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Fortnightly Magazine

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Courtesy : The Hindu



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In this yoga there is no loss in any endeavor, there is no dimunition of result and even the slightest effort performed righteously saves one from the greatest of danger.

– (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 40)

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"Congress government in Rajasthan was misusing state coffers by announcing "projects without considering their feasibility or practicability."

-Rajnath Singh

"It is my birthright to raise a voice against those who have ruined India. If committing wrong is Congress' right then it is mine to place it in front of the people and expose it."

-Narendra Modi

"It is the duty of one and all to encourage victims to depose truly and faithfully. Public interest must always prevail over private embarrassments."

-Arun Jaitley

Gita Jayanti : December 13, 2013

Gita Jayanti, also referred as Bhagavad Gita Jayanthi, is the day when the Bhagavad Gita was rendered by Lord Krishna to Arjuna in the Kurukshetra on the first day of the famous 18-day battle in the Mahabharata. Gita Jayanthi falls on the Ekadasi day of Shukla Paksha (the bright half) of the Margashirsha month (November-December) in traditional Hindi calendar. In 2013, the date of Gita Jayanti is December 13.

The discourse of Bhagavad Gita took place at the middle of the Kurushetra war. After several attempts of reconciliation failed, the war becomes inevitable. As per requested, out of pure compassion and sincere love to His devotee Arjuna, Krishna decided to become the charioteer for His best friend. The day of the war finally came and both of the armies gathered on the battlefield face to face. This is the time where Arjuna asks Lord Krishna to drive the chariot to the middle of the battlefield between both armies to have a look at the opponent. Seeing his Grand sire Bhishma who raised him since child and his teacher Drona who have thought him to be a great archer, Arjuna's heart begin to melt. His body started to tremble and his mind get confused which makes him deviate from his duty as a Kshatriya. He felt weak and sickened on the thought that he would have to kill his relatives, his friends and revered persons in this confrontation. Being very despondent, he told his friend Krishna of his problem and turn to Him to seek for advice. The advice that was given by Krishna to Arjuna is what is known now as the Bhagavad Gita, the most sacred philosophical non-sectarian text of the Hindu.



Gita Jayanthi is celebrated worldwide by devotees and people also revere the Bhagavad Gita as Mother of all knowledge. Mass recital of the 701 verses from all 18 chapters chanted throughout the day. Devotees also fast on this day as it is also Ekadasi. All Hindu Temples, especially those dedicated to Lord Vishnu and Lord Krishna, conduct special pujas on the day. ■



Editorial...

Time has come to write new saga of development, prosperity and glory!

Elections are taking place in five states. These elections are considered very crucial as these are expected to have immense impact on the Lok Sabha elections of 2014. People in Chhattisgarh have turned out overwhelmingly to cast their votes even in the face of Maoist threats. Madhya Pradesh will go for vote on 25th November which will be followed by elections in Rajasthan, Delhi and Mizoram. People are coming out in large numbers to participate in democratic process of electing their governments. It is the triumph of democracy. All the surveys and opinion polls have so far predicted big win for BJP in MP, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Delhi. People are coming out to vote against Congress led UPA government which has lost its credibility in the eyes of people. The states where BJP is in government have been predicted to return with even bigger mandates. In Delhi and Rajasthan, where Congress is in power BJP is getting overwhelming support from the people in the run up of the elections. People want to get rid of Congress misrule and its corrupt dispensation. A big change is going to take place as people are exercising their franchise with great determination and resolve.

Why is this happening? Why Congress which once had dominant presence in the country now getting thrown out of power from every state? It has no presence in a large number of states now – Bihar, UP, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal are some of the big states where Congress has been reduced to become non-entity in politics. In Maharashtra it is dependent on its ally while in Andhra Pradesh it is set for a rout. Even in Northeastern states it is facing challenges from regional parties. In states like Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh it has been out of power for a long time and its organisational structure has almost crumbled in these states. Why it has happened? The main reason is its shift from democracy to dynasty. The pre-independence Congress which was filled with democratic spirit and had principled politics as its hall mark under towering figures like Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel, could not measure upto these lofty ideas after coming to power. It followed the power centric politics of opportunism and compromise. It embraced dynasty more than the idea of democracy and India as a nation. Congress engaged itself in unlearning its legacy of freedom struggle and its only dharma is now to protect the interest of dynasty.

Congress now neither has respect for democracy nor it believes in it. Its only aim is to somehow remain glued to power even at the cost of national interest. In its 50 years of unbroken rule it pushed the country into darkness. It could not lead India to development. While other countries moved ahead in the path of development, India was plunged into politics of opportunism and appeasement. In the name of secularism people were misled and many a times national interests were compromised. Congress today has become symbol of corruption, unprincipled politics, opportunism and all round deterioration. Bereft of any dynamism today it lacks leadership, vision and credibility to lead the nation. In such a circumstances BJP has emerged as the only credible alternative. It has credible leadership and a track record of responsible politics.

While people are deeply disenchanted with Congress, new outfits emerged to divert the anti-Congress feeling of the people so as to divide their votes. But they now stand exposed. A sting operation has exposed the self-styled Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) showing its top leadership ready to accept money without any hesitation in misusing their position. They are now exposed! The gameplan of Congress stands defeated now. In another incident Tehelka editor Tarun Tejpal's attempt to cover up his sexual misadventure has come to the fore. It is surprising that Congress and self styled 'civil society' and so called 'progressive' sections have tried to somehow defend him. But Tarun Tejpal cannot be let off so easily, he

has done an extremely heinous act. The law should take its own course and he should be brought to book.

The time has come for India to reclaim its lost glory and greatness. Bharatiya Janata Party is the only hope for the nation. BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh is busy in preparing the party to face the challenges ahead. BJP Prime Ministerial candidate Shri Narendra Modi is getting overwhelming support in every nook and corner of the country. In Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan is set to form government with even bigger mandate. In Chhattisgarh people have cast their votes in huge numbers to re-elect Shri Raman Singh government. So far all the indications are there that Smt. Vasundhara Raje will form government in Rajasthan and Congress will bite dust at the hustings. In Delhi the stage is set for a BJP government under the impeccable image of Dr. Harshvardhan. The results will clearly set the tone for coming Lok Sabha elections in 2014. BJP has leadership, vision, credibility and policies and programmes which may make India a developed nation. People have not yet forgotten the nation building projects initiated by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee led NDA government. The pace of development was interrupted and impeded by Congress led UPA government. BJP has made a resolve to regain that pace and to move ahead to scale even greater heights under Shri Narendra Modi at the Centre. The BJP government in the states have earned the credibility by their tireless efforts which has culminated into remarkable results. Now the duty of every BJP karyakarta is to work tirelessly in the coming months to ensure that India's national interests are not compromised and Maa Bharati attains the param vaibhav to which we have committed ourselves. Let's not stop...we have to march ahead to lead the nation to write a new saga of development, prosperity and glory. ■

Iron Collection for Sardar Patel's Statue will start from December 15 : BJP

As announced by BJP's Prime Ministerial Candidate and Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi earlier, the process to collect iron from every village of the country for the world's tallest statue of Sardar Patel will kick-start from December 15. As many as 14 teams headed by Gujarat Ministers will visit 14 States to collect discarded iron farm tools.

The ambitious 182-metre tall 'Statue of Unity' project expected to be completed in next three years, is the brainchild of the BJP's prime ministerial candidate. The estimated cost of the project is over Rs 2,000 crore. "Each Minister will have a team of 11 members that includes Government officials from various cadre — IAS, IPS, IFS as well as representatives of social organizations and local bodies. The team would co-ordinate with the BJP cadre in the respective States to collect iron equipments used in farming from each and every

village," said Gujarat's Finance Minister Shri Nitin Patel.

On October 31 — Sardar Patel's birth anniversary — Shri Modi had announced that at least one iron farm equipment from each seven lakh village of India would pay tribute to 'The Iron Man' of India Sardar Patel.

Shri Nitin Patel, who is also Gujarat Government's spokesman, informed that he would visit Uttar Pradesh, while his Cabinet rank colleagues Sarvashri Anandiben Patel, Saurabh Patel, Bhupendrasinh Chudasama, Ramanlal Vora, Babu Bokhiria and Ganapatsinh Vasava will visit Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab, Haryana, Assam, Kerala and Odisha respectively. Another seven Ministers of State in the Gujarat Government including Sarvashri



Vasuben Trivedi, Pradeepsinh Jadeja, Rajnikant Patel, Jaydrathsinh Parmar, Nanu Vanani, Jayanti Kavdia and Parbat Patel will visit

Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and Goa respectively.

He informed that collected iron equipments will be stacked in 36 different centres across the country and later on the collected iron would be sent to Kevadia Colony, the site of 'Statue of Unity'. "We expect to collect nearly 5,000 tonnes of iron from the entire country, which will be used somewhere or other in the project," he added.

The statue will be erected at Sadhubet, about 3.32 km far from Sardar Sarovar dam. The place is expected to emerge as a world-class tourist place. The statue will be three times taller than America's iconic 'Statue of Liberty'. (FOC) ■

Bharatha Gellisi rally held in Bengaluru

India's greatest strengths are democracy & demography : Modi

BJP Prime Ministerial candidate and Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed a massive 'Bharatha Gellisi' public rally in Bengaluru on 17th November. Addressing the gathering Shri Modi spoke about the importance of the IT sector in

Government is in power, it must take note of their concerns. Shri Modi declared that the Congress is sitting on ivory towers and described them as indoor players whereas the BJP Karyakartas are outdoor players who go among the people.

