

Contents



BJP foundation day Special Article

The very nature of "Lotus" is to bloom;
By Prabhat Jha..... 5

Rallies

Kolkata (West Bengal)..... 8
Guwahati (Assam)..... 12

Articles

Jai Bhim!
By Kallol Bhattacharj..... 13
Inhuman Rights
By Uday Mahurkar..... 16
The naked secularist
By R. Jagannathan..... 19
The sorry state of public health
By Raghu Dayal..... 25

State Reports

Karnataka, Odisha..... 21
Delhi..... 22
Andhra Pradesh..... 23,30
Uttrakhand, H P, J&K..... 28
Madhya Pradesh..... 29
UP, Goa..... 30

Editor

Prabhat Jha, MP

Editorial Team

Amba Charan Vashishth
Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi
Ram Prasad Tripathy
Vikash Anand

Design & Layout

Dharmendra Kaushal
Vikas Saini

Contact

Tel: +91(11) 23381428

Fax: +91(11) 23387887

For Subscription : +91(11) 23073858

e-mail address

kamalsandesh@yahoo.co.in

Subscription

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

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

ध्यायतो विषयान्पुंसः सङ्गस्तेषूपजायते ।

सङ्गात्सज्जायते कामः कामात्क्रोधोऽभिजायते ॥

The man dwelling on sense-objects develops attachment for them;
from attachment springs up desire, and from desire (unfulfilled)
ensues anger.

Bhagavadgita, Chapter 2, Text 62

Editorial

Rising prices are a slow poison to aam aadmi

April 21, 2010 is the day for BJP to create history, the day to unleash a flood of public fury at the rising prices and cost of living. Rising prices have virtually become a messenger of death for the poor. At the Parliament House on this day lakhs of BJP karyakartas will blow the bugle of an unrelenting struggle to usher in a new life for the country's poor. BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari has given a new direction and infused a new spirit among the karyakartas with his declaration that now the struggle will spill over to the roads and streets. Steadfastness in ideology, strength of commitment and the call for struggle has infused a new sense of life in the party. April 21 will be a day for re-injecting a sense of faith in the Indian politics. The difference between what is said and what is done will get obliterated. It will be a day to put a break on the rising trend of increasing lack of faith in politics. The signature campaign on the anti-price rise is having an echo in every nook and corner of the country. People are now united in rejecting UPA-II. The people who voted the UPA government into power in May 2009 are themselves feeling cheated and repenting for their wrong choice.

The continuous struggle naturally helps the party to become popular. It generates a sense of goodwill and popularity in the minds of the people who are openly alleging that their fight for justice is not being waged sincerely and honestly. BJP has therefore taken the initiative to provide a voice to the poor people by giving a call for Sansad Chalo Abhiyaan. During the last sixty years many governments have come and gone, but none of them tried to kick the empty stomach of the poor. None of them tried to snatch the piece of bread from their mouth or drained them of their blood or indulged in their exploitation. What is most unfortunate is that the government of the aam aadmi is openly oppressing the aam aadmi – rising prices have severed aam aadmi from the country. People are forgetting the nation in making two ends meet. India had never witnessed such sorry state of affairs after independence.

The Constitution has clearly devolved the responsibility for protection of the life and property of its citizens on the government. What a shame that the UPA-II, Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Shri Rahul Gandhi have the expertise in turning the constitutional office of the prime minister into a puppet, but they have no solution to bring down the prices to bring relief to the common man. The Congress yuvraj considers India as the picnic spot. He makes visits to various parts of the country look like a person on a pleasure trip. He performs the drama of taking a bath at a hand pump. This scene is picturised as a film. The media splashes it prominently in its news reports. But does all this fun and frolic put food in the empty stomach of the masses? Even the Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee did give no priority to "youth and unemployed" in his 189-point budget. These two words do not find mention in the budget document too. Does it not amount to an affront to the youth and the unemployed? With such political gimmicks these leaders cannot solve the problems facing the country.

Perhaps people of the country do not know and if they do, it is not a matter to feel proud of. The incidents of the past clearly indicate that in future wars shall be fought only for water. The other day there was a report that in Bhopal and Indore four people lost their life in their effort to get one bucket of water. Is it not a proof that during the last 62 years we have failed to solve our drinking water problem? Death for a single

bucket of water! Death during the struggle for two meals a day! Death in pursuit of employment! Innocent killed at the hands of naxalites! Which country do we live in? What is the nature of our democracy? How is the local administration functioning? Those who have been given the responsibility to make life worth living are dispensing death to the people.

The situation has taken such a turn for the worst that one political party or the other has to take cudgels for the aam aadmi. The bugle has to be blown by some political organisation but the people too will have to come forward to put their weight behind it in their own interest and in the interest of the country. India needs a massive movement. India's Indianness is in

danger. Border stand threatened. The problems that raised their head at the time of country's independence continue to harass us still and have further been complicated. Chalo Dilli, Chalo Dilli is not just a slogan; it is an expression of the feelings of the people on various issues. This expression needs to become the collective voice of the people. Price rise is not a political issue; it is a national issue concerning one and all. If we call it a national issue, everyone of us should contribute his mite to solving it. April 21 should give out a message loud and clear as what it means to deceive the people during elections and that when the masses throng the streets and roads it violently shakes those in power who fail to deliver goods. ■

Ranganath report was altered, says former member-secretary

The member secretary of Ranganath Mishra Commission and former secretary for Social Justice and Empowerment Asha Das according to news report published in *The Pioneer*, has alleged that the members of the Commission carried out alteration in some of the chapters without her information.

Speaking at the India Policy Foundation on March 26 on 'Ramification of Ranganath Mishra Commission report' in Delhi, she said that that original draft of the report was replaced by an alternative draft of the report in a meeting of the Commission which was not attended by her. Das had also given a 13page dissent note in the report that suggested reservation for Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims. She defended her right to give a dissent note and stated that the opposition of dissent note by members was both unethical and illegal. "There were umpteen instances where member secretaries had given dissent notes," said Das. She said that the inclusion of Buddhists and Sikhs in the Scheduled Castes Presidential order 1950 was a mistake and argued that this did not give authority to commit another mistake by including so-called Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims. ■

The very nature of "Lotus" is to bloom; no one can stop it!

By Prabhat Jha

Bharatiya Janata Party completes thirty years of its existence on 6th April 2010. If the date of formation of Jansangh is taken into account, it has now completed 59 years of its existence. From among the political parties that were formed after independence it was only either Bharatiya Jansangh or Bharatiya Janata Party which has emerged at the national level. All the political parties formed in the country whether in power or in opposition faced divisions, splits and some of them even crumbled. The credit goes to Bharatiya Janata Party that even if it agreed to end its existence as Jansangh, it did so for the sake of democracy in the nation. The then leadership of Jansangh who sounded the bugle against the dark shadows of emergency decided in the time of election when Janata Party was formed to merge with it. Jansangh was the only party which agreed to merge by allowing its election symbol "Deepak" to be freezed by the election commission in the national interest. Such examples of political honesty and boldness are rarely witnessed. When some leaders of Janata Party started

raising questions over RSS connection of its "Jansangh constituent" then the leaders decided against severing connection from RSS even in the face of imminent expulsion from the Janata Party. The connection with Janata Party was recent but



Bharatiya Janata Party is the only party in the country which came to power after continuously remaining in the opposition. People had intense desire to see the leader of Bharatiya Janata Party Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee become the prime minister of the country and even when he was in opposition they had faith that one day he will become the prime minister and BJP should form the government was the dream of the people.

with RSS it was an association since birth. When the Jansangh constituent of Janata Party was asked to leave Janata Party, they came out and formed a new party in the name of Bharatiya Janata Party on 6th April 1980 with "Lotus" as its election symbol.

Bharatiya Janata Party saw many ups and downs through three decades of its political life. A time had come when in 1984 Bharatiya Janata Party could win only two Lok Sabha seats in the entire country. It appeared once that the country had refused to accept Bharatiya Janata Party. But it was not so. The sympathy wave for Indiraji had overturned the electoral equations. One thing to be taken into account is that the BJP which had won only two Lok Sabha seats started to gain continuously with every election and a time came when it became the party winning the largest number of Lok Sabha seat in the country. The situation was such that BJP led NDA was formed and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee became the prime minister of the country. He successfully led the government with 24 political parties on his side. Not only this, in many states, BJP governments were formed.

On the 30th anniversary the leadership and *karyakartas* of Bharatiya Janata Party need to understand the factors that catapulted BJP from a party winning two Lok Sabha seats to a party becoming largest in the

country and forming government at the centre within 10-12 years. If BJP leadership and *karyakartas* try to objectively analyze the period between 1985 to 1991 through 1997, 1998 and 2000 then not only will they be able to work effectively in the present situation but the day will be not far when the country will again provide opportunity to BJP to form government at the centre.

Bharatiya Janata Party is the only party in the country which came to power after continuously remaining in the opposition. People had intense desire to see the leader of Bharatiya Janata Party Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

It cannot be denied that in the journey from Jansangh to Bharatiya Janata Party, Atalji was considered supreme leader by the party and *karyakartas*. He was not only competent, he was also acceptable. Today situation is different. Here the point to ponder is the factor which made Atalji so overwhelmingly acceptable. Why leaders or *karyakartas* never tried to go against his words. It is said that before taking a decision Atalji used to debate and discuss the issue thoroughly and if the outcome went against his own opinion, he used to accept the same saying, "Whatever is the

The political role of Atalji and Advaniji between 1985 and 2000 will not only remain memorable for ever but also an issue to examine and study for the analysts in the days to come. The ideological coherence, mental congruence and connection of hearts between Atalji and Advaniji were not only the qualities to emulate but also a rare example in politics. There was wonderful "trust" between these two leaders. That is why the *karyakartas* from top to bottom were linked with the chain of "trust". Not only in political parties but even in the social works and in tasks related to nation building the "crisis in trust" is easily evident today. It needs to be wiped out at any cost. The path of struggle and perseverance will have to be followed. The *rathayatras* of Advaniji gave a new identity to BJP. The issues which he carried to the people through his *rathayatras* were not only accepted but overwhelmingly supported by the people.

