have a strong government at the Centre...We need a government capable of taking hard decisions and not pursuing votebank politics at the cost of national security. Neither the policy of appeasement nor a communal agenda should mar the image of the new government that gets elected in 2009.

The new government must go all out to lift the government and society from the quagmire of corruption and feudal democracy enshrined in dynasticism and courtier culture. In the evening of my life, after having rendered service to the Nation for over sixty years, that is the wish I ardently nurture for my country.

I conclude my memoirs with that earnest hope and with Jai Hind on my lips.” He said “we take it as a guiding principle for a future NDA Government, if it is elected to office”. ■

L.K. Advani meets family of 7 that attempted collective suicide

Shri Lal Krishna Advani, prime ministerial candidate of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance, on March 21, 2009 visited Mahavir Hospital in Delhi to meet the seven-member poverty-ridden family of Satish Jain, which survived attempted collective suicide.



Extreme poverty, mounting debt and humiliation forced Satish Jain, a resident of Chander Nagar in Keshav Puram in north-west Delhi, to attempt suicide along with his wife and their five young children, all

daughters. All seven members of the family were admitted in Bhagvan Mahavir Hospital in Pitampura in the afternoon of 18th March. Shri Advani called on the couple and their daughters and expressed his sympathy for the distressed family. He urged the hospital authorities to do their utmost to save the life of Satish Jain, and expressed his sense of relief that the remaining members of the family were out of danger. Later, speaking to mediapersons at the hospital, Shri Advani said, "We have heard about debt-ridden kisans committing suicide in rural areas. But I am shocked to know that a debt-ridden family in the nation's capital attempted collective suicide. This is symptomatic of the effect of the current economic crisis on various sections of society." Shri Advani was accompanied by BJP spokesman Shri Prakash Javadekar, senior leader of the Delhi unit of the party Shri Nandkishore Garg, and his aide Sudheendra Kulkarni. ■ (FOC)



Congress anti aam aadmi face exposed

Starved family attempts to commit suicide in Delhi

BJP National Spokesperson Shri Prakash Javadekar on March 20 in New Delhi said UPA government’s claim of taming the inflation and that of Bharat Nirman have been exposed by the tragic incidence of attempt by seven members of the family to commit suicide in the National Capital.

The poor family, which was suffering from hunger for several days, had to resort to this extreme step even though girls in the family were topping the school exams. The whole concept of social security net has gone haywire. Even the hunger index published by the world body has placed India at the lower position than its earlier position. The inflation figures indicate deflation setting in and not ground reality faced by the common man. The prices of all essential items like rice, wheat, atta, edible oil sugar, tea etc. have not come down. And the Consumer Price Index has remained at 9%. ■ (FOC)

Third Front a temporary waiting shed : Rajagopal

Bharatiya Janata Party candidate in Kozhikode constituency Shri V. Muraleedharan. election campaign was inaugurated on March 15. Speaking at the meeting, former Union Minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee led NDA government Shri O. Rajagopal said that the Third Front, was only 'a political phenomenon' that occurs before and disappears after every election. "It is a temporary waiting shed where people with no aim gather and depart to their destinations after a while. It comprises parties which dream of extreme revolution to those which oppose even presentation of Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament to parties which support capitalists," Shri Rajagopal said.

He came down heavily on the CPI(M) observing that it broke ties with the UPA government just six months before the elections to avoid being blamed for the government's failures. He said that while the UPA was not stating clearly that Manmohan Singh would be its prime ministerial candidate, the NDA had projected Shri L.K. Advani for the post. "Even enemies of Shri Advani will not accuse him of being corrupt. Should not the NDA with the capable leader and definite programme rule the country?" he asked.

Shri Rajagopal said during the five years of UPA rule, Indian economy suffered. "Unemployment rates rose. While farmers in Congress-ruled States such as Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh were committing suicide, such instances were not heard of in Gujarat ruled by the BJP," he said.

Shri Rajagopal accused the Centre of discriminating people in



the name of religion.

While Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students were given a scholarship of Rs.140 a year, Muslim students (up to Class X) are now given Rs.14,000 annually. Madaras teachers will get a pension of Rs. 4,000 a month. "The BJP does not blame Muslims for this, because

they did not ask for these benefits. The BJP is for giving benefits to all students hailing from poor families," he said. Shri Rajagopal said that the CPI(M) and the Congress were selecting candidates on the basis of religion. The Ponnani Lok Sabha seat was a case in point. "This will have far-reaching consequences. Such moves will trigger hatred among communities," he said.

BJP District President Shri V.V. Rajan presided over the election convention. Former State president of BJP, Shri P.S. Sreedharan Pillai, delivered the keynote address. Shri Muraleedharan and district General Secretary, BJP, Shri P. Raghunath spoke. An election committee has also been formed for the campaign. ■ (FOC)

NDA to introduce farmers' pension scheme if voted to power : Naidu

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA), if voted to power, would introduce a pension scheme for farmers, reduce the interest rate on farm loans and bring back POTA to reinforce the fight against terrorism, former BJP National President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu said in Kochi on March 19. "If NDA comes to power, within 100 days farmers' pension scheme will be introduced, 33 per cent reservation for women will be brought in, POTA will be brought back and terrorist Afzal Guru will be hanged," he said.

Inaugurating the election campaign of Shri A N Radhakrishnan, the BJP candidate in Ernakulam seat, Shri Naidu said the NDA would reduce the farmers' interest rate to four per cent and introduce crop insurance, besides a

pension scheme.