Shri Modi attacked the poor

brought in an IT Act and a new policy on science and technology. He even recalled that it was Atal ji who dreamt of a mission to the moon during his speech at the Red Fort on 15th August 2003. Shri Modi congratulated the youth of the nation, particularly of Bangalore who have made a mark across the world with their excellent knowledge in IT.

He stated that under the UPA, their priorities have been different and they have seen everything from votebank politics. Shri Modi gave the example of the Congress government in Karnataka's first decision after coming to power, which was not related to economic policy but was to repeal the cow protection bill passed by the earlier BJP



India's development and attacked the Congress led UPA government at the centre, under whose tenure the IT sector has witnessed a slowdown in terms of growth. Shri Modi also sharply criticized the statement made by the Union Finance Minister on the life patterns of the middle class. He asked whether or not the urban middle class is a part of India and said that it is important that whichever

economic situation prevalent in the country under the Congress led UPA government. He affirmed that the Rupee is in the ICU and sectors like the Railways are not witnessing any growth due to lack of innovation and a focus only on vote bank politics. Similarly, he recalled that the IT sector had begun to shine under the Prime Ministership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, whose government

government. Similarly, he recalled that the first decision the UPA took in New Delhi after coming to power was to repeal POTA and this was guided by nothing but votebank politics. Shri Modi even questioned the incentives being given by the Centre for mutton exporters and said instead that money could be given to the youth of Bangalore who are shining in the IT sector and making India proud all over

the world.

Shri Modi affirmed that India's greatest strengths are democracy and demography but Congress strangles democracy and considers the youth only a voter whereas the BJP views our youth as a power. Shri Modi opined that the development of the youth would be top priority of the BJP and added that the more we empower our youth, the stronger our nation becomes.

Shri Modi talked about the

importance of skill development if we want to empower our youth and questioned the seriousness of the Centre towards this field. He shared that a small state of Gujarat has allotted Rs. 800 crore for skill development while the Centre has given Rs. 1000 crore only! Shri Modi also narrated how the Centre formed a National Council on Skill Development in 2008 only to form another committee 25 days later. He added that for years nothing happened on this front and then in 2011 a Skill Development Advisory Office

was opened by the Centre and in 2013 all these bodies were dissolved and a Skill Development Agency was made. Shri Modi was speaking about this to demonstrate the lack of seriousness the Centre is giving towards skill development. On the issue of democracy, Shri Modi said that the Congress neither respects nor believes in democracy. He gave the examples of the emergency, their planned restrictions on social media among other things to



illustrate his points. On the issue on banning opinion polls Shri Modi said that the Congress may want to stop opinion polls but people have already formed their opinion. He took on the Centre for rising prices of essential commodities, their failure to provide jobs to the youth and for their misusing of the CBI. Shri Modi thanked the Karnataka BJP for their hard work in making this rally a success and thanked the people for contributing Rs. 10/- to hear the rally, which would be a

contribution for Statue of Unity.

Earlier BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh delivered a strong and inspiring speech where he attacked the UPA for rising prices. He urged the people of Karnataka to make the BJP victorious in maximum Lok Sabha seats in the state.

"The CBI is being misused to break Shri Modi's resolve. You have heard all kinds of things trying to defame your beloved Modiji. You will continue to hear such things. But Indian people must stand united and not allow this, I appeal to you," says Shri Singh. What India needs is a lion-heart as prime minister, he says. "And that is Modi."

Shri Rajnath Singh attacking the Congress said Sonia called Shri Modi him 'Maut Ka Saudagar'. I want to ask her, in 1983 in Assam, under the rule of a Congress government, 5,000 people died. You didn't say anything about that chief minister."

He cites more examples of riots in Congress-ruled states in the past several decades. It is the Congress party that has split communities, he continues.

He said, "The British policy of Divide and Rule has been adopted by the Congress."

Present on the occasion were former BJP National President Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, former CMs Shri Sadanand Gowda, Shri Jagdish Shettar, BJP National General Secretaries Shri Ananth Kumar, Shri Thawarchand Gehlot, Karnataka BJP President Shri Prahlad Joshi, former Deputy CMs Shri R Ashok, Shri Eshwarappa, among other leaders. ■

BJP would bring a change in lives of people through the *Mantra* of development : Modi

After the phenomenal success of the Vijay Shankhnad Rallies in Kanpur, Jhansi and Bahraich, BJP Prime Ministerial Candidate Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Vijay Shankhnad Rally in Agra on 21st November 2013. In an address filled with aspiration and hope, Shri Narendra Modi assured the people that the BJP would bring a change in their lives through the Mantra of development. He added that this

say that other parties like SP & BSP have learnt this from the Congress and have added their own colour to it as well. Referring to the Congress, SP and BSP Shri Modi pointed, "They are competing on votebank politics. It is due to sins of Congress that SP and BSP have emerged." Shri Modi shared that corruption is rampant but the Congress leaders are not bothered about it. "You cannot imagine how thick skinned they

Shri Modi raised the point of why Agra has not got clean drinking water despite being on the banks of the Yamuna. "Those sitting in Lucknow do not know what the common men and women want. That is why you are not getting water." He also questioned why neither the Centre nor the state have thought on giving Agra a good international airport that will draw tourists from all over the world. Shri Modi avowed, "If



their minister belongs to a smaller place then they will build an airport there but not for Agra, which draws tourists from all over the world." Shri Modi shared that the tourism industry is

development would touch every section of society.

Shri Modi said, "BJP is driven by principles of nationalism and integration. We do not want those who divided people. If we follow the development agenda issues of casteism, communalism and nepotism will go away."

Shri Modi stated that the Congress is not interested in the development of the nation and the reason is their obsession with votebank politics. He went on to

have become. The reason is that they do not see people as the strength but they see them as being in their pockets," opined Shri Modi.

During his speech he pointed to the lack of development in Uttar Pradesh and asked till when would youngsters leave their homes in search of jobs. He asked why is it that there is no electricity in UP but some places from where powerful people belong there is 24/7 electricity.

growing very fast and is expected to touch \$ 3 trillion but added that Agra may not gain from this growth till this Government exists because they lack a sense of priority.

Other senior BJP leaders who spoke on the occasion include Shri Vinay Katiyar, Shri Kalraj Mishra and Shri Kalyan Singh. Former UP CM Shri Kalyan Singh described Shri Modi as a 'Yug Purush' who will save the nation from the mis-governance of the Congress.

MADHYA PRADESH (CHHATARPUR)

Nation needs Vikas Not Vibhajan

Shri Narendra Modi began his campaign in the poll bound state of Madhya Pradesh on 18th November 2013 when he addressed a massive BJP rally in Chhatarpur (Chhatarpur district) and later spoke at a massive rally in Sagar (Sagar district).



Thereafter Shri Modi addressed rallies in Guna (Guna district) and Bhopal, the state capital. Lauding the development work of the Madhya Pradesh government under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Shri Modi made a strong appeal to the voters to vote in large numbers and make the BJP emerge victorious in the state yet again. Shri Modi categorically stated that the BJP is seeking the vote of the people in the name of development.

Speaking in Bhopal, Shri Modi said that the time for votebank politics is over and what the nation needs is development politics. "We need Vikas, not Vibhajan," affirmed the BJP's PM candidate. He pointed that the Congress has destroyed the essence of our *Ganatantra* and made it a *Ghartantra* (family run) and he called for bidding goodbye to this political culture and making it a *Gunatantra*. Shri Modi brought out the rigid and partisan attitude of the Congress by giving the example of the Centre's refusal to install gates on the Narmada Dam. He shared that due to this, Madhya Pradesh is being denied 800 MW of electricity it can otherwise get. Shri Modi

challenged the Congress to first implement the false promises they are offering to the people in their own states.

Lauding the development of the Madhya Pradesh under Shri Chouhan, Shri Modi said, "BJP and Shivraj Singh Chouhan ji have developed Madhya Pradesh overcoming every possible obstacle including an unfriendly government in

New Delhi." He gave examples to illustrate the good work of Shri Chouhan, be it is increasing wheat production from 50 lakh tonnes during the Congress government to over 160 lakh tonnes at present, improving irrigation facilities and high rate of MP's agriculture growth. Shri Modi shared that when the Bundelkhand package was given, Shivraj ji's efforts to implement the package were lauded uniformly, including by the Prime Minister whereas in Uttar Pradesh no one knows what happened to the money. Shri Modi stated that the same Congress that seeks votes in the name of farmers presided over a regime in MP where farmers were charged exorbitant rates of interest whereas under Shivraj ji, farmers do not have to pay any interest.

Shri Modi affirmed that it is the onus of the democratically elected Government to go among the people and tell them what they have done. Praising Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Shri Modi said, "Political parties must go among the people and tell them what they have done. Delhi is not willing to answer what it did but I congratulate Shivraj ji and his entire team. He covered the state, went to villages and told the people what he did. He told the people what was the situation during Congress rule and what it is now, he told them where the state was earlier and where it is now." He added that Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan's Yatra received a wonderful response from the people of Madhya Pradesh and said that right from the very beginning, Shivraj ji has devoted every moment of his time to the people.

Taking on the Congress party for their inability to answer the people on what they have done for Madhya Pradesh, Shri Modi pointed that the Congress does not want MP to development because it fears that if MP develops the credit would go to the BJP and they would never win in the

state. He affirmed that the Congress lacks the courage to speak about issues of development. Exposing the doublespeak of the Congress Shri Modi declared, "Congress leaders go to villages and make speeches- why were schools not built, why were hospitals not built. I ask them, you ruled in Madhya Pradesh for 50 years. Did you build schools that Shivraj ji demolished? Did you build hospitals that Shivraj ji has locked? You did not do anything!" He accused the Centre of ignoring the roads of Madhya Pradesh, which can affect the state's efforts to present itself as an attractive tourist destination.