A history of sorts was created by the "Ekatmata Yatra" of former BJP president Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi. It stirred the conscience of the people. The other thing which was evident from these *yatras* was that the second rung leadership came in live contact with the people. The second rung leadership emerged. If seen from the point of view of a political party, it was in fact an attempt fit to be emulated. The process of making new *karyakartas* through struggle and perseverance along with projecting leadership at different levels should continue.

In connection with the political parties former BJP

The political role of Atalji and Advaniji between 1985 and 2000 will not only remain memorable for ever but also an issue to examine and study for the analysts in the days to come. The ideological coherence, mental congruence and connection of hearts between Atalji and Advaniji were not only the qualities to emulate but also a rare example in politics. There was wonderful "trust" between these two leaders. That is why the karyakartas from top to bottom were linked with the chain of "trust".

become the prime minister of the country and even when he was in opposition they had faith that one day he will become the prime minister. Atalji should become prime minister and BJP should form the government was the dream of the people. The manner in which he enthralled the masses through his oratory is unparallel and appears difficult to be repeated in future. His voice became the voice of every citizen and he became the medium of expression of the aspiration of the masses. Even when he was not holding any post, no one could challenge his stature.

decision of the *panchs* is acceptable". Atalji never used to go against the collective decision and something which was approved by the majority.

Many leaders who had worked with Atalji recount that working with him was a pleasant experience. His arrival and departure both used to influence them. It is not that Atalji never lost elections. A time came when he lost election from Gwalior where he was born. Atalji lost the elections but he never lost the affection of the people and his loss made everyone sad in the country.

president Kushabahu Thakre used to say that these are the organizations that work among the human beings. Therefore the leadership should have a motherly attitude. *Karyakartas* should be seen as human beings and not as machines. The organization of human beings functions with emphasis on sympathy, sensibility, morality, hard work, commitment, faith, dedication and accountability. Along with these the organization functions on the basis of humanity and good will. Thakreji always used to repeat these words in his speeches. He used to ask everyone to understand the ground reality lest one is misled and cheated.

Senior BJP leader Late Sunder Singh Bhandari who dedicated his life to organization building used to say that if you want to win the hearts of others then first try to abandon mind and body of your own self being. He was a strong votary of discipline. He used to say that one who stoops low once even if he ascends in future, he fails to scale the heights in the hearts of the people.

In the journey from Bharatiya Jansangh to Bharatiya Janata Party no one can forget the contributions of the two tall personalities – Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerji and Pt. deendayal Upadhyay. While Dr. Mookerji was the founder of Jansangh, Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay was the one who propounded the philosophy of “Integral Humanism” for the nation. The generation of today which is working in BJP should not only study as to how Jansangh was born but also learn the political, social and cultural philosophy for which he is working in the

field of politics. In these days, the number of such learners in politics is on rise who neither is willing to study nor appear in exams but try to find ways to get the maximum marks by hook or crook. BJP is fortunate that it has the blessings of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh in the form of its affection and guidance. BJP is also proud that it receives the help from RSS from time to time. BJP is the natural party of the country. People can never reject it but the condition is that the BJP leadership and *karyakartas* need to make up their mind to serve

the poor in the lowest rung of the society and those left orphaned. They should redeem their pledge to the concept of *antydya* and *sarvodaya*. The election symbol of BJP is “Lotus”. The very nature of the lotus is to bloom.

In the first session of BJP on 6th April 1980 in Mumbai Atalji had said, “*Andhera chhantega, suraj niklega, kamal khilega* (Darkness will go, sun will rise, lotus will bloom)”. If BJP decides, everyone in the country will work to make the lotus bloom. ■

(The writer is a Rajya Sabha MP and a former BJP national secretary)

Clean Ganga campaign launched

BJP Parliamentary Party Chairman Shri L K Advani on April 04 launched the Uttarakhand Government’s clean Ganga campaign in Rishikesh and asked people all over the country to play an active role in the conservation of the holy river.

Speaking after the launch of the campaign christened “*Ganga Sparsh Abhiyan*”, Shri Advani said it was imperative that people gave



their wholehearted support for the success of the programme. Expressing happiness at the state government’s plans to make a law to keep the river clean, he called for its strict implementation.

“I have been told that the state government is bringing a law on cleaning the Ganga. I would like to ask the government to implement the law strictly,” he said. Shri Advani further said that the Mahakumbh has become memorable largely due to the launching of the Sparsh Ganga programme. On that occasion he also recollected the Sindhu Darshan Abhiyan of 1990s when the NDA government launched similar efforts to clean the Indus River in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said the government was sincere in its efforts to make the clean Ganga programme successful.

Spiritual leader Dalai Lama also complimented the government’s efforts in keeping the Ganga clean saying it augured well for the peace and prosperity of the world. ■

WB Govt. not controlling prices but indulging in appeasement policy : Gadkari

Instead of controlling the prices that affected the common man the most, West Bengal's Marxist Government was indulging in vote bank politics by way of reserving jobs for the Muslims, BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari

hitting said Shri Nitin Gadkari. The BJP would organise a massive anti-inflation rally in Delhi on April 21, "which will be attended by 25 lakh people" Gadkari said.

Comparing the UPA regime with that of the NDA era, or for

seen more than four-fold increase during the corresponding period and the price of "edible oil has hit a century."

The BJP president blamed the Centre for allowing import of "rotten wheat at Rs 19.50 a kg, whereas local wheat was sold for



BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari addressing a huge gathering at Netaji Indoor Stadium, Kolkata

said at a rally in Kolkata on 31 March.

He was addressing a mammoth gathering at a party convention in Kolkata's Netaji Indoor Stadium held to start a campaign against stifling inflation and the Left Government's minority-ism.

A speculative regime and a faulty economic policy pursued by the Congress-led UPA Government, have led to skyrocketing prices, a hard-

that matter the Janata Party Government, Shri Gadkari pointed out "there was no price rise during the Morarji Desai or Vajpayee era", claiming that prices had rather gone down in many respects. "Why it is so that only during the Congress regime do prices tend to go up?" he wondered, showing how rice sold for Rs 10 in 2004 during the NDA rule and was selling at Rs 32 six years later. He also pointed out that sugar price had

Rs 12."

Showing how the Congress regime had encouraged speculation and manipulations, he said that while 45 lakh tone of grain were procured on paper, in actual terms, only 5,000 tone were picked up, "causing a huge drain of resources from the common man's pocket for no fault of his." Instead of curbing prices, the Congress Government was busy in harassing Amitabh Bachchan, "who made India proud as he



L to R : BJP National Secretary, Shri Kirit Somaiya, BJP National General Secretary Sh. Dharmendra Pradhan, Editor of Pioneer Shri Chandan Mitra, BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari and WB State BJP President Sh. Rahul Sinha greeting the huge gathering in Kolkata.

had agreed to be brand ambassador of Gujarat." Nothing could happen in the Congress without party President Smt. Sonia Gandhi's nod, Shri Gadkari suggested, showing how the actor and his son Abhishek were subjected to humiliation by "the madam's party."

He said Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi was the most successful Chief Minister and unlike in West Bengal, the condition of Muslims was the best in his State.

"The BJP is not against Muslims. In fact, we are not against any religion. It was the government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, which made A P J Abdul Kalam the President. However, we are against terrorist organisations like the Al-Qaeda and the LeT. We are against appeasing terrorists, which Congress does. And this party which appeases Pakistan cannot protect the country," Shri Gadkari said.

Shri Nitin Gadkari further said, "Amitabh Bachchan is not

Dawood Ibrahim. Why do you treat him like a villain? Actually, it is being done because Sonia Gandhi does not like him and in Congress, nobody has the guts to speak against her. The party is the personal property of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi."

Speaking on the occasion, former Rajya Sabha MP and BJP leader Shri Chandan Mitra said the fortunes of the country's political future were changing steadily, with clear indications that the BJP was gaining ground once again.

As far as West Bengal was concerned, the BJP was the only Opposition party, while others continued to change their stance. "Each party is the A team or B team of some outfit or the other at a given point of time," Shri Mitra said, showing how the Trinamool Congress had swapped places with the CPI(M) by playing as the B team of Congress in Delhi.

Hitting out at the Marxists Shri Mitra said, "Poverty and starvation deaths at places like Amlashol hardly bother the CPI (M). The only thing that matters

to them is how to keep the BJP out of power." Lampooning the Left Government's reservation in jobs for Muslims and terming it vote bank politics, Shri Mitra cited the Sacchar Committee report on how abject the conditions of Muslims was in the State, "and now suddenly, after three decades, they have woken up to their plight just for the sake of vote bank politics." The Left regime had unleashed a reign of terror in Bengal through the past 30 years but the time had come when the people were longing for a change, he said, asserting that no anti-Left Government could be formed in Bengal by ignoring the BJP.

Among other speakers were veteran BJP leader Shri Devdas Apte, BJP National General Secretary Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and former Union Minister Shri Tapan Sikdar. On the occasion, the State BJP announced that about 1,500 workers from other parties like CPI (M), Congress, and the TMC had joined the party in the past month. ■

BJP National President poses 14 questions to PM on *Mehangai*

BJP National President, Shri Nitin Gadkari's 14 Questions to Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh on Mehangai, Poverty, Food Chaos. Food inflation is 17 to 20% for the last 20 weeks.

1. Where have things gone wrong?

11% inflation in India is highest in the world. Though Chinese GDP growth is 9.5% (India 7.2%), China has 2% inflation and India 11%

2. Do you deny that inflation in India is 11% as against global inflation of 1 to 2% ?

Sugar price in India is more than double and wheat 80% more than prices in other countries.

