



Kamal Sandesh
Fortnightly Magazine

Editor

Prabhat Jha, MP

Executive Editor

Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi

Editorial Team

**Ram Prasad Tripathy
Vikash Anand**

Creative Editor

**Dharmendra Kaushal
Vikas Saini**

Subscription

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Contact

Phone : +91(11) 23381428

Fax: +91(11) 23387887

Subscription : +91(11) 23005798

e-mail

kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in

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Cover : BJP's "Halla Bol" rally against FDI in retail in Delhi.

HISTORIC PICTURE



Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee leading a grand procession during Jansangh days



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As a man shedding worn-out garments, takes other new ones, likewise the embodied soul, casting off worn-out bodies, enters into others which are new.

– (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 22)

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"The UPA government is in ICU. Time has come for the BJP to form a government at the Centre."

-Nitin Gadkari

"All is not well within the UPA and there is no understanding, coordination and cooperation among the supporting parties of the UPA."

-Venkaiah Naidu

"BJP's strengths are Karyakartas & love of people, unlike Congress that relies on allegations, lies & money to win polls."

-Narendra Modi

Letter to the Editor



Dear Editor,

After counting of Jangipur Parliament bye-election votes, the State BJP entered the arena of double digit vote percentage after a long gap of two decades. It raised its vote from 2.2% to 10.53% i.e. from 21790 votes to 85887 votes. BJP has shown a steady growth in votes percentage, since it fought Bankura and Daspur bye-election where it enhanced its vote. Just after one year of Parivartan BJP fought municipality elections where it raised both its seat and vote tally. The vote increased by 7%. It won one seat in Durgapur and lost a few others between 18 to 50 votes. It won one seat in Nalhati despite rowdiness by Avijit Mukherjee, the newly elected M.P and raised its vote by 8%. In Dhupguri, it retained its seat by fighting alone which earlier was secured through Mahajot. BJP thanks the electorate that despite police and administrative threats, at least 50,000 voters could not participate in the vote which was evident from vote boycott in nine booths. For no reason arrest warrant against State President Shri Rahul Sinha, preventing him to enter and campaign in Jangipur, still the voters have accepted BJP as the only alternative.

Ashim Sarkar

General Secretary

BJP West Bengal

Attention Readers !

Dear readers,

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Dr. Mookerjee Smruti Nyas

PP-66, Subramania Bharati Marg, New Delhi-110003

Ph: 011-23381428, Fax : 011-23387887

email : kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in

-Editor



Write to us

The Editor,

Kamal Sandesh

We welcome

Your views & Suggestions

Editor,

Kamal Sandesh

Dr. Mookerjee Smruti Nyas,

PP-66, Subramanya Bharati Marg,

New Delhi-110003

e-mail: kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in



Congress is afflicted with the ailment of taking anti-people decisions?

Entire country is agitated over the issue of FDI in multi-brand retail trade. People are hitting the streets. The decision is being opposed at every place. From the retail traders to the farmers - everyone have opened fronts against it in the country. Open opposition has been expressed by different political parties and social organisations. The situation is such that even constituents of UPA have also openly opposed to the move. The Congress Chief Minister of Kerala Shri Oomen Chandi has also openly opposed it. But it is an irony that the Congress is not ready to reconsider its decision. It seems that Congress is afflicted with the ailment of taking anti-people decisions, it wants to play its political game by putting the interest of the people at stake.

After all what does Congress seek to achieve? The incumbent Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh was staunchly opposed to FDI when he was Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha. Now as Prime Minister he has become its biggest votary. Last time when in December 2011 Congress wanted to implement this decision it had to withhold it in the face of huge opposition in the country. At the same time the Congress led UPA had assured the nation that the decision would not be implemented without taking the entire country into confidence. Later the government took no initiative in building a consensus on the issue. And suddenly a decision was taken to implement it and now the game of 'All Party Meetings' and 'Dinner- diplomacy' is going on. Firstly a decision was taken and when the move was resisted from street to parliament a façade of consensus is being sought to be created. Never Congress had tried to build consensus on any issue before this. Now when the move is being opposed from inside its house it is seeking the help of Opposition. And that too on the issue which Opposition can never support. The intention of Congress is not clear on these issues. Neither its intention is clear nor its policy.

Retail trade is a strong link in Indian economy. The employment of millions of people is linked with it. When a person fails to get any opportunity of employment, he by somehow arranging a small capital tries to get bread for his family through retail trade. Not only does he earn bread for his family through retail trade, he also makes his place in the society as a self-reliant and independent citizen of the nation. Through FDI the MNCs like Wal-Mart will expand their trading empire in the entire nation. Millions of people will be forced out of their jobs. In place of them a few thousand people might get employment in these MNCs but neither would be they self-reliant nor independent. They will be slaves to the new arrangements and their hands will be tied with the chains of rules and regulations of these MNCs. Small and petty traders will have to compete with the MNCs like Wal-Mart having huge capitals. Their trade would be ruined and their family would be forced to come on the streets. One more argument is being given that it will benefit the farmers as the middlemen would be forced out of the system. But it is an eyewash. When MNCs will have monopoly in retail trade then who can get the benefit? Farmers will be forced to sell their products at dictated prices. In whichever country these MNCs were allowed neither the farmers nor the traders or consumers were benefited. The problem of unemployment became a huge crisis. Even USA is facing the problem of unemployment. If these MNCs would have benefited then the US President Barack Obama had not been appealing to the people to buy things

Editorial...

from small shopkeepers.

Repeated defeat in the elections has pushed Congress on a suicidal track rather than introspection. It has decided to punish the people in the name of 'economic reforms'. On the one side while big scams are being exposed the price rise is at its extreme. By rationing the cooking gas in addition to hiking its price it has rubbed salt to the wound of the common man. Price rise had already broken the back of the people and now even employment is being snatched away. Which kind of economic reform is this? Who is going to gain from it? Indian economy is being played with just to earn applauses from a handful of the supporters of 'economic reforms'. Would it be wrong to say that while the government has no qualms in bending before the foreign powers but it is not ready to give an ear to the voice of the people.

The people of this country are watching everything. They have seen the long list of scams. People are repeatedly bearing the brunt of price rise for last eight years. The development of the country is in jeopardy even in the face of the claims of economic reforms. Prime Minister is 'silent'; the mouth of the parliament is locked while Congress is engaging in its conspiratorial politics. But people are demanding explanations. People are repeatedly making Congress to bite dust in the elections but Congress is refusing to learn its lessons. BJP is becoming the voice of the people in such a scenario. By opposing FDI in multi-brand retails trade from street to parliament BJP has given voice to the sufferings of the people. But the agitation is yet to reach its peak. While Congress is trying to choke the voice of the people the need of the hour is to remain cautious. It is huge responsibilities to free the country from the anti-people policies of the Congress for which BJP will have to remain prepared. ■

Post-poll HP State BJP Executive Committee meeting

BJP all set to retain power : Dhumal

From Our Correspondent



Himachal Pradesh BJP held a one-day meeting of its State Executive Committee at Shimla on November 19 to take stock of the ground realities of the November 4 polling for the State assembly. Besides all the BJP candidates (except one) who contested the election, BJP State President, Shri Satpal Singh Satti, Chief Minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal and office-bearers attended the meeting. Shri Anurag Thakur MP was also present. One by one all the candidates gave their assessment of the polling and an overwhelming majority of them was hopeful of their win. After the meeting the Party effused confidence that it will bounce back to power with a still stronger mandate than the last 2007 election.

The meeting was also attended by BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Ram Lal, Himachal co-in-charge and National Secretary Shri Shyam Jaju and State General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Pawan Rana. All the candidates made to give their individual assessment by filling a performa with details of the total number of polling booths, the booths where the BJP could get the lead and the final outcome. After the meeting, Chief Minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal claimed that the BJP would comfortably get a two-third majority. Shri Dhumal said some candidates admitted that the contest was tough and the wining margin could only be by a few hundred. He said no one complained of sabotage by party men in particular, but if allegations were received, the matter would be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for looking into the matter. The Chief Minister said the BJP could have sought an advancement in polling dates in Gujarat or of counting of votes in Himachal Pradesh, but it accepted the election schedule as it respected the Election Commission. State BJP President Shri Satpal Singh Satti said the meeting also took stock of the progress of membership drive for the organizational elections and discussed the the issue of resumption of the membership drive which stood hindered because of assembly elections. ■

Nation responds to BJP’s ‘Halla Bol’ call against FDI in retail, price rise and rationing of cooking gas

From Our Correspondent

BJP observed a day long nationwide ‘Halla Bol’ rallies on November 21 against the Congress-led UPA government at the centre which is responsible for massive scams, price rise and FDI in multi-brand retail. According to the programme, demonstrations, sit-ins, rallies and marches were held in the national capital and other state capitals.

During this occasion senior BJP leaders visited different state capitals to lead the protests and to expose the real face of Congress led UPA government which is responsible for sky rocketing price rise, massive corruption, scams and for bringing in FDI in multi-brand retail.

Noteworthy, retailing in India is one of the pillars of the Indian Economy which accounts for 14 to 15 percent of its GDP. The Indian retail market is one of the fastest growing in the world and is estimated to be of the size of US\$450 billion which employs around 40 million people. India’s retail sector is essentially owner manned and small shops account for more than 90% of the retail sector. Allowing FDI in retail, therefore, has the potential to destroy the unorganized retail sector in India and rob the common man of one of the easiest means for self-employment.

BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari led the ‘Halla Bol’ protest movement in New Delhi. The ‘Halla Bol’ rallies across the country on November 21 are to be followed by BJP and the entire opposition’s protests in the Parliament in the winter session to put more pressure on the Union government to withdraw its decision on FDI in multi-brand retail.

