



Kamal Sandesh
Fortnightly Magazine

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CONTENTS

Cover Story

Jan Ashirvad Yatra begins from Ujjain (MP)..... 6

Articles

Why is Congress trying to communalise 2014 polls?
By Arun Jaitley..... 12

When in trouble, talk secularism
By Ravi Shankar Prasad..... 14

Free food will come at a very steep cost
By Balbir Punj..... 18

Bodh Gaya blasts expose India's weak flank again
By Joginder Singh..... 22

Bihar shows the way : How to loot our children
By Kanchan Gupta..... 24

This ghost will not go away that easily
By A Surya Prakash..... 27

Others

BJP President's US visit..... 8

BJP Executive Meeting, Chandigarh..... 9

BJP rally in Pune..... 13

Cover : Jan Ashirvad Yatra begins from Ujjain (MP)

HISTORIC PICTURE



**Smt. Vijayaraje Scindia, Shri Lal Krishna Advani,
Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri Sundarlal Patwa and
other prominent leaders at the National Executive
Meeting in Bhopal**



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Nay, people will also pour undying infamy on you; and infamy brought on a man enjoying popular esteem is worse than death. — (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 34)

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"UPA has only one option left. Communalize the polity in the country and change the electoral agenda. All those who want to throw UPA out of office must understand that their focus must remain on the issues of governance which UPA will try to duck."

-Arun Jaitley

"Congress' dynastic politics has shattered the hopes & aspirations of people. Congress hides behind the veil of secularism whenever its governance falters and its misconduct is exposed. This will no longer go unchallenged. The younger generation will not accept these actions of Congress!"

-Narendra Modi

Letter to the Editor

Congress uses divide & rule policy

Dear Editor,

Today our country is facing grave crisis. Corruption, price rise, devaluation of rupees, shrinking industrial production etc. created by Congress led UPA has made the life of common man miserable. There is anger among the people against the Congress. Now Congress wants to deflect these issues by raising its pseudo- secularism. They (Congress leaders) want to escape from talking on governance issues and giving communal flavor to polarize minority votes in its(Congress) favour. Opposition parties should be cautious against tricky ploy of the Congress party. Like Britishers Congress is using divide and rule policy to grab power.

- Sanjay Sharan
 Delhi



Courtesy : The Hindu

Write to us

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Kamal Sandesh

We welcome

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UPA has filled the political atmosphere with hopelessness and despair

Editorial...

People are unable to understand as to what is happening to the nation. People are also unable to feel whether the government exists in the country or not. Nation had never witnessed such a phase in the country. The Congress led UPA government which is in power is trying to manage its return to the power. While on the other side BJP led NDA which is in Opposition is trying to come to power as a responsibility bestowed on it by being in Opposition. UPA has filled the political atmosphere of the nation with hopelessness and despair. India had never seen such a fearful sight. No one is in control of anything. Alongwith judiciary, executive and legislature, media is also engaged in encroaching upon each other's territory. In the last five years the manner in which Supreme Court and High Courts have taken UPA government for task, never before such humiliation was faced by any other government. The Congress led UPA government has created an environment of instability throughout the country. The prestige of the largest *panchayat* of the country is put at stake. Congress which is running away from debate is not allowing parliament to function.

The situation can be understood from the fact that the fate of UPA government is dependent upon the will of SP and BSP. Afterall how this country will move forward? Congress led UPA government also keeps taming SP and BSP and continues to exercise its control over them by misusing CBI and NIA.

Uttar Pradesh, the largest state of the country has gone in the hands to these two parties which can go to any extent for power. Inexperienced Akhilesh Singh has failed to understand the nature of the state. Behan Mayawati is trying to make the entire country Uttar Pradesh by hook or crook. The first priority for Uttar Pradesh is to take it out of the hands of SP and BSP. This important work full of responsibility can only be done by BharatiyaJanata Party. There is no doubt that in Bihar the people will teach a lesson to JDU. But in West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka BJP will have to pay special attention.

Nation wants freedom from UPA. Situation has become so. Neither the nation nor the system is in control of Congress led UPA. No one can say when prices of which commodity will rise. First time it is happening that the prices of petrol and diesel are increasing every now and then. The life of the people suppressed with the rising prices is not secure. The poverty situation is so grim that the numbers of poor are rising every day. Nation doesn't develop with the development of a handful of people. The development of the country should be in totality. It is happening for the first time that those in the government themselves are unaware as to why they are there.

Who will take care of this country if people fail to respond to all these issues? We are not secure on any front, whether it is about internal or external security. There is darkness all around. The people in whose hands the leadership of country rests are neither capable nor mature. At present it appears as if it is not a country but a company in the name of India being run by Congress led UPA by giving it a corporate form. The reins are in the hands of someone else. After all how long this drama will last? The people should at some point stop this drama of misrule in the largest democracy of the world. For this people will have to come forward. The *janadharm*a requires people to come forward and save democracy from being looted. After the emergency, people played the most important role in change of power. Today the same situation prevails. The people will have to come forward even if others fail. If country is to be saved then people will have to be told that Congress led UPA, SP and BSP are destroyers and not saviors. We all know that if people take a stand then not only there will be change of power but the democracy will be saved. Today it is required that people start acting in this direction. ■

We are committed to betterment of people and welfare of society – Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Madhya Pradesh Bharatiya Janata Party has launched a 50-day Janashirvad Yatra from Ujjain on 22nd July 2013. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan started his 50-Day long Jan Ashirvad Yatra after offering a puja at the Mahakaleshwar temple in Ujjain. The yatra aims at covering all the 224 assembly

panchayats to make our governance people friendly. And now at the end of those five years, we go back to the people for their feedback.” Shri Chouhan said that before the November 2008 polls he had gone on a similar Jan Ashirwad Yatra and had promised voters to make Madhya Pradesh into a better state. The present yatra is being undertaken to show the people a

Madhya Pradesh Shri Sunderlal Patwa, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, BJP State President Shri Narendra Singh Tomar and other senior leaders applied Tialk on the forehead of Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan wishing him all the best for the yatra. From atop the vehicle, Shri Chouhan said the bugle for the battle had been blown. Drums were being beaten. The party workers must be ready

for Mission 2013. However, the Congress commander was nowhere to be seen,” he added.

The CM said the BJP government had done tremendous development work in Madhya Pradesh and had turned around the state’s status from a BIMARU state to a developed state. The state was leading in the country in various spheres. The GDP



constituencies in the state while travelling a distance of 8000 Kms. Speaking on the occasion Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said: “After you have worked as a government in a democracy for five years, it is but our duty to go back to the people and seek their opinion. We have formulated and implemented the various policies, developmental schemes, evenorganised

comparison between 2003 and 2013, the state that was before the BJP rule and the Madhya Pradesh that has become. We will also present a vision of what we intend to make the state in the next five years. A committee is working on this government’s vision of attainments for the state by 2018,” chief minister Shri Chouhan added

Former Chief Minister of

growth rate was in double digit while in the field of agriculture a growth rate of 18.91 was achieved. He said he would move from one place to another as part of the yatra to seek blessings of people on the ground of the development work done in the past nine years during the BJP regime. Exhorting the party workers to work wholeheartedly for assembly

elections, he said Mission-2013 happened to be a stopover only to the destination lying ahead.

Former Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Shri Sunderlal Patwa while blessing Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that yatra will definitely be a success and a prosperous and golden Madhya Pradesh will emerge. The work done by Shri Chouhan is unprecedented and he has brought the state in the rank of fastest developing states of the country. We will win elections in 2013 and also in 2018, he added.

BJP National Vice President Shri Prabhakar Jha said that the yatra is a political and spiritual sadhana of Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The Chief Minister will be able to establish direct contact with people during his 8000 km long yatra.

The blessings of people will help the lotus to bloom in November as Shri Chouhan has also become the voice of all sections of the people through his untiring development works. He said that BJP government will be formed again in 2013.

Speaking on the occasion BJP National General Secretary Shri Thawarchand Gehlot said that the Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan was turning the wishes of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Pt. Dendayal Upadhyay, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri LK Advani into reality. Wishing him success he said that Lord Mahakal's blessings will make Shri Chouhan's yatra a grand success.

BJP State President Shri Narendra Singh Tomar said that Congress is down and out.



HIGHLIGHTS

- A sea of people were seen moving towards the programme venue in Ujjain since morning to participate in the launch of Jan Ashirvad Yatra.
- Thousands of people were inside the pandal while thousands had to wait outside as the venue was packed to overflow.
- When yatra started from the venue and proceeded through the streets of the city people showered flowers in Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- People waited for the ratha even in heavy rains and showered flowers welcoming the chief minister enthusiastically.
- Saffron clad youth greeted the ratha at every crossings.
- A large number of bikes followed the ratha during the yatra.
- Rural women were present in large numbers to welcome the chief minister.

It is making wild allegations against the government out of frustration.

The BJP needs not be worried about all these things as the party has built its image of a welfare oriented government which has brought the state out of the ranks of BIMARU states. He said while Congress has got a tainted image due to corruption and scams, BJP has an image of probity, development and good governance.