3. Is it not true that the prices of food articles are 80% higher than in the world market?

Rate Rs/kg

Item	2004	March 2010
Wheat	9	24
Rice	10	28
Sugar	14	37
Ground Oil	40	100
Chana Dal	25	52
Tur/Mung Dal	24	88
Milk	14	32
Kerosene/Liter	18	35

4. Is it not a fact that Prices of Essential Commodities doubled during your regime?

INFLATION IN THE WORLD & INDIA

Country	Inflation %
China	2.7
America	2.6
South Korea	2.7
Europe	0.9
Hong Kong	1.0
Taiwan	2.4
Malaysia	1.3
Singapore	0.2
India	11.0

- 11 % inflation in India is highest in the world
- Though Chinese GDP growth is 9.5% (India 7.2%), China has 2% inflation and India 11%

5. Don't you agree that down trodden and middle class find it difficult to make meets end?

48 lac tons sugar exported at Rs.12.50 and re-imported at Rs. 22 to 32 per kg

6. You prefer to export sugar at Rs.12.50/kg and import it at Rs.22 but not create any buffer stock. Don't you owe an explanation to the people?

7. Do you plead ignorance about your scandalous export -import policies?

"The Planning Commission put BPL population in its 2005 report at 31 crores. December 2009 Tendulkar Committee puts it at 42 crores, and still You claim "Garibi Ghatti Hai.

8. Then why 42 crores people of rural India are still below poverty line? Are you really giving them food?

9. Govt. godowns are overflowing & food grains are getting rotten. Then why prices are skyrocketing, leaving poor people half fed?

10. Is it not true that the Govt appointed Saxena Committee pointed out that 51 % poor have been denied

Inflation, Super Inflation - Price Rise

- Wrong economic, agriculture, import-export policy resulted in inflation, super food inflation

Period	Inflation, - %
2008	12
August 2009	-1
March 2010	11+

- Food inflation is 17 to 20% for the last 20 weeks
- Mr. Prime Minister "Where have things gone wrong?"

BPL ration card and deprived of food grains?
Agriculture growth on December 2009 is negative -0.2 %. In spite of this, the Govt. has provided a meager Rs.900 crores, i.e. 0.075%, for agriculture development out of Rs.12 lac crores total budget.

11. What do you have to say about this?

Comparison of price (MSP) paid to farmers against price paid by *Aam Admi*

Item	Price Paid to Farmers Rs./Kg	Retail Price Rs./kg	Difference
Rice	9.80	23.00	135
Tur Dal	23.00	90.00	290
Moong	27.60	70.00	150
Wheat	10.80	17.00	65
Jowar	8.60	13.00	50
Bajra	8.40	15.00	75

12. Why farmers get the least, aam aadmi pays the most?

Out of Rs.8,03,842 crores turnover of 2009 at National Commodity Exchange-NCDEX, delivery was 0.28%, i.e. Rs.2,243 crores

13. Manipulative turnover/ demand is pushing the prices. Whom are you benefiting? Speculators? Manipulators? Multi-nationals?

Government ministers go on making speculative statements about the food shortages / less production.

14. What are the vested interests of your Govt. in making suggestive forecasts about shortages in food production? Is it to check prices or to create panic? ■

Garibi Hatao ya Garibi Badhao
 Phenomenal rise in Poverty

- Number of Poor has gone up during the Congress Regime
- According to the Planning Commission's - National Sample Survey - Below Poverty Line (BPL) population in rural India was 28.3% in 2005
- As per 2009 GOI Tendulkar Committee, 41.8% of rural population is living Below Poverty Line
- The Planning Commission put BPL population in its 2005 report at 31 crores. December 2009 Tendulkar Committee puts it at 42 crores.

Up & Up - every item, prices moving upward.

Product	Quantity	2004 Price Rs.	2010 Price Rs.	Increase in %
Colgate Paste	100 gm	16	28	75
Balul Paste	100 gm	12	18	50
Tata Premium Tea	100 gm	12	28	133
Sunlight washing powder	500 gm	25	32	28
Lux Bathing Soap	100 gm	11	18	64
Bread one pound	400 gm	8	15	80
Eggs	One	1.50	3	100

Vishal Jan-Pradarshan against Price Rise and UPA Government's policies

21st April 2010

Delhi Chalo - Delhi Chalo

Rise  Rise
 against Price

Five Crore signatures

15 Lakh people to Gherao the Parliament

Stop Price Rise or Quit!

Cong-led UPA incapable of protecting country : Gadkari

Congress believes in a kind of secularism which is nothing but appeasement of terrorists, BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari told a huge public rally on April 05 in Guwahati, Assam. It was his first visit of Shri Nitin Gadkari to Assam, after he took charge as the National President of the party.

Taking a dig at the ruling Congress, he alleged that the Congress had allowed price hikes of essential commodities due to vote considerations, without thinking of its impact on the common man. Shri Gadkari further criticized Congress for patronising illegal Bangladeshis in the state. He alleged that such patronage has led to militants entering from Bangladesh and the very security of the nation was in jeopardy now.

Shri Gadkari said, "No other country in the world allows infiltrators to settle down and make it their home. This is only seen in our country where thousands and thousands of Bangladeshi infiltrators are residing. "What is the necessity of appeasing the minority community and create a divide between the so called majority and minority," he asked.

Citing the case of terrorist Afzal Guru, a convicted terrorist whose death has been confirmed by the Apex Court, he said the ruling Government failed to act against him, lest this affect its electoral fortune. How can this Government protect the country?

He asked. After 9/11, nobody dared to attack the US again, but in India, terrorists' attacks are continuing one after another, Shri Gadkari said, asserting that all this was because of the weakness of the ruling Government.

He also accused the Congress of indulging in vote bank politics by appeasing the minorities only to stay in power, while keeping a blind eye to the relentless infiltration of Bangladeshis in Assam and other northeastern States, which is threatening the national security and territorial integrity of the country.

Shri Gadkari said Congress had often tried to project BJP as a communal party, which was totally wrong.

BJP is not against the minorities, nor is it a communal party. Anyone who considers India as their motherland, we respect them. It doesn't matter whether they go to a mosque or a church or other religious institutions, he said.

BJP National President further said BJP would never compromise on its stand on the question of influx of illegal migrants from Bangladesh, even if that means losing elections.

There were parties though, who once were highly critical of foreigners' issue but have now fallen silent, he said. We cannot allow our country to be swamped by Bangladeshis. We have to resist it as it concerns the country's internal security, Shri Gadkari said. "Mumbai ho ki Guwahati, apna desh, apna mati (Mumbai or Guwahati, it's our country, our land, which needs



to be protected at any cost.

He further said BJP will come to power in Assam in the 2011 Assembly polls. The next chief minister will be from the BJP.

Shri Gadkari said India had the highest rate of 11 per cent inflation. He also gave comparative figures of prices of essential commodities during the NDA and the UPA regimes and claimed that the stable political situation during NDA did not allow prices to rise. The Congress only counts votes and is blind to the sufferings of the people," he added. ■ (FOC)

JAI BHIM!

BJP spearheads campaign for a grand memorial at Ambedkar's house in Delhi

By Kallol Bhattacharjee

26 Alipore Road is too quiet to be an important political address in Delhi. Apart from the silence, the unkept lawns and the general look of desolation tell a tale of neglect. Those who come to visit this house near the Delhi Assembly and the Delhi University campus can be heard murmuring about its deplorable state.

It was here that Bhim Rao Ambedkar lived in his final days. It was here that he worked on the Constitution. More importantly for his followers, it was here that he breathed his last. Fifty-four years after his death, his followers are demanding a grand memorial on the plot. Cutting across party lines, Ambedkar followers have come together for this cause.

Predictably, around the silent house on Alipore Road, many politics has begun targeting the United Progressive Alliance. Intriguingly, the movement acquired force a few days after the death of anti-Congress stalwart and RSS patriarch Nanaji Deshmukh on February 27. At a meeting in New Delhi's Constitution Club, to remember Nanaji's contribution to the Indian democracy, Shri Indresh Gajbhiye, BJP Dalit leader from Madhya Pradesh, spoke about having a suitable monument at 26 Alipore Road.

Soon, what should have been the concern of the Bahujan Samaj Party was hijacked by the BJP. So much so that a part of the discussion about how to go about the political agitation regarding the house was also carried out at the Deendayal Research Institute (Deendayal Shodh Sansthan, of which Nanaji was the founder) when Gajbhiye arrived there a day later to discuss Ambedkar's legacy with some friends. It was

stature of Ambedkar at the national stage," Gajbhiye said, underlining that Delhi should have its Ambedkar landmark before the next general election.

Dalit activists have identified four pilgrimage centres related to Ambedkar. The first is at Mhow, his birthplace, and the second at Chaityabhoomi on Dadar beach where he was cremated. The third is the famous Deekshabhoomi in Nagpur where Ambedkar



A vender selling photo frames of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar

clear that most of this mobilisation around Ambedkar's house was to be tinged with an anti-Congress flavour.

"It is time we ask why was Ambedkar's body flown out of Delhi to Mumbai by Nehru? Every great leader was cremated in Delhi. But Ambedkar was cremated in Mumbai. It was a move by Nehru to curtail the

embraced Buddhism. The fourth, according to Gajbhiye, is 26 Alipore Road. According to him, Mayawati tried unsuccessfully to hijack the Ambedkar legacy, which belongs to all Dalits cutting across party lines. "People are gravitating towards the last resting place of Babasaheb Ambedkar because they are tired of the bankruptcy

of Dalit politics which is focused on personalities," Gajbhiye said.

The leadership of the Ambedkar house campaign has been quietly usurped by the BJP. This, however, did not happen overnight. The BJP's pro-Dalit symbolic politics has been on for quite some time. The party chose Nagpur as the venue of its 2009

from the NDA government forced them to transfer ownership of the house to the Centre. According to Dalit thinker Chandra Bhan Prasad, the Centre has never been comfortable in dealing with Ambedkar's revolutionary aspects and this has reflected in the maintenance of places associated with him.

UPA government for highlighting Jagjivan.

Surprisingly, some Congress leaders are reportedly supporting the Ambedkar house campaign. Irrespective of whether the house is finally converted into a grand memorial to Ambedkar or not, the biggest gainer from the political movement would be the BJP, which according to Gajbhiye, is in the process of discovering the Dalit factor afresh.

In the middle of this politics is the debate over Ambedkar's decision to embrace Buddhism. According to Gajbhiye, Ambedkar proved that he was not in favour of giving up the Bharatiya way of life by embracing Buddhism, a home-grown religion. Gajbhiye says that this interpretation should make Ambedkar more acceptable to the RSS and propel it to protect Dalit interests.