DELHI

UPA Government had completely failed to alleviate poverty and corruption despite making repeated promises : Gadkari

Slamming the Congress-led UPA Government for its “inability in eliminating poverty and corruption”, BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari on November 21 alleged that the Central Government had been misusing the CBI to suppress voices raised against the misdeeds of its ministers and offices.

Addressing a huge gathering at a protest march against corruption, price rise and relaxation of FDI in retail sector at Jantar Mantar

in New Delhi, Shri Gadkari said the UPA Government had completely failed to alleviate poverty and corruption despite making repeated promises. “Wrong economic policies, corruption and mismanagement has led us to this situation where the foreign exchange reserve is empty, the common man is reeling under the impact of price rise, grains are rotting in godowns while thousands of people are battling hunger,” Gadkari said.



Accusing the Congress led UPA of resorting to dirty tricks to save itself from the critics' attack; Shri Gadkari said that the CBI director was the "biggest savior" of the UPA government at the centre. "Whoever raises a voice against the Government, New Delhi unleashes the CBI at them, be it Mayawati, Mulayam Singh, DMK leaders or anyone else," he said.

The BJP national president also spoke at length on the issue of black money and the FDI in retail. Shri Gadkari questioned the wisdom of government on the issue of letting FDI in the retail sector.

He highlighted the reported charges of graft being paid by the US retail giant Wal-Mart to certain people in the government for the 'Open Sesame' to make its presence in India.

"I want to pose a question to the Congress and the UPA (United Progressive Alliance) government, and it is that the management of the mega companies like Wal-Mart are alleging that they paid huge bribes to come to this country, the Congress party and the UPA government should reply that which minister and which party leader have taken the bribes from Wal-Mart? The UPA government should clarify this to the nation. This is my demand," said Shri Gadkari.

Also present at the rally were former BJP national president Shri Rajnath Singh, BJP national Vice-President Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, BJP National General Secretary Shri Vijay Goel, Delhi BJP president Shri Vijendra Gupta, Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and several other senior BJP leaders.

FDI will destroy lakhs of farmers and small traders :Rajnath

Speaking against FDI in retail sector, former BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh said that it would ultimately destroy lakhs of farmers and small traders in the country. "Fiscal deficit and current account deficits are increasing and the foreign exchange reserve is waning. The Government is working under pressure from foreign powers.

Advising the Congress Shri Singh said recall

the times of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA Government that successfully reined in the price rise.

Addressing the huge gathering BJP National Vice-President Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said that the UPA Government had become synonymous with corruption. He also spoke about tackling terrorism "breeding in Pakistan".

Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi also spoke on the issues of spiraling prices of electricity, scarcity of drinking water and Commonwealth Games scam etc.

Later, hundreds of BJP Karyakartas led by the senior leaders, including Shri Gadkari and Shri Rajnath Singh courted arrest at Parliament Street police station. Thousands of BJP Karyakartas shouted slogans against the anti people policies of the Congress government.

MADHYA PRADESH

FDI in retail will lead to large-scale unemployment : Prabhat Jha

Strongly opposing FDI in multi-brand retail, Madhya Pradesh BJP President Shri Prabhat Jha said that the decision will only help companies



like Walmart which were being "pushed out" of the US market, and render lakhs of Indians jobless.

Retail giants like Walmart were being "pushed out" of the American market but were being given shelter in India, Shri Prabhat Jha said. Wherever these companies have entered, they have created problems like unemployment and caused decline in number of people taking up farming as

profession, he said.

Shri Jha was addressing a rally organised by BJP as part of its nationwide protest against the Congress-led UPA Government's decision to allow foreign investment in the retail sector and also price rise.

He said *the New York Times* has come out with a series of reports questioning the modus operandi of US retail giants. It is now being probed if bribery is a way of entering countries by retail multinationals. The BJP has been protesting against FDI coming into the country as the party realized that such a development would mean taking away the source of income and livelihood from one-fourth of our population."

Shri Jha further said the country has been financially crippled with the 2G spectrum and coal block allotment scams. A total 17 billion ton coal reserve has been gifted away to select private companies amounting to an irregularity of Rs 15 lakh crore. While the nation gets repeatedly fiscal shocks with the revelation of one scam after another, an unrelenting Prime Minister keeps adding to the tax burdens of the common man," he said.

Shri Prabhat Jha said, "PM says money does not grow on trees and he has no magic wand to decrease inflation. The BJP has, therefore decided to take the anti-people Centre to task and protest from the Parliament to the roads. In Madhya Pradesh, the party will protest on the streets of every major town and district headquarters. Our leaders will take the issue of inflation, FDI in retail and the various scams to the people's court," he added. The state BJP will also highlight the Centre's decision to decrease subsidy on household cooking gas.

He also asked the Congress led UPA to publish a white paper detailing how the FDI decision will help farmers and claimed the move will render jobless the country's one-third population currently engaged in self-employment.

The rally was also addressed by former Chief Minister and Bhopal MP Shri Kailash Joshi and city Mayor Shri Krishna Gour, among other BJP leaders. Similar rallies were organised by the BJP in cities like Indore Jabalpur, Ujjain, Gwalior, Sagar, Satna, Rewa and Betul.

UPA going back on its assurances for seeking a political consensus on allowing FDI in retail : Venkaiah Naidu

Registering their protest against the proposed foreign direct investment (FDI) into the retail trade, thousands of petty traders of the state and Bharatiya Janata Party Karyakartas staged a dharna in the State capital Hyderabad and in front of the district Collector's offices in every district.

Thousands of BJP activists demonstrated in large numbers over the issue in Hyderabad. Former BJP national President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu



accused the Congress government of going back on its assurances for seeking a political consensus on allowing FDI in multi-brand retail.

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu said, "The ruling Congress party had given an assurance to parliament that all the stakeholders including the Chief Ministers, political parties would be consulted and the government will move further action only after forming consensus. What happened to that assurance? You cannot insult, you cannot bypass the parliament like this," said Shri Naidu.

He said the UPA II Government's decision to allow FDI in multi-brand retail had come as a bolt from the blue for small traders getting out a living from the retail sector, largest employer after agriculture.

Addressing the traders, Shri Y. Malakondaiah

said the UPA government's decision of allowing the FDI into retail trade would affect over five crore families all over country. He said the decision would pose a major challenge to the livelihood of small and marginal traders and the employees hired by them in the days to come. He demanded that the decision be withdrawn.

The activists of the Bharatiya Janata Party



staged a demonstration in other urban centers and district places of the State in protest against Congress-led UPA Government's "anti-people" decisions including FDI in multi-brand retail.

RAJASTHAN

Turnout at Dharnas indicates that common man is agitated with the present Congress regime : Arun Chaturvedi

BJP workers and party leaders held Dharnas and protest rallies throughout the State as its part of Halla Bol agitation against FDI in retails, price rise and rationing of cooking gas.

According to sources from the State BJP headquarters, response towards the agitation at district as well as block headquarters was near total.

Talking to the media persons BJP State president Shri Arun Chaturvedi said the turnout at the Dharnas and rallies clearly indicates that the common man is agitated with the present Congress led regime in the State as well as at the

Centre and want a drastic change in the coming elections.

He said the party was preparing for this massive programme since several days to ensure that such rallies and dharnas are held everywhere in the State.

In the State capital Jaipur, the BJP Karyakartas held two Dharnas — one at Badi Chopad in the business district and another near collector's office. BJP National Secretary Shri Shayam Jaju addressed the rallies here. All the party MLAs from the State capital and leaders were present on the occasion.

PUNJAB

UPA tried to help big companies without protecting small businessman : Sidhu

BJP leaders and Karyakartas organised the protest on the Bhandari Bridge in Amritsar against the central government's decision to allow FDI (foreign direct investment) in retail.



BJP national secretary and Amritsar MP Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu and Senior BJP leader Shri Balbir Punj chained themselves during the protest.

Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu said, "We are just indicating what the FDI is going to do to a common businessman. The union government has tried to help big companies without protecting the ordinary shopkeeper or businessman". He claimed that the Centre's policies were anti-people and allowing FDI was a clear example of the policy.

He added that a market with many sellers was good, but with bigger consolidated stores allowed to function, the consumer will ultimately be the

loser.

Punjab industry minister Shri Anil Joshi also staged a protest along with his workers and criticised the UPA Government and its economic policies. "The policies of UPA Government are taking us towards situation wherein only big companies will flourish. The Congress is taking us towards economic slavery."

BJP workers raised slogans against the Congress and alleged that the UPA was taking decisions against the interest of the common man.

ASSAM

FDI in retail would deprive thousands of their livelihood : Sarbananda

Demonstrations were held by BJP Karyakartas in Guwahati and other parts of Assam to protest against spiraling inflation, opening of the multi-



brand retail sector to FDI and coal allocation scam on November 21. BJP state unit president Shri Sarbananda Sonowal while addressing party cadres said the issue of inflation would be taken up by BJP in Parliament during the winter session.

"There is massive price rise across the state and the Tarun Gogoi government has failed to take any steps to check the menace," he added. FDI in multi-brand retail would deprive thousands of their livelihood, he said and lambasted the Congress led UPA government for its role in the coal block allocation issue.

He said, "BJP is the only viable alternative. We assure a clean and progressive administration," Sonowal claimed at the demonstration which was attended by party national vice-president and Lok Sabha MP Bijoya Chakravarty among others. The people and business class spontaneously supported the rallies throughout the state.

TAMILNADU

BJP will carry on the protest against FDI if Congress does not relent : P. Radhakrishnan

Similar protest rallies were taken out in Chennai, Tamilnadu. BJP supporters and Karyakartas held placards and banners and took to the streets in protest.

Addressing them Tamil Nadu BJP president Shri Pon Radhakrishnan said they would carry on the protest for a longer duration if the Congress party-led federal government does not relent.