Those present on the occasion included party national vice-president Prabhakar Jha, state BJP president Narendra Singh Tomar, state election campaign in-charge Anil Madhav Dave, Shri Satya Narayan Jatia, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, ST Morcha National President Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste, Shri Kailash Joshi, Shri Anoop Mishra, Shri Vishwas Sarang, Madan Mohan Gupta, Vishwas Sarang, Alok Sharma, Alok Sanjar, Dr Hitesh Bajpai, Dhruv Narayan Singh, Vijesh Lunawat, Rajendra Pratap Singh and others. ■

BJP will bring forth true potential of Indian economy : Rajnath Singh

BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh on his 5-day visit to United States of America addressed Indian diaspora. On 22nd July he delivered speech at OFBJP function in New Jersey (USA). The same day in three separate meetings in Washington D.C, several leading US business leaders & policy formulators interacted with Shri Rajnath Singh on Indo-US Strategic Business & Investment concerns.

Shri Rajnath Singh while addressing a massive public gathering of Overseas Friends of BJP (OFBJP) at Edison City, New Jersey has refuted the claim that 'Indian Success Story' is over. He said that though the present economic indicators in India were not appreciated well by the International community but there was a strong inherent strength in Indian Economy which could be tapped by proper implementation of policies and good governance.

"If BJP is voted to power in the next Lok Sabha polls, we will bring forth the true potential of Indian economy, the glimpse of which, people of India have seen during Shri Atalji led NDA Government", he said. Elaborating his point he highlighted various initiatives of the NDA government and of the present BJP ruled State governments in India.

Exhorting the large gathering at the OFBJP, US meeting Shri Rajnath Singh said that the time of India had arrived

and large Indian diaspora overseas should come forth in their respective countries and capacities to fulfill this dream.

On the issue of Visa denial to Shri Narendra Modi, he said, **"It is paradoxical that on the one hand the report of US Congress praises him for good governance and on the other hand they deny him even a visitor Visa. US government should re-think and reconsider its decision."** On the issue of US-India relations, the BJP President said that it was the BJP which laid down the foundation of strategic partnership between both the countries and hoped that this relationship would be further strengthened.

The meeting was also addressed by the BJP General Secretary and Chairman of Parliament's Committee on External Affairs Shri Ananth Kumar who said, "The BJP is now in battle mode for coming 2014 election. The meeting was also addressed by the Spokesperson & Political Advisor to the party President Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi and by the OFBJP Convener Shri Vijay Jolly.

The meeting also observed two minutes silence as a mark of respect in memory of the OFBJP's previous in charges, Late Shri Kedar Nath Sahani, Prof. Bal Apte and OFBJP US Founder President Dr. Mukund Mody



and paid tributes to the victims of Uttarakhand flood tragedy.

In Washington D.C on 22nd July interacting with several leading US business leaders & policy formulators Shri Singh pointed out "United States of America should understand & appreciate the concerns of India on economic issues and proposed Comprehensive Immigration Reforms bill in US, which will put more monetary burden on Indian human resource deployment for Offshore IT companies through H1B & L1 visa regime."

He urged the US Government for reconsideration of this stringent bill. He assured US business leaders of continuance of Indian Reforms process off course with level playing field.

The leading business leaders representing "energy, tele-communication, pharmaceutical manufacturing, infrastructure defence production and service sectors interacted with Rajnath Singh for more than an hour in a luncheon meet organised by US India Political Action Committee.

In the evening several prominent personalities who play crucial role in Indo-US relations interacted with Sri Rajnath Singh at dinner hosted by the Indian Embassy at Washington DC. ■

Corruption main agenda in upcoming polls : Arun Jaitley

From Our Correspondent

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley on July 21 said, "Corruption is the main agenda in upcoming Lok Sabha election. And, Chandigarh residents would play a vital role in rooting out corruption from the country." He said, "Chandigarh Parliamentary constituency is an indicator of the national mood and this time, the whole country

like Chandigarh was brought on the country's centre stage due to the corruption of its elected MP and former Railway Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal.

Lashing out at the Congress led UPA, Shri Jaitley said that the Government may have manipulated the CBI but there is a clear overlap in the Railgate phone conversations and the file movements. It seems the whole

disproportionate assets." "Congress should remember that CBI does not get votes, it is the people who vote and the mood of the people is clearly with BJP," he added.

Talking about the corruption unleashed in the country, the Leader of Opposition said, "With 2G, Coal Scam, Rail-gate scam etc running into several lakhs of crores, the Congress has indulged in crony capitalism and Congressmen has become name lenders and renters as in the Coal Scam where the Coal blocks were allotted with name chits being passed onto the screening committee. So large has been the degradation that even the status report submitted to the Supreme Court was fudged to save those from the PMO and the Coal Ministry."

Expressing disappointment over the worsening economic situation of the country, he said, "During Vajpayee's Government, India was the target destination for FDI. However, today even Indian businessmen are not willing to invest in the country. In such circumstances, irrespective of the policy changes being made FDI is not going to come. With the current account deficit having become unmanageable, instead of working to improve the economy, the Congress wants to open the coffers to buy votes bank and corrupt the country before they go," he said.



will be looking towards Chandigarh to see if the city voters will take a moral high ground and root out the corrupt."

Addressing the first BJP Executive Meeting of Chandigarh, Shri Jaitley said that upcoming Lok Sabha election will not just be a political fight but a "Dharam Yudh" between morality and immorality. It is unfortunate that an important and respected city

Bansal family was running an industry of postings and promotions, he added.

He further said, "The Congress has been misusing the CBI to not only save its Ministers and other Congressmen but also keep itself in power. Every time the Congress Government needed numbers for survival, the CBI suddenly went soft on the SP and BSP leaders under investigation for

Pointing towards the strained relations of India with its neighboring countries, Shri Jaitley said, "Our borders have become porous and our relations with neighbours have touched a nadir. Pakistan can behead our Jawans, spread terrorism in our country still the Prime Minister extends the hand of friendship."

He reminded that when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had initiated peace talks with Pakistan they were on the pre-condition that there would be no terrorism against India emanating from the Pakistan soil which was accepted by Pakistan.



"Under these circumstances of failure on all fronts, there is no leadership in Congress to inspire or infuse confidence, and it seems to be ducking a political fight by going without a head," Shri Jaitley added.

Among others Chandigarh BJP President Shri Sanjay Tondon, Punjab BJP President Shri Kamal Sharma, BJP Legal Working Group National Chairman Shri Satyapal Jain and other senior leaders of the party were present on the occasion. ■

BJP organized a massive vehicle rally in Chandigarh

Chandigarh Bharatiya Janata Party organized a massive vehicle rally in the city as a finale to the 'Black Week' being observed by the party against the immense corruption of the UPA government. The rally had thousands of party workers and citizens of the city with more than 500 cars, hundreds of two wheelers, motorcycles besides trucks, tractors and other vehicles with black flags, black headbands and even full black attire. The rally was led by BJP National General Secretary Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda besides senior party leaders BJP State President Shri Sanjay Tandon, Shri Satya Pal Jain, Shri Harmohan Dhawan former Cabinet minister and others.

The rally went through the various sectors of the before reaching sector 17 plaza. Addressing the huge gathering Shri J P Nadda said that the Congress led UPA government has smashed all previous landmarks in corruption. The 'caged-parrot' CBI has become

Congress Bureau of Investigation and acts as per the whims of its Congress masters to keep the corrupt Congressmen out of the reach of the long arm of law as has become evident in the so called clean chit given to the former railway minister Mr Pawan Kumar Bansal in the Railgate scam, he added.

He said the Congress government is immersed in corruption while the fiscal health and internal & external security of the country are in shambles. Like Nero in Rome this government is busy playing its corrupt fiddle while our neighbors are transgressing our

borders.

Addressing the gathering, State Party President Shri Sanjay Tandon said that the 'Mamma-Bhanja' duo of Pawan Bansal and his nephew Vijay Singla have unleashed a gory saga of corruption on the unsuspecting public of the country. Such has been the intensity of the UPA pressure on CBI that instead of being charge sheeted Pawan Bansal has been made a witness. A witness to what he asked? If he knows nothing then he cannot be a witness and if he knows then he is clearly an accomplice. Anybody can understand that. Shri Sanjay Tandon added that the 'Black Week' observed by the party has been very successful in creating awareness about the treachery of the local MP with the people of the city and the country. A chargesheet against the 'uncle-nephew' duo was distributed in every household of the city taking this criminal case into the "peoples-court of justice". ■

Old games of Congress are falling like a pack of cards : Narendra Modi

From Our Correspondent

Addressing a massive BJP public meeting in Pune, BJP Poll Panel Chief and Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi affirmed that it is the need of the hour to bid goodbye to the Congress, which has failed on all fronts and that a 'Congress Mukta Bharat Nirman' is the solution to the problems. Shri Modi said that whenever the Congress is in trouble for any reason be it corruption, price rise or other issues, it adorns a *Burkha* of secularism and hides in the bunkers and then says that poverty, corruption, hunger do not matter because secularism is in

danger. He also said that there should be a direct comparison between the work of the NDA Government of six years and the UPA Government of nine years and we should compare who performed better-Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee or the economist Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh? Shri Modi expressed confidence that in any issue be it jobs, building roads, price of the rupee, Atal ji's Government would emerge in flying colours.

Shri Modi categorically

stated that the old games of the Congress are falling like a pack of cards and that the new generation will never accept the Congress' actions. Shri Modi went on to say that for the sake of politics, the Congress can go to any extent including breaking laws, emptying the coffers and dividing people. He questioned the logic behind the CBI making

Minister questioned the need behind taking the ordinance route when Parliament was anyway supposed to meet. He pointed that the UPA has done so to prevent their allies from getting credit. He also said that the Supreme Court have a verdict on giving grains to the poor but the Centre preferred to let grains rot and instead give them to



the same Railway Minister whose tapes are with the investigative agency being made a witness. Is it not to save the former Minister, Shri Modi questioned. Shri Modi also stated that the dynastic politics of the Congress is destroying the hopes and aspirations of the common man and woman and that the party has taken the people of India for granted.

