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क्रोधाद्भवति सम्मोहः सम्मोहात्स्मृतिविभ्रमः ।
स्मृतिभ्रंशाद् बुद्धिनाशो बुद्धिनाशात्प्रणश्यति ॥

From anger arises infatuation; from infatuation, confusion of memory; from confusion of memory, loss of reason; and from loss of reason one goes to complete ruin.

Bhagavadgita, Chapter 2, Text 63

Editorial

Jharkhand results: Time for introspection

The impression was that BJP will form a government after the assembly elections in Jharkhand. And if that does not happen, BJP will certainly emerge as the single largest party. As the results were out, neither was BJP voted into power nor could it be the single largest party. As far as elections are concerned, one can only estimate things and make an assessment thereafter. Neither did the estimates come true and nor the assessment. What went wrong can be known only after a review of the election results is held but what strikes the mind at first hand is that we have started depending less on our karyakartas and more on the companies which conduct election surveys. We overlook the hard reality that the worker has a direct link with the soul of the party and the survey companies have their eyes concentrated only on their business. This we do in spite of the fact that we generally say that politics is a mission and not a business. Therefore, it becomes all the more important that in realization of our mission we should draw more and more near to our karyakartas and depend less and less on professional information. More or less similar things happened during the last Lok Sabha elections but we could not take them up seriously.

The rise and fall of the bazaar and the sensex may be an indicator of the direction to which the business is moving but not a barometer of politics. In politics one has to understand the mind of the people and this can be achieved only by drawing near to them. Their mind cannot be read by keeping a distance from them. Continuous tour is the only way out. If there is constant touring, there will be regular exchange of views and it will result in

*Kamal Sandesh
Parivar wishes
its readers a very
Happy and
Prosperous
New Year 2010*

New Year 2010



In the Jharkhand assembly elections BJP had all the advantages that any opposition party needed to bounce to power – uncontrolled rise in prices, corruption in its extreme manifestation, failure of Congress as a party and Congress-led UPA government at the Centre in various fields. Our failure even in these circumstances is a matter of concern and compels us for serious introspection.

understanding people's mind. Channels of direct communication and understanding will open up. It will facilitate understanding the social and political environment in the area. It appears somehow or the other there has been a decrease in the frequency of tour and communication. We cannot draw a comparison whether this is done in the Congress Party or not. BJP is BJP; it can never be Congress Party. People wish to see it as BJP and not in the mould of Congress. The assessment of political situation can only be made by tours. The extent of touring and its frequency has to be assessed and increased. The number of team members who tour has to be increased. They need to work with a missionary spirit. Result oriented workers with political understanding will have to be defended.

In political organizations the task of resolving the problems needs to be given to those who have not been a problem in the

organisation. It generally happens that those who become problem at higher level come to solve problems at lower levels. In this era of information revolution, nothing remains hidden from the people and the karyakartas. If the person assigned the job of finding solutions is a man of morals, high principles and faith and he has the image of a person who can decide and has the capacity to take decisions and get them implemented, only then can he do justice to the organization.

After the successive defeats in four assembly elections in states after the setback in Lok Sabha elections, it has become all the more imperative that we should seriously ponder over the selection and election process as also the matters connected with elections.

A time has come when we need to stop seeing things from our own angle; we need to see the things from the eyes of others. After serious introspection, we should discard what is not good and accept what is in the interests of the party and the nation. In this way we can win the heart and mind of the masses. We have everything, yet we have been pushed to the position where we have nothing. People will hold us as responsible and not others. If we shed all the ills that afflict us, people will start looking at our good qualities and get attracted towards us. Our acceptance among the masses will then increase and we will get the results we expect. ■

The following is the Party position in Jharkhand Assembly Elections Results 2009

Information Available: - 81/81 (On December 23 till 6.30 PM):

Party	Wins	Party	Wins
CONG+	25	JMM	18
BJP+	20	OTHERS	18

Nitin Gadkari is the new National President

A smooth, orderly change of guards

This can happen only in BJP

It was a spectrum of an amalgam of the old and the new, the young and the old, the youth and experience and tradition and culture in the Bharatiya Janata Party headquarters at 11, Ashok Road, New Delhi on December 19. As Shri Rajnath Singh announced that the Party's Central Parliamentary Board had approved the name of Shri Nitin Gadkari as its new national president following his own resignation on completion of his 3-year term, the news was received with bursting of crackers and dancing by workers to the tune of drum beats.