He described the former MP Chief Minister and Congress General Secretary as a Chairman of 'Jhooth Manufacturing factory' who is constantly spreading lies.

Giving a fitting answer to the recent statement by the Prime Minister that the BJP has lowered the level of politics in the country, Shri Modi said, "I want to ask the Prime Minister who lowered the dignity of his office and who disrespected the Cabinet system? PM's own party Vice President calls his decision nonsense, nonsense, nonsense and that too in front of the media." Shri Modi told the Prime Minister that no BJP leader has ever lowered the dignity of the Prime Minister's office but it is those sitting close to the Prime Minister who have done so. He stated that one can understand that the Prime Minister cannot speak against those who are really causing him pain but asked him not to blame the BJP.

Shri Modi strongly criticized the statement by the Congress Vice President that the BJP leaders are thieves, saying that such language is not proper. He added that if the BJP has stolen something, it is the sleep of the Congress leaders. Shri Modi avowed that the strength of the Lotus is such that the Congress is unable to bear one family coming under so much criticism. Elaborating further he said, "I come from a village and from a poor family. I do not belong to the elite class. These people get upset at what we say. Attack any other person or party it is ok but if 1 family is attacked see what happens. Is decency only for defence of 1 family?" He further added, "It is my birth right to raise a voice against those who have ruined India. If committing wrong is your right then it is mine to place it in front of the people." He attributed the rising prices that are affecting the poor to the

flawed economic policies of the UPA.

He expressed confidence that the BJP would form the Government in Delhi in 2014 and with a BJP government both in MP and Delhi the development of MP would scale even greater heights. Large number of BJP leaders and Karyakartas were present during the rallies.

SHAHDOL

Shivraj ji along with lakhs of Karyakartas are devoted to serving the people of MP

Narendra Modi continued his campaign across Madhya Pradesh, addressing multiple rallies in the poll bound state on 20th November 2013. Shri Modi spoke at a rally in Shahdol (Shahdol district), which was followed, by rallies in Singrauli (district). Shri Modi affirmed that Madhya Pradesh has been saved due to the BJP and urged the people not to hand over the state to the Congress, which has ruined the nation and would ruin the state as well. He urged the people to sever their ties with those who have been unable to fulfill the promises they made to the people.

Showering praise on the work of the Madhya Pradesh Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Shri Modi said, "MP Government under Shivraj Singh Chouhan ji has done a lot of work to protect the forests, tribal communities and the women of the state. *MP ke sabhi logon ko Shivraj ji apne lagte hain. Woh samajhte hain Shivraj ji apne Parivar ke hain* (In MP, everyone considers Shivraj ji a part of their family). And we are very proud of Shivraj ji. He along with lakhs of Karyakartas are devoted to serving the people of MP. He lauded the work of Shri Chouhan's Government towards improving maternal health and infant mortality.

Shri Modi affirmed that there is great anger in the minds of people towards the Congress party and they want to punish it. He questioned if the Congress remembered working for welfare of women and children for the 50 years during which they were in power. Shri Modi declared that by taking the name of the poor 50 times a day, the Congress thinks it has become compassionate towards the poor when that is not true. He attacked the Congress for mocking the poor of India and

said that the poor do not like to beg for things and get them for free but instead they like a life of dignity where can work and earn their living.

Taking on the Congress for its unfulfilled promises Shri Modi asked what happened to the Congress promise of bringing prices down in 100 days? Referring to the series of unbelievable promises being made by the Congress to the voters of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Modi asked the Congress to first fulfill those promises in states neighbouring Maharashtra and in Karnataka where they are in power before misleading the people of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. "Can you trust the promises by the Congress or the words of their leaders? They are the same people who have misled you so never trust them!" affirmed Shri Modi.

Referring to the popularity of the BJP in the hearts and minds of the people Shri Modi pointed that these days it is difficult for the BJP to do a rally in the heart of a city and have to do it on the outer areas considering the large number of people who want to attend them.

Speaking in Shahdol district, Shri Narendra Modi talked about the contribution of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan in the development of tribal communities. He recalled that it was 50 years after Independence that a department for tribal affairs was created by Atal ji. He asked why the Congress did not do the same for so many years.

Shri Modi congratulated Shri Chouhan for setting up medical and engineering colleges in remote areas, which have opened several opportunities for the tribal youth. He further said, "Wherever BJP has got a chance to form the government, see the efforts they have made towards the development of tribal communities. What BJP governments have done for the tribal communities, no Congress government would have done." In Shahdol he also paid tributes to Maa Narmada, who is the lifeline of Gujarat.

Shri Modi's rallies have generated a phenomenal response across Madhya Pradesh.

Record numbers of people are attending the rallies. A large participation of the youth is seen.

ALWAR (RAJASTHAN)

Uproot the Congress, which has destroyed the nation, from this land of Rajasthan

Shri Narendra Modi addressed a series of public meetings in various parts of Rajasthan on 19th November 2013. Shri Modi began his campaign by



speaking in Alwar (Alwar district), which was followed by a well-attended public meeting in Pala (Bharatpur district) and in Sawai Madhopur and Bandikui. In his speeches, Shri Modi delivered a sharp attack on the misgovernance of the Rajasthan government under Shri Ashok Gehlot and gave a clarion call to defeat the Congress government. "Uproot the Congress, that has destroyed the nation, from this land of Rajasthan. Under Vasundhara ji take Rajasthan to greater heights and make the BJP victorious in the coming elections," Shri Modi affirmed.

Shri Narendra Modi minced no words in saying that if the nation has to progress, it has to be free from the menace of corruption and attacked the corrupt ways of the Congress Party. "Aakash, Prithvi, Patal...Congress ne kuch nahi chhoda" (Be it the skies,

the land the Congress has left nothing) and added, "Submarine scam, rail scam, Adarsh, coal scam, Congress scams are spread across all 3 Loks. *Who Rail me Khate Hain, Khel Me Khate Hain; Khet Me Khate Hain, Ret Me Bhi Khate Hain*" (Congress steals in railways and sports, they steal in the farms and they steal in the soil). Shri Modi spoke against the large amounts of money that are stashed abroad in foreign banks and questioned the Centre over their silence on bringing this money back, saying that the people have the right to know who that money belonged to.

He did not spare the dismal record of governance in Rajasthan under Shri Ashok Gehlot, saying it is Number 1 for all the wrong reasons. Referring to the working of the Congress government, Shri Modi urged the people to reject a Government that does not work for 55 months and replace it with a Government that will work for all 60 months. Shri Modi avowed that the law and order situation in Rajasthan is extremely poor and shared that both the Honourable Rajasthan High Court and the Honourable Supreme Court of India have rebuked the Rajasthan Government, saying it cannot stay in power if the Government is not able to deliver.

Elaborating further, Shri Modi pointed that if there was any state topping the list in atrocities towards tribal communities, it is Rajasthan. Similarly, the Gehlot government failed to provide clean drinking water to the people of Rajasthan, Shri Modi stated. He also criticized the Rajasthan

government for the poor condition of roads in the state, adding that even Shri Gehlot's colleagues in his Ministry say when we enter Gujarat by road we can sleep peacefully as the roads are smooth. Shri Modi recalled the rebuke of the Rajasthan Government by the Honourable Governor of Rajasthan.

Shri Modi further said, "You (Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government in Rajasthan) are ahead in corruption. If there is a record for most ministers in jail, that too has been held by your government. There have been over 40 instances of violence under your tenure. Who is responsible for this? People need to be saved from your path!"

Giving a fitting reply to Rajasthan Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot, who likes to bring Gujarat in everything Shri Modi affirmed, "Day and night the Rajasthan CM is talking about Gujarat. Is the election in Gujarat or Rajasthan? Should we talk about Gujarat or Rajasthan? Gujarat does not need any certificates from the Rajasthan Chief Minister. And Gehlot ji, please see your own leaders!" He added, "In December 2012 we presented our work to the

people and we got a third term to serve them."

SAWAI MADHOPUR

In Sawai Madhopur, Shri Narendra Modi stated that the Congress has no faith in democracy and further criticized the Congress for their failure to fulfill promises made to the people. He said that wherever there have been BJP governments, there has been development and he gave the example of Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan's work



in Madhya Pradesh, which removed MP from the category of BIMARU states. Shri Modi urged people to vote early and gave a call of 'Pehle Matadan, Phir Jalpan' (vote first, eat later.)

BJP leaders, Karyakartas and people from every section of society cutting across all age groups came to hear Shri Modi during all these public meetings. ■

All round development of State will be our focus : Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan flanked by other senior leaders released the Madhya Pradesh BJP manifesto on 16 November and promised well-connected road system, increased power

connected road infrastructure will be carried on further)," Shri Chouhan said.

Shri Chouhan said that power generation will be substantially increased by 2020. "The generation of electricity by 2020 will be increased to 20,000

irrigation projects, we will make sure that in the next five years, we will increase the irrigation level to 40, 0000 hectares," he added.

While releasing the manifesto, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan also highlighted the

schemes for the farmers of the state.

Shri Chouhan said "We will bring agriculture to the forefront and link it to food - processing. Agriculture will turn beneficial only when the farmers also get engaged with some other occupation

generation and schemes for farmers ahead of upcoming polls.