Exposing the double standards of the Congress on the Food Security Bill, the Chief

alcohol manufacturers. He said, "Congress decided that we may not give roti and vegetables to the poor but we will surely give them an Act in their plates!" He further asked what happened to the Congress promise of *Garibi Hatao*? Shri Modi declared that while the Congress did not accept that it could not eradicate poverty, it also wants to keep the people poor so that their prince can spend nights at the homes of these poor. He affirmed that what the nation needs today are

...Continued on page 21

Why is Congress trying to communalise 2014 polls?

By Arun Jaitley

Pakistan wanted to create an organisation which appeared to be Indian and have a lot of Indian operatives. The bomb-making techniques and the financing came from across the border. Its' Indian credentials gave to Pakistan a scope for deniability every time a terrorist attack took place. Since its formation the Indian Mujahideen has been responsible for a large number of attacks in India. The Congress party's spokesman has sought to re-write history

A Congress party spokesperson went to the extraordinary extent of rationalising the formation and existence of the "Indian Mujahideen". The Indian Mujahideen is admittedly a terrorist organisation. It is designated as a terrorist organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in India. Its' ban has been continued by the UPA Government. It has been included in the list of Foreign Terrorist Organisations by the US State Department. It is proscribed in the United Kingdom. Serious political observers are at a loss to understand why the Official spokesperson of the Congress could have rationalised the formation of Indian Mujahideen in India ie as an organisation formed as a reaction against the riots in Gujarat in 2002.

The UPA is in the tenth year of its existence. As the general elections approach the UPA is confronted with a huge anti-incumbency. There is a visible leadership failure. Its' leadership is seen to be ineffective. Its' governance is highly inadequate. The Government has run out of ideas on how to bring the economy back on rail. The UPA

has added corruption as a new Directive principle of State policy. The ten year misrule of the UPA reflects on how 'The Indian story' was effectively destroyed. After UPA's miserable track record of governance the need for an effective and clean

The conventional Congress strategy has been that whenever they fail at governance then they go back to the last resort ie the alleged charisma of the Congress party's first family. Unfortunately that charisma appears to be inadequate. The outgoing leadership of the UPA is perceived to be ineffective; the incoming are perceived to be non-leaders.

Government are the key agendas for the forthcoming general elections.

The conventional Congress strategy has been that whenever they fail at governance then they go back to the last resort ie the alleged charisma of the Congress party's first family. Unfortunately that charisma appears to be inadequate. The outgoing leadership of the UPA

is perceived to be ineffective; the incoming are perceived to be non-leaders.

Faced with both the crisis of governance and a lack of leadership, the UPA's desperate strategy appears to be to deflect the agenda. Under no circumstances must the destruction of 'The India's story' by the UPA be allowed to occupy the centre stage of the electoral agenda. The UPA has therefore only one option left. Communalise the polity in the country and change the electoral agenda. All those who want to throw the UPA out of office must understand that their focus must remain on the issues of governance which the UPA will try to duck.

The last few weeks have witnessed a crude attempt by the UPA leaders at this strategy. There are three visible indicators of this. Firstly, the UPA has concentrated its' attack on Narendra Modi. In Gujarat the initial strategy of the Congress was to excessively attack Modi. Modi always excelled in this political battle with Congress. He got the better of them. Finding this strategy counter-productive the Congress would then go back to the alternate strategy of pretending

that Modi did not exist as far as their campaign was concerned. At the Centre the Congress strategy in the first phase comprised excessively attacking Modi. In the process, they are conceding the centrestage to them. Soon they will realise the counter productivity of their strategy and move back to the alternative practice of pretending to ignore Modi.

silence on the LeT connection. Who deleted para 168 in the NIA interrogation of David Hadley where this module was mentioned on the LeT module? Did the CBI go the extent of even discrediting the voice of recordings of the LeT operatives and their Indian connection? Has the CBI struck a deal with some policemen who allegedly indulged in the encounter and

on the Indian Mujahideen must be analysed. After 9/11 there was a huge global focus on various terrorist groups. Pakistan was being accused of perpetuating cross-border terrorism in India. 9/11 had brought a major pressure on Pakistan to distance itself and its' soil from terrorist activities. The SIMI was banned by the NDA Government. It was in this context that the Indian Mujahideen was formed. Pakistan wanted to create an organisation which appeared to be Indian and have a lot of Indian operatives. The bomb-making techniques and the financing came from across the border. Its' Indian credentials gave to Pakistan a scope for deniability every time a terrorist attack took place. Since its formation the Indian Mujahideen has been responsible for a large number of attacks in India. The Congress party's spokesman has sought

The SIMI was banned by the NDA Government. It was in this context that the Indian Mujahideen was formed. Pakistan wanted to create an organisation which appeared to be Indian and have a lot of Indian operatives. The bomb-making techniques and the financing came from across the border.

Secondly, the Union Government's strategy through the CBI in the Ishrat Jehan's case has puzzled many. The CBI strategy has been to play down and eventually ignore the LeT connection and uncover the entire security apparatus of this country. Why did the first charge sheet remained silent on the LeT connection of the alleged victims? Did the Intelligence Bureau pick up details about this module from its sources in Kashmir? Was the security apparatus of India and our Intelligence agencies not entitled to intercept communications of LeT, keep surveillance on them and eventually interrogate them? Were all these steps intended to check terrorism or were they steps in conspiracy to commit a crime? The answer to this question would lie on whether the alleged victims had a LeT connection or not. The CBI as the investigative arm of the Government chooses to maintain

changed their character from an accused to a witness so that they could discredit the Intelligence and Security set up of the country? Without going into the veracity of the encounter or

The Congress party's spokesman has sought to re-write history. His effort is to somehow paint the Indian Mujahideen as an organisation of the aggrieved who are victims of riots in Gujarat. He ignores the international context and Pakistan's strategy behind the creation of Indian Mujahideen. This is yet another desperate attempt to communalise an issue of National Security

otherwise I raise the above questions since they indicate that a conscious effort is being made to project the LeT module as a martyr and India's security and Intelligence set up as the villain. Is this a conscious pact of a strategy to perpetuate vote bank at the cost of national security?

Thirdly, it is in this context that Shakeel Ahmed's statement

to re-write history. His effort is to somehow paint the Indian Mujahideen as an organisation of the aggrieved who are victims of riots in Gujarat. He ignores the international context and Pakistan's strategy behind the creation of Indian Mujahideen. This is yet another desperate attempt to communalise an issue of National Security. ■

(The writer is Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha)

When in trouble, talk secularism

By Ravi Shankar Prasad

The Congress never learns from history. Whenever it is cornered because of its misdeeds, corruption and poor record of governance, it tries to take cover under phoney secularism, because it has no answers.

When we were active in the JP movement in Bihar in the 1970s, the Congress branded him

compromised the leadership of Rajiv Gandhi, the Congress again invoked the secular-communal card in the 1989 Lok Sabha election. Yet it suffered a humiliating defeat. It invoked the same card against the BJP through the '90s, yet it could not stop its rise.

Without doubt, the governance record of the BJP-led

media, and interventions by the court, not a single scam would have been fairly investigated by the Congress.

The Indian economy is at a terminal stage. Except inflation and the fiscal deficit, everything is going down. April's industrial growth figure was revised downwards, from 2.3 to 1.9 per cent. Overall growth may be less than 5 per cent.

Even Indians are not investing in India. FDI in retail was pushed through despite strong opposition. After more than 10 months, there is no investment in this sector, either. Infrastructure growth is politics neutral since every party supports it. The NDA had a shining record in this area. Yet the UPA has messed up. Telecom, an important area of infrastructure growth, suffered a serious blow because of massive corruption in the award of licences.

The power sector is in a mess because of "coalgate". The national highway programme, another outstanding success story of the NDA regime, is suffering because of massive corruption, delays and lack of transparency. Real estate, another engine of infrastructure growth, is mired in corruption, favouritism and lack of clarity on policy issues.

The only link between good economics and good politics is good governance, which has become the biggest casualty under the Congress-led regime.

Today, the credibility of the Congress-led UPA is at an all-time low. Corruption, serious deficits in governance, inflation, unemployment, gross mismanagement and abuse of institutions, particularly the CBI, have become the defining features of the Union government. Each passing day reinforces the impression that the Congress-led UPA government is the most corrupt Union government since Independence.

as a communal leader who kept company with forces out to destabilise India. Some leftist parties even called Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan a fascist. Soon, Indira Gandhi imposed Emergency, arrested the opposition, imposed stringent press censorship and stifled, with brute force, any dissent against her rule. The public justification given was the need to uphold the principle of secularism, though the emergency power was invoked to save her own chair. During the general election in 1977, despite the strong anger of the people, the refrain of the Congress was that only it could save India and defeat communal forces. The Congress faced a washout in north India. When the Bofors issue seriously

NDA under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee remains a milestone in the democratic history of India.

Today, the credibility of the Congress-led UPA is at an all-time low. Corruption, serious deficits in governance, inflation, unemployment, gross mismanagement and abuse of institutions, particularly the CBI, have become the defining features of the Union government. Each passing day reinforces the impression that the Congress-led UPA government is the most corrupt Union government since Independence. We have almost lost count of the scams because they appear with alarming regularity. No one knows when the next scam will explode. But for a strong campaign by the opposition, the

The next election will be fought only on these issues, namely corruption, inflation, rising unemployment, the critical state of the Indian economy, national security and the people's profound sense of disappointment. The Congress knows it has no tangible explanation for its failures, therefore the secular-communal card is being played again.