Dalit leaders like Udit Raj, Ram Vilas Paswan, Gajbhiye and Satyanarayan Jatiya have come together targeting the UPA for its inability to protect Ambedkar's memory. They are frank about any political opposition that might emerge out of this meeting of minds.

"If the Dalits can play a greater role in the country's politics in the coming days, why should they hesitate? After all, it is not necessary that they have just one party [BSP] for looking after their interests," said Udit Raj.

For the moment, Ambedkar enthusiasts are busy organising meetings and marches for building a grand memorial at 26 Alipore Road. On April 30, they plan to have a huge human chain in New Delhi. ■

(Courtesy: The Week)



Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's residence in New Delhi

national executive and national council meetings. Given the presence of Deekshabhoomi in the city, the meeting acquired a latent Ambedkarite colour. To this was added some symbolic gestures made by the then BJP president Rajnath Singh. On his way to Nagpur, Rajnath went to Mhow and was welcomed by Gajbhiye, who took him to Ambedkar's birthplace. "These symbolic gestures brought the party close to the Dalits," said Gajbhiye.....

After Ambedkar's death, his house in Delhi was taken over by the Jindals who carried out renovations. Growing pressure

"The house is not properly maintained and the belongings of Ambedkar are not properly kept for viewing," said Udit Raj, a Dalit leader.

"Compared to memorials of Indira Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, the last resting place of Ambedkar is a shame for anyone interested in his vision of a casteless India," he said.

Gajbhiye and others feel Ambedkar was never the chosen Dalit messiah of the Congress, which had a tall Dalit leader in Babu Jagjivan Ram. Since Jagjivan Ram was perceived by many as a rival of Ambedkar, many Ambedkar followers blame the

India must immediately seek formal extradition of David Headley from USA : Ravi Shankar Prasad

In a press statement Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad MP, BJP General Secretary and Spokesperson has demanded Immediate Extradition of David Headley from USA

The trial of 26/11 terrorist attack on Mumbai has come to an end and the judgement is to be delivered on May 3. It is important to remember one fundamental fact that only three accused Ajmal Kasab, Fahim Ansari and Salluddin Ahmad have been tried and may of the master minds in spite of being named in the charge sheet could not be tried because there are outside India and mostly in Pakistan. Even the prosecution did not dispute that the three tried in Mumbai including Ajmal Kasab were only Secondary players and the country expects that the primary players and main conspirators should also be tried and punished.

During the trial in the Mumbai Court the role of Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) has come into very sharp focus with adequate evidence. Hafiz Syed the Chief of the LeT along with many others have been the master mind who along with due support both logistical & training of elements in the ISI and Army of Pakistan hatched the conspiracy of Mumbai terror attack in which 166 innocent Indians including some foreign nationals were killed. Among these were seven Americans. The Government of India has handed over reportedly 12 dossiers to the Government of Pakistan

containing substantial evidence against Hafiz Syed and many others but the Government of Pakistan has almost treated it with



contempt, which was reflected in the despicable words of Pakistan Foreign Secretary that they are more literature than evidence. With Pakistan's track record it is self evident that none of these would be tried and if at all any semblance of trial is there it would just be a mockery of legal process. The reason is obvious. Many of the key conspirators behind the Mumbai terror attacks has been the errand boys of the ISI in the sponsorship of terror against India and any fair trial would conclusively nail the ISI. However, the people of the country equally expect that the mastermind should also be tried and punished.

It is in this light that the role of David Headley assumes crucial importance and India must not leave any opportunity to get him back into India subject him to custodial interrogation expose the entire conspiracy including the fact that there is no difference between State and non State actors in Pakistan. He had

visited India many times including as late as March 2009. He frequently visited Lahore and Karachi. There are credible reports that he was a Double Agent but the wide spread support for jihad

in Pakistan consumed him and he became a leading LeT activist. Much of the planning, conspiracy and logistical coordination was undertaken by him before the terror attack in Mumbai. To save the death penalty he has intelligently entered into a plea bargain agreement. However, this agreement in a Chicago Court between him and the US prosecutors is not binding on India at all. He must be met to face the trial in India and face the death penalty. His trial in India is very important because in his plea bargain apart from naming the LeT he has also named many serving Army Officers of Pakistan. It is in the interest of the global fight against terror that the Lahore and Karachi angle of the conspiracy must be exposed.

There are two UN resolutions no. 1373 and 1267 under which every country is obliged to supports others in the investigation and trial of terror related offences. These

Continued on page 18

Inhuman rights

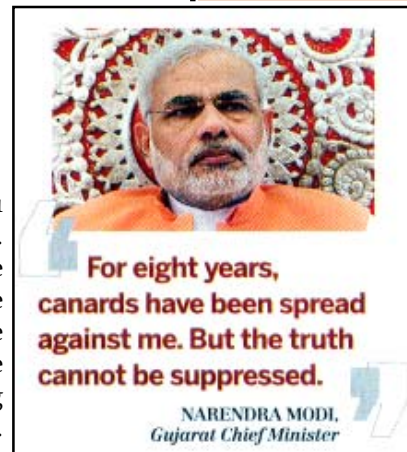
By Uday Mahurkar

For eight long years, Gujarat 2002 has stood out as one of the worst episodes in our calendar of atrocity. Since then, the country has witnessed ugly sparring over the bloody riots between the Gujarat Government and the votaries of the Hindutva movement on one side and the human rights lobby on the other. Meanwhile, the state Government, Chief Minister Narendra Modi in particular, has been repeatedly accused of direct or indirect involvement in the riots. In March 2008, the Supreme Court (sc) appointed the Special Investigation Team (SIT), headed by former Central Bureau of Investigation Director R.K. Raghavan, to reinvestigate nine major cases in the Gujarat riots of 2002. Charges flew back and forth once again last week when human rights activists called for the prosecution of Modi for his involvement in the riots in response to a petition.

The latest round of sparring began after the SIT sought Modi's presence in response to an sc petition by Zakia Jafri, a riot victim and the widow of Congress leader Ehsan Jafri, accusing Modi and 61 others of being involved in riots and hatching a conspiracy to kill Muslims. Ehsan was among the 69

people killed by a riotous Hindu mob in the Gulberg Society case. Significantly, in March 2003, the sc had stalled the trial of nine Gujarat riot cases, thanks to the relentless campaign by the human rights activists seeking justice for the Muslim victims. The riot victims said they won't get justice as long as the Gujarat Government had a role in the police probe and the subsequent trial. The SIT is reinvestigating the cases under the virtual supervision of the apex court, with even the judges and public prosecutors being selected under the sc's monitoring.

As the SIT goes about its task, more and more evidence is surfacing that the human rights lobby had, in many cases, spun



macabre stories of rape and brutal killings by tutoring witnesses before the SC. In the process, it might have played a significant role in misleading the sc to suit its political objectives against Modi and his government. Last week, one of the most horrible examples of cruelty resurfaced once again as the trial of the Naroda Patiya case, where 94 persons were killed, began in the sc-monitored

special court in Ahmedabad. Soon after the riots, the human rights activists and the Muslim witnesses had alleged that a pregnant woman Kausarbanu's womb was ripped open by rioters and the foetus was flung out at the point of a sword. The gruesome incident was seen as the worst-possible example of medieval vandalism in the modern age.

Last week, eight years after the alleged incident, Dr J.S. Kanoria, who

Credibility Gap

THEN

In his petition before the sc, Nanumiya Malek, a key witness in the Naroda Gam case, says that a married woman called Madina had been raped by rioters.

NOW

Malek later told the srr that Madina's rape was an accusation put forth at the behest of Teesta Setalvad. Madina also denied the charge.

THEN

For the past eight years, human rights activists and Naroda Patiya victims have alleged that the rioters ripped open the womb of the pregnant Kausarbanu.

NOW

Dr J.S. Kanoria, who conducted a post-mortem on Kausarbanu's body, says she died of burns during the riot and that her womb was intact.

THEN

While reinvestigating the Gulberg case, the srr comes across nearly 20 witnesses who came with their readymade, typed statements to which the srr objects.

NOW

The Muslim witnesses refuse to videotape their statements. The statements that are recorded by the srr do not match the readymade statements.

THEN

Imtiaz Pathan, a key witness in the Gulberg case, tells the special court that Ehsan Jafri was abused by Modi when Jafri called the latter seeking his help during the riots.

NOW

The srr has not been able to find any evidence or a record of Ehsan Jafri making a phone call to Narendra Modi.

THEN

In their 2003 sc petition, Muslim witnesses accused the rioters of raping women. As a result, the trials of nine major cases were stalled for over six years.

NOW

In their statements made before the sc-appointed srr, the witnesses haven't accused the rioters of raping women.

conducted the post-mortem on Kausarbanu's body on March 2, 2002, denied that any such incident had ever happened. Instead, he told the court: "After the post-mortem, I found that her foetus was intact and that she had died of burns suffered during the riot." Later Kanoria, 40, told INDIA TODAY, "I have told the court what I had already written in my post-mortem report eight years ago. The press should have checked the report before believing that her womb was ripped open. As far as I remember, I did her post-mortem at noon on March 2, 2002."

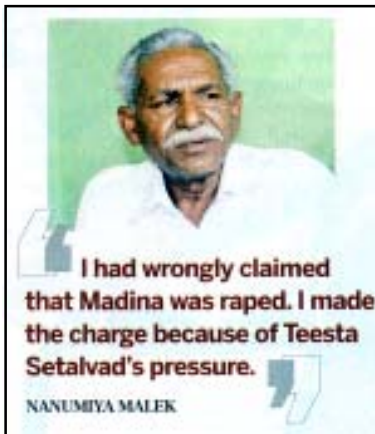


A careful study of the three police complaints, claiming that Kausarbanu's womb was ripped open by the rioters, shows several loopholes. While one complaint accuses Guddu Chara, one of the main accused in the Naroda Patiya case, of ripping open Kausarbanu's womb, extracting her foetus and flinging it with a sword; another complaint accuses Babu Bajrangi, yet another accused in the case, of doing the act. A third complaint, on the other hand, does not name the accused but describes the alleged act.