Shri Rajnath Singh expressed his desire to effect the change right then. He garlanded Shri Gadkari before he made way for him to occupy his chair. This was followed by the Chairman of BJP Parliamentary Party Shri Lal Krishna Advani, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt.

Sushma Swaraj and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley garlanding and putting laddoos in his mouth one by one.

The event marked a generational change in BJP. After Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu the Party got Shri Nitin Gadkari, 52, its first youthful national president. Only a day earlier (December 17) he had celebrated the silver jubilee of his marriage at Nagpur with his wife Mrs. Kanchan, two sons -- Nikhil and Sarang -- and daughter Ketki.

As Shri Rajnath Singh put the garland around his neck, in all humility Shri Gadkari bowed to touch

the latter's feet and to seek his blessings. Shri Singh responded by hugging him affectionately. Shri Gadkari also touched the feet of Shri Advani and Smt. Sushma Swaraj who too hugged him. Shri Arun Jaitley garlanded him and blessed with a hug of support.

Later, Shri Gadkari visited the



President's chamber and occupied his chair with a shower of flowers, thunderous clapping and "Gadkari and BJP zindabad" slogans.

Accepting the great honour and the onerous responsibility the Party had bestowed on him, Shri Gadkari in his maiden address said he felt honoured that a humble party worker who in 1977 wrote and pasted party posters on the walls has risen to occupy this high office which had earlier been sublimated by illustrious leaders like Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri Lal Krishna Advani. This could happen only in BJP, he said, adding that in other parties the

leaders were born out of the leader's womb.

"I know I am junior to most of you", Shri Gadkari said assuring his seniors, "I will not do anything that will make the party and the leaders bow their heads in shame". "I will follow the party's ideology of cultural nationalism", he added.

"The only objective of my politics", said Shri Gadkari who has also served in the ABVP, "would be socio-economic development of the poor".

Known as a man of action who always kept his words, Shri Gadkari said he never made false promises or commitments. Recapitulating an old saying, he said, "Where there is a will, there is a way. When there's no way, there's a survey, committee, or sub-committee".

Shri Gadkari asked the existing office-bearers to continue to assist him till the formation of a new team,

Shri Rajnath Singh, in brief, made a reference to the trials and tribulations and successes and failures the party encountered during his tenure. He was glad to say that it was during this period that BJP regained power in Himachal, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand and was important constituents of governments in Punjab and Bihar where it too dethroned Congress and Congress-supported Rashtriya Janata Dal led by Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav. BJP made history when it conquered power in the southern State of Karnataka gaining a majority

A tumultuous welcome to New BJP National President at Nagpur

I will not contest polls for next three years : Gadkari

The new National President of BJP Shri Nitin Gadkari got home a warm welcome to from the people as he arrived in Nagpur on December 20. Thousands of people were out on his hometown's streets to receive him. Firecrackers, garlands, flowers and puja thalis coloured the Orange city in a different shade of orange and green, to welcome the 52-year-old son of the soil. Talking to media persons he said, "He wouldn't fight elections, even for the Rajya Sabha, for the next three years". He assured that he would strive to increase mass-based voting for BJP and bring uniformity in the party from national to regional level."



Shri Gadkari said senior leaders who had left the organisation such as Sushri Uma Bharati, Shri Govindacharya and Shri Kalyan Singh should be brought back in the larger interest of the party. "Each one of them played a key role in the growth of the organisation. It is not a bad idea to bring them back," he said.

The procession ended in a big rally near his home, close to the RSS headquarters. He thanked his supporters and said he had never imagined that he would sit in a chair that leaders like Shri L K Advani and Shri AB Vajpayee had occupied. "It's a big responsibility, he added

My mother initiated me into social work. As party chief I will do everything to solve problems like poverty, farmers' suicide, unemployment," he said. Earlier in the day, Shri Gadkari called on BJP Parliamentary Party chairman Shri L K Advani in New Delhi and sought his blessings while beginning a new innings. "I am new to Delhi and national politics. But after getting the blessings of the senior leaders, I am confident to performing the duties and responsibilities entrusted to me. He further said after meeting Shri Advani, my confidence has increased and Shri Vajpayee and Shri Advani have been the source of inspiration for me, he said.

on its own for the first time in history.