"First we are thinking of dealing with infrastructure. Around 5, 000 villages do not have proper roads. In five years we will not leave any village in Madhya Pradesh which is not connected to 'Mukhyamantri Baramasi Sadak Yojna' (which mainly focuses on linking smaller villages through a well

MW. To achieve this, we have decided to come up with new power plants and the ones which are being constructed will be completed.

The main idea is to make sure that Madhya Pradesh does not face any power crises and the progress of the state continues. Concerning irrigation, we have plans and with the projects associated with Narmada river and other

apart from agriculture and when the farmer earns the correct price for his produce. We have decided to give a bonus of Rs 150 (nearly \$2.39) per quintal on wheat, maize and rice so that the farmers get the correct price and we have also decided to give them loans. These initiatives would be taken ahead".

State Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh will be held on November 25. (FOC) ■



BJP will do all-round development of Rajasthan : Rajnath Singh

BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh, former Rajasthan Chief Minister Smt. Vasundhara Raje along with many other senior leaders of BJP released BJP's manifesto for the Rajasthan Assembly poll on 20 November 2013 in Jaipur.

Releasing the 'Suraj Sankalp Patra', BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh said people had lost faith in political manifestos released by other parties and hence BJP had named it 'Suraj Sankalp Patra'. Shri Singh said BJP do ensure all-round development of the State as promised in the 'Suraj Sankalp Patra'.

Smt. Vasundhara Raje told reporters that the party would ensure farmers get agriculture loans at 1 per cent interest and unemployed youths get up to Rs 20 lakh loan at 3 per cent to set up business. It promised to create 15 lakh new jobs in the next five year-term.

Power supply would be provided for 24 hours for domestic use and for 8 hours in three phases for farmers, Smt. Raje said. Gujjars, Raika, Rebari (Dewasi), Banjara, Baldiya, Labana, Gardia Luhar and Gadoliya castes would be provided 5 per cent quota as Special-OBC, She said.

Pakistan refugees living in Rajasthan for decades would be offered housing, employment, education and nationality status and the party would seek the Centre's cooperation in this regard, she said.

In the manifesto, BJP further promised policies for women, children, youths, teachers, police, tourism, and industry, and said it would obtain special status for the State.

Time-bound promotions for Government employees, allowance for rural staff,

free medical facility with the former also to be given pensions.

BJP promised to draw up an effective policy to curb female foeticide and said it would restart the Bhamashah scheme under which bank accounts would be opened for 50 lakh women.



separate service cadre and police force for tribal areas, modernization of madrassas, social security scheme for workers of unorganised sector were also amongst BJP's electoral promises.

BJP promised to review teachers' eligibility test and resolve issues of Vidhyarthi Mitra, part-time and contract teachers.

It also assured free college education for students who secure above 80 per cent marks in their secondary and higher-secondary exams.

It also said it would set up an academy in Churu in association with the Army along with sports schools at all district headquarters. International and national-level players would get

Strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions, hike in the honorarium of elected members of Panchayats, provision of safe drinking water, interlinking of rivers in the State, linking of Chambal scheme with Bisalpur scheme for irrigation, installation of ATMs in villages, setting up of air-taxi service, were among the other highlights of the manifesto.

The party said it would review the Janani Shishu Suraksha scheme, free laptop scheme and free medicine scheme to make them more effective.

Commitments towards the welfare of, amongst others, minorities and differently-abled were also included in the 60-page manifesto. ■

We will come back with clear majority : Vasundhara



Elections are taking place in Rajasthan. On 1st December 2013 people are going to cast their votes to elect their government in the state. So far all the opinion polls have predicted that BJP will form government in the state. Rajasthan BJP State President Smt. Vasundhara Raje Scindia had earlier toured the entire state in the course of 'Suraj Sankalp Yatra' and received massive support from the people. As Chief Minister of Rajasthan she initiated several schemes of development in the State and now people are eager to see her serving the state as Chief Minister again. Kamal Sandesh Executive Editor Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi talked to her about plans for the state and current political scenario. Excerpts:

Before the announcement of assembly polls you had toured the state extensively in the course of your 'Suraj Sankalp Yatra'. How do you see the massive support which you got from the people?

By the end of the Yatra I found myself arriving at two major conclusions. One, that if this is the level of spontaneous anger in the people then there is little chance of the Congress Party winning Rajasthan in December. And, two that there seems to be a real hunger in the people for a strong lead at the top and this is translating already into a demand for a change in the state and also for Narendra Modi to become Prime Minister. But, mostly my second major yatra through the villages of Rajasthan showed everyone how the state

had not progressed at all since 2008!

There are things about India that only become evident when you travel outside the environs of the cities. It should be compulsory for our elected representatives to go on regular, travels through their constituencies.

What were the main issues which came to fore? What kind of expectations people had from BJP?

A young man wrote on my Facebook page, "Cycle chahiye, paisa le lo, laptop chahiye, paisa le lo, yeh sarkar toh bheekh ki katori haath mein rakhkar hi chhodega (Want a cycle, here's the money; want a laptop, here's the money; this government will not rest until it has made us all beggars)." There's money

for everything, but no employment. That sums up what people think. I was astonished.

Congress government was in power in Rajasthan for last five years. How do you see the main failures of this government?

Rajasthan ka aadmi swabhimaani hai (Rajasthanis are a proud people). Rahul Gandhi says I will give you four rotis and free medicine and you give me your vote. He could have been more elegant. For over 60 years, you have lived off people's poverty. You immortalized the slogan 'Gareebi Hatao' but the World Bank says 70 per cent of the people in India are poor.

After 66 years of independence, who is to blame for this? The people of Rajasthan are proud and don't like to be dealt with in such an insensitive way.

Why didn't the Gehlot government give pensions five years ago? We had introduced the Bhamashah Yojana and out of the Rs 800 crore allocated for it, I had already transferred Rs 200 crore. It was the precursor to what Nandan Nilekani is doing today (through the UIDAI). Rajasthan was the crucible in which the experiment was conducted. A female member of the family would get the card and Rs 1,500 would be deposited into her savings bank account. There was a health insurance of Rs 30,000. Seven lakh people had already benefited when the scheme was stopped (by the Gehlot government). We were the first state to start rolling out DBT (direct benefit transfers).

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot also launched a 'yatra' to highlight the achievements of his government. What kind of message this yatra had from the people?

First, they copied us and started their 'yatra' to remind people of their non-existent achievements. Then the unceremonious manner in which the state Congress concluded its Sandesh Yatra after seeing the anger in the people on the Rajasthan against the Government was a clear indication of how under confident they are. Congress travelled to almost two-dozen constituencies under the garb of government programmes, as chief minister Ashok Gehlot

(uthghatan-mantri) laid foundation stones of some projects and cut inaugural ribbons of the others in those areas. The regions of Jodhpur, Pali, Bhilwara, Nagaur, Jaisalmer and Barmer were covered through government functions and at some places, the state helicopter was used.

Congress government in Rajasthan hogged national limelight in the media due to corruption, sex-scandals and riots. How these issues are affecting people in the state?

It reflects the condition of women in the state, which now ranks as the number two state in crimes against women nation-wide. It is shocking for a state known to respect women that those in power are indulging in such actions. It is deeply upsetting to see the doom that the State is seeing under the misgovernance of the Congress Government. Never has Rajasthan been so tainted in terms of atrocities and crimes against women. If one looks at the 5-year term of the Congress Government in Rajasthan, there is ex-Cabinet Minister Mahipal Maderna behind bars, ex-Minister Ram Lal Jat who resigned over murder allegations and now Babu Lal Nagar who has been charged of rape.

People all over the country have been suffering under the Congress led UPA government at the Centre. How this is going to impact the elections in Rajasthan?

I stand for development, for jobs, for amenities. I stand for bijli, paani, sadak; for schools where there are teachers; for hospitals where doctors are available. Everybody wants it. We are linked to that. A lot of people from Rajasthan go to Ahmedabad for work. They see for themselves what that state provides and expects the same here when they come back. Today, television takes us directly to drawing rooms in the US, China or Japan and we want the same things in our own country.

There was so much hype about Manmohan Singh. He was supposed to understand economics but what has he been able to deliver? Today, people are clear that if you can't deliver, we do not have time for you.

If the people vote BJP to power in the state what



Tehelka scandal - a clear case of rape : Jaitley

A female co-worker and intern journalist has accused Tehelka news magazine's editor-in-chief Tarun Tejpal of sexually assaulting her. Goa police has lodged FIR against Tarun Tejpal. The FIR charged the case of rape against him. The young female journalist has said he (Tarun Tejpal) sexually assaulted her on two days at a Tehelka event in Goa earlier this month.

Following allegations of sexual assault against Tarun Tejpal, Leader of Opposition Shri Arun Jaitley reacted strongly and said the victim's complaint makes out a clear case of rape. **Following is the full text of Mr Jaitley's remarks:**

"The Indian Media is on trial. A young intern alleged that a retired Judge had made an improper advance towards her. The media reported it extensively. The Chief Justice of India appointed a three Judge inquiry to examine the issue and report its finding. A Section of the media is outraged that the police in Gujarat was protecting or allegedly keeping an eye on a young lady even with her and her family's consent.

The Goa incident involving Tarun Tejpal and a young



journalist is in a different league altogether. The victim's complaint makes out a clear case of rape. The definition of rape was amended by the parliament subsequent to the Justice Verma Committees recommendations. The ingredients of an offence of rape as amended by parliament are squarely made out in the victim's e-mail. Why was the offence not allowed to be reported forthwith? Were any pressures brought on the victim not to lodge a complaint? How can an offence of rape be compromised by an atonement that the guilty will not attend court for six months? It is unheard of that a private treaty between Tarun Tejpal and Shoma

Choudhary wipes out the penal consequence of rape. How can Shoma Choudhary so definitely say that the victim will not depose before the police? Is she not guilty of tampering with evidence in a rape case by pressuring a young employee to conceal the offence?