Shri Radhakrishnan said, "On September 15, the Union Congress government endorsed a policy that would let retail sector open for foreign investors. However, Today in Tamil Nadu all the people are opposing this step. We are opposing the Congress led UPA government not to bring foreign direct investment (FDI) in retail trade. Today we have started our agitation. It will continue for another twenty days throughout Tamil Nadu".

BJP National Secretary Shri P Muralidhar Rao led the Bandh protesting the Government decision to allow FDI in retail and price hike of diesel in Chennai. He courted arrest in the city.

Addressing the demonstration, Shri Muralidhar Rao said that UPA allies have realized that people of India are getting alienated from the UPA and its government and therefore they have started deserting the Congress. This implies that the UPA is a sinking ship and if such a situation continues, anything may happen with the government. The government has been completely robbed off its moral legitimacy. The government prefers Walmart over its own people and also the allies. So the Congress is trying to import and implement the policy of FDI.

He said that a non-level playing field is being introduced in which millions of small retailers with no access to loans and infrastructure are forced to compete with billion dollars worth multinational companies. A ready market created by retailers, farmers and consumers are transferred directly into the hands of shareholders living in America.

Shri Muralidhar Rao, who consistently fought against FDI from his days with Swadeshi Jagran Manch, also said that the notion propagated by

government that the authority to allow licenses is with the states and municipalities is just a farce. The inflation and prices of commodities, especially food items including milk, in villages will only go up with this decision. This will impact the food security of villages.

BJP thanks all organizations and associations, especially traders in supporting and participating in the protest and not to give away the fight until the decision of government is defeated. Protests were also held in Madurai, Turchi, Coimbatore and other districts.

UTTAR PRADESH

Aam aadmi bearing the brunt of misrule of UPA : Lakshmi Kant Bajpai

The State BJP staged a Statewide protest against the mis-rule of Congress led UPA Government saying that the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party were playing politics over Congress led Union Government's proposal to introduce FDI in retail.

In Lucknow, the protest was led by BJP National General Secretary Shri Ananth Kumar. BJP State president Shri Lakshmi Kant Bajpai and senior leader and MP Shri Lalji Tandon too attended the dharna and addressed party workers.

"The *aam aadmi* is bearing the brunt of the misrule of the UPA. The Congress Government had promised to reign in inflation within 100 days of its coming to power but during these regime prices of petroleum products increased 24 times and prices of fertilisers 12 times," Shri Lakshmi Kant Bajpai said in Lucknow.

He said that the Congress led UPA government had also promised to bring back black money stashed in Swiss banks but this government did nothing despite a list of 700 people came to light.

Similar rallies were organised by the BJP in cities like Agra, Mathura, Varanashi, Allahabad, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, and Merut etc.

ODISHA

BJP foresees the disaster the economy will face : Jual Oram

As a part of the central BJP's decision, the state BJP unit on 21 November staged a dharna before the Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar against inflation, corruption and the UPA government's decision to allow 51 percent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in multi brand retail sector.

"We foresee the kind of disaster that the country's economy is going to face in the future because of this wrong legislation. It



is clearly evident that because of the dominance of foreign investors in retail sector, it would create a serious trade imbalance, artificial scarcity of commodities as well as unusual competition in retail business sector," read a memorandum addressed to the President was submitted to Governor Shri MC Bhandare by the BJP leadership.

The demonstration was led by state unit president Shri Jual Oram and Bhubaneswar district president Shri Amiya Dash and senior leaders. BJP Karyakartas, BJP district office bearers and small traders in Berhampur, Ganjam, Sambalpur, Cuttack, Rourkela, Puri, Balasore, Jaypore, Koraput, Balangir, Kandhmal, Gajapati and in other districts took out rallies and staged demonstration in front of District Collectorate, protesting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in retail sector. The protestors also submitted a memorandum addressed to the President of India through the District Collectors.

Addressing Karyakartas Shri Jual Oram said that the Congress government's decision to allow FDI in retail sector was an attempt to divert people's attention from the core issue of corruption especially in the allotment of coal blocks.

Shri Oram also said that the anti-people decision of the government was being opposed by almost all political parties of the country including UPA allies like DMK and NCP except Congress. Besides, millions of people engaged in retail sector will be rendered jobless, he added.

While the BJP staged a demonstration before 600 district headquarters across the country, the Odisha state BJP staged demonstrations in 40 places across the state. ■

BJP poised for big win in Gujarat

From Our Correspondent

As the election process for the Gujarat assembly sets in motion most of the pollsters are forecasting one sided contest in which Bharatiya Janata Party is slated to return with even greater numbers of seats. The electioneering started in Gujarat with the formal announcement of the poll dates and plans for Gujarat assembly polls on October 3, 2012 by Chief Election Commission Shri VS Sampath. As per announcement polls in Gujarat will take place

12,77,662 new voters in the state of Gujarat. The total number of voters in Gujarat is now 3,78,15,306. As per the census figure of 2011, Gujarat's population in 2012 is 6.15 crore. Thus 61.45% of them are voters. Chief Election Commissioner of Gujarat Ms. Anita Karwal shared the details on this and said, "there are 3.78 crore voters in Gujarat which shows that 38.55% population is under 18." She said while 12,77,662 voters are added in the list, 3,75,926 are

40 places where there are less than 100 voters. Similarly 235 polling centers will serve the areas with less than 200 voters and 814 polling centers for the places with less than 300 voters.

The Congress which could not win even a single assembly election since 1990 stands dejected and rejected. The BJP which won 67 seats in 1990 in the assembly elections formed the government of its own in 1995 by winning 121 seats. Since then the BJP has not looked back and have been repeatedly returning the power with the strong support of the people. In the elections held in 1998 BJP won 117 seats and in 2002 it won 127 seats. In the elections held in 2007 BJP won 117 seats while Congress could win 59 seats. While 49.12% voted in favour of BJP, the Congress could win the support of 38% votes.

According to a pre-poll survey conducted by the Centre for the Study of

Developing Societies (CSDS) for CNN-IBN, BJP is once again set to decimate the Congress and romp home with a thumping majority. The survey interviewed 3658 voters in Gujarat and found that almost 50 per cent of them were in favour of the BJP, while the Congress was way behind with just 36 per cent.

Shri Narendra Bhai Modi is helped in his mission to score a hat-trick of victories by the strong pro-incumbency

Gujarat Assembly Elections 2012 Schedule

Gujarat Election Phase-1 Schedule:

Election Notification for first Phase:	17th November 2012
Date of making nominations for first phase:	24th November 2012
Scrutiny of applications for the first phase:	26th November 2012
Withdrawal of the name for the first phase:	28th November 2012
Polling for the first phase:	13th December 2012

Gujarat Election Phase-2 Schedule:

Election Notification for second Phase:	23rd November 2012
Date of making nominations for second phase:	30th November 2012
Scrutiny of applications for the second phase:	01st December 2012
Withdrawal of the name for the first phase:	03rd December 2012
Polling for the second phase:	17th December 2012

Gujarat Election 2012 Results (All Phase):

20th December 2012

in two phases: First phase on December 13, 2012 and second phase on December 17, 2012. The counting will take place on December 20, 2012. Gujarat has 182 assembly constituencies, 13 of which are reserved for SCs and 26 for STs. The BJP has held a majority in the state since 1995 and is projected to retain its control over the assembly after 2012 elections.

It has been reported that there has been an addition of

deducted.

Thus total increase of 9,01,736 voters has been witnessed which is 2.44% of total voters. Karwal said Gujarat has 44,496 polling booths, of which rural areas have 30,125 polling booths while urban areas have 14,371. These all polling centers are located at 27,049 places which consist 21,662 rural places and 5,378 urban places. The election commission has planned special arrangement at

sentiment, which is even greater than it was five years ago. The CSDS survey shows that 52 per cent of the voters are in favour of giving the BJP another chance to form the government, up from 48 during the 2007 poll. Shri Modi's personal popularity is also intact with nearly half the respondents - 49 per cent - backing him for the Chief Minister's post. None of his rivals is even in the double digits when it comes to the chief ministership stakes. In fact, the one big message from the survey is that Modi's popularity is at an all-time high.

In 2002 when Modi helped BJP back to power in the backdrop of state-wide riots, only 37 per cent of the voters wanted him as the chief minister. But since then - barring 2004, when his popularity fell to 31 per cent - he has consolidated his position; in 2012, there is no leader who comes anywhere close to him.

A major factor behind Shri Narendra Modi's rising graph is that the state under his stewardship has made rapid economic progress, and all the economic indicators are healthy. A majority of the voters credit the BJP for Gujarat's development, and even most non-BJP and non-Congress voters believe that Modi's rule has been development-oriented. Meanwhile, in a double whammy for the Congress, most Gujarat voters blame the Congress-led UPA government and not Modi's regime for rising prices.

On the issue of corruption, both the UPA and the state government are viewed as being guilty, but here too the Centre is the bigger villain. The

Muslims coming out openly in support of Modi



Congress and its 'secularist' allies with the help of a section of media have repeatedly banked their hopes on the allegations related to Gujarat riots which took place in the wake of Godhra incidents in 2002. Even after losing the elections repeatedly the Congress and its cohorts have shamefully blamed Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi for the riots but people of Gujarat rejected Congress every time it attempted to create a wedge between the people of Gujarat. Its communal politics was well answered when Muslims have started openly joining BJP and have no qualms in supporting the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi. Till a few years back, it was often said that Narendra Modi didn't have a single supportive voice in the Muslim community. He now has many. They may not be very vocal, but they are influential and have managed to provide a bridge for Modi to address the community's broader concerns. Among the names now being linked to Modi are Asifa Khan, an erstwhile protégé of Sonia confidant Ahmed Patel, who crossed over to the BJP; Zafar Sareshwala, a businessman who had earlier filed many human rights cases against Modi in the International Court of Justice; and Ali Syed, a former Inspector General of Police in Gujarat. Syed was projected as a mayoral candidate in the last corporation elections in Ahmedabad but lost. He now heads the state Waqf Board. Baba Mehboob Ali, a.k.a. Sufi Sant, who heads the BJP minority cell, is another visible face. He also heads the Haj Committee. ■

satisfaction with Modi's performance as the chief minister is also higher than the satisfaction with Manmohan Singh's performance as the prime minister.