He said whatever he could do or achieve was possible only with the blessings and guidance of BJP veterans Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri Lal Krishna Advani, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Shri Arun Jaitley and others.

Promising every support to Shri Gadkari, Shri L. K. Advani said, "He is popular and is known for the Mumbai-Pune express highway". He has the image of a performer, he added.

Later in the evening, Shri Gadkari called on Shri Atal Bihari

Vajpayee, Shri Rajnath Singh and Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu to seek their blessings. He visited Shri L. K. Advani the next morning to seek his blessings as Shri Advani had left for Brindaban immediately after Shri Gadkari took over.

The man who performs

A board outside Shri Nitin Gadkari's office in Nagpur conveys the spirit of his work culture: "I love those who can manage to get things done".

Shri Gadkari came to be known as the vikas purush when he was minister for public works in the BJP-

Shiv Sena government in Maharashtra in the 1990 after he started the work on the Mumbai-Pune expressway and 55 flyovers in Mumbai and 10 in Nagpur.

A bureaucrat who worked with Shri Gadkari recently confided: "He used to tell officers, 'Never say no to any public interest project, even if it's not in the rule book'. He wanted to know how it could be done instead". Shri Gadkari himself feels that politics must never come in the way of development.

Born in the RSS ideology, Shri Gadkari got his initiation through the

ABVP in 1977.

He has been the Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Council. Since 2004, he has been the Maharashtra State BJP President. Known to be a soft-liner, Shri Gadkari is credited with having brought in many Muslim leaders into the BJP fold. He maintains good social relations even with persons in the opposite camp in politics.

Shri Gadkari is considered to be a man of the organization, a hard task master, and a leader readily available to party workers. ■

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## Advani recalls sikh legacy of sacrifices

Former Deputy Prime Minister Shri Lal Krishna Advani on December 20 eulogized the Sikhs by listing their sacrifices, stating that their legacy started from the era of the Gurus, continued throughout the freedom struggle and later during the Emergency.

Shri Advani expressed his admiration for the Sikhs and said the legacy of sacrifices of Sikh Gurus was carried forward not only by freedom fighters and revolutionaries but also SAD leaders during the Emergency in 1977.

He was in the city to participate in the state-level martyrdom day of Baba Jiwan Singh, popularly known as Bhai Jaita ji Ludhiana. Recalling his visit to the Cellular Jail in the Andamans when he was a Home Minister, Shri Advani said he was touched to find that the jails inmates who underwent torture at that time were mostly Sikhs.

While remembering Bhagat Singh as the strongest revolutionary of his times, the BJP leader even equated the Chief Minister Shri Parkash Singh Badal with the martyrs when he recalled how Badal remained behind bars during the Emergency. "It is largely because of SAD heroes that we are breathing in fresh air today," remarked Shri Advani. (Agencies)

## Profile

- ◆ Born on May 27, 1957, the new BJP national President Shri Nitin Gadkari is a post-graduate in commerce and holds a law degree and diploma in business management.
- ◆ Starting his political journey from student politics by joining the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad in 1976, he became secretary of Vidarbha region two years later while he was studying in Nagpur University. Before joining student politics he was a RSS Swayamsevak.
- ◆ At the age of 24, he was elected as city president of Bhartiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM). He then became secretary of Nagpur BJP unit and has since then never looked back, achieving the ultimate milestone in party organisation in his nearly three decades of political career.
- ◆ He made his debut in the electoral politics of Maharashtra when at the age of 32 he became a member of Maharashtra Legislative Council (MLC) from the graduates' constituency in 1990. He retained his seat in 1996, 2002 and 2008. In 2002, he was elected unopposed.
- ◆ In the Sena-BJP government in Maharashtra, he was inducted in the Manohar Joshi cabinet and was entrusted with the PWD portfolio.
- ◆ A visionary leader, Shri Gadkari changed the work culture of his department, made bureaucrats accountable and encouraged build, operate and transfer (BOT) policy in projects.
- ◆ His greatest achievement as PWD Minister was to build the Mumbai-Pune Expressway which has drastically cut the distance and the time of travel.
- ◆ The first task Shri Gadkari planned was to provide all-weather road connectivity to the 13736 villages in Maharashtra. He noted that they had remained unconnected even after 50 years of independence. He remarked that it would take 350 years to complete the work through annual budgets. As finances could not become available from government coffers, he persuaded NABARD officials and obtained a soft loan of Rs. 700 crore for rural connectivity. Simultaneously, he pursued the concept of Privatisation in Infrastructure, charting a new path in infrastructure development in India. Many projects were taken through Privatisation. By securing adequate funding, within 4 years, almost 98 percent of the rural population was presented with round-the-year road connectivity. This achievement attracted the attention of Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who asked him to head a committee to prepare a similar action plan for India.
- ◆ Later he became the general secretary of Maharashtra BJP unit and served as Opposition Leader in the State Legislative Council. In 2004, he was elected State unit president. ■