Modi will also have reasons to smile at the affidavits filed by the Muslim witnesses in the sc in 2003 at the behest of Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP) and Teesta Setalvad on the basis of which the trial in nine cases were stalled for six long years. The most glaring hole is in the

affidavit of Nanumiya Malek, a key witness in the Naroda Gam case. In his affidavit before the sc filed on November 15, 2003, Malek stated that a newly married woman called Madina, who lost four of her relatives, including her husband in the riots, had been raped by the rioters. Malek's affidavit states: "I was witness to the crimes of murder and rape that took place on Madina and her family. I also saw seven people being

burnt alive, including four orphans. I request the sc to keep the details of this rape victim confidential since she is alive and use it only for the purpose of trial and conviction of the rapists." But on May 5, 2009, in his statement before the SIT, Malek said: "I had wrongly claimed that Madina had been raped. I made the charge because of Teesta Setalvad's pressure. I kept on telling her not to include that charge in my affidavit, yet it was included." In her statement



before the SIT on May 20, 2008, Madina, who has remarried now, said: "The charge made by Malek claiming that I was raped by a riotous mob is false. I wasn't raped. When the riotous mob put my house on fire, I tried to run

but was attacked by a rioter who injured me with a knife. Later I managed to merge in a Muslim crowd."

There are six other affidavits filed by different Muslim witnesses on November 15, 2003, that want only allege rape in the Naroda Gam and Naroda Patiya riot cases without giving any details. Interestingly, all the affidavits have a uniform language: "Over 110 persons were not simply killed, but raped and mutilated as well, including young children. We urge the sc to stay the trials and transfer them to a neighbouring state and also order fresh investigation." The affidavits state that they had been filled at the behest of Setalvad and in the presence of her co-activist Rais Khan.

If this wasn't enough, other glaring attempts by human rights activists to tutor witnesses have come to the fore. For example, soon after the Gulberg massacre in which Ehsan Jafri was killed, nearly a dozen Muslim witnesses

told the police that Jafri had fired in self-defence, killed a rioter and injured-14 others. They also said that this led the mob to resort to violence and attack Muslims in Gulberg with vengeance. But almost half of them who

deposed before the special court have retracted from this statement.

The statement of Imtiaz Pathan in the Gulberg trial also raises eyebrows. He told the special court that before being

killed, Jafri told him that Narendra Modi abqsed him (Jafri) on phone when he sought protection during a mob attack. Incidentally, there is no record available of Jafri having made any call to Modi. Pathan didn't name Modi in the first police statement he made soon after the riots. Interestingly, he has also identified as many as 27 individual attackers from a mob of thousands of rioters.

When the SIT started taking statements of witnesses in the Gulberg Society case, around 20 witnesses came with typed statements. But the SIT objected to it, citing Section 161 of the CRPC, saying that the police must record the statement of a witness. So when the SIT forced the witnesses to give their statement during the interrogation, there was a vast difference between the 'readymade typed' statements and the oral evidence that the police had received earlier. As a senior lawyer defending the accused puts it:

"The witnesses under the influence of the human rights activists didn't allow videotaping of their statements while they were being recorded. There is an obvious attempt on the part of activists to dictate not just the SIT, but also the courts," Last week, INDIA TODAY quizzed Setalvad about the charge of tutoring the witnesses and creating false evidence before the courts in the 2002 Gujarat riot cases. Her response: "I am under no obligation to respond to your questions." The human rights activists' band seems to believe that one side's suffering is greater than the other's. ■

(Courtesy: India Today)

Sudhir Mungantiwar new Maharashtra BJP President

Shri Sudhir Mungantiwar was elected new BJP Maharashtra unit President on April 2. 48 year old Shri Mungantiwar succeeds Shri Nitin Gadkari, who recently took over as the BJP's National President.