A 'revolutionary scheme', under which Rs 18,000 would be deposited in the name of every girl child born in a family, would also be introduced. The amount would mature to Rs 1 lakh by the time she turns 21, to be used for her future expenses, Shri Naidu said.

Dismissing the Third Front as a "non starter", he said it had no agreement on a leader, agenda, programme and seat sharing. Its leaders, during a recent meeting, had agreed only one thing and that was to "disagree on all issues", he said. "While UPA and the third front are struggling to find a leader, the BJP and its allies were the first to declare that our leader is Shri L K Advani, the modern Sardar Vallabhai Patel, the iron man of India," he said. ■ (FOC)



Constitution envisages only a Lok Sabha member as PM

By Justice Dr M Rama Jois

A two judge bench of the Supreme Court comprising of the then Chief Justice of India and another judge held that as a person can be a minister for a period of six months without being a Member of the Legislature, the same principle applies to the office of the Prime Minister and upheld the appointment.

Two important questions relating to the interpretation of provisions of the Constitution

namely whether for being a Prime Minister of the country, the person concerned should be a Member of the Lok Sabha or for being a Chief Minister of a State the person concerned should be a Member of the State Legislative Assembly merits

consideration by the Supreme Court. An analysis of the relevant provisions of the Constitution indicates that for being eligible to be a Prime Minister, an individual concerned should be a Member of the Lok Sabha and a person to be a Chief Minister of a State, must be a Member of the Legislative Assembly of the State concerned. The relevant articles of the Constitution which requires interpretation is Article 75 in respect of Prime Minister and Article 164 which is similarly worded regarding the appointment of Chief Minister.

Clause (5) of Article 75 provides that a minister who for a period of six consecutive months is not a Member of either House of Parliament shall at the expiration of

that period cease to be a Minister. Clause (4) of Article 164 of the Constitution is exactly similarly worded in so far it relates to the minister of a State. It reads: "a minister who for any period of six consecutive months is not a Member of the Legislature of the State shall at the expiration of that period cease to be a Minister." In the first instance, the question is whether the word minister used in clause (5) of Article 75 and clause

Another question which has now become a matter for public debate is whether a Member of the Rajya Sabha can be appointed as a Prime Minister or a Member of the Legislative Council can be appointed as a Chief Minister in a State. The clearest implication available from the provisions of the Constitution itself is that he is not eligible.

(4) of Article 164 includes Prime Minister or the Chief Minister of the State?

This question first came up before the Allahabad High Court in the case of KN Singh. In the said case, the petitioner therein had challenged the appointment of KN Singh as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh without being a Member of the Legislature. The petitioner therein conceded that the word minister under clause (4) of Article 164 includes Chief Minister. Consequently, the Court held that a person can be appointed as Chief Minister even if he is not a Member of the Legislature but he should get elected to the Legislature within a period of six months. Thereafter, after nearly 28 years, a similar

question was raised in the case of HD Deve Gowda when he was appointed as Prime Minister of the country though he was not a Member of either House of the Parliament. A two judge bench of the Supreme Court comprising of the then Chief Justice of India and another judge held that as a person can be a minister for a period of six months without being a Member of the Legislature, the same principle applies to the office of the Prime

Minister and upheld the appointment. This case which involved the interpretation of a very very important provision of the Constitution ought to have been referred to a bench comprising of minimum number of five judges as is mandatory under Article

145(3) of the Constitution. Neither the parties nor the Court applied their minds to this important constitutional question. Whatever that may be, the fact remains that the two judges bench held that as a person who is not a Member of either House of the Parliament can be a minister in the Centre for six months, a non-Member can be appointed as Prime Minister and that the word minister includes Prime Minister, the appointment of HD Deve Gowda as Prime Minister was upheld.

This very important constitutional question has been raised in a writ petition filed by Adhivakta Parishad, an All India Association of Advocates along with 13 Senior Advocates questioning the correctness of the

earlier decision of the Supreme Court in HD Deve Gowda's case while challenging the appointment of Bhupendra Singh Huda as the Chief Minister of Haryana, when he was not a Member of the State Legislature. The two judges bench before whom the matter came up, referred the matter to a larger bench having regard to the fact that the main plea raised in the petition by the petitioners was that the judgment in HD Deve Gowda's case requires reconsideration. Accordingly, the matter came up before a three judge bench presided over by the Chief Justice of India and two other judges. The matter has been admitted and is pending consideration.

The important question raised in the petition was that the word minister used in clause (5) of Article 75 and clause (4) of Article 74 does not include Prime Minister or Chief Minister as the case may be, for the reason that if in a council of ministers one or two ministers are not Members of the Legislature and they are not elected within six months, all that happens is that they will cease to be ministers after six months, but in a case where the Chief Minister is not a Member of the Legislature and is not elected within a period of six months, the consequences will be serious and the entire ministry collapses, resulting in even all the elected Members who are ministers going out of office. This clear distinction between the minister/Chief Minister/Prime Minister neither has been raised nor considered by the Supreme Court. Thus, this is a live issue pending before the Supreme Court.