# Hail the new dawn

By Prabhat Jha

Everything is destined. Whenever what has to happen must happen and will happen at the right time. This has happened now in BJP. Change! Change! Change! It took place after a long time. The honourable founder RSS Sarsanghchalak had said: "Thought is eternal and change according to the times is an absolute necessity". This is true also. What exists today does not exit tomorrow. What is there now, is not there the next moment. Hope for tomorrow provides subsistence for today and makes us look to the future. We are the motive; we are the reason, but not the destiny.

We live in a family, so we think of the world. For us a family is a unit of the world. We think that if the family is strengthened, the world gets strengthened automatically.

When the family, society, organization, and country has a smooth running, it indicates that cooperation, coordination, goodwill, collectivism reigns supreme there and a stream of mutual affection and understanding flows perpetually. It is these elements that are the most essential for BJP today.

It was the evening of December 18. In the Parliament Annexe a change was seen taking place in the parliamentary party of BJP after 56 years. It was neither a change of power nor of individuals, but of a system born out of mutual trust. Senior BJP leader Smt. Sushma Swaraj was handed over the responsibility of the Leader of

Opposition in Lok Sabha. MPs sitting in the hall were turning witness to this change in history of the Party. They were feeling elated. Some months back, another senior leader Shri Arun Jaitley had been bestowed with the onerous responsibility as Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha. The Parliament of India is proud of the

other.

They connected lakhs of families to the party's ideology. One opined, the other agreed and vice versa. There was no scope for misunderstanding and differences. There prevailed complete understanding. There was discussion as long as a decision had not been taken by the organization. After the decision there was unity of thought and determination to implement the decision to the full. There are many things one has to learn from this remarkable duo. To learn and understand, one has to be near each other.

On December 19, 2009 another history was in the making in the hall of the Central Party headquarters in New Delhi. Surrounded by Shri Advaniji, Shri Rajnathji, Smt. Sushmaji, and Shri Arunji Jaitley, 52-year old Shri Nitin

*Gadkariji has himself declared that he would take everybody along in the discharge of his duties and that he would seek the blessings of elders and love of younger people in the party.*

parliamentary acumen of Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Shri Arun Jaitley. The Parliament feels proud of both of them. They are rich in talent and intelligence. Everybody wishes that able person should occupy the office of pride at the right moment.

Since the formation of Jana Sangh in 1956 and later of Bharatiya Janata Party, it was either Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee or Shri Lal Krishna Advani who were the leaders of the Parliamentary Party. Our salute to this unbroken chain of faith and confidence, to the sense of mutual understanding, to this companionship, and to their sense of being complementary to each

Gadkari seemed to be coming true of the saying, "Coming events cast their shadows before" as he was seen seeking the blessings of everyone present there. He appeared to be determined to take the *Bharat Mata* to its supreme glory. Shri Gadkari has been bestowed the onerous responsibility of ensuring that the *Kamal* under his stewardship just goes on blooming and blooming further. After Congress, BJP is the biggest political organization in the country.

To head this great organization is certainly not an ordinary event. Gadkariji has himself declared that he would take everybody along in

the discharge of his duties and that he would seek the blessings of elders and love of younger people in the party.

This only indicates that he has understood the psyche of the party. He seems to have felt the pulse of the karyakartas. If he proves himself as the astute legendary *vaidya* who feels the pulse of the karyakartas, examines them and diagnoses what ails the party, success is there in waiting for him. And when the party stands solidly behind him, he needs to rest assured that he can never falter.