Shri Mungantiwar, whose father Dr Sacchidanand was an RSS activist, rose from the ranks as a student leader in Chandrapur's Sardar Patel College in 1979 to be the general secretary of the BJP state unit in 1996 and, finally, a Minister for Tourism and Consumer Protection in 1999. He has been elected to the Assembly for four terms, hence he is a leader with full knowledge of grassroots-level politics. After being elected Shri Sudhir Mungantiwar said his priority would be to launch public campaigns against the Congress-NCP government and increase the party's support base. ■



~~~~~●●●~~~~~

*Continued from page 15*

resolutions are equally binding on the USA. India and USA already have Extradition Treaty and Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty. Realistically, in the light of all these mutual and international agreements the very commitment of USA is also on test and let an impression not go that "USA is only interested in getting at terrorist groups that harm its interests while showing scant regard for terrorist threats to India". After all the life of an Indian is equally important as is the life of a US citizen. We are getting only mixed signals as to Whether USA will hand over David Headley to India or, not. Is there a reluctance to share because ISI would be conclusively exposed. USA needs to be reminded that the war against terror does not admit of any selectivity. Equally on test is the self proclaimed achievement of the UPA Government that we are having very good strategic relationship with the USA.

The BJP accordingly demands that India must without any delay formally seek the extradition of David Headley from the USA under the treaty and it must be ensured that this plea does not become a casualty of bureaucratic and procedural road blocks. He must be tried in India for the massacre of so many innocent people and be given the death penalty. India must never miss this historic opportunity to establish once for all that Pakistan indeed is the epicentre of International terror of which India remains the most vulnerable target. ■



# The naked secularist

By R. Jagnathan

Recent media coverage of Narendra Modi's interrogation by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) and the Amitabh Bachchan controversy constitute further evidence of the emptiness of Indian secularism. By gloating over the simple fact that Modi was called by the SIT for questioning, and then fulminating over his non-appearance on March 21, the secularists have proved that what they care about is not

Modi has often been accused – and legitimately – of equating his state's interests with his own. But his detractors are playing into his hands. When Amitabh Bachchan is asked to be the state's brand ambassador for tourism, he is pilloried for his impertinence. Modi may have had his own agenda in inviting him to promote Gujarat's cause, but isn't that what politicians do anyway? Why is anyone who promotes Gujarat an instant target for secularists? This is

than the Gujarati's business instincts – which may be partly true. But this no different from saying that the UPA's economic performance is due to India's demographic bulge driven by George Bush's global growth engine – which was equally the case. Being a supporter of dynasty, Ramesh, of course, won't have the guts to acknowledge this. But Modi's achievements are worth sullyng.

It is also sickening to see secularists salivating at the prospect of Modi's humiliation – when justice is the priority. No one noted that Rajiv Gandhi was never called to answer questions on Bofors when it was more than clear that he and his nominees were the unstated suspects. The Swedish prosecutor in the Bofors case expressed surprise why Sonia Gandhi was not quizzed in the scam – when she is also the obvious link to Ottavio Quattrochi. Is it any surprise that Quattrochi gets a quiet exit during the UPA regime?

Much is also being made of the fact that the Congress expressed regrets for the anti-Sikh riots of 1984 while Modi has kept mum. Ask yourself: is the apology of a Sikh prime minister for his party's anti-Sikh pogrom really worth taking at face value? Not that apologies make any difference. LK Advani's belated "saddest day of my life" apology was not good enough for the secularists to forgive him for the Babri demolition, but Manmohan Singh's apology 20 years after

***It is also sickening to see secularists salivating at the prospect of Modi's humiliation — when justice is the priority. No one noted that Rajiv Gandhi was never called to answer questions on Bofors when it was more than clear that he and his nominees were the unstated suspects. The Swedish prosecutor in the Bofors case expressed surprise why Sonia Gandhi was not quizzed in the scam — when she is also the obvious link to Ottavio Quattrochi. Is it any surprise that Quattrochi gets a quiet exit during the UPA regime?***

justice, but their own vanity.

India's humbug secularists have personalised the definition of secularism for narrow political ends. It corresponds to no dictionary meaning of the word. Secularism is defined as the opposite of what the Sangh parivar stands for. Like Pakistan defining itself as "not India," secularists define themselves as "not the Sangh parivar". The Sangh is the unspeakable "other", the demon they are trying to exorcise in themselves. And in Modi they have found the perfect personification of all that they hate in themselves.

ideological tyranny. If Modi is wrapping himself in the state's colours, the secularists are helping him do so through sheer stupidity. By blasting anyone who is hired by the state, they are effectively saying that working for Gujarat is the same as working for Modi. So when Modi says the secularists are trampling on Gujarati asmita, it is entirely believable.

Blind hatred cannot lead to any good. Before the Gujarat elections in 2007, Jairam Ramesh made out a case suggesting that the state's economic success under Modi was less due to him

## BJP CREATS ANOTHER HISTORY wins Bangalore civic polls

Credit to Yeddyurappa, Ananth Kumar and *Karyakartas*

It is another feather in Karnataka BJP's cap. For the first time in the State's political history, the BJP has ended five decades of Congress dominance and captured the prestigious Bangalore Corporation and the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). The State went to polls on March 28 and about 46 per cent of the city's 6.6 million voters turned up to cast their ballots for electing 198 representatives from over 1,300 candidates to run the Greater Bangalore City Corporation.

The demolition of the JD(S) is a major blow to former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, who had launched a vicious campaign against the State Government on the issue of Bangalore and Mysore road project. The result is also a blow to the Congress party. Of the 198 BBMP seats, the BJP won 112 seats, followed by the Congress'

64 seats and 15 by the JD(S) and seven independents. In addition to the 198 corporators, 52 elected members – MPs, MLAs and MLCs – have voting rights in the mayoral polls. The BJP has 31 of these 52 members, including 17 MLAs in the BBMP jurisdiction. The Congress has 10 MLAs and the JD(S) one. Talking to the media in Bangalore, Chief Minister Shri Yeddyurappa said Bangaloreans voted the BJP because of the State Government's good work. He said the BJP capturing the BBMP was a "fitting reply" to the Opposition Congress and JD(S), adding that the verdict has "silenced critics". The Chief Minister added, "We had already prepared an action plan for over Rs 22,500 crore to be implemented over the next three years. This will substantially improve infrastructure in Bangalore."

The Government would



make efforts to put the Bangalore Governance Act in place for ensuring better coordination and empowering ward-level committees, he added. It will also bring increased accountability and efficiency in planning and execution of works. In the next two-three years, we will take up comprehensive improvement of all water bodies in the BBMP areas. To ease traffic-related problems, we have already written to the Ministry of Railways for a circular train in Bangalore and agreed to share the project cost. We have also decided to build modern multi-level car parking facilities in at least 10 important areas in Bangalore this year," Yeddyurappa said. ■ (FOC)

1984 is a wonderful example of contrition!

As for the Bachchan episode, he has no chance of being excused by the secular cabal. In fact, he is doubly guilty. His first crime was, of course, related to the fact that he had the temerity to bat for Gujarat. His second crime was that he had fallen foul of the Gandhi family. Combine the two, and he had no chance of being left alone. This is why Congress party buffoons are busy demanding all kinds of explanations from him when

Ratan Tata, Mukesh Ambani and Anil Ambani – all businessmen who showered praise on Modi directly – got away unnoticed, as Amitabh pointed out in his blogs. It is not anybody's case that Modi should not be punished or tried for whatever he did or didn't do in 2002. But we have already tried him in the media and convicted him. Even assuming this is poetic justice for a man who let unspeakable things happen in his state eight years ago, it is no excuse for one-sided secularism.

In Hans Christian Andersen's immortal tale, it took the innocence of a child to tell the emperor that he was wearing no clothes. The emperor's tailors had told him that the invisible clothes they had made for him would not be seen by anyone who was "just hopelessly stupid." Since the emperor did not want to be labelled stupid, he pretended to wear the clothes when he was really walking stark naked. It seems our secularists are also running stark naked – and they don't seem to know it. ■

(Courtesy: DNA)

## Progressive policies of BJP Govt attracted highest investment : Yeddyurappa

**K**arnataka Chief Minister Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa on April 01 kicked off a road show in Mumbai for the Global Investors' Meet, which is to be held in Bangalore on June 3 and 4.

Accompanied by Minister for Large and Medium Industries Shri Murugesh Nirani and top officials of the Department of Industries and Commerce, he promised "attractive incentives" to investors heading for Karnataka.

Shri Yeddyurappa said the Government's progressive and investor-friendly policies had attracted investments to the State. Addressing about 400 industrialists from various business sectors, he said approvals for investments in the State doubled in 2009-10, when compared to a year earlier.



- ▶ Road show held in Mumbai for Global Investors' Meet
- ▶ Global Investors' Meet to be held in Bangalore on June 3 and 4
- ▶ Approvals for investments in the State doubled in 2009-10

He said the BJP Government in the state gave top priority to the power sector because it recognized that the State was suffering power shortage.

Shri Yeddyurappa said the Global Investors' Meet was particularly focussed on drawing investment in the aerospace, infrastructure, tourism, information technology, automobiles, biotechnology, minerals, power, textiles, healthcare and education sectors. The Government would sign memorandums of understanding with investors during the two-day event. Prior to the road show Shri Yeddyurappa and Shri Nirani held separate meetings with senior executives of several industrial conglomerates. They discussed proposals for investments made by Shri B. Muthuraman, vice-chairman, Tata Steel; Shri Ashok P. Hinduja, chairman and managing director, Hinduja Group; Shri A.K. Chatwani, senior executive vice-president, Larsen & Toubro; senior executives of Grasim Industries; and Shri Adi B. Godrej of Godrej Industries. ■ (FOC)

## Odisha

### Rousing reception to Dharmendra Pradhan

**B**haratiya Janata Party, Odisha unit accorded a grand reception to the newly appointed National General Secretary Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and other three National Executive members



Smt. Surama Padhi, Shri Suresh Pujari and Shri K.V.Singh Deo. Shri Bijoy Mohapatra could not attend the reception due to ill health.

In a grand procession Shri Pradhan was escorted from the airport to the Party office by hundreds of young and jubilant Karyakartas of the party unfurling party flags and bursting crackers on the entire route.

State BJP President Sri Jual Oram while congratulating Shri Pradhan for his inclusion in the new team of national leaders, also thanked National President Shri Nitin Gadkari for having selected a young face of Odisha as one of his General Secretaries as a token of recognition to the inherent potentialities in the State.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, who had earlier led the BJP Yuva Morcha, as its National President also worked as one of the National Secretaries in the party. ■ (FOC)

## BJP leaders injured during protest

The Delhi BJP municipal councillors held a demonstration near the Delhi Assembly on March 29 when the Government was to approve its Budget proposals.

Bharatiya Janata Party MLAs also protested on that day, both within and outside the Delhi Assembly, against price rise, the proposal to increase Value Added Tax (VAT) on various items and withdrawal of subsidy on domestic cooking gas.

MCD House Leader Subhash Arya and included MCD Standing Committee Chairman Shri Ram Kishan Singhal, Deputy Mayor Shri Azad Singh, former Mayor Smt. Arti Mehra and former Standing Committee Chairman Shri Vijender Gupta led the protest. Delhi BJP president Shri O. P. Kohli, Leader of Opposition in

the Assembly Shri V. K. Malhotra and party general secretary Vijay Goel addressed the demonstrators.

Later the Municipal Councillors started proceeding towards the Assembly on bullock

carts and rickshaws. The police used water cannons to disperse the gathering.

Several leaders, including Standing Committee chairman Shri Ram Kishan Singhal who sustained a fracture in his right



### Protesting BJP MLAs removed from Assembly

On March 29, 2010 Bharatiya Janata Party MLAs protested inside the Delhi Assembly against price rise, the proposal to increase Value Added Tax (VAT) on various items and withdrawal of subsidy on domestic cooking gas.

As soon as the House assembled for the day, Leader of Opposition Shri V. K. Malhotra demanded a discussion on price rise. Speaker Shri Yoganand Shastri adjourned the House for 15 minutes.

When the House re-assembled, the BJP members, holding placards, continued their protest. The Speaker named them one by one and got them removed by marshals. Prof. Malhotra, though, stuck to his seat. He walked out later finding all his party colleagues out.

The BJP MLAs then continued their protest on the Assembly premises. However, the police removed them from there. ■

arm, were admitted to Bara Hindu Rao Hospital.

The police also detained a few protestors at the Timarpur police station.

Addressing the demonstrators, Shri. Arya said: "It seems that controlling price rise is not among the priorities of the Congress Government at the Centre. The Government neither has any policy to encourage production of agricultural commodities nor any policy to decrease the cost of agricultural production."

"The Delhi Government is trying to throttle the voice of the protesters. The way the demonstration by councillors was crushed is shameful," he added. ■

## BJP demands judicial inquiry into attacks on Hindu temples & burning of cows

*Press statement issued on March 30, 2010 by BJP National Spokesperson, Shri Prakash Javadekar MP on Hyderabad communal violence.*

**B**JP demands judicial inquiry into the incidents of unprovoked attacks on temples, Hindus and burning of cows in Hyderabad. This inquiry becomes more imperative in the background of a statement of Congress MP Shri Madhu Yaski that these attacks are part of conspiracy to destabilize present CM K. Rossaih and an admission by city police commissioner that these attacks are premeditated. Both these statements are serious enough to warrant a judicial probe as they hint at a larger

conspiracy intended to create communal flare up. AP has a history of such a premeditated communal flare up for settling political



scores amongst Congress leaders themselves as witnessed during the regime of M. Chenna Reddy

in 1990. Statement of police commissioner is also equally revealing in its contents. If police

## Police let MIM leaders provoke the people

### *BJP Team submits memorandum to Andhra CM*

The BJP has demanded a judicial inquiry into the communal riots in Hyderabad and has urged the State Government to pay an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh to the victims' families. After submitting a memorandum to Chief Minister Shri K Rosaiah along with a delegation of party leaders, the State BJP President Shri G Kishan Reddy told the media that an impartial judicial inquiry would bring out the truth behind the violence. Alleging the administration with partisan attitude, he alleged that the police gave freedom to the leaders of Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen to provoke people. He demanded that Government should also give job to one eligible member of a victim's family. He also demanded as compensation of Rs 50,000 to Rs one lakh for every injured person. He also held the administration guilty for not removing the buntings and flags put up by the people on religious festivals even after it got over. He recalled that much before the current trouble there was violence in Madannapet area over the same dispute on flags.

"Had the police taken cue from the Madannapet incident and removed all the green buntings to facilitate the Hindus celebrate Hanuman Jayanthi, there would not have been any problem. Further, after the tiff at Moosabowli, police failed to step up security at least in the communally sensitive areas of the old city," the BJP memorandum said. The delegation include senior party leaders Shri Indrasen Reddy, Ch. Vidyasagar Rao and Baddam Balreddy among others. ■

commissioner had prior information of this premeditated attacks, why in the first place he did not come up with a plan to prevent such ugly attacks? This must be viewed in the light of the fact that Congress and MIM alliance is ruling Greater Hyderabad Corporation.

Muslim fundamentalist organizations like MIM and others objected to putting up of hoarding of Shri Ram and raised buntings on the eve of Hanuman Jayanti and started attacks on temples, shops, houses and targeted even Gaushala. Police remained a mute spectator despite complaints and appeals to act. Mr. Satyanarayana, who was coming out of ATM was stabbed to death in the presence of police. Rioters took full advantage of this police laxity and attacked a famous Jain Gaushala in Shamsherejung, where they burnt alive 3 cows by putting grass and petrol on them. They even burnt cars and beat up people in front of old city police commissioner office. Police till this moment have not arrested the rioters involved in these heinous cow burnings and stabbings. This is comprehensive failure of the police and the Govt. of AP.

BJP condemns the dastardly acts of burning of cows, which shows the cruelty at its worst besides attacks on temples, shops, houses and stabbings. BJP also demands arrest of rioters and brains behind them. BJP demands action against erring police officials. ■

## Sakhi Manch launched

The first get-together of the wives of BJP MPs was held on March 11, 2010 in New Delhi. It was the result of an initiative taken by newly founded *Sakhi*



*Manch* with the aim of promoting interactions, mutual trust and affection among its members. *Sakhi Manch* is a forum of the wives of BJP MPs. The initiative has been highly appreciated as 32 members participated in the first meeting. Its innovative appeal also saw some women BJP MPs participating in the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, BJP Parliamentary party Chairman Shri LK Advani said, "Such get-together should continue further, it should be given institutional form. Promoting love -affection is a great contribution to the party".

BJP President Shri Nitin Gadkari said, "Without good human relation no organization can go ahead".

Leader of Opposition (Lok Sabha) Smt. Sushma Swaraj termed it as a unique experiment.

BJP General Secretary (Org.) Shri Ram Lal said, "This type of get-together takes place in RSS and now it is heartening to see it happening in BJP. It will give impetus to organisational work."

Smt. Prachi Javadekar, wife of Shri Prakash Javadekar MP and organizer of the forum said *Sakhi Manch* would continue to meet during every session of Parliament. ■ (FOC)