Why is it that when the national growth rate has come down to almost 5 per cent, nearly all BJP state governments – Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa – are repeatedly registering 10 per cent plus growth? The obvious answer is good governance. Today, there is a serious lack of trust and a crisis of credibility in the combined leadership of Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan Singh.

If Indians are reluctant to invest their rupees in India, why will foreigners invest their dollars and pounds? This crucial question is not being answered by the Congress, because they know they have no answer.

The next election will be fought only on these issues, namely corruption, inflation, rising unemployment, the critical state of the Indian economy, national security and the people's profound sense of disappointment. The Congress knows it has no tangible explanation for its failures, therefore the secular-communal card is being played again. The party has a dubious record on this account. Apart from riots in

different parts of the country, the brazen way in which it has sought to shield and bail out the leaders of the Sikh massacre of the '80s is well known. The Congress lacks the moral authority to talk about secularism.

India is secular because its civilisational and cultural heritage is secular. The India of 2013 is a different India, confident, sure of its strength and a profound human resource, mostly young, aspirational and with a stake in the growth of the country.

The India of today is looking for an alternative at the BJP and Narendra Modi. Today, he enjoys immense popularity, reflected in various popular opinion polls where his ratings are almost triple Rahul Gandhi's. Congress leaders entertain a pathological hatred of him, though the people

of Gujarat have elected him repeatedly. Riots are unfortunate anywhere, and the guilty must be punished.

But today there is peace, progress, prosperity and all-round development in Gujarat, where no riots have taken place for the last 10 years. The Congress needs to ask itself what explains his outstanding popularity despite their consistent campaign of calumny. It is his impeccable integrity, exemplary record of good governance and strength of leadership.

The people of India are yearning for a change. The Congress is raising the same old bogey of the secular-communal divide. It has failed in the past and is bound to fail again. ■

(The writer is a BJP MP and deputy leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha)

DELHI

Dalits, Balmikis & Scheduled Castes left in lurch by policies of Congress Govt

Delhi BJP President Shri Vijay Goel on 21 July conducted a *Padyatra* in Dalit-dominated colonies in Delhi. The march started from Ranjit Nagar and finished near Pandav Nagar, where Shri Goel also spent the night with the Dalit community. The Delhi BJP claimed this was the first-of-its-kind visit by a leader of any party among the backward communities.

Addressing the people, Shri Goel said Dalits, Balmikis and Scheduled Castes have been left in the lurch by policies of the Congress Government in Delhi. "The Delhi Government diverted Rs 744 crore from Special Component Plan (SCP), meant for the welfare of Dalits, to projects directly or indirectly linked to Commonwealth Games. The money ultimately reached the pockets of corrupt politicians and officials, who indulged in unabated loot of public money as revealed by investigators later on," he said. Talking about his party's vision for the backward communities, Shri Goel said, "After coming to power, the BJP will run special time-bound programmes to support and encourage higher education, skill building and employment-oriented training for the youth among Dalits, Balmikis and other backwards." ■

BJP Central Election Campaign Committee announced

BJP Central Election Campaign Committee was announced on 19th July 2013 under the guidance of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri Lal Krishna Advani and Shri Rajnath Singh and under the Chairmanship of Shri Narendra Modi. The BJP Central Election Campaign Committee and various other committees are as follows:

BJP Central Election Campaign Committee

1. Dr. MM Joshi, 2. Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu, 3. Shri Nitin Gadkari, 4. Smt. Sushma Swaraj, 5. Shri Arun Jaitley, 6. Shri Ananth Kumar, 7. Shri Thawarchand Gahlot, 8. Shri Ram Lal, 9. Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, 10. Dr. Raman Singh, and, 11. Shri Manohar Parrikar.

Several other committees were also announced by BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh and BJP Central Election Campaign Committee Chairman Shri Narendra Modi. The committees are as follows:

1. Manifesto
President: Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi
Members: Shri Jaswant Singh, Shri Yashwant Sinha, Shri Prem Kumar Dhuma, Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, Shri Jugal Uraon, Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Prof. Laxmi Kanta Chawla, Shri Satyapal Mallick, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, Smt. Vijaya Chakravarty, Shri Satyanarayan Jatia, Shri Shah Nawaz Hussain, Shri Mahesh Chandra Sharma, Shri Kanchan Gupta and Shri Shanmukhanathan.
2. **Vision Document**
Shri Nitin Gadkari
Shri Om Prakash Kohali, Shri Rajesh Shah, Shri Vinay Shahastrabudhe, Prof Haribabu.
3. **Publicity Committee**
Smt Sushma Swaraj, Shri Arun Jaitley
Amit Shah, Dr. Sudanshu Trivedi.
4. **Rallies**
Shri Ananth Kumar, Shri Varun Gandhi.
5. **Parliamentary Meet**
Shri Thawarchand Gahlot, Shri JP Nadda, Shri Purushottam Rupala
Shri Vinod Pandey, Shri L Ganeshan
6. **Categorywise Meet**
Shri Murlidhar Rao, Shri Vinay Katiyar
Shri Shyam Jaju, Shri Krishna Das, Smt. Louis Marandi, Shri Vijay Sonkar Shastri, Shri Mahendra Pandey
7. **New Voters campaign**
Shri Amit Shah, Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu
Shri Trivendra Rawat, Smt. Poonam Mahajan
8. **Traditional campaign**
Smt. Smriti Irani, Captain Abhimanyu, Sushri Vani Tripathi.
9. **Intellectual Meet and Friends of BJP**
Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Shri Prakash Javadekar, Dr. Tamil Isai
10. **Special Contact Campaign**
Shri Nitin Gadkari, Sushri Uma Bharati, Dr. C P Thakur, Dr. J K Jain, Smt. Mridula Sinha, Shri Kalraj Mishra, Smt. Kiran Maheshwari
11. **Election related Organizations**
Shri Ramlal
Shri V Satish, Shri Saudan Singh
12. **Charge Sheet against Congress UPA**
Shri Gopinath Munde, Shri Ravi Shankar

- Prasad, Smt. Arti Mehra, Shri Kirit Somaiya, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi
13. Information Communication Campaign:
Shri Piyush Goel will be assisted by IT & Communication Cell
14. People's Feedback and People's Participation
Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Shri Rameshwar Chaurasia, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, Shri Nalin Kohali
15. Literature Preparation
Shri Balbir Punj, Shri Prabhat Jha, Shri Vinay Sahasrabuddhe and Smt. Sudha Mallaya.
16. Programme and Conveyance
Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi
Dr. Anil Jain, Shri Arun Singh.
17. North East Campaign
Shri SS Ahluwalia, Shri Tapir Gao, Shri Padmanabh Acharya, Shri Kiren Rijju.
18. Election Commission and Legal
Shri Satpal Jain, Shri Bhupendra Yadav, Shri Ram Krishna, Smt. Pinki Anand
19. Booth Committees compilation
Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Shri Anil Madhav Dave, Smt. Sudha Yadav, Smt. Renu Kushwaha
20. Special
- ◆ **Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu will guide Rallies, Parliamentary Meet, Intellectual Meet and Friends of BJP**
 - ◆ **Shri Nitin Gadkari will guide Vision Document, Special Contact, Categorywise and New Voters' campaign.**
- BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh has appointed Shri Nitin Gadkari to give special attention to Delhi State assembly elections. Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu will assist him.*

CHHATTISGARH

Government's efforts created good educational environment in tribal dominated districts : Raman Singh

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh on 17 July felicitating 38 meritorious students of the tribal dominated Dantewada district who cracked All India Engineering Entrance Test as well as All India Medical Entrance Exam in the current session at a function organised at his residence in Raipur said, "even in undeveloped and Maoist insurgency hit areas there is no dearth of talents, only there is need to shape them and provide them an opportunity. There were days when students of Bastar like undeveloped area did not even think to becoming doctors and engineers. But, now, the time has changed and due to the efforts of the State Government a good educational environment has been created in Dantewada and other tribal dominated areas through the project 'Chhoo Lo Ashmaan'. And the result is before us all. These children have really touched the sky," said Dr Singh.

Lauding the efforts of these children Dr. Singh said that the state government is well aware of the problems faced by students of remote areas and is concerned how these children get quality education despite living in poverty and difficult situation. He told them to take care of their study only and the monetary provisions will be taken care of by the State Government. The Chief Minister Dr. Singh also exhorted them to also crack civil services exams on All India level and provide their services in remote areas like Bastar.

On this occasion, while presenting them tablet, the Chief Minister also give his blessings to the meritorious students. He also congratulated the then Dantewada collector and presently director of Public Relations Department who conceptualized and initiated 'Chhoo Lo Aashman' project and the present collector of Dantewada, teachers, officials and employees associated with the project. ■

Free food will come at a very steep cost

By Balbir Punj

Four decades after the Congress proclaimed 'garibi hatao' and promised to banish hunger and poverty from the country, it is now looking to hand out free food to win yet another election.

In 1971, the Congress, or rather the faction of the party led by Indira Gandhi, launched the 'garibi hatao' slogan to win the election and beat its rivals in the game of hoodwinking the people. Twenty years after that – during most of which period the Congress was in power except for a tiny interval – data showed that 51 per cent of the people were still below the poverty line, with an income of \$1.25 per capita per day.

