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# CONTENTS

## *India wins ICC World Cup 2011*



### COVER STORY

Asom of Our Dreams: Asom Vision 2025.....	6
Report on assembly elections in States By Vikash Anand.....	7

### Articles

In 'Cricket diplomacy' Manmohan bowled a no ball, out for a duck By Amba Charan Vashishth.....	14
Shunglu committee report tears UPA apart By Ram Prasad Tripathy.....	21
Budgetary Impact in Madhya Pradesh : 2004-05 to 2011-12 By C. Rajashekhar.....	27

### Special on Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti

A visionary leader By Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi.....	25
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### Rallies

Ranchi (Jharkhand).....	9
Bansi (Uttar Pradesh).....	13

### Others

BJP celebrates its foundation day.....	11
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### States

Uttar Pradesh, Goa.....	29
Madhya Pradesh.....	30

*BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari  
congratulates Indian Cricket Team for  
winning ICC World Cup 2011.*



*Letters to the Editor...*



Dear Sir,

Gradually BJP has assumed a decisive role in Assam politics. People of Assam are keenly watching and observing the ethos and policies of BJP that are being successfully implemented in all the BJP ruled states of India. But unfortunately it appears that there is hardly any News coverage in Assam that reflects the activities of BJP which can foster the image of BJP as the only alternative opposition party of the nation to govern.

Therefore, I benignly request for a good coverage of the activities of BJP Assam.

Yours sincerely,  
**Dr. Lokendra Prasad Deka**  
Guwahati (Assam)



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## Check the growing menace of corruption

# Editorial...

The people are today witnessing a government which is neck deep in corruption. Not only that the government has been found indulging in various acts of omissions and commissions it has also refused to take responsibility to act and set the system right. The Congress led UPA government at the centre has become synonymous with corruption closing its eyes to the rot that has crept in the system affecting the functioning of the government. The functioning of the government is afflicted by the patronage extended to criminally corrupt elements in the Congress party. A *majboor* Prime Minister wanted to hide this fact when he tried to shift the blame to his coalition partners citing his *majboori* while hiding the prevalent corrupt culture of the Congress.

The Congress led UPA was completely exposed in its first tenure when it chose to save its government through dubious means resorting to payoffs to the MPs and thus imperiling the parliamentary polity. The CWG loot, Adarsh society scam and 2G Spectrum scam are some of the huge scams hitherto witnessed by the people yet no effective and credible measures have been taken to nail the culprits. The Shunglu Committee report has now been published but the government has refused to budge even in the face of severe indictments of the likes of Shiela Dixit and Suresh Kalmadi. The government is seen hobnobbing with the culprits, scamsters and those who have looted the public money. Even Supreme Court had to intervene and pass severe strictures to pressurize the government to act. The episode related to appointment of PJ Thomas as CVC and his removal is a case in point. A minister of Delhi government stands indicted by the Lokayukta but he shamefully continues in the office under the open patronage of the chief minister. The chief minister of Delhi now herself stands indicted by the Shunglu Committee which was constituted by the Congress led UPA government itself but she prefers to cling to her position rather than abide by the moral standard in public life. Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh continue to maintain studied silence on all these issues indirectly blessing all the wrongdoers while failing to control the rising prices and pushing the country to an era of misgovernance, corruption and loot of public funds.

The absence of any credible action on the part of Congress led UPA government is generating a lack of credibility of the entire political system. The people now cannot be fooled with the half hearted approach of the government mainly aimed to hoodwink the nation. The people have now started to see it as a ploy to mislead them. It is therefore the fast undertaken by Shri Anna Hazare has started to gain momentum and taking the shape of a movement. Shri Anna Hazare deserves accolades for having taken initiative on crucial issue of Jan Lokpal Bill and corruption. He should be congratulated and supported in his pious act. On the other hand every political party should now take note of the people's support to such initiatives and try to uphold the moral standards which the people expect of them so badly. The Indian ethos and tradition always celebrate high moral and ethical values in public life. The tradition of India worships the *rishis* and *mahatmas*, the kings have always been accorded secondary position in the society. We know the difference between *tyagis* and *bhogis*, so the Indian politics will always be guided by the high principles of moral values and ethics in public life. It is high time that effective and credible measures are initiated to check the growing menace of corruption. ■



## A developed Asom, free from infiltration is BJP's Asom Vision : Gadkari

*'Asom of Our Dreams: Asom Vision 2025' document released by BJP National President, Shri Nitin Gadkari on 30 March 2011*

**A**som deserves better governance and BJP promises to give it while converting Asom into a developed state free from infiltration, said BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari on March 30. He was releasing a vision document for the State – 'Asom of Our Dreams: Asom Vision 2025' – in Guwahati. "BJP has a track record of Good Governance and all the BJP or NDA ruled states in the country today are ahead on the count of several development parameters. "Many of our States like Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, and MP have bagged several awards for better quality of governance.", asserted the BJP President while addressing function organised for the release of the vision document. Shri Gadkari, known for the success of Mumbai-Pune Expressway, also stressed the need for world-quality road network and establishing a low-cost Helicopter Connectivity

across the regions of the State mainly for promoting tourism. Shri Gadkari also criticized the Congress governments saying that funds allocated for North - East go into the coffers of politicians here and the people of Asom continue to starve of development. "While Asom continues to lag on all development indices, on the count of corruption, Gogoi gov't's graph is always moving up". Shri Gadkari also stressed that the Vision Document provides for special economic incentives like tax holidays for those industrialists who desire to set up manufacturing units in the State.

Apart from autonomous universities dedicated to disciplines like Animal Husbandry, Petroleum Sciences and establishing a 'Rice Research Institute', the Vision Document also promises implementation of some schemes and programmes carried out successfully by the BJP governments. Prominent among these are the Soil Health Card scheme of Gujarat, e-procurement model of Karnataka, PDS system of Chhattisgarh, and environment friendly policies of Himachal

Pradesh. Among other things, this Vision document also speaks about greater impetus to food processing industries, developing cities as urban growth centres, incubation centres for promising entrepreneurs through industry-university tie up, constructing adequate number of rail-road bridges across Brahmaputra, introducing latest technologies like GPS, GIS, bio-metrics etc. for e-governance systems mainly to enhance delivery mechanisms and combat corruption. The vision document also talks of introducing metro and mono rail in metro cities like Guwahati, a Konkan railway type system for goods transport. Besides developing Sualkuchi as an ideal cooperative township of looms. The document also stresses the need for a Research and Development Institute for Muga and other local handloom. This 75-page document has 35 chapters. It also speaks of special schemes for tea tribes as well as other tribal communities in the State and setting up an independent Barak Board for development of Barak valley.

Present on this occasion were prominent Asom BJP



# Winds of change blowing in poll bound States

By Vikash Anand

**E**lection campaign in poll bound States started in full swing as soon as Election Commission has announced the date of polling in five States- Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Union Territory of Puducherry. In West Bengal election is taking place in six phases. Elections in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Union Territory of Puducherry will be held in only one phase. Election Commission has decided to hold the election in Assam in two phases in which one phase of election has been completed on April 4, 2011. An estimated 75 per cent voters exercised their franchise in the first phase of the Assam assembly election, covering 62 of the 126 constituencies.

One special feature of these elections is voting right accorded to NRIs. For the first time, in accordance with the recent amendment to the RP Act, overseas Indian citizens have been enabled to be enrolled as voters and would be able to vote in person.

Main campaigners of different political parties are busy in poll bound States to canvass for their party candidates raising issue of corruption, price rise and local grievances of the people.

**Assam**

Assam has already entered into second Phase (April 11) of elections, First phase has been completed peacefully on April 4, 2011. An electorate of 85,09,011, comprising 43,91,895 males and 41,17,116 females, will decide the fate of 485



candidates (447 males and 38 female).

The electorate will exercise their franchise in 11,264 polling stations. The contest in the State is triangular among BJP, AGP and Congress party. The ruling Congress though burdened with anti-incumbency, corruption, price rise is expecting to form the government for the third consecutive term with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Union Finance Minister Pranab

Mukherjee among others battling for its Chief Minister Gogoi by claiming his achievements during the last 10 years. For grabbing the votes of illegal Bangladeshi in the State the Congress party has been allegedly indulging in making their voter

identity cards and *rasan* cards through out its tenure.



The BJP has put in an aggressive campaign with its national leaders including BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari, Chairmen of BJP Parliament Party Shri L K Advani,

Leaders of Opposition in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Shri Arun Jaitley, former party National Presidents Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, Shri Rajnath Singh Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Jharkhand Chief Minister Shri Arjun Munda campaigning in the State.

BJP has been raising the issue of corruption particularly on the multi-crore funds diversion scam in North Cachar Hills, and alleged failure of the Congress to solve the issues of foreigners'



influx, flood, erosion and neglect of the weaker sections, particularly the tea tribe community.

**Party position**

Congress	53
AGP+	28
BJP	10
<u>Others</u>	<u>35</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>126</b>

**West Bengal**

In West Bengal elections will be held in six phases (First-April 18, second phase-April 23, third phase- 27 April, fourth phase -3rd May, fifth phase- 7th May , sixth phase -10 May ). Political situation in West Bengal indicates clearly that left front is on decline. Left front is facing tough challenges in the State. Earlier the front got defeated in Lok Sabha and municipal corporation elections. Congress and Trinamool Congress Party have forged alliance after a great difficulty to fight the assembly election. As per the agreement, Congress is fighting in 65 seats and TMC will fight 229. On the other side BJP has entered into seat adjustments with some smaller parties while contesting election on all 294 seats. The party is raising issue of naxalism, State backed tyranny of left parties, corruption, unemployment, bungling in voter lists etc.