December 18 and 19 was a new page in history and sent out a new message, indicated a new direction and sign of a new regeneration of the party. It is well known that wars are fought under the direction and guidance of a commander. But it is also equally true that before one becomes the commander of a force he has to undergo a rigorous training as an

ordinary soldier and has also to invigorate a sense of sacrifice to achieve the objective come what may. Shri Gadkariji has to don the mantle of a commander, he has to make his soldiers understand his directions, to make them respect the principles and to motivate his soldier-karyakartas to give out their very best. Shri Gandkari possesses, there is no doubt about it, these qualities of head and heart in abundance.

The way Shri Rajnath Singh passed on the baton to Shri Gadkari on completion of his tenure is an example in itself. Everybody would say that this can happen only in BJP and in no other political party. BJP has a foundation deep and strong.

In the field of politics, an

equitable balance has to be struck between thought and conduct. When the power of thought complements the strength of behaviour, the accomplishment of a task becomes easier. On the strength of organisation's power not only an election, but the heart of the people can also be won. But reality is otherwise. Today elections are won, not the hearts of the people. Gradually an impression is gaining ground that elections are won not by the organization but with the power of money. The rest, people

***The way Shri Rajnath Singh passed on the baton to Shri Gadkari on completion of his tenure is an example in itself. Everybody would say that this can happen only in BJP and in no other political party. BJP has a foundation deep and strong.***

have started saying, is done by the candidate. This feeling needs to be changed.

An organisation is supreme. We need to be realistic to understand that we are sons of the soil. The earth is our mother. To protect our motherland we should be ready to make any sacrifices. It is our duty. We need to perform not only our individual but, at the same time, also our collective duty and responsibility.

The relation between a karyakarta and the leader should be a natural one. Commitment should have a moral binding. Ways and means should be explored to inculcate a spirit of self-discipline. There should be freedom of thought and expression but it should not

cross the limits of restraint and discipline.

The gentlemanliness is the need of the hour. Everybody respects a noble person, a gentleman. An organization should expand itself on these good qualities of head and heart. The foundations of an organization should be strong. There is no place for *nautanki* in politics. If these things are avoided, the organization gains faith and will prosper and spread in all directions.

If a political party is voted into power, the organization should do all it can to strengthen the government and, in return, the government should provide strength to the organization. It is on the strength of the organisation that a party is voted into power, but a government cannot be the foundation of an organization. On being voted into power, the organization should take care of the organization and

so should the government of the organization.

Good governance provides strength to an organization.

There is a great difference between being in politics and possessing political understanding. There are innumerable people in politics but political understanding is in short supply. Therefore, the need of the hour is that efforts should be made to increase the political understanding of the workers. The lack of understanding is the root cause of many problems in politics.

The change in BJP is good. Everything will be all right. The new dawn in politics is welcome.■

*(The writer is National Secretary of BJP and a Rajya Sabha MP)*

# BJP puts Govt on mat on Liberhan Report

*When the Report of Liberhan Commission on Ayodhya came up for discussion in Parliament, Bharatiya Janata Party remained on the offensive. The UPA government failed to come out with convincing replies to the points raised by BJP members.*

*In the Lok Sabha, the BJP attack was led by the then BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh. The then Deputy Leader of BJP Parliamentary Party Smt. Sushma Swaraj mounted another attack both on the UPA government and the Commission.*

*In Rajya Sabha, Leader of Opposition, Shri Arun Jaitley led a blistering attack on the Report. He was followed by an equally sharp indictment of government by senior BJP leader Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu. Kamal Sandesh carries a synopsis of their speeches for the information of its readers. A booklet containing full text of their speeches has been published separately.*

## Lok Sabha

### Construct a Ram temple with consent : Rajnath

*Synopsis of the debate delivered by former President of BJP and MP Shri Rajnath Singh on Liberhan Commission Report on December 07.*

The Liberhan Commission Report has been laid in the House after 17 years. A number of things are baseless and devoid of facts in this Report. The Liberhan Commission Report could not come out with any truth. A number of times Babri Masjid word has been used in the Report. This is wrong because in legal language we call it as Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid Complex. This is totally wrong legally, socially and historical point of view. I condemn



the Report as a whole. This should be called as Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid Complex. This should be called as a disputed structure. In no way we should call it as Babri Masjid. This will have an adverse impact on religious feelings and sentiments of the people. Be it Parliament or outside we should not call it as Babri Masjid and only we should call it a disputed structure.