Another 20 years down the line, a controversial poverty line and contested data showed that around 30 per cent of the people were still below the poverty line. The latest data is so controversial that the Congress-led UPA Government itself has had to set up several committees to define where to draw the poverty line. At first, it was the Planning Commission that drew the poverty line. When it was widely challenged, the Tendulkar Committee was constituted.

The Tendulkar Committee did not give a clean chit to the Government. So, yet another committee was set up – the Rangarajan Committee. This committee is yet to give its report. But even if you accept the claim that some 29.8 per cent of the people live below poverty line as of 2009-10 (Economic Survey 2012-2013), the fact is that the bulk of the poor are still with us. In other words, even four decades after the Congress said

garibi hatao, the slogan has remained only a pipe-dream.

With this record, one can only conclude that the latest promise of conferring food security by doling out low-priced food grains to 75 per cent of the rural people and 50 per cent of the urban population is yet another attempt to hoodwink people, as the general election is less than a year away.

Over the decades, the Congress has repeated its electoral tactics with predictable regularity. In 1971, it sought to mislead the people by blaming the Opposition for the state of affairs when it was only the Nehru-Gandhi family that had been at the helm since 1947.

Now, once again, it is the Opposition that is being pilloried. The Congress's claim that it had to resort to the 'Ordinance path' to enforce the food grains entitlement scheme is so outrageously false that no right-thinking person can be fooled. The ruling party says that food security was its electoral promise in 2009. Then, why did it wait till 2012 to force it down our throats?

The fact is that the 'super Cabinet', called the National Advisory Council, consisting of all sorts of jholawallahs and

headed by Congress president Sonia Gandhi, who has no accountability even to her party, was in sharp conflict with the Government over the nitty-gritties of the scheme.

As usual, the devil was all in the details. The scheme travelled back and forth between

once again, it is the Opposition that is being pilloried. The Congress's claim that it had to resort to the 'Ordinance path' to enforce the food grains entitlement scheme is so outrageously false that no right-thinking person can be fooled. The ruling party says that food security was its electoral promise in 2009. Then, why did it wait till 2012 to force it down our throats?

the NAC (or more correctly Ms Gandhi) and the Government for years. The draft bill itself was finalised only in 2011 and it took Government almost two years to decide on the recommendations of the standing committee. So, who is to blame?

The latest excuse the ruling party trots out is that the Opposition washed out session after session in Parliament. This is yet another white lie. Take the last session for example. The contention between Government

and the Opposition was the continuation of Mr Ashwani Kumar as the Union Law Minister after he was found to be interfering with the CBI investigation in the coal block allocation scam.

If the Government wanted the Budget session to go ahead, all that was needed was to get the then Law Minister to resign. For weeks the Prime Minister went on saying that Mr Kumar would not go, but finally he had to give in, after the Supreme Court rapped the Government by pointing out that the Law Minister's interference had taken the soul out of the CBI's investigation report. Surely, the culprit is the Government whose wrongdoing has been found out first by the media and then confirmed by the apex court.

As for the food security scheme, it has been seen by several international economists like Jagdish Bhagwati and OP Bhalla, and they all agree that it is both unworkable and a sheer waste of money. Also, while the Congress blames the BJP particularly, it is the BJP's Government in Chhattisgarh that has been praised for its efficient implementation of the Public Distribution System, enabling all those below poverty line to get low-priced food grains. The success of the PDS in reducing the impact of poverty under the Raman Singh regime has been widely recognised. Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen, who are no supporters of the BJP, have hailed the scheme in their latest book, *An Uncertain Glory*:

India and its contradictions, in which they write about the way a corruption-ridden, inefficient PDS has been

transformed in Chhattisgarh: "Many recent reports indicate that food distribution in Chhattisgarh is now quite regular, with most cardholders getting the quota every month at the correct price." They quote several investigations in support of this contention. They also add that in some districts of the State, even pulses are distributed at the symbolic price of five-rupee a kilo.

All this carries a big lesson: What is needed is not another scheme but an efficient implementation of the existing PDS to bring succour to the needy. Why is it that BJP-led State Governments are able to do this while Congress-led State regimes, in Rajasthan and Assam for instance, fail?

The report quoted speaks of the absence of corruption that has made the difference, apart from an efficient organisation. Chhattisgarh was under Congress rule earlier. Why did it not succeed then, while the BJP has demonstrated years of

success, leading even to the re-election of this Government?

The difference is in corruption and governance. If in the so-called backward States like Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, as well as in the developed States like Gujarat, the BJP-led Governments can distribute low price grains to the needy, why cannot this be done on a national scale? The Congress has no answer because its Governments, including at the Centre, are riddled with corruption and inefficiency.

The food security scheme is the Congress's election gimmick to cover up its widely acknowledged policy paralysis that has led to a deceleration of the economy from a healthy nine per cent growth to five per cent, a fall in the value of the rupee accompanied by fast depletion of foreign exchange reserves, a continuing current account deficit, and fiscal mismanagement that has shot up deficit to over five per cent of the GDP. ■

(The writer is National Vice President of BJP and MP)



*Kamal Sandesh Parivar wishes a very happy
67th Independence Day
to its esteemed readers*

Bringing Food Security Bill as an ordinance is undemocratic

By Muralidhar Rao

- UPA has adopted completely an undemocratic route by bringing Food Security Bill as an ordinance. It is relegation of parliament on a very crucial bill for poor which has wider implications for agriculture.
- For Congress the Food Bill is just another major political step and they are purposefully giving a blind eye to huge grey areas of the bill.
- This effort to spread the benefits of economic development to the poor seems laudable at first glance. However, this distribution of resources is exactly what the bill fails to provide for. While it legislates for specific amounts of food grains to be distributed to needy families, it lacks detail on how it plans to ensure this allocation.
- The 117 million small and marginal farm families with population of 585 millions, constitute almost 78 per cent of the rural population. They now produce food for themselves, and also for others. Under the Food Security Bill, most of their families will qualify for subsidised food grains. And they will get grain supply at less than 1/8 of the price at which they produce and sell grains to the government. If the government would supply them grain at 1/8 price, why should they till and toil on their land and produce 51 per cent of national food using 46 per cent of the cultivated area, particularly when their cost of cultivation per acre as compared to medium and large players is higher.
- Rice and wheat cultivation is the most difficult and least gainful farm operation which is already haunted by shortage of labour and skyrocketing wage and input costs. Giving highly subsidised foodgrains to small and marginal farmers is the best way to dissuade them from farming for their family's food supplies. The Food Bill is bound to encourage the small and marginal farmers to go for easy alternatives like commercial crops and horticulture. Most States are deficient in food production. If in those States small and marginal farmers shift away from foodgrains, the country will face huge dent in food security.
- If a small farmer could get foodgrain for as little as Rs.1 per kg, as proposed in the Food Security Bill, why should he bother to grow his own?
- India's supply chains are afflicted by inadequate infrastructure and its distribution channels riddled with corruption. Food grains are produced in surplus in the country, but rot due to the lack of sufficient cold storage year after year. And yet, instead of dealing with this recurrent underlying problem, the bill seems to focus on the superficial aspects of food security. Without paying attention to effective distribution, the bill will simply exacerbate the problem of food wastage while millions continue to starve.
- India's underperforming PDS system - The government intends to use the Public Distribution System for delivering subsidies to the poor. The PDS is already used to deliver food subsidies to the poor but around 51% of the food delivered that way is currently lost to leakages. It is sold on the open market for a higher price.
- Current leakage from the PDS, variously estimated by researchers at 40 to 55 percent.
- The government has not as yet explained how it plans to finance this policy which is estimated to require 95000 crore rupees per year. And it is estimated to increase further to Rs. 3 lakh crores.
- The country needs legislation that allows farmers to profit economically and grow autonomous, instead of forcing them to further depend further on the state. The government would do better to provide market incentives, not charitable hand-outs.
- Effect on farmers and producers- The very low prices

of the subsidized food will distort the market and farmers who can't sell to the government-assured program will lose out on the open market because prices will be forced down.

- Reform in Agriculture should be guaranteed before food bill, says NAC Member N.C. Saxena (former secretary of the Planning Commission). He says, "Passing the bill is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for reducing hunger. India requires a significant increase of targeted investments in irrigation, rural electrification, nutritional programmes, clinics, disease control, rural roads and sanitation,"
- Implementing this bill could widen the already swollen budget deficit next year, increasing the risk to its coveted investment-grade status. The government has already budgeted 950 billion rupees for the scheme in the current fiscal year ending March 2014. If the bill is passed, it will need to come up with as much as 1.3 trillion rupees in 2014/15, adding to a total subsidy burden that already eats up about 2.4 percent of gross domestic product. Moreover, UPA govt has not come out with a detailed plan related to finances required to meet the bill objectives. It becomes further serious when we are already in the midst of Fiscal deficit and CAD.

Merits of Chhattisgarh Food Act

- The CFSA covers the public distribution system, school meals, anganwadis (including take-home rations for

pregnant/lactating women and children under three) and free meals for the destitute and homeless. It excludes 10 per cent of households from the PDS.