**Party position**

<b>Party</b>	<b>seats</b>
<b>Left front -</b> ( CPM -175)	<b>233</b>
<b>Congress+</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Trinamool Congress</b>	<b>30</b>
<u><b>Others</b></u>	<u><b>6</b></u>
<b>Total -</b>	<b>293</b>

**Tamilnadu**

Tamilnadu is going to poll on 13 April. In the

State the contest is between alliances led by AIADMK & DMK and Bhartiya Janata Party. Congress is contesting election on 63 seats in alliance with DMK. BJP has decided to contest all 234 seats of the State. In the State corruption and Tamil problem in Srilanka are main issues. BJP is aggressively raising the 2G spectrum scam and other issues in the State.

**Party Position**

<b>Party</b>	<b>seats</b>
<b>DMK+</b> (DMK-96, Congress-34)	<b>163</b>
<b>AIADMK+</b> (AIADMK-61, MDMK-6)	<b>69</b>
<u><b>Others</b></u>	<u><b>2</b></u>
<b>Total seats</b>	<b>234</b>

**Kerala**

The election to thirteenth assembly in the State is slated to be held on 13 April 2011 to elect members from 140 constituencies in Kerala.



Election results will be released on 13 May 2011. There are two major alliances in Kerala. The United Democratic Front - UDF is the coalition of parties led by the Indian National Congress. The Left Democratic

Front - LDF is the coalition of mainly the Communist parties, led by Communist Party of India (Marxist). The BJP is also contesting in the State and fielded candidates in 139 constituencies leaving one seat to their NDA alliance partner Janata Dal (United).

In the State the situation is slightly different as anti-incumbency mood leads to a change in the Government every five years with the UDF and the LDF alternately seizing power. Going by the State's electoral history, it is the UDF's turn to form the Government this time.

But Congress led coalition finds hard to win the election. The coalition has now been engulfed



**From Our Correspondent**

**A**ddressing a massive gathering of party *Karyakartas* and common people from across the state at Morabadi ground, in Ranchi (Jharkhand) on March 26 BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari vehemently criticised the Congress party for patronizing corruption and adopting wrong policies resulting in price rise of essential commodities. He said the Congress party was promoting corruption on a large-scale and was incapable of putting an end to the inflation affecting the masses.

Shri Gadkari said, "Congress is a cancer. All the cases of corruption like 2G scam, Commonwealth Games scam, Adarsh Housing, Devas-ISRO and others have the hidden support of Congress, while Manmohan Singh preferred to turn a blind eye to all this."

Criticizing Dr. Manmohan Singh, the BJP National President said, "The PM is again trying to downplay the issues by

feigning ignorance."

Referring to Smt. Sonia Gandhi and her son Sh. Rahul, Shri Gadkari lashed out at the Congress, saying, "Shri Chidambaram and Shri Pranab Mukherjee cannot become Prime Minister by serving the party, as it is now a family property of the mother-son duo."

He said it is the BJP which gives due honour and reward to party *Karyakartas*, much to delight of thousands of workers, who clapped intermittently and listened to Shri Gadkari with rapt attention. Citing example, Shri Nitin Gadkari also said that the BJP was the only political party that elected an ordinary worker its national president.

Shri Gadkari said BJP had trounced Congress in the recently-held Bihar elections by securing 91 out of 102 seats contested. Shri Gadkari added, "Now it is the turn of Uttar Pradesh and other states where Congress will be wiped out. Good governance and development is our mission and

the BJP aims not only to garner power but to use the same for social and economic change in the country".

He asked Jharkhand Chief Minister Shri Arjun Munda to prepare a development blueprint for the state, keeping in mind the next 10 years.

Addressing the gathering Chief Minister Shri Arjun Munda, accused the Congress led Central government of ignoring the state's long-standing demand of royalty on minerals, based on ad-valorem instead of the present tonnage.

Shri Munda also lambasted the Centre's step-motherly treatment towards Jharkhand as far as pending water resources projects were concerned. He said the 2,000MW NTPC project in North Karnpura, whose foundation stone was laid by former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, was still pending with the UPA Government.

The Chief Minister said usually in coalition governments





there are many challenges and compromises, but despite all odds the party had ensured that matters of public welfare raised by party activists and common people across the state were solved with consensus.

Shri Munda added that to ensure direct communication with masses, within a week or so the state government would launch a "direct communication with villages" programme.

It was the first visit of Sh. Gadkari to Jharkhand as BJP National President and there was a huge response to the historic meeting. Shri Gadkari's speech touched the heart of the masses and mesmerized the local people.

On that day the road to Morabadi grounds wore a festive look, as booth-level party workers carrying party flag and traditional music instruments from all parts of the state started pouring in much ahead of the scheduled meeting at 11 am. Traffic movement was mostly

## A traditional, tumultuous welcome Gadkari overwhelmed

As the cavalcade of Shri Nitin Gadkari accompanied by Chief Minister Shri Arjun Munda, State BJP President Shri Dineshanand Goswami and other senior leaders reached the venue of the meeting, he received a tumultuous welcome in the traditional style. The tribals rent the air with beating of drums, blowing of conches and their ancient instruments as all those present in the ground packed to capacity stood up in his honour clapping in welcome.

The local tribal group sang a song in local style and tune specially written for the special occasion. A tribal dance was also presented. Shri Gadkari was overwhelmed with the love and affection showered by the people on him. Men and women in their traditional attire were conspicuously visible among the gathering. The State BJP had made excellent arrangements for drinking water and food for the participants. All the districts had put up their kiosks for registration of the participants. The dais had been specially erected large enough to seat all the national, state leaders, Party MPs, MLAs and ex-MLAs.

normal, although a bit slow in the roads leading to the venue.

The public meeting was attended by former Union Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha, state BJP president Shri

Dineshanand Goswami, former deputy chief minister Shri Raghubar Das, all the ministers of the state cabinet and Party MLAs and MPs as well as senior party leaders of the State. ■



## Only BJP can make India free from fear, hunger and terror : Nitin Gadkari

From Our Correspondent

Delhi BJP unit organised a function on April 6 at Mavalanker Hall in New Delhi on the occasion of 32nd foundation day of Bharatiya Janta Party. BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari along with other party leaders was present at dais.

The hall was Jam-packed with party activists. At the start of the function, Shri Gadkari honored 21 senior most party workers or those working for the party's ideology in Delhi by presenting *Ang-Vastra* and *Srifal*. Those honoured by party President were Shri Kedarnath Sahni, Shri Madan Lal Khurana,

Shri Narsing Das, Chaudhari Chandan Singh,, Shri Hrkisan Singh Solanki, Shri Kedarnath Sachdeva, Smt. Sankuntala Aarya, Shradhanand ji, Shri Satynarayan Sharma, Shri Darsanlal , Shri Suresh Mehta, Prof. Usmani, Shri Madan Mohan, Shri Ramchandra Negi, Chaudhary Lajja Ram, Shri Kundan Lal Manchanda, Shri Indra Pasida, Shri Umraown Singh Sardar, Shri Kamal Singh. Ch. Lajja Ram due to old age was unable to come to the stage. The Party president himself got down the stage to honour Chaudhary Lajja Ram.

Addressing a large gathering of party activists Shri Nitin Gadkari said, today we  
April 16-30, 2011 ○ 11

have completed 31 years of foundation of the BJP. However, we have completed 60 years of the political movement, which was started by Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee and Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhayaya.

He added, "When BJP had two seats, media and political

make society free from social and economic inequality. On the basis of this ideology, Pandit Deendayal Upadhayaya took the pledge of Antyodaya to serve those people as god who have no food to eat, no clothes to wear, no house to live in."

He said, "Reach of our



commentators wrote that the BJP had been finished. Whether someone likes us or not, without considering it we have to march ahead. We have governments in eight states .And I am confident that we'll form government in at least one state out five states going to the poll."

He said, "We are expanding ourselves continuously. Earlier it was said that BJP was a party of north India. Now we have government in Karnataka."

After leaving ministerial berth Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee laid the foundation of this party, said Shri Gadkari. He added "Their (Pt. Deendayal Upadhayaya, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee) aim was to

organization has extended. We have to go to every part of society. Congress and other anti-BJP parties have created false propaganda about our party's image. But when people work with us then they know what is the reality."

Shri Gadkari further said that there is real democracy in BJP. "Other parties of the country are supporters of family rule, dynastic rule and are pseudo democrats. The time has come when we have to decide whether we want European model of society or should we build such a social system, which is based on eternal values, supported by modern science and good technology. Only the BJP has

the strength to make India free from fear, hunger, and terror,” Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has shown during NDA rule at center how to rule on the basis of ideology of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee.