Another question which has now become a matter for public debate is whether a Member of the Rajya Sabha can be appointed as a Prime Minister or a Member of the

Legislative Council can be appointed as a Chief Minister in a State. The clearest implication available from the provisions of the Constitution itself is that he is not eligible. The relevant provision which implies this distinction is Article 75(3), which reads that "the council of minister shall be collectively responsible to the House of People." Similarly Article 164 (2) reads that "the council of ministers shall be collectively responsible for the Legislative Assembly of the State." A comparison of these two clauses along with clause (5) of Article 75 and clause (4) of Article 164 clearly indicates that a distinction has been made by the provisions of the Constitution itself.

Whereas clause (5) of Article 75 states that a person can be a minister for a period of six months, states that he should within that period become a Member of the Parliament which means either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha. Article 164(4) is similarly worded and states that a non-Member minister in the State should become a member of either of the two Houses within six months. This differentiation made in the two clauses of Article 75 unmistakably implies that a person who is not a Member of either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha can be a minister for a period of six months and further an elected Member of either House of People or the Rajya Sabha can be a Central Minister. However, for being a Prime Minister he should be a Member of Lok Sabha as indicated in clause (2) of Article 75 which provided that the Prime Minister and his council of ministers are to be responsible to the House of People. As by and large we are following the British pattern of Parliamentary system, it is appropriate to refer to the well

established constitutional convention in Britain according to which only a Member of the House of Commons is eligible to be the Prime Minister. Similarly, the difference in the wording between clause (2) of Article 164 and clause (4) of Article 164 clearly indicates that a person who is a Member of the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council of the State can be a Minister. However, for being a Chief Minister, he should be a Member of the Legislative Assembly, as the council of ministers headed by the Chief Minister and his council of ministers are to be responsible to the Legislative Assembly and not to the Legislative Council. This difference of vital importance has been lost sight off. Further, any practice or precedent which is on account of mistaken understanding or wrong interpretation of the provisions of the Constitution cannot be taken as the law of the land which would mean that 'once a mistake always a mistake' which is not permissible in interpreting the Constitution. Whenever the question arises specifically, the matter is required to be considered or reconsidered by a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court. This question has to be decided purely on the principle on which the Constitution has to be interpreted and has nothing to do with the eligibility of an individual to become a Chief Minister or Prime Minister. This Article should not be misunderstood as directed against the present Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, whom I hold in highest esteem, as the consideration of this question is necessary as the Constitution has to hold the field for all times to come. ■

*(The writer is a MP (Rajya Sabha),
Former Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana
High Court and former Governor of
Jharkhand and Bihar.)*

UPA is Govt. of 'khaas aadmi' : Advani

From Our Correspondent

NDA's Prime Ministerial candidate Shri L.K Advani kicked off the election campaign at Uttarakhand on March 8, 2009 by addressing the Vijay Sankalp Rally. He termed the UPA as the "worst government" independent India has ever had.

In the rally Shri Advani exhorted the people of Uttarakhand to wipe out the Congress from the state in the coming general elections.

He said that he had been

Khanduri government.

Launching scathing attacks on the UPA government, Shri Advani told the huge gathering that the UPA and Left parties have an "unsigned" agreement to support each other.

"You enjoy power in Delhi and let us rule West Bengal. This is the agreement between the Communists and the Congress," he said while adding that the Congress is the CPM's team B in West Bengal and

about the interests of the capitalistic society," he rued.

Shri Advani also claimed that even after the imposition of economic sanctions by the USA after India conducted nuclear tests in Pokhran, the then NDA government ensured that prices of household goods, grocery items and other essential commodities do not shoot up.

He accused the government of failing to secure the nation. He alleged that it was soft on terrorism.

Indirectly accusing the UPA of endangering national security at the cost of vote bank politics, Advani claimed that the UPA government is delaying the execution of the death sentence awarded to Afzal Guru for his role in the Parliament attack case just because he is a Muslim.

"The terrorist has not been hanged because his name happens to be Afzal Guru. Had he been some Anand Singh or Anand Mohan, he would have been hanged by now," he said.

Shri Advani asserted that in order to prevent the recurrence of Mumbai attacks, the government has to adopt a zero-tolerance attitude towards terrorism. Shri Advani appealed to the masses to punish the UPA for its "bad governance" by casting their votes in favour of the BJP.

Former Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Shri Shanta Kumar in his speech said that the gap between the rich and the poor is increasing rapidly. "The poor are becoming poorer and rich are becoming richer and this is a dangerous trend."



witness to the functioning of all governments since 1950 and the UPA is the worst that the people of the country ever had.

"Whether it is the issue of the nation's security, economy, employment or development, the UPA has been a big failure. Dr Manmohan Singh is the Prime Minister in name but actually, it is a government run from 10, Janpath, by Smt. incidently, Sonia Gandhi," he said.

The rally also marked the completion of two years of the

the Communists are the Congress' B team in other parts of the country.

"Both the Congress and Communists are be fooling the masses. These parties will again join hands after the election," he said.

Shri Advani also accused the UPA government of being the government of the 'khaas aadmi' (rich and mighty) completely overlooking the 'aam aadmi' (common people) of this country.

"The common man is suffering because of sky-rocketing prices but this government was bothered only

“Though India figures among the top 12 richest countries in the world, a whopping 26 crore persons in India live below poverty line. And from among those 26 crore, around 12 crore people survive on a mere Rs 8 daily.” “This kind of disturbing figures itself speaks about the concern of the UPA government for the economically weaker sections,” he said. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Maj Gen BC Khanduri (retd) termed the NDA regime as the golden era of Indian politics. He urged the electorate of the state to bring the NDA back to power.