- Sensible use of technology (for example, full computerisation of PDS) Greater transparency (public scrutiny of all records) and three, strengthening accountability (public institutions such as Gram Panchayats have priority in running ration outlets).
- Putting ration shops in the hands of those trusted by the community they serve, incentives for those running the fair price shops.
- Computerised tracking of foodgrain
- Apart from grains, beneficiaries are entitled to 2 kg of pulses at Rs 5- Rs 10 per kg.
- It has 90% coverage
- PDS has been greatly improved well before introduction of FA ■

...Continued from page 11

not acts but action. Shri Modi said he wants to know why has no Congress leader uttered a word on rising prices and its effect on the poor and asked what arrogance is this that they are not willing to admit their failure to the people.

Sharpening his attack on the Congress Shri Modi said that the nation struggled against the British but now, soldiers who are guarding us are beheaded by Pakistan and their Prime Minister is fed chicken biryani in India. He attacked the Centre's failure on the Sarabjit issue and their inaction over the Italian marines issue as well.

On the issue of black money the Chief Minister avowed that if black money returns it can benefit a lot of people but the Centre's inaction on the issue gave the impression that they are protecting those who have black money. Similarly, he asked why the probe in the coal scam is being delayed.

Shri Modi shared that when India got freedom, Re. 1 equaled \$1 and that now the value of the rupee has fallen despite an economist PM. He shared that the value of the currencies of several smaller nations like Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives is not falling but it is happening to us. Shri Modi observed that such is the influence of Congress that even the best *Arthashastra* becomes *Anarthshastra* and that whoever joins the Congress takes nation on the path of destruction.

Shri Modi said that while Lokmanya Tilak said 'Swaraj is my birthright,' we should now say 'Surajya is my birthright.'

Before Shri Narendra Modi spoke, Deputy Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Shri Gopinath Munde spoke. Other speakers included Maharashtra BJP President Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Pune BJP President Shri Anil Shirole, youth leader Smt. Poonam Mahajan, Shri Prakash Javdekar and MLA Pankaja ji Munde. A large number of people gathered to hear Shri Modi speak. ■

Bodh Gaya blasts expose India's weak flank again

By Joginder Singh

Lord Buddha is believed to have received his enlightenment at Bodh Gaya. The place is sacred not only to Hindus but also to Buddhists around the world. Yet this most holy place came under terrorist attack on July 7.

Earlier, the Intelligence Bureau had sent a warning to the Bihar Government about a possible terror attack at Bodh Gaya. The alert was sounded following confessions by Indian Mujahideen operatives caught by Delhi Police between August and October last year for their involvement in the 2012 Pune blasts. In an official release dated October 26, 2012, Delhi Police said: "...sustained interrogation of the accused arrested by us revealed that a person, Sayed Maqbool, was in close association with (the four previously arrested terrorists) and together they planned to commit fidayeen attacks on the Buddhist shrines in Bodh Gaya in Bihar as retaliation to the alleged atrocities being committed upon Muslims in Myanmar".

Apart from Buddhist targets, the operatives had also revealed their plans to attack Dilsukhnagar in Hyderabad and the Pune court house and prison. Maharashtra Police's Anti-Terrorism Squad had also said at the time that its own interrogation of the IM operatives had exposed the group's plans to attack

Dilsukhnagar and Bodh Gaya. However, nobody took the warning seriously. Consequently, Dilsukhnagar was bombed in February and Bodh Gaya, earlier this month.

The problem here is that after

In India, on the other hand, the Union Government has actually diluted anti-terrorism laws. In fact, one of the first things that the Congress-led UPA regime did when it came to power in 2004 was to repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 that had been legislated by the BJP-led NDA Government before it.

the warnings were received, nobody took stock of the situation. Were we adequately prepared with the right kind of arms and equipment? Did we have evidence enough to make a strong legal case? Instead of answering these questions, our Government has only issued condemnatory statements after the attacks. Since then, it has been business as usual for the Government and the terrorists alike.

In this context, it will be worthwhile to remember what the Supreme Court had observed in Kartar Singh versus State of Punjab [1994] 3 SCC 569. The apex court had said that the country was in the firm grip of terrorist violence and was caught between deadly pangs of disruptive activities. Apart from the many skirmishes in various

parts of the country, there were countless incidents of blood-bath, firing and looting wherein even women and children were not spared. Parts of the country had been reduced to graveyards. Deplorably, youths had been lured by hardcore criminals and underground extremists who used the ideology of terrorism to brainwash and engage them in crimes against humanity. They deserved no mercy.

Yet, in this country few if any effective steps are taken to bring to book those who spread mayhem and anarchy. Now, compare this to the situation in the US where there has only been one major terrorist attack since Al Qaeda flew two planes into the World Trade Centre and changed the New York skyline forever more than a decade ago.

After the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack, Washington, DC passed the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001, popularly known by its acronym USA Patriot Act or simply as the Patriot Act. This piece of legislation has played a key part in a number of successful counter-terror operations that have helped protect innocent Americans. The Act gives federal officials greater authority to track and intercept communications, both for law enforcement and foreign intelligence gathering purposes.

In India, on the other hand, the Union Government has actually diluted anti-terrorism laws. In fact, one of the first things that the Congress-led UPA regime did when it came to power in 2004 was to repeal the

Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 that had been legislated by the BJP-led NDA Government before it. Previously, in 1995, the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act had also been allowed to lapse.

Under the existing laws, the onus lies on the investigating agencies to prove the guilt of a suspected terrorist. In other

words, we have tied our own hands and feet when it comes to combating terrorism. To make matters worse, we also do not have a Witness Protection Act. And we also expect the ill-equipped and ill-trained police to handle terrorism. Former Union Minister for Home Affairs P Chidambaram had sympathised with the ordinary

police constable saying he is the “most abused” part of the force and the “most reviled public servant”. He had also spoken at length about India’s poorly trained police force, especially at the lower ranks. “Everyone believes that he (Constable) can be bullied, or cajoled or bribed... Self-esteem of average policeman is very low...And this average Police Constable is a frontline force for the internal security”, Mr Chidambaram had said.

The Government knows well about the problem and how it can be resolved. But why does it not rectify the deficiencies pointed by its own Minister, instead of passing the buck to the State Government? The trouble is that the Union Government is worried that if it takes strong action, it will lose the game of vote-bank politics.

Also, there are plenty of busybodies who will advise the Government that taking a tough and innovative stand in matters of law and order will lead to violation of human rights. Yet, how exactly going soft on terrorists can violate anybody’s human rights remains a mystery. Against this backdrop, it is also important to acknowledge the cold and harsh fact that most terrorist attacks in this country could not have been effectively carried out without ample local support.

No time is right for anything, but doing the right thing is what makes the time to be right. The Union Government should remember what Gandhiji once said: “Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will.” ■

*(The writer is former CBI Director.)
(Courtesy : The Pioneer)*

Some major terror attacks during the UPA regime

- Pune, Feb 13, 2010: 17 people killed and over 60 injured when a bomb rips out the famous German bakery in the city
- Mumbai, Nov 26, 2008: 166 people killed in coordinated serial explosions and indiscriminate firing across Mumbai, including the crowded CST railway station and two five-star hotels — Oberoi and Taj.
- Assam, Oct 30, 2008: At least 77 killed and over 100 injured in 18 bombings across Assam.
- Imphal, Oct 21, 2008: 17 killed in a powerful blast near Manipur Police Commando complex.
- Malegaon, Maharashtra, Sep 29, 2008: Five people killed after a bomb kept in a motorbike goes off in a crowded market.
- Modasa, Gujarat, Sep 29, 2008: One killed and several injured after a low-intensity bomb kept on a motorcycle goes off near a mosque.
- New Delhi, Sep 27, 2008: Three people killed after a crude bomb is thrown in a busy market in Mehrauli
- New Delhi, Sep 13, 2008: 26 people killed in six blasts across the city.
- Ahmedabad, July 26, 2008: 57 people killed after 20 synchronised bombs go off within less than two hours
- Bangalore, July 25, 2008: One person killed in a low-intensity bomb explosion.
- Jaipur, May 13, 2008: 68 people killed in serial bombings.
- January 2008: Terrorist attack on CRPF camp in Rampur kills eight.
- October 2007: Two killed in a blast inside Ajmer Sharif shrine in Rajasthan during Ramzan.
- August 2007: 30 dead, 60 hurt in Hyderabad terror strike.
- May 2007: A blast at Mecca mosque in Hyderabad kills 11 people.
- February 19, 2007: Two bombs explode on board a train bound from India to Pakistan, burning to death at least 66 passengers, most of them Pakistanis.
- September 2006: 30 dead and 100 hurt in twin blasts at a mosque in Malegaon.
- July 2006: Seven bombs on Mumbai’s trains kill over 200 and injure 700 others.
- March 2006: Twin bombings at a train station and a temple in Varanasi kill 20 people.

October 2005: Three bombs placed in busy New Delhi markets a day before Diwali kill 62 people and injure hundreds. This is apart from the infamous Mumbai Blasts in 1993.

Bihar shows the way : How to loot our children

By Kanchan Gupta

Few States can boast of success in keeping the snouts of venal politicians, bureaucrats and others out of the trough. If that reveals greed, it also reflects poorly on our nation which doesn't care enough for its children

Nothing can be more hideous than little children, some as young as four years old, dropping dead after eating a meal which is their sole motivation for attending school. The 23 children from poor families who died after their mid-day meal, meant to bolster their nutrition intake, at a Government-run school in Bihar's Saran district, were innocent victims of greed, corruption and apathy. Their tragic deaths are likely to discourage parents from enrolling their children in school; those children who saw their friends dying a horrible death are unlikely to look forward to going to school in the hope of a hot meal.