He warned that it was equally necessary to keep a check on self while charging the government with corruption. “We need to ensure that our leaders, MLAs and MPs are corruption free. The party would try to replicate in other BJP ruled states a Bill passed by Madhya Pradesh government that can hold even the Chief Minister accountable for corruption”, Shri Gadkari maintained. Shri Gadkari lambasted the UPA government on the black money issue and claimed that while smaller countries like Peru and Philippines managed to retrieve money stashed away in foreign countries by corrupt politicians, India has not yet managed to retrieve even a rupee.

He said, *Netas* are not party’s strength but *Karyakartas* are our strength.

Shri Gadkari in his speech also called upon the workers that they should be fully ready for the elections in the coming years and apprised the workers about eight point programme prepared by the party for the all round development of the nation.

Addressing the gathering BJP National General Secretary (organization) Shri Ram Lal said, *Sthapna Diwas* (foundation day) is for appraisal and pledge. This party is not of any family, capitalist but the party is of ideology and of *karyakartas*.”

While addressing the *karyakartas*, leader of Opposition in Delhi assembly Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra gave an overview of party’s history.

Others who attended the function were BJP spokesperson Shri Prakash Javadkar, Former Delhi chief Minister Shri Madan Lal Khurana, National Secretary *Sushri* Vani Tripathi, *Sushri* Arti Mehra, Former Delhi BJP President Dr. Harsvardhan, Shri Prithavi Raj Sahani, Shri Jagdish Mukhi, Shri Ramesh Bidhuri and Shri Vijay Jolly. ■

April 16-30, 2011 ○ 12

## Rajnath Singh extends support to Anna Hazare’s call against corruption

Extending support to veteran social activist Shri Anna Hazare’s call for indefinite hunger strike against corruption starting from April 5, 2011, former BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh has urged the UPA Government to take up the issue sincerely.

Blaming the Government for lack of strong political will against corruption and the corrupt Shri Singh said the people want decisive action. “The Government needs to understand that the present scenario of scams after scams has reached to a point where corruption not only presents a systemic risk to our economy but also jeopardises the credibility of India as a country. The reaction of people like Anna Hazare reflects the deep pain and anguish which a common man is experiencing in the existing situation which doesn’t offer enough strength to prevent corruption”, said Shri Singh.

Highlighting the need for the enactment of Jan Lokpal Bill in Parliament Shri Singh said a powerful institution like Lokpal could provide a mechanism for effective and credible deterrence against corruption. ■



## UPA government must respond positively to Hazare’s demand : Gadkari

BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari, addressing a press conference in Chennai said. It is time the United Progressive Alliance government responded positively to Anna Hazare’s demand.”

In a press statement BJP General Secretary and Chief spokesperson Ravi Shanker Prasad said, the BJP is of the view that such a popular wish must be respected and this indeed is the constitutional obligation as well. The BJP wants that the Lok Pal Bill must become an important instrument of credible and effective action against corruption and both political leaders and bureaucrats must be covered with in its ambit. It is equally important that action in this regard must not be delayed. Shri Anna Hazare is a respected Gandhian and we appeal to him to end his fast. On Jan Lok Bill the government must undertake a dialogue with the activists and an All Party Meeting must be called to take prompt steps in this regard, said, Shri Ravi Shanker. ■

# Congress led UPA ditched the country : Sushma Swaraj

From Our Correspondent

Addressing a massive public rally at Bansi in Sidharthnagar district (Uttar Pradesh) on April 03 the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj said the Congress led UPA Government at the Centre ditched the country as it has miserably failed to fulfill its commitment to the people. She also said that Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh was shying away from his accountability on several key issues.

While attacking the UPA Government for its multiple failures she said that Congress had promised to bring down the price rise and claimed to work for the commoner. "But we know Congress went back from its promise and made the life of *aam aadmi* miserable by price rise. It has ditched the country" she added.

Smt. Swaraj said that it was surprising and unfortunate that Prime Minister was turning away from his accountability on several key issues like in CWG,

2G Spectrums, CVC, Adarsh and others. She further said the common people will give a fitting reply to the Congress.

She lambasted the Mayawati led BSP Government for its rampant corruption and deteriorating law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh during her Chief Ministership.

Smt. Swaraj further said, "It is difficult to understand the relationship between UP and Central Government as some time they appear friends and sometimes foes". Addressing the rally BJP National Secretary Shri Varun Gandhi severely criticised the Mayawati Government and said that her name and corruption have become synonymous. He said, "While Mayawati was making all out efforts to benefit the rich in the state it has almost

crushed the poor on every



possible front".

He gave a clarion call to the *Karyakartas* to work for the welfare of the common people. He also said, "If we do not take pains for our supporters and work for the welfare of the common people then we can't fulfill the aspirations of the people".

The BJP rally was organised by the state BJP and was also attended by BJP state president Shri Surya Pratap Shahi. ■

Continued from page 6

leaders and party candidates in and around Guwahati. Prepared through an elaborate consultation exercise involving intellectuals and policy experts, this document is also published on the dedicated website with URL [www.bjpasomvision2025.org](http://www.bjpasomvision2025.org) Among others, BJP's North-east Sampark Cell led by Sunil Deodhar monitored the preparation of this document. On this occasion three award winning contributors namely Prafullakumar Kalita, Bongaigaon; Swapnaneel Baruah, Udalguri; and Nagendranath Sarmah, Guwahati were felicitated. Vikram Rajkhowa, a young professional from Guwahati presented a Power Point Presentation on this occasion. ■



# In 'Cricket diplomacy' Manmohan bowled a no ball, out for a duck

By Amba Charan Vashishth

On March 30 they came to Mohali – Pakistan's Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and India's Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. They could not conquer either the hearts of the spectators who had thronged the stadium for the India-Pakistan World Cup semi final nor of the people of India and Pakistan. This only because they were just two of the VVIP spectators who had come to play politics on the sidelines of the stadium though, for brief interregnums, they did also enjoy the fine and superb cricket played between two traditional rivals and great cricket giants.

There is no gainsaying the fact that Dr. Manmohan Singh's zeal and sentiment for dialogue is unyielding and, above all, a one-sided affair with Pakistan never reciprocating in the real sense with the same warmth of

feelings as does the Indian Prime Minister. To continue the dialogue with Pakistan has become an obsession with Dr. Singh who wishes to continue his courting come what may. With unabated regularity he goes on repeating that the dialogue must go even when Pakistan never keeps its word.

When did the exchange of views with Pakistan ever stop? Numerous attempts were made for peace during the last over 63 years. Meeting of minds followed the 1965 war. So did it after 1971 war. A new hope got kindled each time. But each time it ended up in smoke for India – Pakistan getting away with the fruits of dialogue and the empty basket falling in India's kitty. The Tashkent Declaration 1966 and the Shimla Agreement 1972 are dead letters today just parts of old history mocking at the

proficiency of our diplomatic skills.

No substitute for dialogue

At the same time it has to be admitted that there never is – and can never be – a substitute for dialogue. It must go on. But, at the same time, the other party too should return the compliment with the sane spirit and warmth. A one-sided affair is always a failure. It either ends in frustration and, at times, in a suicide. As it is today, Pakistan has been getting away with the booty and false hopes to the share of India. If the channels of communication have to be kept alive, Pakistan has to return the gesture and be genuinely honest.

In fact, by taking the initiative to invite both Pakistan President Asif Zardari and Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani to witness the semi-final Dr. Manmohan Singh tried to hit two birds with one stone: to make yet another attempt to engage Pakistan in unending dialogue process and, as some reports suggest and some people feel, to divert the attention of the people from the perennial embarrassment UPA was encountering because of innumerable scams this government is neck deep and the uncharitable comments it had to swallow in different courts on its acts of commission and omission in dealing with various cases of corruption.



On its part Congress was cautiously optimistic of the outcome of the gamble hoping that it will prove a positive step in erasing bad memories of the ill-fated Havana handshake and the short-lived Sharm-el Sheikh embrace.

Our prime minister is not so naïve as not to understand this reality. Since 26/11 during the last more than 2 years Pakistan has hardly done anything to motivate us to indulge in this wastage of time, money and energy on this fruitless venture to talk and talk endlessly

countries. It looked as if while the two teams fiercely fight for supremacy on the ground, their prime ministers would smilingly work out a marvel that may undo the disappointment of one of the two teams losing.

“Cricket diplomacy”

This initiative was attempted to be branded as a master stroke of ‘cricket diplomacy’ by Dr. Manmohan Singh with great fanfare of possibilities. It suited both the Congress and the media. It was a god-send opportunity for the beleaguered government and

affection and understanding between the two, but these certainly do nothing to influence the attitude of the two governments. Recall the goodwill and the friendly gestures of the Pakistani visitors to India to witness the cricket semi-final, but these were not matched by the government of Pakistan.

‘Ping Pong diplomacy’

Perhaps for the first time when sports came to the rescue of two countries at loggerheads to open up was in China. While in Japan as part of a world tour, members of the US team and its Chinese counterpart exchanged informal greetings and small gifts. As a result, the Chinese team invited the US table tennis team to visit China. They went to China in April 1971. It was for the first time that any American team visited the mainland China by allowing the US ping-pong team. That was the starting point of the opening up of relations between the two warring nations. This came to be known as “ping-pong diplomacy.”

But no sport has ever proved to be a panacea for the ills that plague the relations between two countries, much less the type of fierce troubles we have with Pakistan. If sports were to pave the way for good relations between strife-torn countries, nations would have just went in for sports matches instead of any diplomatic contacts.