There was a Ram Temple at this place. The Senapati of Babar's Army Mir Baki Rahim had demolished it in 1528. I want to quote page No.270 and para No. 46.8 in which a name of a person is mentioned- ADG, Intelligence. Who was this ADG and whether he was associated with Kar Sewa? Liberhan Commission should have made a mention of it. I see that the report of this

Commission has been prepared keeping in mind a special purpose and a special political agenda. The Liberhan Commission has called a party as an irresponsible party which is a major Opposition Party in both the Houses of the country and which has ruled over the country for six years. I would like to condemn it. I think the Parliament should consider this entire issue.

I understand that whatever happened in Ayodhya on that day was not only a public resentment from Uttar Pradesh but also of the people from the country as a whole. On the one hand the Liberhan Commission says in its Report that it was a conspiracy of BJP and RSS while on the other side the Commission has contradicted its own statement. On which basis Liberhan Commission has said that it was a conspiracy. Should the Liberhan Commission not have considered the view as to what circumstances were responsible for demolition of the disputed structure and this all has happened as a result of resentment among the public. Whether it is not the responsibility of the Commission to find out all these things. The Commission cannot arrive at a conclusion on the basis of sequence of events of merely few hours.



If we intend to analyse it in the real sense then one has to keep in mind the sequence of events of years, decades and centuries and only then it can be said how this disputed structure was demolished? Mir Baki had built Masjid there after a demolition. Many Muslim writers have also accepted this fact. Western historians have also mentioned it that the Hindu pilgrims regularly visited this place worshiped there and performed bhajan-kirtan even after erection of a masjid there.

The sequence of events are so old that neither our Parliament nor our Governments were there at that time?

I understand that this Commission should have analysed these events. Idols were installed there in 1949 and since then the people are worshipping regularly after the Court Order. I want to know from the Government that while idols were worshipped there continuously and no namaj was being offered then what efforts have been made by this Government to find out a solution of this problem? It has been mentioned in the Liberhan Commission Report that in February, 1986 the Court had ordered to open the lock of Ram Janam Bhoomi. In November, 1989 the foundation stone of the Ram Janam Bhoomi was laid. I would like to know from the Government whether the pooja, which was being performed since 1949, was it being performed in the temple or in the mosque? I would like to submit this much only that the people who had faith in the religion did not get justice which resulted in mass resentment and the disputed structure was demolished. Opening of fire in Uttar Pradesh on 30th October and 2nd November, also resulted in communal disharmony. It has also not been mentioned in the Liberhan Commission Report. It has been accepted in the Report of Justice Bahari Tribunal that during September to December, 1990 communal tension was at its peak in the country. But there is no mention of it in the Liberhan Commission Report. Be that majority or the minority community in the country, if there is any delay in giving justice then the reaction will be automatic.

I would also like to submit that a few months before December 6, 1992 there were so many such incidents which lead to the demolition but have been ignored by the Liberhan Commission Report. There is no mention in it that some learned people of Babri Masjid Action Committee left without giving any evidence. I am of the view that it is a prejudice on the part of the Commission that such an important party has not been mentioned in the background of this incident. The Commission has mentioned that all the leaders present at that time were making feeble request to the Kar Sewaks. How the

Liberhan Commission reached at this conclusion? The Commission has given some adverse comments with regard to some people associated with the Mandir Nirman Aandolan. No Commission can be given the right to give political comments. Can any Commission or a person be given such permission? Justice Liberhan never visited Ayodhya in 17 years and prepared the whole report by sitting here. Charges have been labeled against Advaniji, Murli Manoharji and the widely accepted leader Vajpayeeji in this Report. These charges are not based on facts but merely on assumptions.