On the occasion, the Uttarakhand State BJP also handed over a cheque of Rs 3,01,25,000 to Shri L K Advani. BJP state president Shri Bachi Singh Rawat and former Uttarakhand CM and MP, Rajya Sabha, Shri Bhagat Singh Koshiyari also addressed the gathering.

Prominent among others present at the rally included former Uttarakhand CM Shri Nityanand Swami, Uttarakhand BJP incharge Shri Krishan Murari Moghe, co-incharge Dr Anil Jain and the party’s candidates for the five parliamentary constituencies. ■

Common man will teach Congress a lesson : Venkaiah Naidu

Addressing a mega rally of Mumbai BJP activists on March 16 former National President of BJP Shri Venkaiah Naidu said, “For the last 60 years Congress is proclaiming that ‘Congress ka haath, garibon ke saath’ but now common man has realized that the Congress is responsible for its miseries and time has come for him to teach lesson to the Congress”.

“Where is your M.P. Govinda? Neither he is seen in the Parliament nor here! Where is he?” Shri

Naidu questioned the audience. He also expressed his satisfaction over the huge gathering and said, “Because of your overwhelming response I feel it's not a campaign preparatory meeting but a victory meeting”. Shri



Venkaiah Naidu said, “People at large are suffering because prices of essential commodities, petrol, diesel are ever increasing, black-marketing of gas cylinder is at peak.

Former Union Minister Shri Ram Naik said, “Mumbai railway commuters are anguished because of Shri Laloo Prasad’s apathy. The time has come for people to settle the score”. BJP-Mumbai President Shri Gopal Shetty welcomed people of *Banjara* community who joined BJP during the mega rally. Many old activists who had joined NCP during last assembly polls also rejoined BJP. Sarvashri Vinod Ghosalkar, Shivsena leader, BJP leaders Bhai Girkar, Madhu Chavan, Yogesh Sagar and Smt. Parul Mehta also addressed the gathering. ■ (FOC)

Karyakartas to bring BJP to power at Centre : Prabhat Jha

The BJP Karyakartas would present the best gift on the foundation day to the party by helping it regain power at the Centre,” said BJP national secretary Shri Prabhat Jha in Bhopal on March 16. He was addressing a meeting of BJP Karyakartas ahead of the Lok Sabha election, at Gajraj Dham, Bahodapur.



Shri Jha during the meeting said that the foundation day of the BJP falls on April 6. He added that the BJP Karyakartas would provide the biggest gift to the party by helping the BJP to form the Government at

the Centre. The workers should try to see that every citizen casts his vote. He urged the booth polling committee to knock at every door in their jurisdiction to make Smt. Yashodhara Raje Scindia victorious by a record margin.

Shri Jha further said that the Congress is the party of a mother and son. The Congress Government has degraded the standing of the country and the people will take revenge for this. He said that the BJP would take out a one-day yatra on March 22 from Ghosipura railway station to Sheopur with the slogan of converting narrow gauge to broad gauge, support BJP and make Shri Narendra Singh Tomar victorious. BJP district president Shri Abhay Choudhary also spoke about strengthening the organization. ■(FOC)

UPA pushes Indian Economy into deep disaster : Javadekar

From Our Correspondent



In a press statement issued on March 06 BJP National Spokesperson Shri Prakash Javadekar said decline in wholesale Price Index (WPI) does not reflect the hardships of *Aam Aadmi*. While WPI is going down the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Food Price Index is going up. Ground reality is that the people are experiencing rising prices in day to day life, coupled with shortages of essential items. Cooking Gas supply for instance, takes 15 to 20 days and people are forced to resort to black marketing. UPA efforts to show decline in WPI as a victory of its policy, means nothing to the common masses as their hardships are growing by the day under UPA dispensation.

Shri Javadekar said the Food Price Index has gone up from 6.3% in August 2008 to 13.25% in February 2009. The CPI which is the real indicator of movement of prices was 428 in May 2004 and was 528 in March 2008, a steep rise of 100 basis points. The prices of cereals have gone up by 125% and that of pulses by 200% over their 2004 prices. Indian petrol and diesel prices are 50% more than the 2004, even though International crude oil prices are lower than 2004 prices. Government is taking shelter in to declining figure of WPI to hide the reality and present a goody-goody picture into a make believe world. BJP wants to remind UPA that it is the hardships which count on the minds of the voters than mere jugglery of figures he said.

Exposing the real picture of

economy he further said in reality people are in distress because of contraction of economy.

- ▶ The fiscal deficit has gone up to 12% if off budget items and state deficits are read together.
- ▶ Exports have dipped by 12% in Feb. 2009, driving more than 5 lakh workers out of job.
- ▶ The sector is expecting unemployment of 10 million workers in current year.
- ▶ Even the imports have gone down for the first time signaling downturn in long term capital investment, which will affect the future growth.
- ▶ Despite rate cuts by RBI retail lending rates have not gone down in that proportion. Neither housing loan disbursal has increased nor has the demand gone up.
- ▶ Direct tax collection has gone down by 18% indicating curtailment in effective purchasing power.
- ▶ Already FOREX reserves have

taken a hit, remittances have decreased and more than 2 lakh Indian workers are returning jobless.