And that happened too with both India and Pakistan. The media bubble burst much before the people expected. As the two prime ministers were spending their time watching India-Pakistan cricket semi-final at Mohali, Indian and Pakistani

***But no sport has ever proved to be a panacea for the ills that plague the relations between two countries, much less the type of fierce troubles we have with Pakistan. If sports were to pave the way for good relations between strife-torn countries, nations would have just went in for sports matches instead of any diplomatic contacts.***

without any tangible result. Pakistan government has not as yet given even the faint hope that it sincerely and honestly means business to generate friendly relations by curbing terrorism and doing something concrete not to allow Pakistani soil to be used for the perpetration of terrorist crimes against India.

### **Breaking news sensation**

Aided and abetted by the media with insatiable hunger for sensational ‘breaking news’, a balloon was propped high in the sky heightening hopes around the two VVIP spectators. It looked as if the talks would burst into showering miracles all over the two countries. They tried to shift the focus from the cricket match on the ground between the two teams to the VVIP gallery occupied by the two prime ministers of neighbouring

everybody concurred.

Cricket – and for that matter, any sport – has nothing in common with diplomacy and politics. A spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie reigns supreme in any game or sport. Diplomacy is poorer by the absence of this spirit. Honesty and transparency, the strong points of any sport, are out of place in the game of one upmanship in diplomacy table. In sport one means what one speaks or does; in diplomacy one does not mean what one speaks and does not speak what one means. It was, therefore, nothing short of a vain attempt at venturing to fight untruth with the weapon of lies.

It is true that playing sports matches between two nations does generate a spirit of sportsmanship and greater

officials were bickering over detention of their respective staff in their diplomatic missions in India and Pakistan. The news was kept a secret till the next day when the festivities over India's win were at their pitch. That, in short, was the immediate outcome of the much hyped 'cricket diplomacy'.

Although an agenda for the meeting had been thrashed out, yet there was no formal joint statement or a joint press conference to give details of the outcome.

Victory for cricket

Pakistani PM Gilani said: "It is not about winning or losing but it is a victory for the game of cricket." He stood up, clapped in appreciation of the outcome and called it a good game. He said the talks were wide-ranging and covered all issues, including Kashmir.

Summing up the outcome, India's foreign secretary Mrs. Nirupama Rao said: "The meeting was held against the backdrop of a sporting contact which epitomizes people-to-people exchanges and the spirit of a good and constructive game. The meeting was truly cricket in nature," and added that terrorism was among the issues discussed. BJP President Shri Nitin Gadkari had already cautioned the nation not to expect too much from the much hyped 'cricket diplomacy' going by the non-cooperative attitude of Pakistan towards resolving problems between the two countries. And that happened. Dr. Manmohan Singh went to Mohali empty-handed and he returned empty-handed. ■

*(The writer is the National Convenor, BJP Literature & Publication Cell)*

## **NDA leaders meet Prime Minister**

### **Demand Special category Status to Bihar**

*Press statement by NDA Leaders on grant of special category status to Bihar on 25 March 2011*

A delegation of NDA leaders led by NDA convenor Shri Sharad Yadav, MP called upon Prime Minister Manmohan Singh demanding Special category Status to the state of Bihar. The delegation comprised of Bihar BJP State President Dr. C P Thakur MP, former Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Ram Sunder Das MP, BJP National Spokespersons Shri Shahnawaz Hussain MP and Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy MP, Dr Ranjan Prasad Yadav MP and Shri Ramchandra Prasad Singh MP.

Bihar has been at the lowest ranking in respect of almost all social and development indicators. This situation has been due to various historical and geographical factors. The central government has provided special category status to various states in North-East, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Utrakhand which has helped these states in attracting private investment and augmenting their financial resources to undertake development in their respective states. Bihar's situation has been worse as compared to the currently designated "Special Category" states in terms of various social and development indicators.

A comprehensive document titled "Special Category Status – A Case of Bihar" was forwarded by Chief Minister of Bihar to Hon.

Prime Minister on 23rd May, 2009. State Legislative Council, Bihar also passed a resolution on 31st March, 2010 demanding a special category status for Bihar so that the State can graduate to the category of high income states. The resolution was forwarded to the Hon. Prime Minister by the Chief Minister. Unfortunately, no action has been taken by the Central government yet.

The State of Bihar qualifies on all of the criteria of considering a state as in the special category. Poor infrastructure, poor resources base, remoteness to larger markets, geographical isolation, inaccessible terrain and financial viability are some of the criteria used by the Planning Commission and Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry which Bihar is found to be equally qualified. Keeping in view Bihar's economic backwardness and development deficit and Bihar meeting all criteria, the delegation demanded from Hon Prime Minister that Bihar be granted "Special Category" status immediately which will help Bihar in attracting private investment due to tax and duty concessions granted to such states and augmentation of financial resources for meeting development deficit. The delegation informed the Prime Minister that this is required for both inclusive development and political stability of the country. ■



## It was not organisation of Commonwealth Games but sheer 'Loot of Common Wealth' : Ravi Shankar Prasad

The Fifth report of the High Level Committee (HLC) headed by Mr. V K Shunglu, once again confirms that there were gross acts of omission and commission, which facilitated undue gains to the contractors, leading to wasteful expenditure, which contributed to overall loss to the Government. The Report specifically mentions that "the malaise runs deep and cannot be dismissed as a "one off" aberration for which relatively junior functionaries alone can be held responsible. Officers of the Organisation concerned, who were involved, would have to be identified on the basis of further investigation and suitable action be taken". The BJP would like to ask the Prime Minister to tell the nation as to what action he proposes to take against those involved and at what level.

The report of the committee has pointed out glaring irregularities in award of contracts and tenders, poor oversight and deliberate lack of monitoring, which led not only to undue advantage to few in contracts but also collusive bidding, hasty decisions, cost escalation and wasteful expenditure. The total loss was Rs. 1600 Crores in Stadium projects and the cost of delays alone amounted to Rs. 800 Crores. In all this apart from the Delhi Government, DDA, CPWD, NDMC, PWD bodies are involved. The committee has

April 16-30, 2011 ○ 17



*Press statement issued by BJP National General Secretary & Chief Spokesperson, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad on Shunglu committee report on April 01, 2011*

already earlier stated that the Chief Minister Smt. Sheila Dixit concentrated all the financial power in her hand while the organising committee headed by Mr. Kalmadi indulge in reckless acts of corruption and financial mismanagement causing severe loss of the taxpayers' money.

From the Analysis and Conclusion of the Report it is apparent that there was a conspiracy from the very beginning to cause deliberate delay in the conclusion of the project in time, escalate the cost, seek more fund and award contracts at very high cost because of the short time span available. This would be evident from the fact that the organising committee awarded only 47 out of 542 contracts in between Oct. 2006 and Dec. 2009 (4 years) and

when there was no time left it was forced to award 495 contracts in just 9 months i.e. January to September 2010. In fact, the highest numbers of contracts were awarded in September 2010 while 75 contracts were awarded in Oct. 2010 when the games were to start in November 2010. Therefore the committee has noted that the budget was revised at will and in almost all projects significant cost escalation has been observed. The committee has noted "it appears as if to economise was criminal and to splurge was civil".

Apart from the role of the Delhi Government the Central Government exercises direct supervision and control over many bodies involved in the Games organisation like the CPWD and DDA, which comes under Ministry of Urban Development. As far as, sanction of additional funds are concerned the same was done by high powered committee having many officers of the PMO as well. Now when the Shunglu committee in its report has said other senior officers who were involved should be identified on the basis of further investigation and suitable action be taken against them; then the BJP would like to ask the Prime Minister would he allow fair and transparent investigation into the role of those who supervised, monitored, (Obviously, in the most disastrous manner) and

*Continued on page 19*

*Continued from page 8*

by corruption and scandals. That has made election tough for Congress. BJP is raising the issue of appointment of Thomas as CVC during its campaign on corruption.

It may be noted that BJP had performed well in last elections to Panchayat and Municipal Corporation in the State. Internal confrontation of left party made its position worse.

Main issues which are being raised during campaigning by political parties are development, corruption, communalism, law & order, problem of drinking water etc.

**Party position**

LDF-	98
UDF(Congress+) -	42
Total-	140

**Puducherry**

13 April has been decided by Election Commission as the polling date for Puducherry. Here Congress is the ruling party. The main fight is between DMK, AIADMK, BJP and Congress. A total of 30 members are to be elected to the Legislative Assembly of Puducherry. ■

**Assam also has the most corrupt government : Arun Jaitley**

‘The popularity of the Congress-led governments in both the Centre and Assam has been declining fast’



Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Arun Jaitley in his election campaign in Assam claimed that the ruling Congress in Assam

was facing double anti-incumbency factor and there was a clamour for change in the State. The popularity of the Congress-led governments in both the Centre and Assam had been declining fast because of massive corruption, price rise, and inflation, he said.

Shri Jaitley said that the Congress failed to get a majority in the 2006 assembly election in Assam and had to form a government in coalition. But this time, the number of seats of the ruling party would further decrease as a strong wave of change was blowing.

Stating that a strong BJP was necessary to defeat the Congress in Assam, Shri Jaitley said that this was what his party was trying to achieve – expanding its base and increasing the number of seats.