The grievance of the citizens' movement after the gang rape of Nirbhaya in Delhi was that sexual assaults are always under reported. Is this what is happening in this case? Just because the assailant has connections in the Congress party the nation is deprived of the sage advice of P Chidambaram, the caustic comments of Kapil Sibal and the exaggerated tweets of Manish Tiwari.

Shri Manish Tiwari was in Goa recently. He discovered Hitler there. What a pity that he could not discover a serial rapist in Goa. Additionally we will all await if the outrage in the media is proportionate to the offence. Or will journalistic pressures be brought on the young journalist to conceal the truth. May be secular philandering is to be dealt with a different standard. We all wait to see if the young lady testifies to the truth or not." ■

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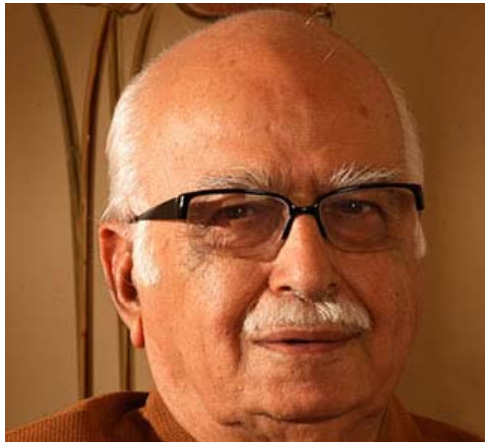
immediate steps do you plan to take?

We will continue all the good schemes. Once I come into government, there is no Congress or BJP, only what is good for the people.

What kind of mandate are you expecting from the people this time? In opinion polls BJP

seems to have taken a lead - will you be able to cross two-third majority mark?

Over all, the respondents of all our surveys were not happy with the performance of the Congress government. The atmosphere is very positive. We will come back with clear majority! ■



Dr. K.M. Munshi's first hand account of Nehru-Patel differences over Hyderabad Action

By L.K. Advani

On the eve of Sardar Patel's birth anniversary last year, that is, on October 30, 2012, the Pioneer of New Delhi published a news report which said that following some sharp comments made by Prime Minister Nehru in which he disapproved Sardar Patel's decision to send the Army into Hyderabad, Sardar Patel walked out of an important Cabinet Committee meeting.

A major controversy has erupted since then more particularly after I used the Pioneer news story in one of my blogs. The news story was no doubt based on a Malayalam book written by an IAS officer Shri M K K Nayar who passed away in 1987. As I mentioned in one of my later blogs, the book has now been translated into English, but it is still to be published.

But those who are disputing the contents of the Malayalam book affirm that the so called differences over the Hyderabad action are the product of the author's partisan imagination. They keep emphasising the fact that M K K Nayar could not have been privy to what happened at a Committee meeting of the Government of India.

I have before me a 621-page extremely well documented book written by Dr., K.M. Munshi way back in 1967. It is titled "Pilgrimage to Freedom". Munshi was India's Agent General in Hyderabad before the Police Action. I am reproducing at some length excerpts from a chapter of this volume about the armed action in Hyderabad. This chapter provides clinching evidence from a participant in the crucial episode that the events mentioned in the Malayalam book are substantially correct.

The chapter opens with these tell-tale paragraphs :

The most ambitious of Indian Princes was the Nizam of Hyderabad who declared on June 12, 1947, that "the departure of the paramount power in the near future will mean that I shall become entitled to resume the status of an independent sovereign." He also demanded the 'retrocession' of Berar, that had once formed part of his State, and started negotiations with Portugal to acquire the port of Goa, to secure an outlet for his State to the sea.

The Nizam had set his heart on becoming a "Third Dominion" of the British Commonwealth. Sir Conrad Corfield, the Adviser to the Crown

Representative, was reported to be its sponsor. It is possible that he himself had presented the idea to the Nizam in the first instance.

On November 29, 1947, after prolonged negotiations, a one-year Standstill Agreement was signed between Hyderabad and India. Sardar, in his statement to the Constituent Assembly on that occasion, expressed the hope that during that period the way would be paved for the permanent accession of Hyderabad.

Sardar asked me (Dr. K.M. Munshi) to go to Hyderabad as the Agent-General of the Union of India, as one had to be appointed by each party under the terms of the Standstill Agreement. When I consulted Gandhiji, he approved of the idea; so I accepted the commission, but refused to take any remuneration".

The chapter goes on to add :

My (K.M. Munshi's) position in Hyderabad was most embarrassing to me because of the parallel approaches to the Hyderabad problem by those who held power in New Delhi. Sardar and V.P. Menon were dealing with the situation through me to secure the accession of the State on the

same terms as the accession of other States. Lord Mountbatten, the Governor-General, carried on negotiations with the Nizam's Prime Minister, Laik Ali, supported by Sir Walter Monckton, and was prepared to concede substantial autonomy to Hyderabad if the Nizam only signed a document to come into the Union.

Jawaharlal Nehru was averse to the line followed by Sardar. At one stage, it was suggested to Sardar that I should be replaced by someone else at Hyderabad. Sardar would not think of it. More than once I was disgusted at being distrusted by my Prime Minister, having had to provide independent corroboration every time I reported an atrocity on the part of the Ittehad. I would have thrown up the job but for Sardar's confidence in me.

As the Hyderabad situation was inexorably moving towards a climax, due to the intransigence of the Nizam and his advisers, Sardar considered it advisable to let the Nizam's Government know clearly that the patience of the Government of India was fast getting exhausted. Accordingly a communication to that effect was sent from the States Ministry by V.P. Menon.

When Jawaharlal Nehru came to hear of this, he was extremely upset. A day before our army was scheduled to march into Hyderabad he called a special meeting of the Defence Committee of the Cabinet, excluding the three Chiefs of Staff. The meeting, held in the Prime Minister's room, was attended by Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar, Maulana Azad, the then Defence and Finance Ministers, the State Secretary V.P.

Menon and the Defence Secretary H.M. Patel.

The discussion had scarcely begun when Jawaharlal Nehru flew into a rage and upbraided Sardar for his action and attitude towards Hyderabad. He also directed his wrath against V.P. Menon. He concluded his outburst with the remark that in future he would himself attend to all matters relating to Hyderabad. The vehemence of his attack, as well as its timing, shocked everyone present. Throughout the outburst Sardar sat still without uttering a word. He then rose and left the meeting accompanied by V.P. Menon. The meeting dispersed without transacting any business.

V.P. Menon registered his protest by letting Jawaharlal Nehru know that if that was how he felt about things there was no point in his (Menon's) continuing in the States Ministry.

By then the Prime Minister felt that he had overshot the mark and apologized to Menon. He never carried out his threat to take the Hyderabad portfolio out of Sardar's hands, and the latter adhered to his schedule regarding the police action. There was no further discussion between the two on the subject of Hyderabad.

Shri V.P. Menon and H.M. Patel have borne out the truth of the foregoing incident.

Even a little while before zero hour for the police action attempts were made by the British army chief to defer action, but Sardar stuck to the time-table and our forces marched into Hyderabad.

Swift action followed. No sooner had the military appeared on the scene than the straw-stuffed power of the Nizam collapsed.

V.P. Menon's book "The

Integration of States" reports a speech by Kasim Rizvi that if the Indian Dominion comes to Hyderabad it will find nothing but the bones and ashes of the one and half crores of Hindus.

On September 13th the Army's Operation Polo commenced. On September 17th the Operation ended and Laik Ali and his cabinet tendered their resignation. The same day the Nizam told his army to surrender to the Indian Armed Forces. There was not a single communal incident in the entire country.

TAILPIECE

After the successful Army Action, Shri K.M. Munshi tendered his resignation from the office of Agent General. The States Ministry issued a press note generously acknowledging how Munshiji had worked with single minded devotion to achieve the task assigned to him.

Munshi says in his book-Pilgrimage to Freedom :

When I was back in Delhi Sardar insisted that I should call on Jawaharlal Nehru as a matter of courtesy. When I went to the Prime Minister's office in Parliament House, he came out in the ante-room and frigidly accosted me: "Hello Munshi". "I have come to call on you, now that I am back in Delhi," I said. He almost turned as if to go; then he turned round, shook hands with me and left.

I told Sardar how sorry I was to have accepted his advice to see Jawaharlal Nehru. Sardar laughed and said: "Some of them are angry that you helped in liquidating the Ittehad power. Some others are angry that you did not allow them to remove the Nizam from Hyderabad straightway. Some cannot vent their anger on me, and therefore make you the target." ■

Minority-appeasers can't be secularists

By Balbir Punj

The Prime Minister's misplaced effort to reclaim Sardar Patel's secular legacy is ridiculous. The Iron Man would have been horrified by this regime's stand that Muslims have the first right on national resources.

When Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said at a recent function in Ahmedabad that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was secular, he, in fact, disowned the entire edifice of secularism put together by the secular pack of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, since independence.

There is a vast difference between the concept of secularism that the Sardar professed and the one that has been practiced by the Nehru-Gandhi clan for the last 60 years. While the common goal of attaining independence for the country did bind Sardar Patel and Nehru together, the two leaders represented contrasting strains of the independence movement.