In another pre-poll survey conducted by LensOnNews, it has been said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is expected to sweep 50 percent of all votes and win 133 of the 182 seats in the upcoming elections in Gujarat. In contrast, the Congress would maintain its 38 percent vote share but get only 43 seats, a drop of 16 from its 2007 tally, the Lens On News survey said. The findings follow a survey of 7,294 voters across 52 constituencies across the state. The BJP's projected seats would be a gain of one percent in vote share but would give it 16 more seats as compared to 2007, it said. The Congress is slated to maintain its 38 percent vote share but get only 43 seats. ■

Gujarat Assembly Poll 2007

Party	Contested	Won	Lost Deposit	Total Votes	% Vote
1 . BJP	182	117	2	10739972	49.12%
2 . BSP	166	0	163	572540	2.62%
3 . CPI	2	0	2	5472	0.03%
4 . CPM	1	0	0	32567	0.15%
5 . INC	173	59	1	8309449	38.00%
6 . NCP	10	3	4	230517	1.05%

Gujarat Assembly Poll 2002

Party	Contested	Won	Lost Deposit	Total Votes	% Vote
1 . BJP	182	127	1	10194353	49.85%
2 . BSP	34	0	34	66429	0.32%
3 . CPI	1	0	1	3716	0.02%
4 . CPM	1	0	0	30626	0.15%
5 . INC	180	51	0	8033104	39.28%
6 . NCP	81	0	77	349021	1.71%

Gujarat Assembly Poll 1998

Party	Contested	Won	Lost Deposit	Total Votes	% Vote
1 . BJP	182	117	3	7300826	44.81
2 . BSP	7	0	7	12742	0.08
3 . CPI	8	0	8	10292	0.06
4 . CPM	1	0	0	19665	0.12
5 . INC	179	53	13	5677386	34.85
6 . JD	91	4	83	429283	2.63
7 . SAP	8	0	8	7512	0.05

Narendra Modi becomes longest serving Chief Minister of Gujarat

Shri Narendra Modi has completed 11 years at the helm of affairs in Gujarat, becoming the longest serving Chief Minister of



the state. But unlike last year, when the state government celebrated 10

years of rule with a lot of pomp and fanfare, there are no celebrations this time as the Model Code of Conduct is in effect after the dates of upcoming assembly polls were announced a few days ago. "This 11-year journey devoted in service of the people of Gujarat has been memorable and extremely satisfying. It has been a learning experience for me that I tremendously cherish," Mr Modi said in a message on his blog today with the title "Sabka sath, sabka vikas: My 11 years journey in

Gujarat". In his message, Mr Modi has explained different initiatives, programmes and schemes his government has taken up and claimed it as a huge success with development all across the state. Mr Modi dedicated "the development of Gujarat" to the women power of the state. "Behind the development of Gujarat is the power of our Nari Shakti!," he said and credited Chiranjeevi Yojana of 2005, Nari Gaurav Niti of 2006 and Mission Mangalam of 2010 for the emergence of Women power in the state. Shri Modi has also claimed a huge success in the field of primary education. "An area in which I always wanted to leave an impeccable mark of Governance is primary education and especially for the girl child," he said. ■

Holistic approach to rural development in the State

Gujarat is often in the news, quite rightly so, for being the leading industrialized state in the country. It is true that Gujarat, with 22 percent of the country's total investment, leads the country in industrialization. Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision and leadership has made it possible for Gujarat to not only attract industries and investments, but has also led to an improved quality of life in rural areas. Today, Gujarat is a model state when it comes to initiatives in rural development.

The roots of Gujarat's holistic approach towards rural development can be traced back to Shri Narendra Modi's early years. As *Pracharak* and party-worker, Shri Modi travelled the length and breadth of this country. He stayed with local workers, shared meals with them and in doing so developed a deep understanding of the issues plaguing rural India. Thus, Rural Development schemes in Gujarat deal with subjects as diverse as rural housing and employment, forestation, grievance redressal, sanitation, cleanliness and promotion of peace and brotherhood. Elections in villages are often acrimonious and the bitterness creates impediments in the development of the village.

In order to prevent such hindrances, the Government of

Gujarat launched the **Samaras Gram Yojana**. Under this initiative, villages, which select a Sarpanch by consensus, receive monetary benefits. Almost 3700 villages in the state are now 'Samaras villages' and have received Rs.2306.4 lakh from the government. Houses in rural India often lack toilets leading to uncomfortable situations for the residents, especially women. Empathising with them, the government of Gujarat has launched the **Nirmal Gram Yojana**. In the past decade over four lakh toilets have been built in Gujarat and today there are over 4000 Nirmal Villages in the state, up from only 4 a decade back. Understanding the importance of a clean and green environment for the well-rounded development of the state, the government of Gujarat has launched schemes to promote cleanliness in the villages and has undertaken afforestation drives. Under the 'Swachh Gram Swasth Gram scheme,' sanitation and hygiene are highlighted and monetary incentives are offered to villages, which undertake cleanliness

drives. Under the '**Panchavati Yojana**' the advantages of tree-plantation are explained to the people and fallow lands are identified for tree plantation drives. These schemes have not only made the villages more scenic but have also improved rural health.

To address the housing problem in rural areas,



especially amongst Artisans and landless labourers, the Government of Gujarat has launched the **Sardar Patel Awaas Yojana**. Under this scheme, the government provides free plots of land for the purpose of house-building to BPL card holders. This scheme has been immensely successful and has been very well received across the state.

Gujarat is an innovator when it comes to incorporating technology into Governance. Under the '**E-Gram Vishwa Gram Yojana**' computers with broadband internet connections

have been installed in all Gram Panchayats across the state. These centres provide a number of services to the people such as providing birth/death certificates, proofs of income, caste certificates and residence proofs. Realizing the opportunity E-gram centres provide for facilitating exchange of ideas, Voice over Internet Protocol facility has also been provided to the E-gram centres. This has led to increased communication between village officials and the state leadership. It was Mahatma Gandhi's vision that village-level problems be solved locally. Abiding by this philosophy, the Government of Gujarat launched the Gram SWAGAT program. Under this program, aggrieved citizens in villages can lodge their complaints at the E-Gram centres. These complaints are then taken up by the Taluka Mamlatdar and are solved in a time-bound fashion.

In addition to these, schemes like the **Garib Kalyan Mela**, **Krishi Mohatsav** and **Jyotigram Yojana** have been instrumental in the overall development of the rural areas. The **Garib Kalyan Mela**, a ground-breaking program of the Government of Gujarat makes it easier for the people to receive entitlements from the government. The Government has organized around 1000 **Garib Kalyan Melas** resulting in 85 lakh people receiving benefits worth 12,500 crores from the state government.

Krishi Mahotsav has been a key driver behind Gujarat's phenomenal Agriculture growth-rate and it functions on similar lines. It includes kit distribution, cattle vaccination programs, and provision of soil health cards. In the recent Krishi Mahotsav, benefits worth 720 crores were provided to 15.17 lakh farmers in Gujarat. Because of the **Jyotigram Yojana**, which guarantees 24-Hour uninterrupted power to the villages, the quality of life in villages has gone up manifold. These schemes have resulted in a substantial improvement in the quality of life in villages. The overall industrial development of the state has led to increased employment opportunities in villages. Owing to these factors, migration from rural to urban areas has reduced by 33 percent. ■

Hanging of Kasab is a case of "better late than never": BJP

Pakistani national Ajmal Kasab, the sole surviving terrorist of the Mumbai terror attack of November 26, 2008, was hanged in a Pune jail at 7.30 am on November 22, after his mercy plea was rejected by President Pranab Mukherjee earlier this month. Kasab had been buried inside the premises of Pune's Yerawada Central Jail shortly after the execution, Maharashtra chief minister Prithviraj Chavan told journalists. Kasab's end came five days before the fourth anniversary of the brutal



terror attacks that claimed 166 lives and injured 300 people. Nine of his associates, who had sneaked into Mumbai for the three-day

carnage, had been secretly buried in the city in January 2010. The hanging also comes a day before the winter session of parliament and weeks ahead of Gujarat assembly election in December. Kasab — who was barely 21 when he carried out the brutal attack — was sentenced to death on four counts and to life sentence on five counts on charges including murder, waging a war on India and possessing weapons. He was first sentenced to death by a special trial court on May 6, 2010.

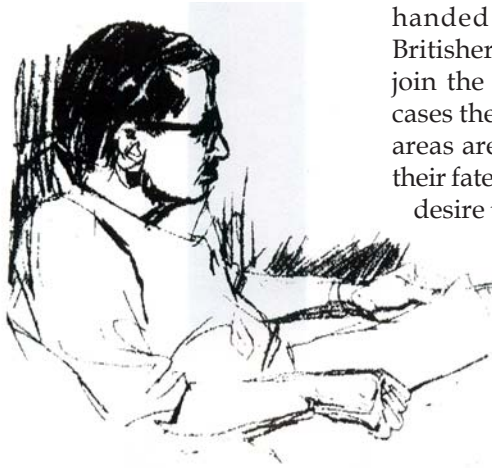
The Bombay high court upheld the verdict Feb 21 last year, followed by a similar decision by the Supreme Court on Aug 29. Finally, President Mukherjee rejected his mercy plea Nov 5. The hanging of Kasab was a case of "better late than never", the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said on November 21, 2012 after the 26/11 Pakistani terrorist was executed in Pune's Yerawada jail. "It took us four years to finally hang him. Better late than never," BJP spokesperson Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad told mediapersons in New Delhi. Asking the government to "expedite the whole process of mercy petitions", Shri Prasad also demanded action against Afzal Guru, who masterminded the attack on parliament in December 2001. "All the handlers, conspirators of the Mumbai attack still remain at large in Pakistan," Shri Prasad said further.