He alleged that the Congress was resorting to ugly and vulgar demonstration of wealth. All the money flowed from scams in the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council (erstwhile North Cachar Hills) and was amassed through corrupt means.

Shri Jaitley alleged that the Congress-led government at the Centre had only two identities- that of a most corrupt government and that of price hike and inflation.

“Assam also has the most corrupt government,” he alleged.

The Congress had only two options to win the election – using money power and resorting to vote bank politics. ■

**Arun Jaitley questions credibility of CBI chargesheet in 2G scam case**

Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley during his election campaign in Tamilnadu on April 3 questioned the credibility of the chargesheet filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the 2G spectrum allocation scam case . He said the report omitted core issues, making no mention of the loss the scam caused to the exchequer. He alleged that the probe timetable was influenced by Tamil Nadu Assembly polls, scheduled on April 13. “The chargesheet has left out the core issues. The issue of loss to the exchequer on account of allotting spectrum at 2001 price in 2008 has not been significantly dealt with,” Shri Jaitley said. He said the investigative agency should have abstained from acting on political considerations as there were serious allegations of favour shown to former telecom minister A. Raja’s party, the DMK. “I think CBI has bent backwards a little bit. They repeatedly said the prime minister was defied or misled. I don’t think the charge-sheet should give a political clean chit to anybody. It should deal with criminality,” Shri Jaitley said. ■

## Congress cheated Assam people : Gadkari

BJP president Nitin Gadkari in his poll campaign in Assam accused the Congress of betraying the people of Assam by claiming to have established the petroleum institute in Sivasagar when it was being set up at Rae Bareli, the constituency of Congress president and UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi. He was addressing a huge gathering in Naharkatia. Referring the Rajiv Gandhi Petroleum Institute at Sivasagar whose foundation stone was laid by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh last month, Shri Gadkari said, "Information provided to us by government sources reveals that the main institute is being set up at Rae Bareli and what Assam is getting in the name of petroleum institute is peanuts.

This is total injustice to the people of the state, which produces so much crude oil and natural gas. Shri Gadkari promised that if voted to power, the BJP would ensure that Assam had a proper petroleum institute. "We will also see that the students in the state have enough engineering and medical colleges. We will build international standard schools in the government sector," he announced referring the instances of Gujarat and Bihar where party has been ruling. In an obvious attempt to woo the electorates he went on saying, "We will provide free tractors and other modern farming equipment. We will ensure round-the-year irrigation to the fields, we will provide seeds and whatever assistance is required for growth of agricultural output of the state." Shri Gadkari said if his party comes to power in the state, it will increase the daily wages of the tea garden workers to `100.

## Root out corruption at all levels of government : Advani

BJP Parliamentary party chairman Shri L. K. Advani along with NDA Convenor and President of JD (U) Sharad Yadav arrived for a public meeting in Dibrugarh District on march 31st.

Giving a call for a "war" against corruption, Shri L K Advani said the menace has engulfed the UPA at the Centre and the Congress-ruled Assam. "Corruption has become a deep-rooted problem which has engulfed the UPA-led government at the Centre. People should be ready for a 'war' (war) to root out corruption from all levels of the government," he said. He was addressing an election rally in the tea—tribe dominated Melamara in the Golaghat Assembly constituency. At another rally at Balipara in the Rangapara seat in Sonitpur district, Shri Advani said, "The price rise in the country is not due to economic mismanagement, but due to corruption and dishonesty of the Congress at the Centre and Assam.

"Our NDA is not in power at the Centre now. I can say with pride that the situation is much better in all states where we are in power," Shri Advani claimed. At the state level, sectors like health, education and employment were facing various problems, he said. "These three sectors have been neglected particularly in remote areas," Shri Advani said. ■

*Continued from page 17*

sanctioned extra funds in a very hurried manner in top level bodies including those in the PMO.

This is the least the country expects from the Prime Minister because he set up this committee and promised follow up action as per the report. Now, Smt. Sheila Dixit, Delhi CM has openly questioned the report and in effect the Prime Minister. The BJP demands that all those responsible regardless of their stature or, the level from which they operated must be brought to book in a fair investigation. This is very important in view of the clear finding of the committee "that there was a method in the madness and the undue delay on projects was perhaps a deliberate attempt at higher levels to create a sense of panic with a view to giving undue advantage to all concerned." Who are those sitting at higher levels are required to be identified and they must be suitably punished, the BJP demands.

The Prime Minister has already messed up the 2G Scam and the corruption relating to black money. But for strong Parliamentary pressure as well in the media and the intervention by the Court, the full dimension of corruption would have been allowed to remain under cover. Till date Mr Suresh Kalmadi has not been arrested and the Delhi Chief Minister who has a lot to answer is questioning the report itself. If the Prime Minister again maintains a conspicuous silence then it would be the final confirmation of his patronage of the corrupt. ■



## Congress economic policies wrong : Rajnath

Addressing a rally at Thowra in Assam on March 29 former BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh alleged that the economic policies of the Congress were "very wrong and not suited to the needs of the people" and this was mainly



responsible for inflation and subsequent miseries of the people. "The Congress was in power for majority of the 63 years (after Independence) but failed to provide the people with their basic needs and solve the myriad problems being faced by them", Shri Singh told a campaign rally organised here for BJP candidate Sibub Prasad Bodsua. The Congress is "basically a party of looters" and their policies result in making the poor poorer and the rich richer, he said. "If the BJP comes to power at the Centre, we will try our best to bring in the looted money from the foreign banks and use it for the development of people", Shri Singh said. Referring to Assam, he said that foreigners' influx was a major problem faced by the state and this was mainly due to the porous border. The top-most priority of the BJP would be to stop this. Besides, the National Register of Citizens would be updated and all post-71 Bangladeshi migrants will be deported. The wages of tea garden labourers in the state was pathetic and if the BJP forms the government "we will increase it considerably". "In Madhya Pradesh, the BJP government gives 26 kgs of rice for Rs three per month to BPL families and if we come to power, we will adopt the same policy in Assam", he added. The former BJP President also addressed campaign rallies at Bokakhat and Sarupathar for party candidates Deba Pradip Bora and Dinesh Bhilwarja respectively. ■

April 16-30, 2011 ○ 20

## Modi raises issues of Bangladeshi infiltration & insurgency in Assam

Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi during his election campaign in Assam raised the issue of illegal infiltration by Bangladeshi. Addressing rallies in Naoboicha and Dhemaji said, Illegal infiltration by Bangladeshis had created "havoc" in Assam and neither the Congress nor Asom Gana Parishad governments has



made any effort to stop the influx."Gujarat has borders with Pakistan while Assam has with Bangladesh. In my state Pakistanis have not been able to create any problem, but in Assam Bangladeshis have created havoc, he said. "BJP will never allow Assam to become a Bangladesh controlled state ... The party is committed to resolving the issue of Bangladeshi migrants and the problem can be solved only if the party comes to power, he further added"

Referring to insurgency in Assam, Shri Modi said there has been no progress on peace talks and the Congress government is not at all serious about solving the problem. "BJP is very serious on this issue and will strive to find a permanent solution to the problem once and for all," he said. Shri Modi lamented that Assam with its mineral resources of coal and oil, was comparable to the Arab world but it had not been properly utilised and the people had not benefited at all.

"In Gujarat we have natural gas pipelines in villages and there is possibility of the same. But the Congress government has not taken any initiative in this regard," he added. ■

## Shunglu committee report tears UPA apart

By Ram Prasad Tripathy



**T**he high-level Committee headed by former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Shri VK Shunglu, appointed by the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on October 25 last year to probe into charges of massive corruption in various projects related to the Commonwealth Games 2010, has submitted its first report on 31st January 2011.

As per the reports the OC chairperson who also happens to be a Congress MP, other members of the OC, Delhi Chief Minister, the Union Sports Ministry, Delhi Lt. Governor many Congress men and in some cases the higher echelons of the Congress led Union and State Government were directly or indirectly involved in corruption. These revelations have not only stunned the nation but have also torn the moral fabric of the Congress party apart by exposing its hypocrisy in fighting corruption.

India won the bid to host the CWG in Delhi, in November 2003, and it took 16 months for the UPA government to put in place the Commonwealth Games Organizing Committee

and the 35-member committee included Rahul Gandhi, Kapil Sibal, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Ajay Makan, Jitin Prasad and Sandeep Dikshit among others.

The first story about malpractices and rampant corruption in Commonwealth Games came to light on July 30, 2010 when the issue of payments to UK-based AM Films with no written contract agreement came to light. The Commonwealth Games Organizing Committee is alleged to have paid AM Films (an Indian-owned firm in London), over 450,000 pounds (over Rs.30 million) for services during Queen's Baton Relay inaugural without proper tendering and paperwork. Following this a large number of scams related to the execution of CWG have been unearthed and the Organizing Committee head Suresh Kalmadi's role has been under suspicion.

Right before the Commonwealth Games, charges of wrongdoings, corruption, favoritism, malpractices, organised loot of public money and cost and time overruns came to public domain. Rampant corruption was found in the

award of tenders for different projects of the games including the stadium and other infrastructure and for granting of contracts in hiring or purchase of equipment such as air conditioners, treadmills and even toilet papers. The callousness and insensitivity of the government agencies and sports bodies in unabashedly wasting the taxpayer's money resulted in the games budget, initially billed at Rs. 2000 crores, shooting up to a whopping Rs. 70,000 crores.