Whatever the Liberhan Commission has written is not based on inductive logic but on deductive logic. I would like to submit that even the legal parameters have been neglected completely while preparing the report of the Commission. Therefore, I am calling it a political document. Calling Sangh as communal merely on the basis of Hindutva is not only politically motivated but also it is a gross neglect of the law of the land. I am not only surprised but also shocked to see the name of Devraha Baba among those 68 people who have been held responsible for the conspiracy of this demolition. The comments about Devraha Baba in this Report has not only created resentment among the saints of the country but even the sentiments of crore of people have been hurt. The BBC in its special analysis in November, 1990 had mentioned that the people's participation in Ram Janam Bhoomi Aandolan was far greater than participation in Quit India Movement. The Liberhan Commission is not ready to accept it and hold us guilty for demolition. The name of our respected leader Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji has been inducted illegally in the Liberhan Commission Report since under the provision of Commission of Enquiry Act, 1958, Section 8 (B), nobody can be held accused without interrogation. Likewise the names of many people have been included in this Report.

The BJP, too, desires communal harmony in the country. But if you will indulge in appeasement in the name of majority or minority, that will create communal disharmony only. We need to learn lesson from the partition of India in 1947. As far as this Report is concerned, it is totally baseless, biased, prejudiced and meticulously designed to target some persons, parties and organization. The Report has tried to examine the reasons of the demolition of the Babri structure, not in the perspective of history but has limited itself to the day of demolition only.

We should desist from using the word 'Secularism' for 'Dharm-Nirpeksh'. It should be 'Panth-Nirpeksh', so that the difference between the duty towards the

nation and a community should be established clearly. The word 'Hindutva' has no communal overtones. Even the research carried out in genetic engineering has concluded that all Indians share a common genetic pool. Our heroes are Lord Ram, Krishna, Buddha but certainly not Babar.

All the symbols of Indian polity express the age-old notion which spread knowledge, science and spiritualism in the entire world. Through you, I request to act as the successors of this greatest civilization of the world, build consensus and construct a grand temple at the site of Ram-Janam Bhoomi.

## Full of contradictions : Sushma

*Synopsis of the debate on Liberhan commission delivered by Smt. Sushma Swaraj in Lok Sabha on December 08.*

Our Party President had presented the viewpoint of our party in this House. Associating myself with what he said, I would like to give my reactions to some of the aspects untouched by him. It is a fact that on 6th December, 1992, this disputed structure in Ayodhya was demolished. The Commission was set up to enquire as to whether there was any conspiracy to demolish this structure. A notification to constitute this Commission was issued on 16th December, 1992. The Commission was to submit its Report within three months. But, instead of three months, it took 17 years and its term was extended for 48 times. Unfortunately, even after the Report, we are standing today where we were standing on 6th December, 1992.

From the very beginning we have been saying that there was no conspiracy, no pre-planning. It was expected of the Commission to tell the truth to the nation with full facts. The Commission could have been assisted by the C.B.I., the Intelligence Agencies of the State and the Central Government and the Muslim Organisations which were calling it a conspiracy. But the Report of the Liberhan Commission says that neither the C.B.I. nor the Intelligence Agencies nor the lawyers of the Muslim Personal Board could gather facts nor they could help the Commission in any manner. They could neither gather any facts nor any evidence to prove their point that there was a conspiracy or planning. Hence the conclusions drawn in this Report are baseless and contradictory to the available facts or the tendered evidence.

Now, I would like to put my second point before



you to prove my point. The Report records, "The Central Government was crippled. It stayed its hand, deferring to Hon'ble Supreme Court". It further indicates that the Government's attitude was uncooperative. The Government, at that time, was led by late Shri P.V. Narsimha Rao. The Commission had called him and was cross-examined by the counsel for the Commission. Yet, not a single word has been used against him in the Report with regard to his role. On the contrary, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who was never cross-examined by the Commission, not an iota of evidence was placed before the Commission, has been included among the culpables. Even the notice under 8 (B)

was not served to him. Not only this, a person had requested the Commission to serve Shri Vajpayee a notice under 8 (B).

But the counsel for the Commission had rejected this request as there was no evidence against him. This did not cease there. It went on even after the Report had been laid in the House on 24th of November. The very next day, Justice Liberhan, giving an interview to a press correspondent, told, 'He never indicted the former Prime Minister'.

But just four days later, he gave another interview and said, "Just like a Managing Director is responsible for the misdeeds of a company, a leader is equally responsible for the misdeeds of a party". Does it mean that Justice Liberhan had never gone through the Report. Shri Manmohan Singh was the Finance Minister in that Government. I would like to ask if our Managing Directors are responsible, how their Managing Directors

can be acquitted. My charge is: this is not a judicial report drafted by a judge, it is a political report put together by an opportunist.