~~~~~@~@~@~~~~

BJP President appoints 5-member committee on Hyderabad riot

BJP President Shri Nitin Gadkari on April 2 has formed a five-member committee to visit riot-affected areas of Hyderabad to get first-hand information of the situation there. BJP spokespersons Shri Prakash Javadekar and Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman along with party secretary Shri Laxman, Shri Prahlad Joshi (Lok Sabha MP from Dharwad), and B Shanappa (Karnataka Rajya Sabha MP) would visit Hyderabad and submit a report to the party chief. The BJP has also demanded a judicial probe into the attacks on temples and cows during the riots in Hyderabad alleging they were pre-meditated and unprovoked. ■ (FOC)

The sorry state of public health

By Raghu Dayal

With India's dysfunctional primary healthcare system severely impairing its human capital, the government needs to rise above the rhetoric of its grandiose plans and policies, says Raghu Dayal

While US President Barack Obama has given top legislative priority to health insurance reform to enable Americans to have quality and affordable healthcare, Indians have little hope of deliverance from an increasingly-unaffordable health regime.

India's primary healthcare system is based on primary health centre (PHC) and its attached sub-centres, each of which covers 3-4 villages. The Economic Survey, 2009-10, highlights a shortage of 20,486 sub-centres, 4,477 PHCs and 2,337 community health centres (CHCs) based on 2001 population norm. Only 13% of rural residents have access to a PHC, 33% to a sub-centre, 9.6% to a dispensary or clinic. About two-thirds of country's registered hospitals are private.

A recent countrywide survey of PHCs revealed average vacancies at 18% for doctors, 15% for nurses and 30% for paramedics. Absenteeism rates in this sector average 40% across the country. A study on competence level of doctors in the PHCs found, in treating diarrhoea, that a typical doctor often recommended harmful therapies. According to a 2005 Transparency International

study, healthcare services account for 27% of the bribes paid for public services in the country. Again, if public doctors miss their clinic opening timings or render poor service, they still get their salary.

The National Rural Health Mission, launched on April 12, 2005, with an annual allocation of Rs 12,000 crore – increased by Rs 2,057 crore in 2009-10 – aims at providing accessible

cards. In reality, the programmes deliver far short of their avowed claims.

Public health services suffer from widespread absenteeism and indifference among doctors and paramedics in the PHCs, shortages of medicines, unhygienic conditions, complaints of rude health workers, patients compelled to make informal payments, lack of supervision and accountability,

| UNHEALTHY STATE | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|---------|---|--------------------|---|------|
| Healthcare Infrastructure: India vs Other Developing Countries | | | | | | | | | | |
| Country | Health expenditure | | Physicians per 1,000 people | | Hospital beds per 1,000 people | | Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births | | Child mortality (Under-five mortality) rate per 1,000 | |
| | % of GDP | Per capita \$ | 1990 | 2000-07 | 1990 | 2000-07 | National estimates | Modelled estimates | 1990 | 2005 |
| Bangladesh | 3.2 | 12 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 322 | 570 | 149 | 73 |
| Brazil | 7.5 | 427 | 1.4 | — | 3.3 | 2.4 | 53 | 110 | 60 | 33 |
| China | 4.6 | 94 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 41 | 45 | 49 | 27 |
| India | 3.6 | 29 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 301 | 450 | 123 | 74 |
| Indonesia | 2.5 | 39 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 307 | 420 | 91 | 36 |
| Kenya | 4.6 | 29 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 414 | 560 | 97 | 120 |
| Mexico | 6.6 | 527 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 1.0 | 1.6 | 62 | 60 | 46 | 27 |
| Nigeria | 3.8 | 33 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 1.7 | 0.5 | — | 1,100 | 230 | 194 |
| Pakistan | 2.0 | 16 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 533 | 320 | 130 | 99 |
| World | 9.8 | 722 | 1.4 | — | 3.7 | 2.6 | — | 400 | 64 | 51 |
| Low & middle income countries | 5.3 | 114 | — | — | 3.1 | 1.7 | — | 440 | 69 | 56 |
| Sub-Saharan Africa | 5.7 | 53 | — | — | 1.2 | — | — | 900 | 109 | 96 |

health services to the poorest households in the remotest regions of the country. The *Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana* claims to have covered 4.5 million below-poverty-line families by issuing biometric

and rural folk compelled to gravitate to local private practitioners, many of them unregistered and unqualified.

Against such a pathetic supply side, the demand for Medicare is enormous. Over 17

lakh children in the country die annually before reaching their first birthday. India accounts for a fifth of the global disease burden: 23% of child deaths, 20% of maternal deaths, 30% of tuberculosis cases, 68% of leprosy cases and 14% of HIV cases. Tuberculosis kills around 2 million people a year around the world; in India, the disease takes a toll of 4,21,000 lives.

The spread of Malaria was brought down to negligible proportions in the 1960s, but it struck back with 6.47 million cases in 1976; and still accounts for 2-3 million cases annually. India has a disproportionately high per-capita rate of acute respiratory infections and diarrheal diseases than the rest of the world.

The infant mortality rate (IMR) per 1,000 live births was 80 in 1990, which dropped only to 66 in 2000 against proportionate Millennium Development Goals (MDG) target of 57.

With almost a third of the country's population living in cities — more than half the number in 23 metropolitan areas — the healthcare infrastructure is far too inadequate. While there is need to raise the availability of doctors from 6,00,000 to 20,00,000 and nurses from 16,00,000 to 44,00,000, some 165 medical colleges annually turn out only about 16,000 doctors in the country.

THE number of physicians per 1,000 population for the world is 1.5; for India, it is 0.6. Against a world average of 3.98 hospital beds per 1,000 population, Russia has 9.7,

Brazil 2.6, China 2.5, and India 0.9. Per-capita per-year in-patient admissions for India aggregate 1.7 compared to 9 for the world and 5.5 in low-income countries.

A clear message in these depressing figures is of serious sickness afflicting the country. The UN Human Development Report, 2007, brings to the fore the country's abysmal record in education and health; here, India is in the same league as Ethiopia, Burundi and Chad. India remains mired in hunger and poverty, home to a third of the

With almost a third of the country's population living in cities — more than half the number in 23 metropolitan areas — the healthcare infrastructure is far too inadequate. While there is need to raise the availability of doctors from 6,00,000 to 20,00,000 and nurses from 16,00,000 to 44,00,000, some 165 medical colleges annually turn out only about 16,000 doctors in the country.

world's poor, its human capital severely impaired by grossly inadequate healthcare infrastructure strained by steady urbanization, epidemiological transition to chronic and non-communicable diseases, poorly regulated private sector and poor management of public sector facilities.

Total annual per-capita state and central government spending on public healthcare services is \$2-3. A sub-group on healthcare financing and insurance recommended public

expenditure on health to be not less than 2.5% of GDP. The UPA government had us believe that this will be raised to 3%. Public health expenditure in the country has been only about 0.9% of GDP — central government 0.29% and state governments 0.61% — which is below the low-income countries' average of 1%, and even sub-Saharan Africa's 1.7%. These are distressing figures.

As much as 63% of the entire spending goes to wages and salaries, leaving meager resources for drugs, supplies, equipment, infrastructure and maintenance. Moreover, there are significant inter-state differences in per-capita spending on health services: in 2004-05, it ranged from Rs 100 in Bihar and Rs 156 in Uttar Pradesh to Rs 448 in Tamil Nadu and Rs 354 in Kerala. The country's health system is afflicted with inequities. An NCAER study reveals that the richest 20% enjoy three times the share of public subsidy for health.

A working paper by the Centre on Globalisation and Sustainable Development (CGSD) terms India's primary healthcare system dysfunctional: the system has failed to deliver basic health services to the poor, notwithstanding numerous schemes launched with fanfare, including the *Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana* and Health for All. Amidst its emphatic avowals of a new deal for aam aadmi, the government has a challenging task to face, rising above the rhetoric of grandiose plans and policies. ■

(Courtesy: *The Economic Times*)

Nishank meets PM Seeks industrial package extension

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and his Cabinet colleagues on March 29 called on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and sought an extension of the industrial package, whose tenure was reduced to seven year from 10 years by the UPA Government, and which is going to end this month. The package, which comes with rebate in excise tax, income tax and other tax holidays to industrialists, was earlier scheduled to end in 2013 but the UPA Government at the Centre reduced its tenure by three years. The package now expires

on March 31.

The Chief Minister said that over two lakh youths would be denied employment opportunities in the lack of this industrial package because its

industries.

He argued with the Prime Minister that similar incentives have been extended to North-Eastern States and Jammu & Kashmir, so there was no reason to single out Uttarakhand.

"When the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government gave this package to Uttarakhand, the State had a Congress Government. If Congressmen are so worried about State's development, why don't they just make the PM to announce that after 2013, the package would be extended for another 10 years?" Shri Nishank asked. ■



absence would prove a major hindrance in setting up of

Dhupal to meet PM for special package



Himachal Pradesh Cabinet, which met in Shimla under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhupal on April 01 adopted a resolution to represent its case for restoration of Special Industrial Package granted by the then NDA Government headed by then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in January 2003, to north-western States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir, for a period of ten years, ending March 31, 2013. The term of the package was reduced to March, 2007 by the UPA Government at the Centre when it came to power in the year 2004.