- ▶ Reflection of worsening situation is visible even in placement market, where offers and salaries have dropped by 50%.
- ▶ Industrial Production Index has hit its lowest and worst is yet to come.
- ▶ The UPA gave slogan of creating 10 million new jobs but in reality 15 millions jobs are lost.

Shri Javadekar said the Congress led UPA Govt. has refused to bailout the millions of jobless people. The Govt. has not offered them any social security net. He further added Economists and Social scientist should come up with a new index called Wholesale Hardships Index (WHI) rather than WPI to gauge the sufferings of the masses. ■

Continued from page 14

stringent law against prenatal sex determination tests. However, law alone is not enough.

Shri Advani further said, last year when activists of an organization called 'Beti Bachao' called on me, I said, "There is need to launch a sustained nationwide campaign, combining both government and non-government efforts, against evil practices like female foeticide." Already, the 'save the girl child campaign' launched by the BJP Government in Gujarat has addressed the issue of gender imbalance, he added. Previously the gender ratio was 802 girls/ 1000 boys; it has improved up to 894 girls /1000 boys. Similarly, the Kanya Kelavani Abhiyan has successfully reduced the drop out rate among girl students from 41% to 2.5%.

Shri Advani said, "if the BJP and NDA are given the mandate in the next parliamentary elections, I shall personally lead the 'Beti Bachao' campaign as the head of the government." ■

EC must take action against Congress : Balbir Punj

Press Statement issued by Shri Balbir Punj, MP and National Spokesman BJP on March 19 complaining against Mr Imran Kidwai, Chairman, Congress Party All India Minority Cell for Inciting Communal Hatred

The Bharatiya Janata Party has filed a formal complaint with the Election Commission of India against Mr Imran Kidwai, Chairman of the All India Congress Minority Cell for making inflammatory religious statements while seeking votes for Congress Party in Chandigarh. While addressing a congregation largely of muslim voters and leaders in Chandigarh on 15th March 2009, Mr Kidwai went to the extent of saying that he regretted not being a *Mufti* which would have enabled him to issue just one *fatwa* to muslims not to go with the BJP for going with the BJP would amount to committing *kufir* (NOTE: The Dictionary of Islam by Thomas Patrick Hughes first published 1885, defines *Kufir* as "That covers the truth; infidelity, blasphemy, disbelieving in the Quran or in any tenets of the muslim religion; A person practicing *Kufir* is a *Kafir*").

The excerpts of Mr Kidwai's speech are enclosed along with:

While exhorting the muslim community, Mr Kidwai said that had the muslim community not been with the Congress, India would not have been able to attain its independence. He further said that the personal law of the muslims is *Shariat* and the Congress party has assured them that they will not allow any changes in the *Shariat* law since *Shariat* is like *Imaan* (deep religious conviction, commitment) for the muslims. Thus according to Mr Kidwai, those seeking reforms in muslim personal law are guilty of attacking the "*Imaan*" of the muslim

community.

Mr Kidwai's statement is not an isolated incident but a part of the vote bank politics being practiced by the Congress and other so called "secular parties". It started with Dr Manmohan Singh declaring that the muslims had the first claim on India's resources. Facilitating Bangladeshi infiltration through dubious laws such as IMDT act is yet another example of this communal mindset. Expulsion of the internationally acclaimed author like Taslima Nasreen from india was done under the pressure of fundamentalist elements.

The call for reform of practices affecting women, their right to alimony, property rights, on the one hand and the push for secular education on the other hand were all blighted by elements promoted by the Congress for vote bank politics. The statements by such a senior Congress party functionary seeking votes in the name of religion and making statements that endanger communal harmony between different communities is a clear and blatant violation of the election laws and code of conduct.

It may be noted that



this public function was held adjacent to the Jama masjid in Sector 20 Chandigarh which is also a clear violation of the Code of Conduct for both political parties and the candidates. Senior Congress leader Smt Mohsina Kidwai, Mr Pawan Kumar

Bansal, Minister in the UPA government and the official Congress candidate also addressed the same gathering and were present throughout the speech of Mr Kidwai. The silence on the part of Smt Mohsina Kidwai and Mr Bansal on this occasion is infact an endorsement of Mr Kidwai's communal statements. ■



Courtesy : Times of India

True, I agreed to sharing the seat.
But you should have mentioned the size of the seat!

PM only a night watchman of Congress cricket team : Arun Jaitley

Bharatiya Janata Party National General Secretary Shri Arun Jaitley on March 21 described Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as only a “night watchman” sent out by the Congress cricket team to stay in the crease till the important leader takes over. He made these remarks while delivering a talk on “Why BJP” at a programme organised in Bangalore by the Friends of BJP — a group of party supporters from different professions such as software, law and medicine who have come together to campaign for the BJP among their colleagues.

Shri Jaitley alleged that the Congress had reduced the Indian democracy to a farce by downgrading the prime minister’s position. He accused the UPA of failing to take effective measures to reduce the impact of recession, properly handle the security issue and to demonstrate political will to address the country’s problems.

The wrong economic policies of the UPA resulted in sucking of liquidity from the economy at a time when recession was invading the country, leading to a twin blow on the economy, he alleged. He remarked that the UPA’s views on economy were similar to the Pakistan’s views on terrorism as both believed in “denial of facts”. The UPA always denies that the economy is affected, like Pakistan which denies any role of its groups in the terror strikes.

Claiming that the NDA had left behind a robust economy when it stepped down, he alleged that the UPA had not only ruined the

economy, but also pushed the country almost near to bankruptcy.