BJP leader Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi termed the hanging as "a stern warning to the enemies of India especially those across the border who want to terrorise India". ■

There is a fundamental error in the thinking of Pandit Nehru

By Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya

The Merger of Nagar Haveli and Dadra into the Indian union is a move in the right direction. That the Government of India should have taken seven long years to make this simple decision only shows that mental state of indecisiveness of the rulers. What Sardar Patel could



do within days in the case of Janagadh, Pandit Nehru has taken years to accomplish. Besides the inordinate delay, there is a basic difference towards the issue of liberating, and integrating, areas laying outside the pale of considered it the Government's duty to actively work for their freedom and merger and he was his armoury to achieve his objective. Pandit Nehru it seems is not prepared to shoulder this responsibility. Neither is he prepared to go to the lengths to which Sardar Patel went in the case of Hyderabad.

Apart from temperamental weaknesses and hesitancy, there is a fundamental error in the thinking of the Prime Minister. He thinks within the frame-work of the Government of India Act of 1935 or the India Independence Act of 1946. The Sovereignty of India accordingly is limited to the territories handed over to her by the Britisher and/or to States that join the dominion. In all other cases the people of the different areas are to be the architects of their fate and their future. If they desire to be independent, they must struggle. The status that they would enjoy is also to be determined by them. This line of thinking ignores the basic fact of India being one. It does not recognise

the existence of an Indian nation, which by historical accident came under the dominion of a number of Western powers. If the

not in any way create a separate Goanese people. The people of Goa are part and parcel of the Bharatiya Nation. The struggle for the liberation of these territories is therefore an integral part of our freedom struggle. Those who say that the people of Goa themselves should fight for their independence are propounding a theory which is dangerous and unnational.

The merger of Nagar Haveli and Dadra has been effected in accordance with the wishes of the people of these areas. It is good and natural that these people have chosen to become part of the political set-up of the country. But any insistence on the right of these people to determine their future deprives the people of India their fundamental sovereignty over the whole land. It is on this account that the French enclaves in spite of their de facto transfer to India have not yet become part of the India union. The Government is waiting for a legal

The Merger of Nagar Haveli and Dadra into the Indian union is a move in the right direction. That the Government of India should have taken seven long years to make this simple decision only shows that mental state of indecisiveness of the rulers. What Sardar Patel could do within days in the case of Janagadh, Pandit Nehru has taken years to accomplish.

tiny territory of Goa was, and is ruled by Portugal while the rest of the country was under the British rule and now independent, it did not and does

flat by the French Government. Why should we look to the French for legalising the transfer? The territory is ours and if the French have given it peacefully,

it can be credited to their good sense or common sense, but it cannot confer upon them any legal title to hold the areas even technically. Our Constitution gives us a right to acquire territories and we should act accordingly. Let the French take care of their Constitution. Let them amend or mend it, and at leisure. But we cannot delay the process of our national integration.

Nagar Haveli and Dadra, like the French enclaves, have been kept as a separate unit. They are to be administered under the External Affairs Ministry. It is wrong. The areas should be straightway merged with the adjoining districts. That alone will demonstrate our unity with these people.

With regard to Goa, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh had all along felt that the problem can be solved only by police action. It is a matter of satisfaction that the political opinion in the country has veered round to this view. Even the Prime Minister, who had all these years persistently refused to take resort to military force, has said that military action cannot be ruled out. It is a major change in the Government's policy and is in the correct direction. For the first time after Sardar Patel, Government spokesmen have asserted that the military can be used for the purpose which it is being maintained for. But there is a feeling in the people that all this talk is meant only to please the electorate.

The stiffness on the Goa issue is also meant to divert the attention of the people from the Government's failure on other fronts, notable the China and the

Pakistan fronts. It is for this reason that the communists who had practically forgotten Goa have again become active and a new committee headed by Srimati Aruna Asaf Ali has been formed.

Whatever be the motive, liberation of Goa is desired by all. But when shall the Government do it? Will they take some active steps or simply fight a verbal battle? The people, who have been accustomed to such declarations, will not feel satisfied without any practical steps. Pandit Nehru will be wrong if he thinks that he can

dupe the nation simply by verbal assurances. Let him fulfil his assurances not within his lifetime but before the elections if he wants to reap its advantages for his party.

Even before steps for the liberation of these territories are taken, it would be desirable that the Goans living in the Indian union are granted Citizenship and franchise rights. It will establish our bona fide and demonstrate that we look upon these people as part and parcel of our nation. ■

(The article was written by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya in the Organiser on August 28, 1961)

BJP hopes new leadership in China'll work with India to fight the menace of terrorism

BJP welcomes Xi Jinping taking over as Gen Secy of the Chinese Communist Party - hopes bilateral ties would be further strengthened resolving pending issues amicably.

BJP Spokes person Shri Tarun Vijay said, We welcome Mr Xi Jinping taking over as the new General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party. India always places great importance to our relations with China in its foreign policy and when BJP was in office we had built cooperative relations with China. Now that the mantle of leadership has passed to a younger generation, BJP will continue to work together for strengthening bilateral ties.

Understanding and appreciating each other's sensitive issues in a mutually acceptable manner and resolving disagreements through negotiations eliminating clouds of conflict are the major foreign policy planks of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

He added, We hope the new leadership in China will work with India to achieve these goals and fight the menace of terrorism in a decisive way. Since the visits of Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and later our national party president Shri Nitin Gadkari to China, the relations between the two party organizations have seen new dimensions. BJP hopes to increase the levels of engagement with China, boosting balanced trade, bilateral exchanges and party-to-party contacts, which is crucial for the region in particular and the world in general. (FOC) ■

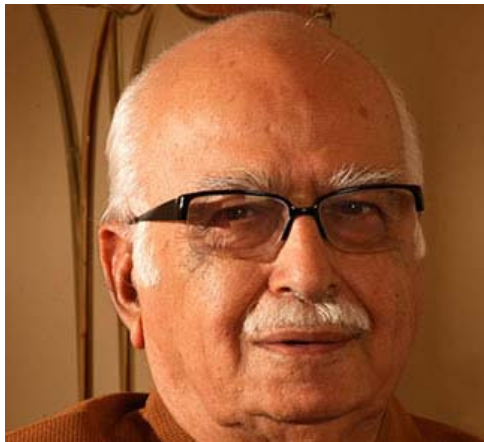
An extremely interesting book I have come across lately is Indian Summer: The Secret History of the End of an Empire. The writer is a German lady, Alex Von Tunzelmann. It's her debut book.

Award-winning historian William Dalrymple has described the book as "a masterpiece", and "unquestionably the best book I have ever read on the

who was this man? It was Vapal Pangunni Menon – V.P. Menon as he was soon to be known.

"Little is known about VP's early life. For a man who became, for all practical purposes, the right hand man, first of the last Viceroy, Lord Louis Mountbatten, and later, of the Iron Man of India, the great Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, he has left very little behind when he voluntarily faded into oblivion.

British Government's intentions towards the princely states "had been deliberately left unclear by Attlee". Mountbatten was supposed to aid and assist the States in coming to fair and just arrangements with the leaders of British India as to their future relationships. The new Viceroy was also told "to persuade the rulers of any Indian States in which political process has been slow to progress rapidly towards



Sardar Patel's stupendous achievement

By L.K Advani

blog.lkadvani.in

Independence and Partition of India and Pakistan."

When the Britishers ruled India, the country was not a single political unit. It comprised of two distinct parts: first, British India, second, princely India. Princely India comprised of 564 states.

In a book titled The Story of Integration of the Indian States by V.P. Menon, renowned journalist M.V. Kamath made this comment about the author:

"While credit should go to the Sardar for bringing all the princely states – as they were called – into the Indian Union, he could achieve it only because he had the unstinting support of one who was totally conversant with the mentality and psychology of the princes. And

Had he wanted anything by way of power and pelf, he could have got it for the asking."

This book is the first (1955) of the two monumental volumes written by V.P. Menon on that phase of Indian history. The second book (1957) bore the title : The Transfer of Power in India.

The book that provoked me to write today's blog has a chapter on this issue of princely states titled 'A Full Basket of Apples'. This chapter opens thus:

"On 18 July, the king signed the India Independence Act in London, and the Mountbattens celebrated their silver wedding anniversary in Delhi, twenty-five years after having become engaged in that city."

This book says that the

some form of more democratic government."

Mountbatten interpreted this to mean that he should exert pressure upon each prince to go with the majority of his people in deciding whether to join India or Pakistan. He agreed to help Patel, and pledged to deliver 'a full basket of apples' before 15 August.

On July 9, representatives of the states met to ascertain their starting positions. According to Tunzelmann, a majority of states were inclined to join India. "But four of the most important states – Hyderabad, Kashmir, Bhopal, and Travancore – wanted to become independent nations. Each of these states had its own unique set of difficulties. The Nizam of Hyderabad was the

richest man in the world; he was a Muslim, and his people were mostly Hindus. His state was enormous, and both France and the United States were rumoured to be ready to recognize it. The Maharaja of Kashmir was a Hindu; his people were mostly Muslims. His state was even bigger than Hyderabad, but more limited by its lack of trade routes and industrial potential. The Nawab of Bhopal was an able and ambitious Muslim prince, and one of Jinnah's advisers: unfortunately for him, his state had a Hindu majority, and was stuck right in the middle of India, over 500 miles from the likely border with Pakistan. Uranium deposits had recently been discovered in Travancore, lending the situation there a greater international interest."