Sardar Patel was realistic and drew inspiration from the pluralistic sanatani traditions of India while Nehru, a romantic, was cut off from reality and influenced by Fabian socialism. The latter was also not a natural leader for India. He was foisted on the country by Mahatma Gandhi. Barring two Pradesh Congress Committees, the rest favoured Sardar Patel as Prime Minister.

Instead, Sardar Patel became the Home Minister (apart from being Deputy Prime Minister)

and in that position, the Kashmir issue was his responsibility. But Prime Minister Nehru took away the Kashmir issue from the Home Ministry and tagged it on External Affairs, giving a handle to India's opponents that New Delhi itself did not believe that Kashmir was an integral part of India.

This eventually also led to the inclusion of Article 370 in the Indian Constitution which underlined the 'separateness' of Jammu & Kashmir from other States. Then, despite the stormy opposition of Sardar Patel, Nehru took the Kashmir issue to the UN Security Council. Sardar Patel, records say, tried even at the last moment to dissuade Nehru from announcing his UN plans for Kashmir on All India Radio but could not get through to the Prime Minister in time.

Between 1958 and 1962, Nehru was proved wrong again on China as a result of which Tibet was written off without any credible counter-guarantee costing India its internationally recognised place in the Himalayan plateau. By that time, there was no Sardar Patel even (he died on December 15, 1950) to restrain Nehru and his confidant VK Krishna Menon, an acerbic and cantankerous crypto-communist.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh should brush up his history before accusing others of communalising Sardar Patel's legacy. It was Nehru who first charged the indomitable Sardar of being a "total communalist" when his Deputy Prime Minister was advocating in the Cabinet meeting that military action be taken against the Nizam of Hyderabad, who was conspiring to accede to Pakistan.

Nehru's reaction to Sardar Patel's suggestion of military action was so shocking that the latter simply picked up his papers and left the meeting. That the Prime Minister was refusing to read the subtext of extremist pro-Pakistan Razakars, who the Nizam had unleashed on innocent Hindus, throws light on the type of secularism that the Congress followed under Nehru and later.

After Nehru's demise, this brand of secularism has led his party and its fellow travellers (the CPM and the Muslim League) to hold a special session of the Kerala Assembly, on a Government holiday, to hail a known militant like Abdul Nasser Madani, who was in prison as an accused in the Coimbatore bomb blast case which claimed about 60 innocent lives and left scores injured.

Prime Minister Singh's misplaced effort to reclaim Sardar Patel's secular legacy is ridiculous, to say the least. Sardar Patel would have been horrified by the incumbent regime's declaration that Muslims have the first right on national resources. He would have never allowed differential treatment to terror suspects because of their religious identity. Sardar Patel's

Those who claim that in this country there are two nations and that there is nothing common between the two, and 'that we must have our homeland where we can breath freely', let them do so. But those who still have that idea that they have worked on it, that they have got it and therefore they should follow the same path here, to them I respectfully appeal to go and enjoy the fruits of that freedom and to leave us in peace.

commitment to secularism would not have permitted him to use state funds to subsidise the Haj pilgrimage and madarssas. He would have been on the side of martyred Delhi Police inspector MC Sharma of Batla House fame, and not his killers.

Following are excerpts from a speech Sardar Patel made in the Constituent Assembly. The issue under consideration at that time was the system of reservations for minorities in Legislatures.

"Here a proposal was brought forward by one friend from Madras, for reservation and for communal electorates. Now when the separate communal electorate motion was moved, it was supported by the great Muslim leader, who swore loyalty to the Constitution in this House and immediately after packed off to Karachi. He is now carrying on the work of the Muslim League on that side. He has left a legacy here – a residuary legacy perhaps in madarssas.

"Those who claim that in this country there are two nations and that there is nothing common between the two, and 'that we must have our homeland where we can breath freely', let them do so. But those who still have that idea that they have worked on it, that they have got it and therefore they should follow the same path here, to them I respectfully appeal to go and enjoy the fruits of that freedom and to leave us in peace.

"There is no place here for those who claim separate representation. Separate representation, when it was introduced in this unfortunate country, was introduced not by the demand of those who claim to have made those demands, but as Maulana Muhammad Ali once said, it was a 'command performance' that has fulfilled its task and we have all enjoyed

the fruits of it.

"A minority that could force the partition of the country is not a minority at all. Why do you think that you are a minority? If you are a strong, well-knit and well-organised minority, why do you want to claim safeguards, why do you want to claim privileges? It was all right when there was a third party: But that is all over. That dream is a mad dream and it should be forgotten altogether. Never think about that, do not imagine that anybody will come here to hold the scales and manipulate them continuously. The future of a minority, any minority, is to trust the majority.

"We are changing the course of history. It is a very heavy responsibility that is on us and, therefore, I appeal to every one of you to think before you vote. The future shape of this country as a free country is different from the future that was contemplated by those who worked for partition. Therefore, I would ask those who have worked for that to note that the times have changed, the circumstances have changed and the world has changed and that therefore they must change if they want salvation."

On all the major issues – Kashmir, China, Hyderabad and status of minorities in independent India, the Sangh parivar was on the same page as Sardar Patel and continues to be so. Naturally, he is an icon for the parivar. No wonder Narendra Modi is building his statue, billed to be the tallest in the world, in Gujarat. ■

(Writer is BJP National Vice President)

Dynasty on decline as India modifies itself

By Kanchan Gupta

No matter how hard the Congress and its owners, the Nehru-Gandhi Dynasty, try, they cannot stop an idea whose time has come. That idea is Narendra Modi, the man India admires.

The idea of Dynasty as representative of a maabi-baap sarkar, whether we like it or not, retains a certain appeal among the under-classes, more so in far-flung areas where people lead isolated lives and are still dependent, if they can afford it, on Doordarshan and All India Radio for information. Many do without even that; concerns of the chattering classes are irrelevant for the under-classes. That's how the Congress has willed it for more than six decades, creating a vast vote-bank of impoverished masses whose ignorance is converted into political capital at the time of elections.

And so it is that Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul, the crown prince popularly referred to as the 'Clown Prince', have chosen to address election rallies in the tribal-dominated areas of Chhattisgarh by speaking down to the gathered masses as the patrons-in-chief of the underprivileged. Such was the callous neglect and criminal exploitation of Bastar and adjoining areas when it was part of Madhya Pradesh during decades of Congress rule (especially the decade when

Digvijaya Singh was Chief Minister) that concerted efforts by the BJP's Raman Singh over the past decade to integrate tribals into Chhattisgarh's success story have just about begun to show results. That malign neglect, not only of Chhattisgarh but vast stretches across the country, is conveniently forgotten by the Congress and its holding family, the Nehru-Gandhi Dynasty, at the time of elections when the underclasses are exhorted to remember on voting day the great 'deeds' (and 'sacrifices') of Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi; selective amnesia is a game at which the Darbar and its supine darbaris excel.

Balasaheb Thackeray had once rudely described Sonia Gandhi's arms while waving at crowds during a rally as the wipers of a car stiffly gliding across the windscreen. The description was not far from the truth: She performs this gesture unsmilingly — an empress acknowledging the existence of bothersome subjects who need to be reminded every few years about the 'Hand' that feeds them lest they turn into ingrates and spurn their benefactor. That

done, the speech follows, shrill and high-pitched, read-out from a text prepared by a speech-writer who often gets the facts wrong, confusing, say, Haryana with Chhattisgarh — or Madhya Pradesh, as happened recently. What remains constant is the emphasis on 'We' (the Dynasty) did this, but for 'Us' you would not be around to listen to 'Me'. Be grateful and now go vote for the 'Hand'.

Exalted royalty, even when its blood is numerous shades far removed from blue, does not mention plebeians by name. Neither do Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi mention Narendra Modi's name at their election rallies. Yet they heap calumny on him while praising the Dynasty. In the process, they end up telling partial lies, outright lies and damn lies. Mother reads out malnutrition figures from her prepared script to claim the BJP in power has failed to tackle hunger and poverty. She skillfully hops, skips and jumps over the terrible statistics that tell the story of hunger in Congress-ruled States and how malnutrition is not endemic to BJP-ruled States alone or that this is one of the horrible consequences of the Congress's

bogus socialism that was but merely a façade to hide its loot of India. Son does not lag behind. He repeatedly asserts how more roads have been built during 10 years of Congress-led UPA rule than six years of BJP-led NDA governance. A shamefaced UPA in its affidavit to the Supreme Court admits its gross failure to maintain the momentum on road building, because of which a third of roads built during NDA years have been built in the past decade. Who is to tell the 'Clown Prince' that he either jests or is a duffer?

We are often reminded that we owe our tax-funded roads to the Congress-led UPA Government's Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana! Thus an NDA initiative becomes, through a sleight of speech, a UPA gift. Neither mother nor son adds her or his name to the list of those to whom the natives should be eternally grateful; they don't need to. That job is left to fawning darbaris who demand that people genuflect to the Palace whose foundation rests on the misery of more than a billion Indians.

Unerringly Sonia Gandhi also makes it a point to mention, not once but several times over, that the voters are beneficiaries of Central funds, largesse of the Delhi Darbar. It would seem she wants the people to believe that her personal munshi sends money from the royal treasury, of which she is the keeper, to the States. This is not money to which the States have a rightful claim but charity doled out at the sweet will of the Dynasty. Where does the money go, she asks tauntingly. If only Sonia

Gandhi knew, which she clearly doesn't, or perhaps chooses not to know so that she can continue to believe that the Dynasty is not only the owner of the Congress but also the public exchequer, that the States contribute tens of thousands of crores of rupees in taxes to the Union Government and get back a piffling few thousand crores of rupees as their 'share', she would have possibly thought twice before making this absurd claim. The States of the Union owe nothing to the Union Government; if anything, the Union Government owes its very existence, including the opulent luxury and comfort afforded to Sonia Gandhi, her son and their darbaris, to the States.