Terming the Third Front as a temporary parking space for parties till they decide their post-poll moves, he said: “but some constituents of Third Front may even be caught in traffic jam.”

He declared that the BJP, if voted to power, would provide determined and decisive leadership.

Earlier, addressing a press



conference, Mr. Jaitley said the Congress had blundered on its alliances and was still unclear about its leadership. These two factors would cost the party dearly in the elections, he predicted.

Party general secretary Shri Ananth Kumar and Lead India winner R.K. Mishra, who is also national coordinator of Friends of BJP, spoke on the occasion. ■ (FOC)

Third Front a non-starter : Venkaiah

Criticising the Third Front, former National President of BJP Shri M Venkaiah Naidu termed it a non-starter. Speaking to media persons in Bangalore on March 18, he remarked that the Front had neither a leader nor a programme to showcase to the voters. “It seems there is an agreement between its allies not to agree on anything, be it the leadership issue or programmes or forging alliances,” he said.

A day before the launch of the Third Front, Shri Naidu had termed it a parking lot. Referring to Bihar where the Congress was snubbed by its allies the Rashtriya Janata Dal and Lok Janashakti Party (LJP) by offering only three seats, Shri Naidu said that the Congress was ‘ragged’ by its allies. The Congress would meet with the same fate in Uttar Pradesh too, he warned.

The BJP was far ahead of its rivals in terms of poll preparedness, he said, adding that the party had already finalised candidates for 308

constituencies. The seat-sharing arrangements had also been completed, besides identifying the thrust of the campaign. “Our rivals, on the other hand, are immersed in the primary task of selection of candidates,” he said.

Shri Naidu said BJP would seek votes on three counts- ‘Sushasan’ (good governance), ‘Suraksha’ (security) and ‘Vikas’ (development) and a debate would be initiated on the performances of the BJP-led NDA government and the Congress-led UPA government at the Centre by inviting people to compare the two before voting. “We will place the performance report of the NDA and UPA governments and ask people to vote for the performer,” he said.

He further added the party would also showcase the performances of BJP-ruled state governments and ask people to compare them with the ones ruled by the Congress and its friendly parties. ■ (FOC)

Dhumal calls Mahila Morcha workers to ensure BJP success

BJP has fulfilled all promises, he says

From Our Correspondent

Addressing the one-day convention of Himachal Pradesh Mahila Morcha at Sundernagar (Mandi) on March 15 Himachal Chief Minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal appealed to Himachal Pradesh Mahila Morcha karyakartas to work hard to ensure the victory of BJP candidates in the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

He said the BJP government had fulfilled all promises, which were made in its election manifesto during the Assembly elections last year.

Shri Dhumal claimed that the BJP government had done a lot for the womenfolk in the State. He said the state government had already declared holidays on Karvachauth and Bhai Dooj for women and free travelling facilities to women on Raksha Bandhan and Bhai Dooj.

He said the state government had already launched the Matri Shakti Bima Yojana for women of BPL families and increased the amount four times from Rs 25,000 to one lakh in case of death and from Rs 12,500 to 50,000 in case of any disability suffered by women.

The government had made mandatory to post at least three women constables in every police station so that women could comfortably report crime, he added.

He said in the state the women were enjoying more than 50 per cent reservation and they could also contest elections on the open seats. He expressed happiness that the experience of giving reservation was

good and less number of corruption cases were reported in the panchayats which were headed by women representatives.

Mahila Morcha's national president Smt. Kiran Maheshwari and general secretary Smt. Kiran Ghai while addressing the

volunteers criticised the UPA government for its failure to get the Women Reservation Bill through in Parliament and appealed to the



workers that it was high time to vote out the UPA government as it was anti-women.

State president of Mahila Morcha Smt. Roopa Sharma also spoke on the occasion. PWD Minister Gulab Singh, State BJP President Shri Jai Ram Thakur, Shri Roop Singh Thakur, Shri Dile Ram, Shri Randhir Sharma, Col Inder Singh, Hira Lal along with other party office-bearers were present on the occasion. ■

IPL issue sends out message India is unsafe : Narendra Modi

Gujarat CM Narendra Shri Modi on March 22 in Ahmedabad said that UPA government's failure to provide security for Indian Premier League (IPL), will send a message to the world that India is "unsafe".

"Reputation of India as a safe country in the world has been shattered today by the attitude adopted by the Central Government on the security issues of IPL," Shri Modi said in a statement.

"It has sent a direct signal that Indian

Government is bogged down by the terrorists' threats. It will also send the message that India is an unsafe country," he said. "The decision of the UPA government lacks farsightedness," Shri Modi said, adding that now the hosting of Commonwealth Games in 2010 will also come under clouds.

Saying that crores of cricket lovers in the country were disappointed due to the attitude of the UPA government on the IPL issue, Shri Modi said, "If they cannot provide security for 11 players, how will they be able to protect 111 crore people of India".

The Chief Minister said the IPL development has also raised question marks on all future sporting events to be held in the country. ■ (FOC)



UTTARAKHAND**Govt. focuses on self-employment to generate jobs in rural areas**

The youth of Uttarakhand face unemployment in rural areas and underemployment in urban areas due to huge job retrenchment in private sector companies in the country owing UPA to economic slow down and mismanagement of economy by the Congress led government at the centre. The Uttarakhand government under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri BC Khanduri has taken various measures to tackle this problem, which can be categorized in two broad categories. One can either make effort to gain qualification needed for employment in industrial sector, or with Government assistance undertake self-employment in horticulture, tourism and motor driving. The migration of youth from rural areas to urban areas in search of employment is considered to be a curse for Uttarakhand due to which the State Government has focused on facilitating employment generation in industrial sector and self-employment in different sectors.