The Muslim League strategy in this entire matter was essentially focused on making more and more princes decline to join India. Jinnah was keen to see that Nehru and Patel "would inherit a moth-eaten India to go with his moth-eaten Pakistan." But Sardar Patel, Lord Mountbatten, and V.P. Menon acting in perfect concert defeated all such designs.

The concluding lines of this significant chapter are a great tribute to the achievement of this combination. Alex Von Tunzelmann writes:

"Whatever may be said about Mountbatten's tactics or the machinations of Patel, their achievement remains remarkable. Between them, and in less than a year, it may be argued that these two men achieved a larger India, more closely integrated, than had 90 years of the British raj, 180 years

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**The Muslim League strategy in this entire matter was essentially focused on making more and more princes decline to join India. Jinnah was keen to see that Nehru and Patel "would inherit a moth-eaten India to go with his moth-eaten Pakistan." But Sardar Patel, Lord Mountbatten, and V.P. Menon acting in perfect concert defeated all such designs.**

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of the Mughal Empire, or 130 years of Asoka and the Maurya rulers."

What the German lady has written so eloquently has been substantiated by V.P. Menon with facts and figures in his 612-page tome *The Story of Integration of the Indian States* thus:

"The 564 Indian States comprised two-fifths or almost half of the country. Some were large States, some were mere jagirs. When India was partitioned and Pakistan became a separate state India lost an area of 364,737 square miles and a population of 81.5 million but by the integration of the states India received an area of nearly 500,000 square miles with a population of 86.5 million, India was adequately compensated."

In his preface to his book on the integration of states, V.P. Menon has written: "This book of is in part fulfilment of a promise made to the late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. It was his earnest desire that I should write two books, one narrating the events leading to the transfer of power and the other dealing with the integration of the Indian States.

TAIL PIECE

On the eve of Sardar Patel's birth anniversary this year, that is, on 30th October, 2012, the PIONEER published a news-story saying that Prime Minister Nehru wanted to scuttle Sardar's action plan for the liberation of Hyderabad.

The news-story reported runs thus:

"Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the then Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of India, whose 137th birth anniversary is on October 31, was insulted, humiliated and disgraced by the then Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, during a Cabinet meeting. "You are a complete communalist and I'll never be a party to your suggestions and proposals," Nehru shouted at Patel during a crucial Cabinet meeting to discuss the liberation of Hyderabad by the Army from the tyranny of the Razakkars, the then Nizam's private army.

"A shocked Sardar Patel collected his papers from the table and slowly walked out of the Cabinet room. That was the last time Patel attended a Cabinet meeting. He also stopped speaking to Nehru since then," writes MKK Nair, a 1947 batch IAS officer, in his memoirs "With No Ill Feeling to Anybody". Nair

had close ties with both Sardar and VP Menon, his Man Friday.

Though Nair has not written the exact date of the above mentioned Cabinet meeting, it could have happened during the weeks prior to the liberation of Hyderabad by the Indian Army. Operation Polo, the mission to liberate Hyderabad from the Nizam, began on September 13, 1948 and culminated on September 18. While Sardar Patel wanted direct military action to liberate Hyderabad from the rape and mayhem perpetrated by the 2,00,000 Razakars, Nehru preferred the United Nations route.

Nair writes that Nehru's personal hatred for Sardar Patel came out in the open on December 15, 1950, the day the Sardar breathed his last in Bombay (now Mumbai). "Immediately after he got the news about Sardar Patel's death, Nehru sent two notes to the Ministry of States. The notes reached VP Menon, the then Secretary to the Ministry. In one of the notes, Nehru had asked Menon to send the official Cadillac car used by Sardar Patel to the former's office. The second note was shocking. Nehru wanted government secretaries desirous of attending Sardar Patel's last rites to do so at their own personal expenses.

"But Menon convened a meeting of all secretaries and asked them to furnish the names of those who want to attend the last rites of Patel. He did not mention anything about the note sent by Nehru. Menon paid the entire cost of the air tickets for those secretaries who expressed their wish to attend Sardar's last journey." ■

BJP condoles Thackeray's sad demise

Nitin Gadkari describes Bala saheb's death a personal loss to him



The Shiv Sena President Shri Balasaheb Thackeray passed away at 3.33 PM on November 17 after protracted illness. Thackeray was 86. For a considerable period of time, Shri Thackeray had been battling illness. Lacs of people gathered at the Shivaji Park, where body was cremated, on November 18 to pay their last respects to Shri Thackeray. BJP Parliamentary Party Chairman Shri L.K Advani, BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley attended funeral in Mumbai.

Balasaheb Keshav Thackeray (23 Jan 1926 to 17 November 2012) founded the Shiv Sena a political party on 19 June 1966.

He began his professional career as a cartoonist with the English language daily *The Free Press Journal* in Mumbai, but left it in 1960 to form his own political weekly *Marmik*. In 1966, He formed the Shiv Sena. He was also the founder of the Marathi-language newspaper *Saamana* and the Hindi-language newspaper *Dopahar ka Saamana*. Upon his death, he was accorded a state funeral with over 2,000,000 mourners. The BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari expressed his profound grief and deep sorrow on the sad demise of Maharashtra stalwart leader. In his condolence message, Shri Gadkari described Bala Saheb a source of inspiration for him and one of the architects of the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance. He was a staunch nationalist and a courageous politician who played a vital role in shaping the national politics as well as the politics of Maharashtra. His departure has left a void in the public life. His demise is a personal loss to me.

It is remarkable that the Shiv Sena has been BJP's longest-standing ally – for more than two decades. ■

Congress rule is a saga of betrayals and broken promises : Venkaiah Naidu

The Congress – thy name is Broken Promises. The Congress party is reported to be preparing for early elections to cut its losses. With what face you go to the people? You have a record of betrayal of common man and broken promises.

The Government is neck-deep in corruption and skyrocketing prices are breaking the backbone of aam admi continuously in the last eight and half year's its misrule. Farmers' suicides are continuing unabated. Internal security is thrown to the winds. Every section of the society is unhappy with you. Even in your Surajkund brain-storming session, you have not come out with any clear cut agenda or action plan.

In 2009 while releasing the party's manifesto, the Congress President claimed 'Congress promises what it can do and will do what it promises'. See the track record. It is all broken promises. You said that you will control prices within 100 days of your coming to power. On the contrary, the Government itself has hiked prices of petroleum products like diesel, LPG hitting very hard the farmers, common men and house-wives with cascading effect on the prices of almost all essential commodities.

You said that within 100 days of your coming to power you initiate steps to bring back black money. You have not moved an inch in that direction.