Virtually every company hired to provide services or equipment for the games was paid exorbitant amounts for their services and contracts were often handed out to companies that were ineligible. Several of Kalmadi's close associates from the Organizing Committee were found involved in the CWG scam.

After these misdeeds came to the limelight, owing to commendable works of the media and the Opposition parties, the Prime Minister was left with no alternative but to institute an inquiry by the former CAG Shri V. K. Shunglu.

The first report of the Shunglu committee was on the irregularities related to the broadcasting rights. The second report is on the Games village and the third report relates to the City infrastructure, and other three reports are on Commonwealth Games Organising Committee, Games venues-related matters and Games organisation.

The first report unveils the huge irregularities in awarding broadcasting rights during the sporting extravaganza and recommended strict action against suspended Chief Executive Officer of Prasar Bharti B S Lalli and former Director General (Door darshan) Aruna Sharma under relevant Sections of IPC and Prevention of Corruption Act for their alleged acts of omission and commission. The initial report has indicted Lalli and the other officials for allegedly causing Rs.135 crore loss to the government exchequer in awarding to the British firm the broadcasting rights for the Commonwealth Games.

The high-powered committee has further slammed sacked Commonwealth Games Organising Committee (OC) chief Suresh Kalmadi for being the leader of a "sham OC with much lesser accountability and transparency". The panel, strongly blamed Kalmadi and his coterie for bringing shame to the nation for CWG mismanagement. It also came out with yet another 103-page report questioning his appointment. The report further said, "The documents reviewed for Kalmadi's appointment were not without tampering and undue

changes". "We have found material changes in official documents by Kalmadi to get the post of OC chief and also to have sweeping administrative control over it," the report says. The report goes on to add that, "We have therefore no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that a document (relating to the appointment of OC chairman) was created by Kalmadi or at his behest in the IOA for being specifically used to secure his ends, including the chairmanship of OC and justification for the commitments made by him at Montego Bay without any authority", citing instances of Kalmadi's approach to get the key post.

"It would also be pertinent to mention that all attempts made by the ministry of sports to open a dialogue with Kalmadi between November 2003 and September 2004 on the action to be taken for CWG 2010 were unsuccessful because Kalmadi was unwilling to open negotiations till he was assured of OC chairmanship," the report points out.

Questioning the OC's constitution, it says that on February 10, 2005, Kalmadi got a society named OC registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. This society, its memorandum, rules, executive board and membership should have been approved by the Group of Ministers. But no such approval was taken.

It also takes a dig at the manner in which the government accepted, without due consideration, the Host City Contract to organise the sporting extravaganza in the Capital.

Such was the mess in

organising the Games till the last minute that a committee of secretaries (CoS) headed by the cabinet secretary too was "unable to get the agencies to complete the works in time. It is also observed that incorrect reporting and lack of coordination at the lower levels prevented the CoS from taking corrective action at stages earlier than they actually did. Early warnings were ignored by the implementing agencies". The Committee also held Kalmadi responsible for appointing his close associates and inexperienced staff in the OC for individual gains.

The panel submitted two independent reports - one on the Games Village and the other on city's infrastructure development for the sports event, which nails the role of Delhi government, its agencies and central agencies.

In its other reports the Shunglu committee found procedural violations by Delhi Lt Governor Tejinder Khanna and Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit for scam involving 2010 Commonwealth Games.

Details of the Second Report also have held the Delhi government and particularly Delhi Chief Minister responsible for delaying the works leading to "collusive/partial bidding" and "manipulation of documents."

The report has questioned the role of Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit in the construction of the Barapullah elevated road, the Ring Road bypass, bus shelters, city beautification; tourist infrastructure (sanctioned in the name of Games) street-scaping, street-



lighting, signage projects on the grounds of poor oversight and losses due to faulty tendering and cost overruns. In the third report it has dealt with the defective street-scaping - at times where none was needed and incomplete work in other instances - along with poor signage which led to substantive losses. Losses in the three projects add up to around Rs 200 crore. The flyover adjoining the Games Village just past the bridge across Yamuna was built in the face of objections of the Public Works Department and the Delhi Police who found it unnecessary. In this case, the DDA and Delhi government are in the dock. It says that the Delhi Government was responsible for a loss of 60 crore rupees, that tender norms were violated in procurement of bulbs for street lights during the CWG directly pointing fingers at Delhi CM Sheila Dixit.

The Shunglu Committee, probing corruption in organising the Commonwealth Games (CWG), has in its second report indicted Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) Tejender Khanna, along with some top officials of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and private developer Emaar MGF.

The committee clearly stated, "It is a shame that the people occupying constitutional posts are involved in it (CWG Scam). He raised question on how LT Governor Tejinder Khanna being ex-officio chairman of Delhi Development Authority offered bailout package for Games village

April 16-30, 2011 ○ 23

developer Emaar MGF. The Committee states that there was also a discrepancy with the tender requirements.

The Committee also indicts Delhi Lt. Governor Tejender Khanna for causing a loss of more than 260 crores during the Commonwealth Games. The committee has blamed Lt. Khanna for neglect and his decision to give a bailout package of around Rs 730 crore



to MGF and fixed the overall loss for development of CWG Village flats to 222 crores.

The panel has indicted Emaar MGF, the company which built the CWG Village, for causing losses to the exchequer. 33 flats at the village were sold at a higher price, which hiked the overall price from Rs 134 crore to Rs 222 crore. The report further states that the corruption and the delays led to a loss of Rs 220 crore to the exchequer. It says that unauthorized payments were made to Emaar MGF and that at least Rs 64 crore was paid contrary to the project development agreement. The carriage cost of unsold

apartments has been pegged at Rs 35 crore per annum.

In its concluding remarks the report said the cost of construction and purchase of equipment etc. has been largely overshoot. The Planning Commission, Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of Sports had approved the costs. Large builders have been kept out almost on a planned way, thus leading to collusive bidding.

The Fifth report of the Committee, once again confirms that there were gross acts of omission and commission, which facilitated undue gains to the contractors, leading to wasteful expenditure and which contributed to overall loss to the Government. The report of the committee has pointed out glaring irregularities in award of contracts and tenders, poor oversight and deliberate lack of monitoring, which led not only to undue advantage to few in

contracts but also collusive bidding, hasty decisions, cost escalation and wasteful expenditure. The total loss was Rs. 1600 Crores in Stadium projects and the cost of delays alone amounted to Rs. 800 Crores.

In all, apart from the Delhi Government the DDA, CPWD, NDMC and PWD are also found to be involved in these irregularities. The committee has found that the Chief Minister Smt. Sheila Dixit concentrated all the financial power in her hand while the organising committee headed by Kalmadi indulged in reckless acts of corruption and financial mismanagement

causing severe loss of the taxpayers' money.

The Shunglu committee, whose detailed and well documented reports have sparked off a deep unease in the government, pointed out that "The Jaipal Reddy-headed GoM set up to oversee the Games had failed to deliver. Pointing out that a little over Rs 28,000 crore was spent on organizing the Games, which was a "galactic jump" from Rs 300-400 crore estimated in April-May 2003 and reiterated by Kalmadi in August 2003 prior to the Cabinet approval in September 2003", the committee said that at no stage was an overall Budget prepared by the Sports Ministry or required by the finance ministry or Cabinet.

Reacting to the report the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said he has taken a "serious view" on the report of the Shunglu Committee which has found irregularities in the award of broadcasting rights for the Commonwealth Games and will take "stern action" on it. But on the other hand, within hours of leaks through the media of observations of the panel's second and third reports, Delhi Chief Minister Smt. Shila Dikshit trashed the report as "totally unfair, inconsistent and as not based on facts", living up to the tradition of double-speak followed by the Congress Party since its inception.

The magnitude of the CWG scams is such that even agencies and departments under the Congress led UPA government could not push them under the carpet. There are no two views about the fact that these scams are of serious nature and the truth in black and white is before April 16-30, 2011 O 24

the nation. Congress party and its leadership not only stand exposed, but it is also disarmed by the fact that the findings cannot be dubbed as propaganda of the Opposition party anymore to evade public ire. They are real and the nation will not tolerate the shielding of the criminals involved in this organised monumental corruption.

But surprisingly, even after the unearthing of so many scams, Congress leaders are unabashedly talking of "ZERO TOLERANCE TO CORRUPTION". We have every reason to believe that these scams are not just systemic failures much less any kind of just aberrations. These scams are some kind of a planned loot of public money. This is nothing but an attempt to subvert the system to suit personal designs.

With corruption reaching a point of inflexion, the nation is interested in knowing only one thing and that is whether the Congress led UPA government

is sincere about fighting corruption? If the government is sincere, why is it shying away from taking action against the people charged with corruption and nepotism? Why the government is dithering to fight corruption head on? Starting from Suresh Kalmadi to Shiela Dixit, why all those guilty have escaped punishment? These are not just episodes of corruption. These are also examples of how successive Congress governments have ditched the people who elected them to protect their interests.