Official inquiries take their own time and bureaucrats have mastered the art of sidestepping responsibility while helping their political masters to escape accountability. Hence, the Bihar Government's inquiry into the horrific incident is unlikely to yield anything that can be pinned on either Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the born again messiah of secularism, or any other Minister in the Government

he heads. We can also be rest assured that bureaucrats will escape retribution for their gross failure in monitoring the implementation of the mid-day meal scheme. We will hear pious platitudes and promises of cleaning up the mess that prevails.

Public memory being notoriously short, the tragedy will be forgotten as media moves on to another outrage-generating story, either real or manufactured, to keep pace with the 24-hour news cycle. The ersatz grief and anger of television anchors who have turned their shows into burlesques meant to titillate the perverse imagination of the lowest common denominator among the chattering classes will be redirected. In this land of ours never does a day pass without offering media an opportunity to showcase yet another tamasha.

The standard response to questions about what the Government proposes to do about punishing the criminals guilty of snuffing out 23 lives will be "the law shall take its own course and none shall be spared". The law in this benighted land is an ass; those who indulge in willing suspension of disbelief to believe

such bunk are asses too. It's only a matter of time before the principal of the school, Meena Devi, who had stored cooking oil in an empty canister of pesticides and sternly instructed the cook not to complain about the colour and odour of the oil, returns home from wherever she

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is hiding. Once the dust settles, she will be back plying her trade, protected by the JD(U) which, it is believed, has been patronising her. Nothing else explains how an evil, Borgiasque woman like her came to head a school.

It's a pity questions shall never be asked nor Nitish Kumar be forced to answer them – either by the media or the chattering classes. The poor parents who lost their children will curse their kismet. That, however, does not mean

questions should not be asked. Indeed, answers must be demanded for the many lapses that have come to define the so-called 'Bihar Model' of development, a model that beggars the masses and leaves the most vulnerable — children — at the not so tender mercies of corrupt public servants.

For instance, we must

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demand an explanation as to why the Bihar Government sat on Rs 500 crore, meant to modernise school kitchens and buy new utensils for the mid-day meal scheme, without spending the money. This Central allocation was returned unused after skimming interest off the money by parking it in a bank. Pretending ignorance is not good enough; a Chief Minister is accountable for such stunning lapses and responsible for its consequences.

It would, however, be incorrect to suggest, even if ever so remotely, that Bihar alone is

afflicted with the malaise of ill-implemented welfare programmes. Barring those States which have embraced the Akshayapatra scheme to implement the mid-day meal programme, few if any can boast of success in keeping the snouts of venal politicians, bureaucrats, contractors, teachers, jholawallahs of fly-by-night NGOs and the pimps who facilitate deals among this despicable lot out of the trough. If that reflects greed and corruption (one feeds on the other) across the country, it also reflects the true face of our society.

As a nation we are not overtly mindful about protecting and nourishing our children who shall inherit this country from us. And, since children do not vote, they do not exist for political parties, although children under six years comprise nearly a fifth of the population.

This point is amplified by statistical data collated during the Third National Family Health Survey conducted over 2005-06. For instance two-fifths of our children are malnourished, which roughly translates into more than 16 crore malnourished children, many of whom may not make it through infancy. As many as more than a third of our children suffer from stunted growth and three quarters of them are anaemic. A whopping 50 per cent are not fully immunised.

In Uttar Pradesh, which the

Samajwadi Party propagandists do not tire of describing as 'Uttam Pradesh', Government funded panjiri, a ready-to-eat high calorie mix meant for mid-day meals at schools, is fed to cattle under the malign gaze of corrupt officials. Such was the clout of the 'panjiri mafia' in Uttar Pradesh that the mid-day meal programme is in a shambles in half the districts of the State. It stands to reason that malnutrition among children in these districts should be as high as 50 to 70 per cent.

The Supreme Court, in a judgement, had sought to enforce the mid-day meal scheme across the country. But that's easier said than done. An internal memo of the Union Government, while admitting 30 years too late that the Integrated Child Development Scheme has failed, says, "The prevalence of child malnutrition in India is among the highest in the world." A recent Comptroller and Auditor-General report further underscores the abysmal failure of the mid-day meal scheme.

Meanwhile, to grab news space while the Bihar tragedy was unfolding, the Congress-led UPA regime let it be known that from now it would be serious about implementing the mid-day meal scheme. We could even see Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her courtiers in the National Advisory Council pushing for a Right to Mid-day Meal Bill.

A criminally callous political leadership can only make a mockery of hunger and poverty. An indifferent people deserve no better.

(The writer is a member of BJP National Executive Committee)

Gujarat and Odisha share a special bond : Modi

From Our Correspondent

Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who was given a rousing welcome on his first visit to Odisha on July 16 since taking over as BJP National Election Campaign Committee Chairman, evoked the 'strong bond' between the two states. At Puri a rousing welcome was also accorded to the BJP National Election Campaign Committee chairman by BJP leaders, party Karyakartas and the common public. On his arrival at Puri, he was escorted to the sanctum sanctorum of Shree Gundicha Temple by his traditional family priests where Shree Jagannath, Shree Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra are on their nine-day sojourn since the Rath Yatra on July 10.

Chanting *Bande Utkal Janani* and *Jai Jagannath* at the Lion's Gate in front of the Shree Jagannath temple Shri Narendra Modi cited many similarities between Odisha and Gujarat. He profusely complimented the vast army of Odias working in Gujarat for their contributions to Gujarat's economic development. He said there is no village or tehsil in Gujarat where people from Odisha are not there. They have shed sweat and blood for Gujarat's development, he

said.

Shri Modi, who spoke to the media after his Darshan of Goddesses Maha Lakshmi and Bimala in the Shreemandir, first addressed the people in Odiya, saying "I am coming from the land of Somnath (Gujarat), to salute the land of Jagannath. I feel blessed for Darshan of

shrines, Shri Modi called on Puri Gajapati King Shri Dibyasingh Deb, the foremost servitor of Lord Jagannath, at his palace along the Grand Road. Shri Modi then met Jagadguru Shankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati at his Gobardhan Pith. The Shankaracharya advised Shri Modi to be cautious



Mahaprabhu Jagannath". He said Lord Jagannath would continue to bless India and people of India. Shri Modi's Odia speech inspired party Karyakartas who repeated his words.

Shri Modi said, "While you are located in a sea coast, Gujarat too is a coastal State. The Sun Temple at Konark in the east of the country in Odisha gets the first sunray in the morning as the *aarati* of the deity while the Modhera Temple in the west in Gujarat witnesses the *aarati* with the day's last ray at the sunset."

After his prayers in the two

against the negative forces intent on obstructing the nation's progress. The seer also advised him to have a clear foresight in guiding the nation in the right path.

Later, Shri Narendra Modi interacted for about an hour with the State BJP leaders over the prospects of the party in the ensuing polls. He asked them to corner the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD Government by highlighting its commissions and omissions and the anti-people policies and maladministration, besides corruption of the Congress-led UPA Government at the Centre.

...Continued on page 28

This ghost will not go away that easily

By A Surya Prakash

Many people believe that the death of Ottavio Quattrocchi will effectively put the lid on the Bofors scandal, and consign the issue to the dustbin of history. They are mistaken. Closure will come when truth is out

The news of the demise of Ottavio Quattrocchi, the Italian businessman and close friend of

the scandal will die a natural death. But, no such thing has happened. And the reason for this is simple: The people of India know that certain persons in power knocked off commissions and bribes while finalising the contract with the Swedish arms manufacturer for supply of field guns. They also know that nobody was punished for these offences.

Although Congress-led Governments at the Centre have tried to bury the scam, there were independent investigators and institutions in the country, including the media, which felt duty-bound to put the facts in the public domain. One such institution was a Delhi Bench of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal. Even as the CBI responded to its master's voice, this Tribunal did the most detailed examination of the involvement of Ottavio Quattrocchi as a middleman in the Bofors payoffs scandal.

A l t h o u g h C o n g r e s s - l e d Governments at the Centre have tried to bury the scam, there were independent investigators and institutions in the country, including the media, which felt duty-bound to put the facts in the public domain. One such institution was a Delhi Bench of the

Sonia and Rajiv Gandhi, has prompted some people to say that with his passing, the Bofors kickbacks scandal is laid to rest. To put it mildly, this is wishful thinking.

So many in the dramatic personae of the Bofors Saga are no more. Rajiv Gandhi, Martin Ardbo (president of Bofors when the deal was signed and whose diary entries gave vital clues to the Swedish police), former Defence Secretary SK Bhatnagar, Win Chadha, the company's agent in India, and now Ottavio Quattrocchi. With the passing of each of these individuals, commentators speculated that

Income Tax Appellate Tribunal. Even as the CBI responded to its master's voice, this Tribunal did the most detailed examination of the involvement of Ottavio Quattrocchi as a middleman in the Bofors payoffs scandal. Some key points made by the Tribunal are worthy of mention here:

Ottavio Quattrocchi remained in India from February 28, 1965 to July 29, 1993, except for a brief interval from March 4, 1966 to June 12, 1968. He was a certified chartered accountant by profession, working with Snamprogetti, an Italian multinational company, but "neither Snamprogetti nor

Ottavio Quattrocchi had any experience of guns, gun-systems or any related defence equipments".