***Salient points made By
Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu,
MP & Former BJP
National President, at a
Press Conference in
Bengaluru on 18
November 2012***

~~~~~  
On the contrary, you are trying to suppress the information of bank account holders in spite of getting 700 odd names from France.

You said you will expand schemes for improving the welfare of the farmers. The suicides are continuing even in the Congress-ruled States like Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. People were forced to declare crop-holiday. Swaminathan Commission's recommendations are gathering dust for the last more than 8 years. You have forgotten farmers. You said you remove all

controls on free movement of commodities. The flip-flops in export policy adversely affect farmers. You export food grains at low prices and import at high prices raising suspicion of major scams. You said you will bring Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill which is yet to see the light because of the divisions within your own party.

You promised Right to Food law to guarantee access to sufficient food for all people. Nobody knows what is the present state. You said you will give all the BPL households in rural and urban areas 25 kgs. Rice or wheat per month at Rs.3 per kg. But you have put a ceiling that the individuals earning Rs.28 in urban and Rs.22 in rural areas are above poverty!

You said you make elected Panchayats strong. You have not done anything on that. You assured highest defence preparedness and the country was stunned to know about the Army Chief's remarks.

You said you will take care of the welfare of the people and instead you burdened them. You have put a cap on the supply of LPG cylinders. You promised to introduce the Goods and Services Tax from April 1, 2010. Now you are trying to find alibis.

You promised to maintain the path of high growth, fiscal prudence and low inflation. Now the inflation is reaching

double digits.

The growth rate is around 5.5% only – the slowest pace in a decade. One after the other, the international agencies are downgrading India. Fiscal deficit is almost pushed to 6%. The Prime Minister himself lamented about growth deceleration and falling exports.

You promised faster and more inclusive growth. Now you are talking of a 1990-like situation. The fiscal deficit is more than 5.3% of GDP. The growth rate slipped into a 9-year low of 6.5% in 2011-12. The fiscal deficit, trade deficit and the level of inflation, as people say, are equivalent of the systems of pulse rate, blood pressure and temperature.

All of them are higher than normal. The combined Centre and States' fiscal deficit is the 3rd highest in the world. Inflation is higher than in almost all the countries. The current account deficit projected at 3.8% of GDP is the second highest as per the editorial of an economic daily.

You promised to bring Women's Reservation. You said elections to 16th Lok Sabha will be held on the basis of 1/3 reservation of women. Where is it? It is nowhere in sight. You cannot get important bills like Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood) Bill, Seeds Bill, Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill and the National Accreditation Regulator for Higher Education Bill passed. You promised schemes for leadership development of minority women and launched it with fanfare in 2010. You have not spent a single rupee on its

implementation.

PM and FM said in Surajkund that "unless growth rate could be increased, fiscal deficit controlled, political consensus achieved, it will not be possible to push through the party's social welfare agenda". Right to Children's Free and Compulsory Education is notified but implementation is tardy because of lack of funds. Your manifesto promised health security for all.

**The Urban Health Mission still remains on paper. We need 4.2 lakh doctors towards the end of this decade. You promised AIIMS like institutions in the beginning of 12th Plan. What happened?**

You could not create enough storage for food grains; rather you allowed lakhs of tons of food grains to rot. Another important promise is connecting all villages to a broadband network in 3 years time but 2011 census show around 7.5 crore poorer house-holds still do not have electricity.

On Telangana you broke your promise and threw the state of Andhra Pradesh into turmoil with your indecisiveness and you are saying consultations process is on. You failed to provide energy security to all with your faulty energy proposals and capping the subsidized LPG cylinders.

You have broken promises on one side and you are taking steps unilaterally on issues which you opposed while in opposition. You have record number of scams now. You want to paint black whoever finds faults with you. But please understand scams won't vanish by painting C&AG black.

- ▶ You promised maximum possible security to each and every citizen. In spite of that 26/11 has happened.
- ▶ You promised every BPL household to be covered by Rashtriya Swasthya Bhima Yojana and promised every district hospital will be upgraded. What happened?
- ▶ You promised social security to those at special risk? Where is it?
- ▶ You promised model schools for every block. Where are they?
- ▶ You promised comprehensive crop insurance scheme to the farmers. Where is it?
- ▶ What happened to the 6-lane National Highway?
- ▶ What happened to the commitment of fiscal responsibility? How do you explain your failure?
- ▶ Where is your promise of Voluntary National Youth Corps?
- ▶ How Many Gram Nyayalayas were set up at every Panchayat?

To preach something when out of power and do the opposite when in power has been your policy. You have obstructed Parliament while in opposition now you are preaching about the sanctity of Parliament to opposition when in power.

You opposed FDI while in opposition now you are proposing it because you are in position. Oppose while in opposition and propose while in position! Stop double standards, do introspection and try to address the promises you have made to the nation. ■

## Congress led UPA government is in ICU : Nitin Gadkari

BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari said the Congress led UPA government at the Centre is in "intensive care unit" and claimed that BJP would form the government in the next elections at the centre.

"The UPA government is in ICU. Time has come for the BJP to form a government at the Centre," Shri Gadkari said while addressing a public meeting in Agartala.

He said that the Congress-led UPA government had failed to work for people and asserted that the BJP-ruled states in the country were "pro-active" and had shown examples of "good governance".

"This time BJP will form government at the Centre and will make a mark of good governance, good economic governance, good e-governance and social harmony," Shri Gadkari said.

He demanded that the border with Bangladesh be sealed properly to prevent illegal migration and expressed concern that a time would come when a migrant would one day adorn the chair of chief minister of Assam. He also asked people to be alert against Maoism coming from Nepal and spread of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, which were posing a twin threat to the security of the country. ■ (FOC)

## 'Spirituality is answer to growing intolerance' : Rajnath Singh

Former BJP National President and Member of Parliament from Ghaziabad Shri Rajnath Singh said Mahatma Gandhi was the bridge between politics and the spiritualism. He was speaking in a symposium on 'Increasing Intolerance in Society – Reasons and Remedies', organised by Ghaziabad bar association on 19 November in Ghaziabad. The Gandhian philosophy is still relevant in the present Indian political system where spiritualism is the base for the human society, he said. Focusing on the characteristics of the Indian society, Shri Rajnath Singh said India had been the world leader in spiritualism. It had contained a lot of tolerance even when it was invaded and maintained its doctrine of 'atithi devo bhava' (the guest is a god) and hence tolerance has developed as a main genetic characteristic in the Indian society. He however, rued that materialism had spread all over the globe - a trend he believes gives rise to materialism. He said, the inner most urge of cut-throat competition to earn more money will be defeated only through spiritualism, meditation and other methods to control lust. (FOC) ■

## BJP demands full-fledged probe against Vadra's business growth

The BJP on November 20 demanded a full-fledged inquiry into the 'phenomenal growth' of companies of Robert Vadra, son-in-law of Congress President Sonia Gandhi. The Vadra-DLF deals, 2G scam and price rise would be taken up by the party during the winter session of Parliament. 'Vadra's was a small trading family till 2007 end. Suddenly he became a realtor and his investment multiplied by 5,000 times in no time', he claimed adding Congress must explain to the people the formula for such "a phenomenal growth". On FDI in retail, he said BJP would not allow it and would cooperate with like-minded parties for this. On the allegations against BJP President Nitin Gadkari about alleged dubious business dealings, he said there was not a single document to prove the charges. Gadkari had said he was ready to face any inquiry commission or agency regarding the allegations. ■



## Nitin Gadkari condoles the demise of K.C. Pant

BJP National President expressed deep sorrow over the sad demise of Shri KC Pant, former deputy chairman of the planning commission. An economist of high repute and a former union minister, he was known for his administrative skills, Shri Pant was a nationalist at the core. In his demise the country has lost a learned political leader. ■

## BJP strongly condemns the continued attack heaped on the CAG

The BJP condemned in the strongest words possible the Congress's and Government's attempts to heap insult on one of the most important Constitutional bodies in the country, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), following the poor response to the 2G spectrum allocation.

The latest one coming from none other than Finance Minister P Chidambaram is "highly irresponsible" and is a blatant attempt to divert the attention of the people from the neck deep corruption and "crony capitalism" indulged in by the Congress-led UPA Government in the allocation of invaluable Coal Blocks.

Shri Chidambaram has said that the projected Rs 1,86,000 crore loss in coal block allocation would also turn out to be a "mythical" and "fancy" number. It is unfortunate that this kind of a statement has come from the Finance Minister that too couple of days before the Winter Session of parliament begins. Instead of submitting himself before the JPC probing spectrum allocation issue for his role in the 2G scam, the Finance Minister has indulged in the brazen insinuation of the CAG on the 2G as well as coal scams.

The Congress instead of challenging the figures should explain the fact.... And the truth or fact of the matter is that the Congress-led UPA Government had indulged in monumental corruption by allotting coal blocks in a non-transparent and



"discretionary manner".

The following facts directly expose the Congress in the coal scam.

It is a fact that 17 billion tons of coal reserves worth Rupees 50 lakh Crore was allocated to 140 + private companies for free without any benefit to either the exchequer or the people

It is a fact that CVC after finding merit in our complaint handed over the whole issue of coal block allotment scam to the CBI for preliminary enquiry

The SC has issued notice today on the petition seeking SIT probe in the Coal Block Allocation Scam

The IMG cancelled nearly two dozen coal blocks and revoked bank guarantees of many other coal block allottees

CBI has registered over half a dozen cases in the Coal Block Allocation Scam

There were no comparative appraisals of all the applicants and no explanation on record why a certain party was selected for allotting coal block and on what basis applications of others were rejected. This is the strongest evidence of the mala fide behind the Coal Block

allocation scam. The Party might have benefitted but the country has lost.

The Congress has adopted double standards in the CWG Scam and the Coal scam. While in the CWG Scam, the final signatory has been booked and the trial is on. However, in the Coal Block Allocation Scam, the Congress is bending its back to protect Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who as the then Coal Minister had been the final signatory on majority of the coal block allocations.

The Congress game plan was very clear from the beginning. Moot the idea of auction but don't move ahead with the required speed. Delay the proposal and its enactment and implementation as far as possible. Keep the swords of auction hanging so that the black-gold rush will convert into net gain for the Congress' coffers. This is mala fide, and crux of the scam.

So BJP reiterates its demand of the PM accepting moral responsibility and resign. The BJP also demands an impartial probe and cancellation of all the coal blocks allotted after 2004.

The Congress cannot get away by mocking at the CAG. It will have to pay a heavy political price for the continuous and unabated indulgence in Corruption. The people of the country are disgusted with the corruption-riddled UPA Government. They are just waiting for an opportunity to punish the Congress. ■



CHHATTISGARH

'Chhattisgarh a role model in Scheduled Castes' welfare'

National Commission for Scheduled Castes Chairman and senior Congress leader Mr. P.L. Punia, praised Dr. Raman Singh led BJP government in Chhattisgarh saying its schemes for the marginalized sections of society could be models for others states.

Presiding over a meeting held in Raipur on November 20 to take stock of schemes launched in the state for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes that make up 12 percent of state's 2.55 crore population, Mr. Punia said that Chhattisgarh had been doing commendable work for the social and economic upliftment of the community and had even formed a 'Scheduled Caste Development Authority'.