It is high time the nexus between the partners in the Commonwealth Games loot and those providing them political patronage by condoning this mess are exposed. People of India have a solemn constitutional right to know who the real culprits of this national shame are. The truth must prevail and shall prevail only if a comprehensive inquiry is conducted and the guilty are brought to book. ■



# Dr. BR Ambedkar : A visionary leader

By Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi

As the nation celebrates 120th birth anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar on 14 April 2011 the people remember him as chief architect of the Indian constitution, a social revolutionary and a *Dalit* thinker.

Babasaheb represents a multifaceted personality contributing immensely to enrich various facets of national life. Apart from earning a number of doctorates from prestigious Columbia University and the London School of Economics for his study and research in law, economics and political science he wrote fearlessly on various issues as an academician and as a political activist. His writings may be broadly divided into various parts, viz. the writings of a political activist, an academician, a nationalist, a spiritual leader and so on. As a political activist and as a mass leader, Babasaheb was raising issues far ahead of his times, hence a radical approach was required to galvanise support for his agenda of social reform so as to bring the issue of caste discrimination and untouchability in the central focus. While as an academician he tried to frame scholarly and well researched responses on the burning issues of the day which remain relevant even today.

Babasaheb was born on 14 April 1891, in a Mahar family then staying at Mhow, now in

Madhya Pradesh. His family originally hailed from the town of Ambavade in the Ratnagiri district of modern-day Maharashtra. As a school going child he had to face various kinds of discrimination owing



to low status of Mahars in the caste hierarchy but he remained undeterred in his resolve to pursue higher education. As a student from Elphinston College he was granted a scholarship of twenty five rupees a month from the Gaikwad ruler of Baroda, Sahyaji Rao III for higher studies in the USA. He went to USA for his doctoral studies and obtained degrees in economics and political science. On his return he joined service of Baroda state government and also started as a social activist fighting against caste discrimination and

untouchability then widely prevalent in Indian society. His activism and scholarly espousal of the cause of the deprived and oppressed sections soon saw him emerging as a political leader of national stature.

So far Babasaheb writings in India have been selectively read within a particular framework showing him a champion of deprived and oppressed sections of Indian society. He is seen as a chief architect of Indian constitution who laid the foundation of liberal democracy in the country expecting the state to take welfare measures in the interest of weaker sections of the society. But other side of his personality remains unexplored. The academician and thinker in him, his advocacy for exchange of population at the

time of partition, his concerns for preserving cultural contours of Indian civilization, his decision to embrace Buddhism not only as a political act but as a result of a honest spiritual quest, his rejection of Islam, Christianity and Marxism and his reading of India's past – and many more such other dimensions of Babasaheb's personality still awaits to be studied, researched and explored.

Speaking on the third reading of the draft constitution Babasheb said in voice choked with emotion, "On 26th January 1950. India will be an



independent country (Cheers). What would happen to her independence? Will she maintain her independence or will she lose it again? This is the first thought that comes to my mind. It is not that India was never an independent country. The point is that she once lost the independence she had. Will she lose it a second time?"

He further answers his own question emphasizing that these apprehensions were rooted in the history of India wherein the country had to face the ignominy of defeat and suffer at the hands of conquerors due to treachery of its own people. He said on the occasion, "What perturbs me greatly is the fact that not only India has once before lost her Independence, but she lost it by the infidelity and treachery of some of her own people. In the Invasion of Sind by Mahommed-Bin-Kasim, the military commanders of King Dahar accepted bribes from the agents of Mahommed-Bin-Kasim and refused to fight on the side of their King. It was Jaichand who invited Mahommed Ghor to invade India and fight against Prithvi Raj and promised him the help of himself and the Solanki kings. When Shivaji was fighting for the liberation of Hindus, the other Maratha noblemen and the Rajput kings were fighting the battle on the side of Moghul Emperors. When the British were trying to destroy the Sikh Rulers, Gulab Singh, their principal commander sat silent and did not help to save the Sikh kingdom. In 1857, when a large part of India had declared a war of independence against the British, the Sikhs stood and watched the event as silent

April 16-30, 2011 ○ 26

spectators."

On the question of India embracing democratic form of the government and whether the democratic Constitution will survive the test of time and whether India will be able to maintain it or will lose it again, he had very convincing answers. He said, "It is not that India did not know what is Democracy. There was a time when India was studded with republics and even where there were monarchies. They were either elected or limited. They were never absolute. It is not that India did not know Parliaments or Parliamentary Procedure. A study of the Buddhist Bhikshu Sanghas discloses that not only there were parliaments - for the Sanghas were nothing but Parliaments - but the Sanghas knew and observed all the rules of Parliamentary Procedure known to modern times. They had rules regarding seating arrangements, rules regarding Motions, Resolutions, Quorum, Whip, Counting of votes, voting by Ballot, Censure Motion, Regularization, Res Judicata, etc. Although these rules of Parliamentary Procedure were applied by the Buddha to the meetings of the Sanghas, he must have borrowed them from the rules of the political Assemblies functioning in the country in his time."

Envisioning the divisions that may be created by democratic form of government and parliamentary democracy, he was anxious to guard India's unity and independence at any cost. He was aware of the different factors in the society which might strengthen centripetal tendencies yet he had

faith in the democratic institutions that were deeply rooted in Indian ethos since ancient times. Exhorting the people of India to guard the hard earned independence he said, "Will history repeat itself? It is this thought which fills me with anxiety. This anxiety is deepened by the realization of the fact that in addition to our old enemies in the form of castes and creeds we are going to have many political parties with diverse and opposing political creeds. Will Indians place the country above their creed or will they place creed above country? I do not know. But this much is certain that if the parties place creed above country our independence will be put in jeopardy a second time and probably be lost for ever. This eventually we must all resolutely guard against. We must be determined to defend our independence with the last drop of our blood."

As a nationalist Babasaheb always attempted to keep national interest at the foremost. His relentless championing the cause of deprived and depressed sections of the society has resulted in his image being stereotyped around certain issues mainly looking at him as a *Dalit* icon and relegating his other contributions to background. Babasaheb was a mass leader, political and social thinker, academician, scholar and above all a nationalist rooted in the cultural ethos of Indian civilization. While the country feels indebted for his immense contributions in the nation building process, many other aspects of his multifaceted personality remains yet to be explored. ■

# Budgetary Impact in Madhya Pradesh : 2004-05 to 2011-12

By C. Rajashekhar

The State Finance Minister, Raghavji Bhai has just presented his eighth consecutive budget for the year 2011-12. With an overall budget size of nearly ₹ 66,000 crores, the 2011-12 budget has shown a lofty revenue surplus of ₹ 3,866 crores. While the planned expenditure has been estimated at ₹ 25,578 crores, up from ₹ 21,939 crores in 2010-11, the state's own tax revenues are expected to touch ₹ 23,118 crores in 2011-12, up from ₹ 18,670 crores in 2010-11.

The impact of budgets can be analysed from two angles: One, whether they have promoted sound fiscal management? And, two, whether they have channelised government expenditure into useful areas?

Has the government handled the state's finances with competence? In 2003-04, while the revised estimates of the last budget of the Congress government in the state showed a deficit of ₹ 5,204 crores, BJP government's very first budget of 2004-05, showed a revenue surplus of ₹ 1,486 crores. While the revenue surplus was (-) 4.56 percent of the State GDP in 2003-04, it has consistently improved over time and is (+) 1.97 percent of the State's GDP in the revised estimates for 2010-11. Converting a revenue deficit into a revenue surplus is an impressive achievement as most states continue to report revenue deficits. Likewise, while the state's fiscal deficit was 7.46 percent of the state's GDP in 2003-04, it has reduced to 3 percent of the State's GDP in 2011-12. It may also be mentioned here that the state has already successfully met the two fiscal consolidation targets laid down by the 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission for states, namely the complete elimination of revenue deficits and reducing the fiscal deficit to 3 percent of the GDP by 2014-15. That the fiscal

management in the state is sound is also testified by the fact that the state has virtually stopped availing the 'Ways and Means Advances' and 'Overdraft' facility offered by the RBI. In the 2005-06 budget, for the first time in 16 years, the state did not have to resort to the overdraft facility and equally significantly, the same year, for the first time in 32 years, the state government did not avail of the Ways and Means Advances even for a single day. Trends in revenue receipts have also been encouraging over the last eight years. While the state's own tax revenues were ₹ 10,879 crores in the revised estimates for 2003-04, it has more than doubled to touch ₹ 23,118 crores in the 2011-12 budget.

However, it is being argued in some quarters that the state public debt levels are alarming as they are expected to cross ₹ 53,000 crores by March 31, 2011. Debt, per se, is not bad. Economists analyse debts on the basis of two criterion; namely, inter-generational equity and sustainability. If debts are used for spending on productive areas such as power, irrigation, roads etc then the state's economy would strengthen in future and the 'future generations' would benefit. The state's budget documents reveal that while capital expenditure as a percentage of net public debt was a meager 37 percent in 2003-04, it has increased to a huge 157 percent in 2010-11

clearly implying that future generations may benefit from the present debt. For the debt to be sustainable, the 11<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission had suggested that the interest-revenue receipts ratio must not exceed 18 percent. While this ratio was 23.14 percent in 2003-04, it has dropped to 9.67 percent in 2010-11 signifying that the state debt levels are sustainable.