The Industrial Training Institute (ITI) offers necessary qualification for youth to improve their chances of employment in industrial undertakings in sectors including automobile, electrical, processing — maintenance and product manufacturing. One of the measures undertaken by the State to facilitate employment in industrial sector is the apprentice position open for ITI qualified candidates in State Government, public sector industries and private industrial organizations. According to the data provided by the State Employment and Training Department there are a total of 221 industrial undertakings with positions for ITI qualified apprentice in Uttarakhand which consists of 69 State Government-public sector undertakings and 152 private industrial undertakings.

For those with ITI qualification there are 2,153 positions for industrial apprenticeship of which 1,154 are in the State sector while 999 are in the private industrial sector. Currently, the total number of ITI qualified apprentice employees in the State industrial sector is 815 of which 377 are in State Government-public sector industries and 438 in private industrial enterprises.

Apart from the industrial sector, the scope for self employment in rural population has improved in Uttarakhand in the fields including cultivation of fruits, medicinal-aromatic herbs and processing of the same. It is pertinent to mention that many rural areas in Uttarakhand are conducive for the cultivation of fruits,

April 1-15, 2009 ○ 28

vegetables, flowers and medicinal-aromatic herbs and the steps taken in these sectors have benefited rural population looking for self employment in agriculture and horticulture.

TAMIL NADU**BJP to expose UPA's tacit support to Sri Lanka: Ganesan**

Sri Lankan Health Minister Nimal Siripala De Silva's statement in Parliament acknowledging India's role in the civil war in the island nation is proof of the tacit support extended by the Congress-led UPA government to the Lankan army, Tamil Nadu State BJP President Shri L Ganesan said on March 18 in Chennai. Interacting with media persons he said BJP will expose the government on the issue during the campaign for the Lok Sabha elections.

Raising the issue of minority appeasement, Shri Ganesan said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's sectarian government had openly claimed that its welfare measures were intended only for Muslims. The interests of the depressed classes had been completely ignored. He said if the BJP was voted to power it would enforce the Uniform Civil Code envisaged by the Constitution.

Shri Ganesan - projected as the party candidate for South Chennai constituency - claimed that the Congress had become so weak in the State that it could not do anything about pro-LTTE VCK leader Thol Thirumavalavan's continued presence in the Democratic Progressive Alliance. Chief Minister and DPA leader Shri M Karunanidhi wanted to retain VCK in the front despite Congress opposition in order to ensnare the PMK, he said.

Expressing concern over the deterioration in political standards in Tamil Nadu Shri Ganesan pointed to a political party conducting negotiations with both fronts at the same time. He hoped people would teach them a lesson. On the issue of alliance, he said the BJP had begun informal talks with actor Shri Sarath Kumar's Akila Indiya Samathuva Makkal Katchi.

HARYANA**NDA only alternative : Ajay Chautala**

Rajya Sabha MP and Secretary General of Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), Shri Ajay Chautala at Sirsa on March 15 said that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is the only alternative to the Congress led UPA, and the Third Front has no future. Speaking to media persons, INLD leader said the Third Front is not feasible

in national politics as it has some leaders, who are highly egocentric and selfish. Before joining the NDA, INLD realized that only NDA can be a good alternative to the Congress.

He said the NDA Government led by a veteran leader like Shri LK Advani would strengthen the country and the people. Previously, the Atal Bihari Vajpayee led NDA Government did commendable job whereas the present UPA Government has failed on all fronts, he added.

Shri Chautala said the State Government is consistently disregarding all the Election Commission guidelines. Chief Minister Hooda, all Ministers and other Government functionaries of the State continue to violate the model code of conduct.

He said that the people of the State are annoyed with the State Government for Chief Minister's family sponsored nepotism, open sale of Government jobs, deteriorating law & order situation, total scarcity of water and electricity, land & SEZ scams, sad state of development in the villages, atrocities on backward and SC communities and treachery with the employees.

Earlier, addressing a 'Punjabi Sammelan' Shri Ajay Chautala recalled the contribution of the Punjabi community in the national building. He said that in the earlier INLD-BJP Government due representation was given in the political appointments. He called upon the community people to rise above the divisionary grounds and unite under one flag.

ORISSA

RSS worker gunned down in Kandhamal

Shri Prabhat Kumar Panigrahi (35), a homeopathic practitioner and an RSS Swayamsevak Sangh, was gunned down in the wee hours on March 19 in Kandhamal district of Orissa. The involvement of Maoists is being suspected as perpetrators found at the spot.

According to sources, as many as 20 to 25 suspected people came to village Rudriguma under Judabali Gram Panchayat near Kotagada in Kandhamal district about 125 km away from Berhampur the southern headquarters of Orissa, where the deceased was staying with a roommate on March 19 night. Prior to their coming to the village, the suspected people had blocked the road by felling trees. After reaching the village, they barged into the house of Shri Prabhat and went on firing indiscriminately as he succumbed to the bullet injuries on the spot. Shri Prabhat was a native of the adjoining Nayagarh district. The locals having

sentimental link with him have given a call for a Kandhamal bandh on March 20 in protest his killing.