Nor does India owe a farthing to the Dynasty. Sonia Gandhi and her son are welcome to believe, and preach, that but for Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi this would be a nation of beggars, that native effort has contributed nothing to India's growth and development, and, that the road to salvation does not lie through enterprise but entitlement. But that can at best fetch diminishing returns. For evidence, travel through the hinterland of India where the vast overwhelming majority now sees the state as an enabler, not a provider. Strangely, for all her sophistry, Sonia Gandhi fails to realise and accept that the days when the Dynasty held voters in thrall are over. Election after election to State Assemblies has demonstrated that voters are no longer persuaded by the professed munificence of the Dynasty, or the alleged charity

of the Delhi Darbar.

Contrary to the propaganda of jholawallahs who are appalled by economic growth and its concomitant social development, there's something edifying about prosperity that serves to push the masses closer to the classes, reducing the gulf that enabled the latter to rule over the former with impunity for the past many decades.

There's a newfound sense of dignity, a discovery of faith in the individual's potential to excel and break free of the shackles of poverty. The neo-middle class, motivated by unbridled aspiration, is here and it will determine, to a large measure, the nature of governance in the coming years. Critics are free to cavil at Modi for manufactured lapses. But that isn't going to change the reality. This chaiwallah who once sold tea to supplement his impoverished family's meagre income has succeeded where those who sell the nation's interests to keep themselves in clover have failed: In instilling a sense of pride among all Indians.

The Modi-fication of India is at once admirable and enviable. It should come as no surprise to Sonia Gandhi that glorification of the Dynasty, and the restricted list of do-gooders that she tauntingly flaunts, cuts little or no ice. During the ongoing Assembly elections and the coming general election, the object of adulation and veneration is not a Nehru-Gandhi but a man of the masses called Narendra Modi. If Sonia Gandhi finds that distressing, so be it. ■

(Writer is BJP National Executive Member)

Crumbling police force, callous political class

By Joginder Singh

The October 27 serial blasts in Patna have once again turned the spotlight on the sorry state of affairs in which law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies function, not just in Bihar but also across the country.

Terrorism is a virus that is spreading across India. When under attack, most State Governments behave like cornered pigeons that close their eyes hoping that the cat will not see them. The other problem is that the fight against terrorism is mixed with politics, especially, when elections are around the corner. Bihar is one State where terrorists have struck twice this year in a big way. The first was when they attacked the Bodh Gaya temple in July to supposedly avenge attacks on Muslims in Myanmar. Then, there were serial blasts in Patna, ahead of BJP's prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi's election rally, on October 27.

The attack, which killed six persons and injured over 83 others, was reportedly perpetrated by the Indian Mujahideen. It was supposedly in retaliation to the communal riots in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh. But, as usual, the Bihar Government was indulgent of the terrorists – it refused to take action against the group's dreaded chief Yasin Bhatkal on the ground that it had no case against him. Probably, the ruling party did this to present itself as the defender of the minority community, rather than that of the State.

Bihar Police works under the State Government and is not an independent body, despite the recent intervention of the Supreme Court. On September 22, the apex court ordered limited police reforms, like fixing the tenure of certain police personnel. Incidentally, no State, including Bihar, has implemented this.

There is hardly any State that the terrorists have not struck. In any case, protecting citizens or dealing with terrorism does not

seem to be a priority of the Governments in either Uttar Pradesh or Bihar. According to an information that was presented in the Lok Sabha, "India has a police-population ratio (number of police personnel per one lakh persons) of 134 as compared to the United Nations' norm of a minimum of 220. Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have the worst ratios of 63 and 74 respectively". As per UN norms, the strength of Bihar Police is just 25 per cent, as against the national average of 50 per cent.

Data compiled by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in December 2012 shows that the actual strength of the police force in the country, as of December 2011, was 16.60 lakh against the sanctioned strength of 20.86 lakh. In Bihar, the 55,000-strong police force lacks access to modern weaponry like anti-landmine vehicles, bullet-proof vests and bomb disposal equipment.

According to the Bihar Police Association, a majority of the State's 300 police stations along with 92 police pickets and hundreds of police outposts are located in Maoist-affected districts. All of them have been facing severe infrastructure shortages.

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After the Patna blasts, the Union Minister for Home Affairs said that Bihar's intelligence agencies had been informed about the possibility of a terror strike during Mr Modi's rally. The State Government denies this. Assuming that Patna is saying the truth, the question still remains as to what its own intelligence agencies were doing. But without the necessary manpower in position, how do you expect the police force to keep a tight vigil?

Home Affairs P Chidambaram, manpower for 'protected persons' protection duty is drawn from available resources – generally without a corresponding increase in the total sanctioned strength of the police force. This has strained the already limited resources of State police forces.

There are a few standard excuses politicians offer after every law and order crisis or terror attack. First, the incident was a conspiracy; second, that it

General of Police, who takes orders from the State Chief Minister and other political leaders.

Politicians are more concerned about their vote banks than eradicating terrorism – especially since they worry about losing the support of terror sympathisers. Also, when the situation goes out of hand, State Governments often requisition central paramilitary forces, only to treat them shabbily or not to use them at all.

In Kashmir, the State Government has ordered that the paramilitary forces carry only lathis and no lethal weapons, thus rendering the security personnel not only vulnerable but also ineffective. There is also no uniform policy in the States for dealing with terrorists – except to give cash and a Government job to the victim's next-of-kin, as if that brings the issue to a close.

Nowhere in the world has terrorism been overcome with words, be they in the form of appeals or brave statements. Yet, this is the only weapon our leaders use. It is true that law and order is a State subject, but the defence of the country (be it from an internal or external threat), is a Central subject, on which there should be no compromise.

Unfortunately, we, as a country, are being governed by politicians and not statesmen and leaders. Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton once said: "The difference between a politician and a statesman is that a politician thinks about the next election while the statesman think about the next generation." ■

(Writer is former CBI Director)

The Bihar Government, despite being aware of its crumbling police structure, has done little to improve the situation so that security personnel can deliver public goods. This is because there is no direct correlation between better policing and more votes.

According to the latest figures released by the Bureau of Police Research and Development, under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, as of January 1, 2012, 14,842 VIPs in the country enjoy state protection and draw more security than what they are entitled to. With 3,030 police protectees, Bihar tops the list. Out of the total 55,000 policemen in Bihar, about 10,000 or roughly 20 per cent are deployed on VIP duty. Still, the list of the usual VIPs – Ministers, judges, MLAs, MLCs – may not cross the figure of 1,500.

So, who are the other VIPs in Bihar? They are senior party workers, powerful contractors and businessmen who are usually close to the ruling power, says a senior police officer. According to a report released by former Union Minister for

was false; and third, that it was designed to malign the Government in power. But nobody talks about the competence of the official machinery in dealing with such situations.

The Bihar Government, despite being aware of its crumbling police structure, has done little to improve the situation so that security personnel can deliver public goods. This is because there is no direct correlation between better policing and more votes.

The biggest problem in dealing with terrorism in this country is the multiplicity of power centres. There has to be one Commander-in-Chief for fighting terrorism. Some States have anti-terrorism squads while others have special forces that function under the Director

Impact on India's Economic Fortunes under BJP government at Centre

By Gopal Krishna Agrawal

Modi came from humble origins to win power in the western state of Gujarat and will now be projected onto the national stage. Some of the most powerful industrialists in India say he is an effective, honest administrator who has introduced policies that have boosted development and reduced poverty in his state

— The Guardian

Narendra Modi, chief minister of Gujarat, was appointed a member to the Parliamentary Board, the highest decision making body of Bharatiya Janata Party in March this year. Later in September, he was declared the Prime Ministerial candidate of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). In 2001, he became Gujarat's CM and after re-election in 2002, 2007 and 2012, heads a corruption free, transparent and an efficient administration in the state. Though regularly attacked for the 2002 Gujarat riots, Modi is also praised for outstanding administration in turning Gujarat into an economic powerhouse. He has been successful in bringing the development plank as an election agenda.

Will India Shine under NaMo?

Though Modi's appeal cuts across all classes, regions and age groups, it would not be an

exaggeration to say that the Indian business community, youth and burgeoning middle class are the biggest votaries of Narendra Modi. The fact that the Indian business community, generally obsequious and fawning before the government of the day, has risked the wrath of the present regime in doing so speaks volumes.

The economy is going through one of the most difficult times in recent memory. The UPA II government, instead of navigating the economy through the turbulence caused by global factors, has exacerbated it through clumsy policies, entitlement schemes without proper budgeting, and the worst kind of kleptocracy. There are both political and economic factors affecting business sentiment, trade and investments. Politically, we have a situation where there are different centres of power and responsibility, a cabinet in which ministers pull in different directions, and a government that lacks conviction in its own policies. The present macro-economic situation is rife with sticky inflation, rising fiscal as well as current account deficits, falling rupee, slow pace of reforms and an overall policy paralysis. These two sets of factors have dealt a crippling blow to business sentiment and trade and investments. We are

in a situation where the finance minister of the country is trying to convince global capital to come to India at a time when even Indian capital is looking for markets abroad.