Have the state budgets allocated funds in the



desired areas over the last 8 years? Economists regard all plan expenditure as developmental expenditure; a continuous rise is observed in the plan expenditure in successive budgets of the state – beginning with ₹ 7,831 crores in 2004-05, ₹ 9,605 crores in 2005-06, Rs 11033 crores in 2006-07, ₹ 14,216 crores in 2007-08, ₹ 15,706 crores in 2008-09, ₹ 20,259 crores in 2009-10, ₹ 25,111 crores in 2010-11. Even more commendable is the component of plan capital expenditure at ₹ 9,404 crores in 2010-11 which was 37.4 percent of the plan expenditure, which may not have a parallel in most state budgets.

A recent study by the RBI titled ‘ State Finances: A Study of Budgets 2009-10 ‘ has also corroborated that the MP has been increasing its public expenditure on development heads in the recent past. While the share of developmental expenditure as a percentage of State GDP was 11.4 percent during 1995-2000, it increased to 14 percent in 2000-05 and further increased to 16.4 percent during 2005-10. The state has also done well in recent times if one were to take the inter-state comparisons of developmental expenditure-State GDP ratios.

During 2005-10, among ‘Non-special Category’ states, barring Bihar(21.1 percent) and Jharkhand( 17.3 percent), Madhya Pradesh’s 16.4 percent figure exceeded Andhra Pradesh( 15.5 percent), Goa(16 percent), Gujarat(9.5 percent), Haryana(10.2 percent), Karnataka(14.2 percent), Kerala( 8.5 percent), Maharashtra( 9.6 percent), Orissa(12.8 percent), Punjab( 9.1 percent), Rajasthan (14.3 percent), Tamil Nadu(11 percent), Uttar Pradesh(15. percent), West Bengal( 8.4 percent) and equalled Chattisgarh’s 16.4 percent.

Have these rising developmental expenditures stepped up the economic growth in the state? If one were to go by some recent data, some encouraging signals emanate from the state’s growth record.

The state’s GDP has grown by 7.49 percent in 2005-06, 7.22 percent in 2006-07, 6.64 percent in 2007-08, 8.67 percent in 2008-09 and 8.49 percent in 2009-10. For an erstwhile *bimaru* state these growth rates are definitely welcome.

Clearly, the Finance Minister’s commitment to improve the fiscal and economic condition of the state is reflected in the state budgets over the last 8 years. ■

*(The Writer is National Co-convenor, Economic Cell, BJP)*

## BJP will emerge as a major force in Kerala : Muraleedharan

Addressing a convention of Malayali Sangam at the Canara Union in Bangalore on April 02 BJP Kerala President Shri Muraleedharan said the party would emerge as a major force in State Legislative Assembly in Kerala in the coming elections



scheduled for April 13. All poll surveys conducted in the State stressed the necessity for the third front in Kerala to check corruption and ensure transparent administration, he said.

He further said the ruling United Democratic Front (UDF) and the Left Democratic Front (LDF) have been enticing voters without executing development works in the State for the past several years. Both the UDF and LDF were in hand-in-glove in matters of corruption and the people of the State were fed with the bad governance, he said.

Shri Muraleedharan said the BJP would try its best to garner youth votes. Both fronts had ignored the youth and the BJP had always paid attention to the needs of the youth.

He said that the people of Kerala were disillusioned with the LDF and the UDF. They are looking for an alternative. This time BJP would emerge victorious in many constituencies and would act as a constructive Opposition in the Assembly.

Stating that Kerala had become a safe home for terrorists, he said many anti-social elements from Jammu and Kashmir had taken shelter in the State on account of lack of stern action by the ruling front.

Karnataka Planning Board Deputy Chairman and former Minister Shri Ramachandra Gowda, Kerala State BJP leader Shri Krishnananda Pai and several other BJP leaders attended the programme. ■



UTTAR PRADESH

## Thousands of BJP activists detained during protests against anti people policies & corruption of BSP Govt.

Thousands of BJP activists were detained after they clashed with the police in parts of Uttar Pradesh during demonstrations against the deteriorating law and order situation, corruption,



undemocratic actions and anti people policies of the Bahujan Samaj Party government in the state.

Holding protest rallies against the deteriorating law and order situation in the state, atrocities against women, corruption and undemocratic actions of the BSP government, a large number of BJP activists hit the streets in various districts, including Lucknow, blockaded roads, closed of shops and tried to close government offices.

In districts like Sitapur, Jaunpur, Varanasi, Maharajganj, Balrampur and Sant Kabir Nagar, under the instructions of the state government the police lathicharged on the BJP activists and during the demonstrations in various places BJP activists fought pitched battles with the police after they were undemocratically prevented from taking out marches.

However, the agitation in Lucknow and in other cities remained by and large peaceful. Senior BJP leaders, including Shri Kalraj Mishra and Shri Lalji Tandon, led the demonstrations in Qaiserbagh area of the Lucknow city.

BJP state spokesperson Shri V.B. Pathak later said, "At the command of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Sushri Mayawati only, our activists were targeted through out the state while carrying out demonstrations and we will continue to hold similar agitation programmes to unmask the state government".

He further said, "We know the state government will adopt every harsh measure to

suppress our agitation, but we want to make it very clear that we would continue our fight against the anti people policies of Sushri Mayawati and her government".

GOA

## Congress Minister has underworld links : BJP

Addressing a Press conference BJP senior leader Shri Shripad Naik MP said Goa Education Minister Atanasio Monserrate, who was caught allegedly with nearly \$1 crore at the Mumbai airport on April 02, could have links with underworld don Dawood Ibrahim.

He said the source of the money and his intention need to be probed.

He said Monserrate, a tainted legislator with a string of crimes against him, was on his way to Dubai along with his son and his personal accountant, when he was nabbed by



Customs officials while carrying the huge volume of money. Monserrate was released by the Customs authorities on the same day after being grilled for 18 hours by the authorities.

"It is possible that he is investing in hotels in Dubai or even has links with Dawood Ibrahim, which means this money is being indirectly being used to fund terrorists," Shri Naik informed media persons after a meeting of BJP leaders.

He assured that BJP would take up this issue at the National level as part of the BJP's ongoing campaign against black money and demanded a thorough probe into the issue.

Meanwhile BJP State president Shri Laxmikant Parsekar assured that BJP would fight to ensure that the Minister is dropped from the Cabinet and hinted that there could be other Ministers involved. Shri Parsekar said we are sure this is not the first time the minister is making such a trip. It so happens that this time he has got caught. Secondly, is that his money alone or he is carrying money of

other Ministers too? He asked.

He said Monseratte, a Congress legislator from the Taleigao constituency who was formally inducted into the Congress party in June last year, is also being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for leading a mob which attacked a city police station in which several persons were injured and several lady police constables complained of being molested.

Shri Laxmikant Parsekar further said incidentally, at the time of Monseratte's induction in the party, the Congress president Smt. Sonia Gandhi had cleared the entry of the tainted Monseratte and had been endorsed by the Congress High Command in Delhi.

## MADHYA PRADESH

### Farmers to get loan at 1% from next year : Shivraj Singh

Addressing an Antodaya Mela held at Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said that the BJP Government in Madhya Pradesh is committed to work in the interest of poor farmers. He said the farmers will be provided agriculture loan at the rate of 1 per cent from next year. A sum of 1,300 crore is being distributed among frost-affected farmers.



On this occasion, the Chief Minister distributed Cheques of 72.87 crore among 58,763 beneficiaries under various schemes.

Shri Chouhan said that the State Government is very sensitive towards the vulnerable sections of the society. Many schemes have been launched for their upliftment. He appealed the beneficiaries to avail themselves of benefits of Government schemes. He further said that there would be no paucity of funds for the development of the state. He informed that a steel development centre is being planned to open at Shahdol.

The Chief Minister also dedicated a trauma unit constructed to the tune of 1.5 crore at Shahdol district hospital.

He also announced an amount of 60, 000 for the treatment of baby Khushbu Raidas. Urban Administration and Development Minister Shri Babulal Gaur, Minister of State for Panchayat and Rural Development and District in-charge Minister Shri Dev Singh Saiyam and Minister of State for Revenue Shri Jaisingh Marawi also addressed the Mela.

### Karyakartas should be honest to their work : Prabhat Jha

Madhya Pradesh BJP president Shri Prabhat Jha MP addressing a meeting in Rajgarh said that the BJP *karyakartas* should work with honesty. Shri Jha said the party *karyakartas* are the most important part of BJP and those performing with loyalty always get credit from the party. Shri Prabhat Jha said several BJP workers of Rajgarh district were badly harassed during Digvijay Singh regime. Despite this, we are working for the welfare of the party as well as district. In coming time, we will again win from the Rajgarh district, he added. He also said that the BJP Government has introduced a number of welfare schemes under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Rajgarh district is an example for nationalism, he added.



State BJP General Secretary (Organization), Shri Arvind Menon, who was also present in the meeting, said that BJP is the only party in which a normal party worker can achieve the top position in the party. Giving the example of Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Shri Menon said he came from a small village like Jait, he travelled a long distance up to Shyamla Hills.

Shri Menon said that Shri Chouhan performed all his duties with complete honesty and dedication as a part of the organisation. He said that the performances of the workers are evaluated on the basis of work carried out by them. ■