BJP condemns Orissa Govt.

BJP National Spokesperson Shri Prakash Javadekar On March 20 said Bharatiya Janata Party condemns Orissa government for its total failure to maintain Law and Order and pleading helplessness in front of Maoists. BJP demands full-fledged inquiry into the killing of Shri Prabhat Panigrahi because it is feared that the killings will continue. Even it is doubted whether the killers are Naxalite or Christian militants under the guise of Naxalites. Shri Panigrahi was eliminated, as he knew the conspiracy to kill Swami Laxmanada Saraswati.

State BJP condemns killing of RSS leader

The State Unit of BJP has strongly condemned the brutal killing of Shri Prabhat Panigrahi, the Kotagade block General Secretary of the RSS, who was shot dead by anti-nationals at Rudigumma village under Kotagada PS in Kandhamal district. Earlier he was informed about the conspiracy hatched to kill him. However, the district administration was a mute spectator of the killing. Although the PS is only eight km away from the spot, the police reached there next day, said State BJP President Shri Suresh Pujari. Shri Pujari also flayed the State Government for failing to provide security to Shri Panigrahi. When the elections are round the corner, such killings proved the insensitive attitude of the Naveen Patnaik-led Government towards nationalist forces and incapability of ensuring security of the citizens of the State, he said, while demanding immediate arrest of the culprits.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Himachal Cabinet approves anti-ragging law

The Himachal Cabinet on March 20 approved the HP Educational Institutions (Prohibition of ragging) Ordinance 2009, making ragging a cognizable and non-bailable offence. The ban on ragging would come into force immediately after the Governor promulgated the ordinance.

Under the provisions of the Ordinance, the offence would be compoundable only with permission of the court and any student found involved in ragging could face punishment with imprisonment up to three years and fine of Rs 50,000 and expulsion from the institutions for three years. The students punished or expelled under

the Ordinance would not be allowed to be admitted in any other college during the period of punishment. Authorities of education institutions would be bound to act immediately whenever any student, parent, guardian, teacher or office-in-charge made a complaint of ragging in writing to the head of the respective educational institution, he or she shall be required to enquire into the same within twenty four hours of the receipt of the complaint.

The concerned officers would intimate the higher authorities if the complaint was found to be prima facie true and in case the complaint was unfounded; the complainant would be informed accordingly. Any failure, negligence or deliberate delay on the part of the institutional disciplinary authority in lodging the First Information Report (FIR) with the local police, shall be construed to be an act of culpable negligence and attract punishment up to one-year imprisonment or fine up to Rs 10,000, or both. Further, head of the educational institution or in charge shall also be punished for a term which may extend up to two years or with a fine which may extend up to Rs 25,000 or with both, for failing to implement the provisions of the Ordinance to check ragging.

CHHATTISGARH

Don't stop flagship schemes : Raman Singh

The Chhattisgarh Government has requested the Election Commission (EC) to allow implementation of the subsidized rice scheme, Sixth Pay Commission recommendations, distribution of free salt to the poor and gas connections to women, since decisions on them were taken before the model code came into effect, official sources said. After the model code of conduct came into existence, the EC put a ban on the implementation the schemes. The Chhattisgarh Government had announced implementation of the schemes from April 1.

Under the schemes, about 7,00,000 Antyodaya cardholders had to be given rice for Re 1 per kg and 37 lakh people below the poverty line were to get one kg of rice for Rs 2. Besides these schemes, the model code of conduct has cast its shadow on other schemes like free power up to five-horse power of pump connection, distribution of bicycles to schoolgirls and Anganwadi workers.

Official sources pointed out that since even in the State's Budget outlay for the financial year 2009-10, the

Government made a provision of about Rs 3,000 crore for the schemes and that the State Cabinet had already approved the implementation of the schemes the model code of conduct should not apply on them. The State EC office is learnt to have sent the State Government's request to Delhi for decision.

DELHI

BJP stages a rally against school fee hike

In a protest against arbitrary increase in fees and recovery of arrears by the private schools in the Capital, thousands of parents, school children and members of local RWAs along with BJP workers staged a rally from Delhi Public School, Mathura Road to Delhi Secretariat on March 20, 2009. The demonstrators also shattered barriers installed by the police after which police had to detain them. Shri VK Malhotra, Leader of Opposition in Delhi Legislative Assembly, Shri Madan Lal Khurana, Pradesh Vice President Shri Nand Kishor Garg, General Secretaries Shri Ramesh Bidhuri and Shri RP Singh, Secretary, Shri Ashish Sood and several other BJP leaders, led the demonstration. The demonstrators were demanding the Chief Minister of Delhi to immediately get the fee hike withdrawn in public schools and blocking of recovery of arrear. ■

Girdhari Bhargava no more



On March 8, 2009 Veteran BJP leader and six-time MP from Rajasthan Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava died following a massive heart attack in Ahmedabad.

He was 73. Shri Bhargava who was very helpful by nature represented Jaipur and was named the party's candidate for the up coming Lok Sabha elections is survived by his wife, a son and three daughters.

The BJP leader, who was in Ahmedabad to attend a Parliamentary Committee meeting, complained of uneasiness early this morning. On the advice of the doctor, he was rushed to Apollo hospital where he suffered a massive heart attack and breathed his last at 8 am. His funeral was held in Jaipur. ■ (FOC)