In order to crystal gaze the impact of the rise of Narendra Modi on business sentiments, trade and investments, it would be pertinent to analyse the philosophy underpinning the policies of the Gujarat government headed by him. While there is a small but vocal group backed by rival political parties and other vested interests that questions every figure that shows Gujarat in positive light, their efforts have failed to hide the state's inexorable rise under the leadership of Narendra Modi, a fact that is now also acknowledged by the international community. This also relegates to the background the claim that figures are being manipulated to present a positive picture.

Modi Mantra in Gujarat

So what are the defining characteristics of Narendra Modi's style of management that is relevant from the macro-economic point of view? He has focused on 'less government and more governance', which broadly means an unobtrusive but effective government. His e-governance model with decentralised decision-making and power is his major forte. He

has also emphasised on a transparent, corruption free, consensus oriented good governance model with emphasis on inclusive participation, timely clearance of project proposals, focus on infrastructure improvement and revival of agricultural sector. The government follows the rule of law with efficiency and effectiveness and is accountable to the people. His decision-making is quick and timely and believes in single window clearance as was seen in the case of Tata's Nano project. Gujarat under Modi's leadership has excelled in infrastructure development and has created world-class linkages acting as a backbone in the present global competitive scenario. The successful functioning of the BRT public transport system in Ahmedabad is one such shining example. He has been instrumental in creating urban landscapes at par with international standards. Gujarat has successfully implemented power sector reforms and is supplying 24x7 power to 100 percent of villages.

Modi Means Business

The government under Modi would definitely improve business sentiment, leading to an increase in both trade and investment. Sustained growth rarely occurs on autopilot: it requires competent leadership at the top. The most fundamental change from the present government would be the absence of the dual power centres. The de jure centre of power would also be the de facto one. This would impart realism in policy formulations, which is

greatly missing today. The 'Right of Centre' ideology subscribed to by the BJP and Modi does not see itself in an adversarial relationship vis-à-vis the business community, but as partners to realise the potential of the country. This in itself would be a major change that would affect business sentiment positively. The NDA under the leadership of BJP was focused on improving physical infrastructure, which would continue under Modi. We are trained to think that the best rate the agriculture sector in India can achieve is 4 percent, but this has been belied by the Gujarat experience, where the agricultural sector grew by around 10 percent for more than a decade. We should therefore expect a paradigm shift in the way the agricultural sector would be dealt with under Modi. This focus on physical infrastructure and agriculture would remove supply bottlenecks and would bring down inflation. Better infrastructure would also make our exports more competitive and boost trade. A lower rate of inflation would allow the monetary authority to lower interest rates and thus revive investments. A focus on urban infrastructure for rural areas and rising rural income would also augment domestic demand, as more than 60 percent of our total population is living in rural areas. It was under the NDA government that the FRBM Act was enacted and fiscal responsibility targets were met. At the national level, the BJP is assimilating good governance models of its various state

governments and intends to replicate them on a Pan India basis, whether it is the socially inclusive focus of Madhya Pradesh government or the Public Distribution System (PDS) of the Chhattisgarh government. Modi would also put the economy back on the path of fiscal consolidation. Considering his treatment of state owned enterprises in Gujarat, it would not be wrong to expect that they would be given operational freedom to achieve efficiency and scale.

First Among Equals

How does Narendra Modi fit in the whole scheme of things? It is an undeniable fact that Modi is first among equals among the present day BJP leadership. Modi has a very wide acceptance amongst young voters, and considering the present Indian demography, is most suited to capture the youth bulge. In the 2014 elections, around 120 million voters would be voting for the first time. It is under his leadership that the party has the most realistic chances of surpassing its previous tally of 182 seats; it has been the experience that voters consolidate towards the winner in sight. As far as his ability to bring coalition partners on board is concerned, we already see two parties jockeying to align with BJP in Haryana. These would improve with the elections drawing near. It has anyway been the experience that parties come together to form the government only after elections and very few parties enter into a pre-poll alliance. Future uncertainty harms business sentiment to a great extent, but

as we move towards overcoming this uncertainty, one sees gradual improvement in business sentiment.

People who grudgingly accept the development of Gujarat under Narendra Modi claim that this success cannot be replicated at the pan-Indian level as he would be hamstrung by coalition partners and powerful leaders within BJP, unlike Gujarat where he virtually has free rein. We believe that not only would he be able to repeat the success of Gujarat, but would also surpass it. It should be noted that considering the very limited powers of states in India, Narendra Modi's achievements are indeed commendable. He has infused new hope and confidence in the people of the country, particularly the youth that comprises 65 percent of the total population.

He has been able to generate the can do spirit that is evident in the national and international business and political community. Under the stewardship of Narendra Modi, India would be able to achieve its true economic potential and become an economic superpower. ■

(Writer is BJP National Executive Member)

Aam Adami Party exposed by Sting operation and Anna Hazare's letter : Prof. Malhotra

Senior BJP leader Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra on November 22 said that Aam Adami Party's bubble of illusion has burst and the sting operation involving its leaders and candidates for the Delhi Assembly election has thoroughly exposed it.

Prof Malhotra said the Aam Adami Party stands discredited following the sting operation and the letter from Shri Anna Hazare and the people have seen through the game of Mr Arvind Kejriwal and his so called honest candidates. The events have proved that AAP is the most dishonest party. He said Mr Kejriwal has been claiming that he is leading and representing a 'honest party' while call all his rivals corrupt and dishonest but the sting operation, in which his party's candidates were caught seeking cash money for their campaign while promising favours, has ripped apart the charade of honesty and decency of Aam Adami Party. The veteran BJP leader demanded legal action against AAP candidates caught in the sting operation and police should immediately file FIR against them.

Prof Malhotra said that it is now clear that so called volunteers of the AAP are in fact regular employees of party getting Rs 20,000 per month as a salary. It is obvious that in last five or six months the party has spent Rs six to seven crores on these so called volunteers.

He said though the High Court and Union Governments are inquiring into the foreign funding of the AAP, it should also be looked into whether this foreign funding is being sent through Hawala.

Prof Malhotra expressed apprehension that a party which is using foreign money to contest election in Delhi can also compromise the interest of the country for the sake of Money. He urged the people to vote for the BJP for a strong and stable government in Delhi.

A stable BJP government will provide a corruption free administration to the people of the National Capital. ■



Former Rajya Sabha MP Dinanath Mishra no more

Former BJP member of the Rajya Sabha and writer Shri Dinanath Mishra died on November 13, 2013, after a prolonged illness. He was 76. He was ailing for some time and admitted to a hospital recently for treatment. Shri Mishra was MP from 1998 to 2004. He started his career as a journalist and served as editor of Panchajanya from 1971 to 1974. Later he worked as editor of Navbharat Times. Originally from Gaya in Bihar, he moved with his family to Delhi in 1967. He is survived by his wife, son and three daughters. Condoling

his death, BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh said it is a personal loss to him. "As an MP, Shri Dinanath Mishra served the people as an honest and hardworking public servant. Till his last breath, he provided fresh energy to journalism through his writings," Shri Singh said, adding Shri Mishra was a thinker, intellectual and a dedicated party worker. ■

The Importance of Understanding

By Sri Swami Atmaswarupananda

When Gurudev formed his forest university, he called it the Yoga-Vedanta Forest University. He wanted both Yoga and Vedanta to be taught—Vedanta primarily being the philosophy, Yoga primarily being the practice. However, in his teachings, Gurudev concentrated primarily on practice or doing. Indeed, he didn't have too much patience with those who spent too much time on philosophy; sometimes he referred to them as dry-Vedantins.

So too with us. The important thing is to practice, not spend too much time on philosophy. And yet Gurudev did call it Yoga-Vedanta, because there is also an importance in developing our understanding, even if it seems somewhat esoteric and unnecessary compared to our normal practices. Because the truth is, unless we develop some understanding of what we're seeking, even if we discover it, we won't likely be able to recognise it.

Therefore, every morning when he comes here, while Pujya Swami Chidanandaji always ends up by telling us to do some practical Yoga, he always begins by offering worshipful homage to the Supreme Reality. In other words, he lifts our minds up to That which is beyond our minds. And frequently in

offering worshipful homage he describes the Supreme as unknowable and unthinkable. Therefore, our first understanding must be that what we are is, in the final analysis, unknowable, ungraspable to the mind.

What is it then that we can know about God? Brahman is described as Existence-Consciousness-Bliss. God we

is to recognise that the purpose of all our spiritual practices is to lead us back to that sense of existence, that sense of pure "I am" or the conscious presence.

Therefore, we should ask ourselves the question, "When I am repeating God's name, am I getting that sense of Pure Existence?" We probably are, but it is not recognised, and so we just repeat God's name mechanically without recognising that its purpose is to lead us back to our sense of existence.

This is the purpose of all our spiritual practices. When we're studying Vedanta, it isn't just to add more information to our brain, but rather to recognise the pure existence that it is trying to show us. Ramana Maharshi

said that the enquiry of Who am I? is a direct route back to our sense of existence, our sense of "I am."

Therefore, while both Gurudev and Swamiji want us to concentrate on doing, on our practices, it is important to recognise what their purpose is, which is to lead us back to our sense of existence, our sense of "I am."

And it is from that point that we can ultimately recognise our true source, which is beyond words, beyond thoughts, but is the Reality. Source: The Divine Life Society ■



cannot know, but we can be aware of our existence. We know that we exist, or we say "I am." And Swamiji has told us that there is no harm in "I am." Hold on to your existence. It is only after "I am" that we get into trouble. The problem is when we identify with lower forms and forget our sense of pure existence.

This unfortunately is our plight. We who are ultimately unknowable, we who can know ourselves as Existence-Consciousness-Bliss, have lost ourselves in identification with a body and mind. What is the purpose of understanding this? It