The Tribunal noted that despite the Indian Government's policy against suppliers hiring agents, Bofors entered into a fresh consultancy agreement with a company called AE Services Limited, UK, on November 15, 1985, at the behest of Ottavio Quattrocchi. An extraordinary aspect of this deal was that Bofors committed itself to pay this company three per cent of the total value of the contract only if the Indian Government awarded it the contract by March 31, 1986 (that is within 137 days of the signing of the contract on November 15, 1985). This was indeed an extraordinary stipulation and a tough deadline to meet specially when it concerned a major international weapons deal. But what was even more extraordinary was that Ottavio Quattrocchi met that deadline! The Rajiv Gandhi Government signed the deal with Bofors on March 24, 1986 – just a week before the deadline set by Bofors was to expire.

After signing the contract with Bofors, the Indian Government released the first tranche of payments to Bofors which was equivalent to 20 per cent of the contract value on May 2, 1986. Once it received the first tranche, Bofors remitted US\$7.343 million on September 03, 1986, to A/c No 18051-53 of AE Services Limited at

Nordfinanz Bank, Zurich. This worked out to exactly three per cent of the advance payment made by India. Thereafter, the Tribunal recorded the money trail, as tracked by the investigators, in detail. From Nordfinanz Bank the money was transferred to Account No 254.561.60W of Colbar Investments Limited (a company registered in Panama) in the Union Bank of Switzerland, Geneva in September, 1986. From this account, again the funds were moved to Account No 488.320.60 X of a company called Wetelsen Overseas, SA in the same bank in July 1988. Thereafter, the funds were once again moved to Account No. 123983 of International Investments Development Company in Guernsey (Channel Islands) in May 1990. The ITAT said on the basis of records before it that “these Accounts of Colbar Investments as well as Wetelsen Overseas were being controlled by Ottavio Quattrocchi and his wife Maria Quattrocchi”.

In the final analysis, the tribunal noted that Win Chadha and Ottavio Quattrocchi had been transferring the funds received from Bofors frequently from one account to another and from one jurisdiction to another to avoid detection and to obliterate the money trail.

In the final analysis, Bofors paid out the equivalent of 243 million Swedish kroners as commission to Ottavio Quattrocchi and Win Chadha. But the most extraordinary development was that AE Services unilaterally announced that it would forego the rest of the commission due to it from Bofors, after the kickbacks

scandal broke out in April 1987.

Strangely, despite this clinching evidence of Ottavio Quattrocchi getting commissions from Bofors, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh ensured the defreezing of Ottavio Quattrocchi’s bank account by the UK Government and ordered the CBI to withdraw the case against him. People also recall how Ms Gandhi protested angrily at a Press conference at the Congress headquarters some years ago and asked, “Where is the proof? Show me the proof”, when a correspondent asked her how Ottavio Quattrocchi got paid when we bought guns from Bofors. Ms Quattrocchi has been saying much the same thing. But these loud protestations will not help.

No financial or bribery scandal will fade out of public memory unless there is adequate reparation for the losses suffered by the exchequer. Unless this happens, a scandal is deathless. It will linger in the public mind and will be passed on, possibly with some embellishments, from one generation to another. While this is generally the case, it is more so in cases concerning a nation’s security. The taking of bribes or commissions when we buy guns for our soldiers is deemed an act of treachery (desh droh) and is never forgotten. Meanwhile, despite this clinching evidence of the money trail, Ms Quattrocchi is fooling nobody by claiming that her husband was “hounded for over 20 years” over the kickbacks issue.

The key figures in this scandal are all dead and they have gone unpunished. In this scenario, there is only one

situation in which the Indian public conscience can be appeased. That is when the Quattrocchis accept the truth that they got payments from Bofors when we bought guns for our Army and return the money to the people of India. This could create an incentive for the people to forget the scandal. Until they do that, the ghost of Bofors will continue to haunt the Quattrocchis and those for whom they batted all these years. ■

...Continued from page 26

He asked the State BJP leaders without mincing words to work with determination with victory as goal in the ensuing elections, adding, “A strong organizational base is crucial to political victory.”

Shri Modi’s appeal pulled thousands of people. The charisma seemed working in the State with thousands of people seen waiting alongside the 60 km long road from the Bhubaneswar airport to Puri to have a glimpse of Shri Modi. Earlier on his way to Puri, Shri Modi also offered floral tributes to the *Panchasakha* at Sakhigopal.

Among others BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Ram Lal, BJP National General Secretary Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, State BJP President Shri Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, State BJP in-charge Shri Chandan Mitra, former BJP President Shri Biswabhusan Harichandan, other senior party leaders including Shri Prasanna Mishra, Shri Krushna Chandra Jagdeb and Smt. Surama Padhi accompanied Shri Modi. ■

Tamilnadu BJP General Secretary

V Ramesh hacked to death

BJP demands judicial probe

A four-member unidentified gang hacked State BJP General Secretary Shri V Ramesh to death while he was returning home after visiting the party office in Salem on July 19. Salem range Police DIG said Shri V Ramesh had gone to his office to discuss party affairs around 9 pm and was attacked by four persons while returning to his residence. He said the 52-year-old was attacked with sharp-edged weapons and he died on the spot.

Anguished over the killing, BJP activists staged protest in Chennai and the entire state demanding immediate arrest of those responsible for the murder. The identity of the assailants and the motive for the attack were under investigation, police added. Shri Ramesh is the second senior party functionary in Tamil Nadu to be murdered in the last nine months.

BJP State medical wing secretary Dr V Aravind was also killed in front of his clinic in Vellore by a gang in October, 2012.

BJP state President Shri Pon Radhakrishnan interacting with media persons said, "We want the guilty to be brought to book. We want a detailed probe into the incident by a retired judge of

the Madras High Court". "We want a detailed probe so that such incidents don't happen in the future," he said.

Shri Radhakrishnan accused the state government of not providing security to BJP



leaders and claimed in the last one year, three state-level leaders - Shri Arun Reddy, Shri P Murugan and Shri Velliyan - were murdered and the culprits were still at large. He alleged that even police had not taken action on their pleas to provide protection to party men.

BJP national leaders also condemned the incident, with BJP National Election Campaign Committee Chairman and Gujarat Chief Minister Shri

Narendra Modi and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, calling for action against the guilty. Both expressed shock over Shri Ramesh's killing, with Smt. Swaraj pointing out that this was the third such incident in the state involving a senior party functionary. "Killing of our Tamil Nadu unit's General Secretary Shri Ramesh is shocking. Spoke to TN BJP president last night and expressed sadness on the killing. My deepest condolences to the family of Shri Ramesh. May his soul rest in peace. The culprits must be punished at the earliest," Said Shri Modi. Smt. Swaraj said government must apprehend those behind the "brutal" murder.

BJP national spokesperson Smt. Nirmala Seetharaman said

BJP leaders in the state were being attacked in a "planned manner" and said not all the accused in the case pertaining to planting a pipe bomb in Shri L.K. Advani's yatra route in 2011 have been apprehended so far. She demanded that the state government set up a Special Investigation Team to probe each of the attacks on party leaders in the state and called for upholding peace and law and order. ■

What creates struggle and warfare?

By Swami Vivekananda

In the matter of the projection of *akasha* and *prana* into manifested form and the return to fine state, there is a good deal of similarity between Indian thought and modern science. The moderns have their evolution, and so have the yogis. But I think that the yogis' explanation of evolution is the better one: "The change of one species into another is attained by the infilling of nature." The basic idea is that we are changing from one species to another, and that man is the highest species. Patanjali explains this "infilling of nature" by the simile of peasants irrigating fields. Our education and progression simply mean taking away the obstacles, and by its own nature the divinity will manifest itself. This does away with all the struggle for existence. The miserable experiences of life are simply in the way, and can be eliminated entirely. They are not necessary for evolution. Even if they did not exist, we should progress. It is in the very nature of things to manifest themselves. The momentum is not from outside, but comes from inside. Each soul is the sum total of the universal experiences already coiled up there.

So the external things can only give us the environments. These competitions and struggles and evils that we see are not the effect of the involution or the cause, but they are in the way. If they did not exist, still man would go on and evolve as God, because it is the very nature

of that God to come out and manifest Himself. To my mind this seems very hopeful, instead of that horrible idea of competition. The more I study history, the more I find that idea to be wrong. Some say that if man did not fight with man, he would not progress. I also used to think so; but I find now that every war has thrown back human progress by 50 years instead of hurrying it forwards. The day will come when men will study history from a different light and find that competition is neither the cause nor the effect, simply a thing on the way, not necessary to evolution at all.

The theory of Patanjali is the only theory I think a rational man can accept. How much evil the modern system causes! Every wicked man has a licence to be wicked under it. I have seen in this country (America) physicists who say that all criminals ought to be exterminated and that that is the only way in which criminality can be eliminated from society. These environments can hinder, but they are not necessary to progress. The most horrible thing about competition



is that one may conquer the environments, but that where one may conquer, thousands are crowded out. So it is evil at best. That cannot be good which helps only one and hinders the majority. Patanjali says that these struggles remain only through our ignorance, and are not necessary, and are not part of the evolution of man. It is just our impatience which creates them. We have not the patience to go and work our way out. For instance, there is a fire in a theatre, and only a few escapes. The rest in trying to rush out crush one another down. That crush was not necessary

for the salvation of the building nor of the two or three who escaped. If all had gone out slowly, not one would have been hurt. That is the case in life. The doors are open for us, and we can all get out without the competition and struggle; yet we struggle. The struggle we create through our own ignorance, through impatience; we are in too great a hurry. The highest manifestation of strength is to keep ourselves calm and on our own feet. ■

(Excerpts from the answers given by the Swami to questions at afternoon talks with Harvard students in 1896)