"The schemes launched by the BJP government in Chhattisgarh for the welfare of the Scheduled Caste community can be a role model for other states to follow," Mr. Punia observed at the meeting.

The meeting was attended by several key personalities in the government such as Scheduled Castes' Welfare minister of the government off Chhattisgarh Shri Kedar kashyap, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Development Authority and other senior functionaries of the state government.

GUJARAT

Ahmedabad's BRTS chosen as Lighthouse Project as part of UN's Momentum for Change Initiative

Providing quick, comfortable and affordable transport to the people of Ahmedabad, Janmarg or the city's Bus Rapid Transport System is a wonderful case study of how to revolutionize urban transport. Adding to the list of laurels it has won, the United Nations (UN) has chosen Ahmedabad's BRTS as a showcase project to demonstrate that addressing climate change is not a burden but an opportunity to improve the lives of the people. Janmarg will be a Lighthouse

Project as a part of the Momentum for Change Initiative, which was launched by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at the 2011 Durban round of UN climate change negotiations.

The Light House projects recognize the actions and progress, indicating a positive environment, transforming an impression of slow progress. Ahmedabad's BRTS is one among the 9 Lighthouse Projects selected by the UN and the only one in India.

Writing about Janmarg, the website of the Momentum for Change Initiative notes: "Janmarg is designed as a strategic intervention, to attract latent transit demand, improve air quality and help the city remain compact. Its salient features are: a closed BRT system with median bus stations; specially designed buses with right hand side doors and bus floor and bus station platform heights matching; a complete revamp of the right of way to include cycle tracks and pedestrian facilities; a commercial speed of 25 kp/h enabling faster commuting; and off board fare collection.

Janmarg has made several innovations in the planning and designing of the system including a fully 'pedestrian and transit' only street section at one location and a one-way bus lane to manage narrow right of way. At a larger level, Janmarg has demonstrated that BRT system can work in India. The activity has become the backbone of public transportation in the city.

Janmarg looked at other BRTS in cities around the world and adapted their best practices in the context of Ahmedabad."It also notes the poor transport infrastructure in Ahmedabad earlier, which made the need for a transport system like Janmarg the need of the hour.

Momentum for Change acknowledges the difference Janmarg has made in mitigating in



impact of air pollution and creating an overall positive impact on urban development. Janmarg a Catalyst in Rejuvenation of Ahmedabad, its Success Due to Positive Role Played by Citizens Momentum for Change terms Janmarg as “catalyst in the rejuvenation of Ahmedabad.” It notes that the BRTS has reached under-served groups of the city and has played a great role in developing the city. It also sees people participation as a big factor behind the success of Janmarg and notes the fact that the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation held regular press briefings and responded to suggestions and recommendations.

## DELHI

### Sheila Dikshit Govt. tries to escape from its responsibility by jugglery of statistics : Vijendra Gupta

Expressing his reaction to the data issued by Chief Minister Smt. Sheila Dikshit, BJP Delhi Pradesh President Shri Vijendra Gupta said that the Chief Minister has tried to divert the attention of the people from the burning problems of Delhi by jugglery of statistics. She has issued these statistics only to cover up her failures.

Shri Gupta has asked the Chief Minister if the per capita income in Delhi has increased or the number of the mobile consumers has increased in Delhi then what is the rule of Government in it? Every year about 4 lakh people come and settle in Delhi. They work hard to earn their livelihood in private sector. Their income increases due to their hard labour. Mobile phones are today best medium of communication. It is not luxury rather a necessity of the people. Government should not take credit for it. The mobile consumers also pay tax to the Government and the Government earns revenue from it.

Shri Gupta has asked Smt. Dikshit to tell that why not a single colony out of 895 unauthorized colonies has been regularized till date for which decision was taken two months ago? Why the condition of hospitals and education in Delhi is so bad? Why 1.5 lakh people sleep on the footpaths of the capital? This year about 3 lakh 23 thousand houses were to be constructed in Delhi by the private builders. But this work was not completed and the people could not get houses. Government

data show that the pollution level in Delhi has gone up to danger mark. The water of Yamuna is not worth taking bath. There is no improvement in the quality of life of the people of Delhi because of the inefficiency of the Delhi Government for which the Government is directly responsible.

Recently Chief Minister Smt. Sheila Dikshit had met Petroleum Minister Virrappa Moily and conveyed her concern about black marketing of cooking gas cylinders. It shows that cooking gas cylinders are being sold in black market and the Government is not able to curb it. The Chief Minister did not issue the data regarding the price increasing every day in Delhi because price spiral is due to the wrong policies of Delhi Government. A scheme for selling cheap flour, pulses, oil, sugar was started by Delhi Government.

What happened to that scheme? How much money was looted on the pretext of this scheme because cheap flour or cheap pulses are not available anywhere in Delhi. Government has abolished quota of Kerosene of 4 lakh poor people. How these poor people shall purchase gas cylinders in black market costing 1400 rupees? Shri Vijendra Gupta asked the CM to clarify these concerns of the people.

## KERALA

### BJP seeks probe into Keltec-BrahMos deal

Bharatiya Janata Party Kerala State President Shri V. Muraleedharan has demanded that the government must institute an inquiry into the alleged irregularities in the transfer of State-owned Kerala Hitech Industries Ltd. (Keltec) to BrahMos Aerospace Private Ltd. Or else, Defence Minister Shri A. K. Antony should disclose who were behind the deal.

Interacting with media persons the BJP president said in Thiruvananthapuram, on 20 November that the Defence Minister had raked up a controversy over the industrial scenario in the State with a view to forestalling a discussion on the allegations relating to the transfer. Though Shri Antony and others had said that Keltec was a loss-making company, it had made profit in the last two years before its transfer. The transfer to the Defence Research and Development

Organization was effected for a consideration of Re.1. This was when the assets of the company with 225 permanent employees were Rs.200 crore.

Shri Antony had sought transfer of the organization to BrahMos Aerospace which was registered as a private company. The Centre had only 50.5 per cent share in it while 49.5 per cent of the shares were held by a Russian company. This company was now competing for Defence Department contracts like a private company. The company incurred a loss of Rs.3.5 crore during 2010-11, Shri Muraleedharan said.

## NAGALAND

### Raise ENPO issue in the forthcoming winter session of the parliament : M.Chuba Ao

The Nagaland BJP Unit led by its President Dr. M.Chuba Ao, General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Prashant Arora and Spokesman & General Secretary Shri K.James Vizo visited Nowongon on 20 November 2012 and met the Member of Parliament and in-charge of Nagaland, Shri Rajen Gohain. Noteworthy, Shri Rajen Gohain MP is a senior leader of BJP from the North-East and he has been representing the Nowgong constituency in Assam since 1999.

Various issues pertaining to party programme and policies were deliberated in detail. BJP State President Dr. M.Chuba Ao, and others have also apprised him on Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO) and requested him to raise this issue in the upcoming parliament session.

BJP State President Dr. M.Chuba Ao and others members of the team were assured that after consulting

### BJP Medical Cell meeting held

To make health service efficient BJP Medical cell organised a meeting on health vision -2014 on September 30, 2012. The meeting extensively focused on medical insurance, cheap health facilities for common man, health education, establishment of health research center, emergency ambulance services, Indian medical system, Indian Medical Service, how to promote medical facilities in rural area etc. BJP President Shri Nitin Gadkari, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley, former Delhi State Health Minister Dr. Harsvardhan, Lok Sabha MP Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal, Dr. Anil Jain, Dr. S.S Agarwal and other leaders and experts attended the meeting.

with the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Shri Rajen Gohain shall raise the ENPO issue during zero hour in the forth coming winter session of the parliament.

The Nagaland BJP Unit has also apprised Shri Rajen Gohain about the ongoing peace process pertaining to the State.

## MADHYA PRADESH

### No driving licence, passport for eve-teasers in MP : Chouhan

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that those indulging in eve-teasing will not be get driving licence, passport and other government facilities. The step is being taken to control eve-teasing in the state, Shri Chouhan said during a function at the Gwalior trade fair on November 21 in Gwalior. The Chief Minister said those found involved in eve-teasing would not be given driving licence, passport and character certificate. Shri Chouhan said a database of eve-teasers and those indulging in similar offences would be prepared and appropriate action would be taken against them. A toll free telephone number for registering complaints about eve-teasing and misbehavior would also become operational soon, the Chief Minister said. It is noteworthy; this step against the eve-teasers and those indulging in similar offences is first of its kind in the country. ■



# You Are That!

By Sri Swami Chidananda

**B**eloved spiritual aspirants! You are seeking something, you are devoted to something, you are practising something all with one single ultimate objective. The inner motivation is the same. It is the attainment of Divine-experience, God-experience, the realisation of the Absolute, the realisation of what you are.

Classical philosophy and all the great mandaleshwars say that this world is an obstacle to that achievement. Sense objects are tempting snares. The unwise jivatma is caught and enslaved by his own desires, and these temptations draw him out and catch him in their coils. The jivatma is helpless, caught by maya. All this they say. All this they say, and we swallow it, we take it for granted.

If the common man in the street hears such discourses and swallows it, saying, "We are helpless, maya is insurmountable, we can never go beyond it," it is because they are gullible, they don't know any better.

But, do you know no better? Are you also similarly gullible? Do you also accept this view and theory? If you are also swallowing it, then what is the difference between you and the gullible masses? What have the years of renunciation and solitude on the banks of the Ganga done for you?

So we must show a difference. All this may be said

in books and scriptures and by mandaleshwars giving discourses, but we must know better. And the better truth has been expounded to us, revealed to us. But you will know this only if you make right enquiry, vichara. Right enquiry will suddenly bring you light, reveal to you many things that you did not know. It will bring you so many truths.

And then suddenly you will



develop a new skill, a new qualification, a new ability to know what it is that stands in your way and what it is that can be favourable to you in moving towards the supreme goal. You will know what you must gladly accept and make part of your life and what you must uproot and throw away, eradicate, even if it is part of your present life: "No, no, now I know better. I am not going to allow this to remain. It is an obstacle that is within myself. I will throw it out."

So this skill of discrimination, viveka, and the ability to know what is helpful to your spiritual life and what is not helpful and constantly

discriminating between these two, then at every step rejecting that which is not favourable to your spiritual life and cultivating and augmenting that which is helpful, becomes a constant exercise of a wise and awakened seeker. So right enquiry and discrimination help move you towards the truth that you are seeking.

And at one stroke, in one declaration—a grand declaration, a great declaration—the whole problem has been solved by a super being. He declared to us that all these things that we think constitute our great obstacle, our great problem, which we constantly have to battle with, are a mere non-existing myth, a nothing. We make it formidable by our lack of right enquiry and discrimination. We have given it importance by endowing it with a strength it does not have: "Do away with this foolishness. It is not formidable. You are always immune to it, above it, unaffected by it."

The great teacher taught a super devise: "No barrier exists, nothing exists. You are already That which you are seeking to make yourself. Remove this delusion that you are not yet That. You are the divine perfection that you are seeking. The goal is right here—not to be reached, not to be attained, but to be known."

Realise this and be free! ■

(Courtesy: Divine Life Society )