The Cabinet decided to take a high-level delegation under the leadership of Prof. Prem Kumar Dhupal, which will be accompanied by all his Cabinet colleagues. Leader of Opposition in HP State Legislative Assembly, presidents of both the ruling and Opposition political parties and all the Members of Parliament from the State will head for New Delhi to raise its demand for justice with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and to represent the case pertaining to increase the Industrial Package of the State.

The State had opposed the decision of the UPA Government curtailing the period of the special industrial package from ten years to five years in year 2004, immediately when it came to power at the Centre. On constant persuasion, the package was extended by three years further which ended on March 31, 2010 and the request for restoring the same till March, 2013 were made time and again. ■

UTTARAKHAND

**Save the holy
Ganga : Nishank exhorts youth**



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has appealed to youths to play a vital role to save the existence of Ganga while addressing a seminar on ‘Sparsh Ganga’

held in Doon University on March 24.

Shri Nishank appreciated the event organisers and urged the gathering to carry forward ‘Sparsh Ganga’ as a mission as the flow of River Ganga is necessary not only for the integrity of Uttarakhand but for India at large.

He informed the students that eminent personalities from across the country would take part in this project and efforts are going on to rope in famous film actress, Smt. Hema Malini as the brand ambassador of this project.

On the occasion Chandravir Pokhriyal and RK Singh were awarded for their contribution in the Sparsh Ganga programme.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

**Chief Minister stresses on
organic-based farm produce**

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal has laid stress on the use of organic based farm produce to save one self from various health hazards. He said that there was a need to produce organic farm produce and thereby save the humanity from the non organic produces.



While addressing a mammoth gathering at Basaral village of Hamirpur district on March 26 Prof. Dhumal said the BJP government in the state had succeeded in obtaining a financial assistance of Rs 372 crore for organic fertilizer production.

Earlier, Prof. Dhumal dedicated 120 metres long foot bridge over Kunah Khad completed at a cost of Rupees 72.42 lakh, to benefit about 20,000 population in the area and 37.5 metres long Salashi

Khand to link village Bumbloo completed at a cost of Rs 27.74 lakh benefiting about 500 population in the area and laid foundation stone of 193 meters long Basaral bridge estimated to cost Rs 308 lakh.

He announced on the occasion that the State Government was all set to preserve the state climate and only such Industries that were not causing any harm to the State’s ecology would be set up in coming years. He said that the government would lay main stress on harnessing the hydel potential of the State. He further said that the work for the 60 MW Dhaulasidh power project would start soon as the survey and other related works were in progress these days. This project would be constructed near Dhalasidh area of Nadaun area and provide employment to hundreds of local people and thereby changing their economy.

He said that Pandit Deen Dayal Kisaan Baagwan Samridhi Yojna had not only helped cash crop cultivation provisions but micro irrigation, sprinkler and drip irrigation facilities as well in the state.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

**170 J&K temples vandalised in 20
years, admits Govt**

The Jammu & Kashmir Government according to *The Pioneer* has admitted on record that 170 temples were damaged in militancy-related violence in the Valley over the last 20 years. Several Prominent Kashmiri Pandits feel that the State Government organs have failed to take proper care of the Valley’s temples, which has left many heritage buildings and religious structures in a state of ruin.

State Revenue Minister Raman Bhalla himself admitted in the Assembly that of the 170 damaged temples, the Government had renovated only 90 to date. In reply to a question by BJP legislator Shri Jugal Kishore Bhalla, the Minister said there were 430 temples before the Valley fell into the grip of militancy.

While 266 temples are still intact, 170 were damaged and 90 of these have been renovated at a cost of Rs 33 lakh. At least 17 temples in sensitive areas have been provided with a security cover, he added.

The Minister’s claims were challenged by All Parties’ Migrant Coordination Committee chairman Vinod Pandit, who demanded a White

Paper on the renovation of temples in Kashmir. Dr Agnishekhar, associated with Panun Kashmir movement, said, State Government has failed to renovate religious places. He also raised serious concerns over the manner in which even cremation grounds were selectively encroached upon. In addition, the State has officially acquired the land belonging to Kashmiri Pandits in various districts. The Revenue Minister also admitted that 113 kanals of land had been encroached upon in Shopian and that steps were being taken to drive away the squatters.

As per official records, 10 kanals have been acquired by police in Kupwara, six kanals at Handwara (Horticulture department), nine kanals for construction of bus stand at Verinag in Anantnag, four kanals for parking space and 16 kanals for a women's college in Baramulla, among others.

MADHYA PRADESH

2010-11 to be family planning year : Shivraj Singh

Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that year 2010-11 would be a family planning year in the State. He said that stabilisation in terms of population is necessary for development and the issue of population control would be included in the Madhya Pradesh *Banao* drive. He was awarding 22 couple under *Prerna Yojana* at his residence on March 30 in Bhopal.



The Chief Minister said that increase in population is responsible for poverty and due to this, our resources are become lesser. He said that children get better facility referring to nutrition, treatment and education in nuclear family. He added that Madhya Pradesh population is increasing per year equal to the whole population of Himachal Pradesh and equal to the population of West Australia in the world.

Shri Chouhan further said that he is including issue of population in Madhya Pradesh *Banao Drive* for public awareness. He said that excessive population is the reason behind child labour along with poverty. He added that though this problem

of population is nationwide but State Government would speed-up effort in the direction of population control in the State.

He congratulated the rewarded couples for marriage in proper age and for becoming parents at appropriate gap. He awarded 22 couples living under below poverty line under *Prerna Yojna*. Chief Minister said that these rewarded women from rural areas would be perceived as the ambassador of Madhya Pradesh Government and they would be helpful in spreading information to every village in this concern.

He further said that population growth rate of the State is 3.3 per cent at present, which would be brought up to 2.3 per cent He added that every citizen should do it after perceiving it as a national duty.

Minister of State for Health Shri Mahendra Hardia at the occasion said that Madhya Pradesh is speeding its effort in the direction of population control. He informed that couples are being motivated for the implementation of national programme in Madhya Pradesh including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan.

MP Assembly passes anti-terror Bill

The Madhya Pradesh Assembly on March 25 has passed the MP Terrorism and Disruptive Activities and Control of Organised Crimes Bill 2010. This is for the second time; the State Assembly has passed such a Bill. There are provisions for death penalty or life imprisonment for those indulging in the acts of terror, disruptive activities, and organised crimes. In 2007, the BJP Government had sent a similar Bill to the Centre for approval. However, along with a similar Bill of Gujarat, the Centre had returned it without recommending any changes saying its clearance was not required at this stage. The State Government was advised to get the Bill passed, seek the Governor's approval and then send it to the President.

Home Minister Umashankar Gupta said terror outfits, illegal organisations, and organised crime syndicates were using high-tech means and for prevention of such crimes, an effective legislation was needed. As per the provisions, the proposed legislation will remain in force for three years and later be extended from time to time. It provides for stringent punishment for those abetting terrorists, organised criminal syndicates and those providing

financial assistance. There is a provision of death penalty or life imprisonment for the offender in case of death of the victim.

Besides, a fine of minimum Rs 5 lakh would be imposed on the accused. Under the charges of conspiracy and abetment, there is provision for imprisonment between five years and life, and the minimum fine will be Rs five lakh. ■

UTTAR PRADESH

Majority-minority can't be base of development : BJP

The UP BJP lambasted the Union minister Salman Khursheed for his statement to declare districts with 15 percent Muslim populace instead of the existent norm of 20, as 'Minority districts'. The state BJP vice president and spokesman Shri Hriday Narayan Dixit said on April 01 that the Constitution has no definition of minority and despite this the Union government has short listed 90 districts in the country which has 25 percent Muslim population and declared them as 'Minority districts'.

Few schemes funded by Union government are already underway in these districts which are against the Constitution" he said.

Shri Hriday Narayan Dixit said that Congress has always been of divisive nature adopting a policy of separatism and appeasement and Khursheed's statement will only embolden the separatists.

Shri Dixit further said that the development can not be determined on the basis of majority-minority or Hindu-Muslim and is the most unreasonable way. The allocation of money should be done keeping in view the poverty and population and the need of the inhabitants," Shri Dixit said.

GOA

If things do not improve BJP to demand dissolution of Assembly : Parrikar

BJP senior leader and Leader of the Opposition in Goa assembly, Shri Manohar Parrikar on April 01 warned the Congress led State Government that Bharatiya Janata Party will demand the dissolution of the State Assembly if the administration in the

State, which has come to a halt, will not improve in the coming days.

Stating that the on-going political in-fighting in the Congress-led coalition Government has brought the administration to a halt in the past month, the former Chief Minister said that they would be compelled to seek an intervention by the Governor.

Addressing mediapersons, Shri Parrikar said that the tussle for share in power between the group of seven, led by Nationalist Congress Party, and the Congress had led to non-governance for many days as Ministers are busy politicking or rushing to Delhi and other places for lobbying for their selfish causes.

He also expressed apprehension over the growing law and order problems in the State. This fight is not for any public cause but purely for selfish motives; rather it is to get their personal files cleared," Shri Parrikar said referring to the pressure games played by the group of seven.

Shri Parrikar also hinted that the political fight between the Congress and the group of seven has connections to the pending files of permits for mining leases. He further said that he would convene a meeting of the BJP's legislative wing and decide about approaching the Governor.

ANDHRA PRADESH

BJP against religion-based reservations : Dattatreya

Former Andhra Pradesh State BJP President Shri B. Dattatreya said that BJP was not against reservations for Muslims, but opposed reservations on religious basis.

"Let the reservations be extended to those who are financially backward; irrespective of caste, creed and religion," he told reporters at Sangareddy on March 29. He also alleged that the ruling Congress party was playing religious politics. He was at Sangareddy to participate in a signature campaign against price rise taken up by the BJP district unit.

On that occasion referring to the Srikrishna Committee, Shri Dattatreya said that it had no legal sanctity and hence the BJP refused to recognize it or submit a report to that committee. He predicted that the Committee would submit a report against formation of a separate Telangana state. ■