The Commission took 17 years, 48 extensions and Rs. eight crores in working out this dead Report. The Commission says, “The use of the word ‘movement’ notwithstanding, the Ayodhya episode was never accompanied by a public movement.” This is a white lie. I was a witness to that movement. I can vividly remember how the wives of Government officers stood before them with their children challenging them to shoot them first and the Kar Sevaks later on.

Various type of warped conclusions have been drawn by the Commission. You will be astonished. In one place, it says that Shri Deen Dayal Upadhyay had advocated the two nation theory. He has been quoted verbatim to prove this. Later on when we searched for the source of the quotation, we came to know that that

it was, in fact, a much discussed quotation of Mohd. Ali Jinnah. How many distortions should I refer to? In one place, Lord Ram has been referred to as a Hindu god. The Report says that Lord Ram is considered to be an incarnation of God. He has forgotten that the name of Ram has occurred 2533 times in Shri Guru Granth Sahib. Ram is not a god, he is the soul of India. This Report is a document of communal disharmony. It appeals to the entire Muslim community to rise up against its leaders because when all the Hindu organizations had arrayed against the disputed structure, the Muslim organizations did nothing to save it. I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs to dismiss the Report, the harbinger of communal disharmony. I would like to convey to him that the Government should have dialogue with leaders of both communities. The courts have failed us for the past fifty years. Only dialogues can solve this problem.

## Rajya Sabha

# Report is a compilation of Howlers, Tragedy of Errors : Jaitley

*Synopsis of the debate delivered on Liberhan Commission Report by leader of Opposition Shri Arun Jaitley in Rajya Sabha on December 09.*

In the five General Elections held in the last seventeen years, we were voted as a largest single party in Parliament at least three times. We have been the second largest party in the other two Elections. Liberhan is a report which is devoid of any credibility and an exercise in futility as is apparent from the ATR. ATR itself indicates that it is an unimplementable document. This report is a fraud on a fact-finding process in the last seventeen years. I do not want to go much into the leakage of the document. But the manner of its leak is almost as dubious as the contents of this Report.

All that the ATR says is the Communal Violence (Prevention, Control and Rehabilitation of Victims) Bill



be legislated. A Bill on which the Central Legislature may perhaps have no legislative jurisdiction and then it further says that some matters will be referred to the UPSC and some matter will be referred to the Election Commission. A judge looks at the evidence, he looks at the issue which he has to decide and he links the evidence with the issue and comes to a conclusion.

He does not go into political disputes. He does not start commenting on ideologies as to which ideology is good and which is bad. If the Government, in all seriousness, can say, that we accept such a document, I think, judicial outsourcing may, perhaps, be one of the reforms that Shri Veerappa Moily should consider. The Judge is attempting to bring down the arrears. Perhaps, that may

speed up our trials and judgment writing.

This is how this document was prepared. The core question was who demolished this structure and what is the evidence against those people? Was there a conspiracy or was it a spontaneous reaction of a small group? Was it possible on evidence to come to any of the findings, but the finding has to be based on the evidence and the material which was laid before the Judge or the Commission. The Commission is to give a finding on the evidence. The Commission is not to give a political opinion. The Commission is a truth investigator; a Commission is not a political pundit. The Judge records in the report, no evidence was led or information provided to the Commission with respect to the conspiracy or pre-planning. He further records that the representatives of the Muslim organisation who are naturally aggrieved came up and said that they had no evidence to prove any conspiracy.

The Home Secretary, Mr. Godbole appears as a witness. He stated that there was no information of planning and, as such, it could not be inferred that there was a conspiracy of the Congress and the BJP for demolition. Neither the CBI nor the investigative team of the Commission, despite the prolonged process was able to identify any witness nor produce any witness. Even after the unprecedented publicity throughout the long spell of inquiry, nobody came forward to advance the case or identify the persons who physically carried out the demolition or the ones who plotted the demolition. The Muslim organizations which are aggrieved have no evidence.

A Commission of Inquiry headed by a retired Judge gives a report. We are debating it. And it has large ramifications. A report must be a document which carries credibility. A report cannot be a document which becomes a subject matter of an endless controversy. After seventeen years of wasting public time and money, the situation is that you are still debating the Commission of Inquiry Report. There are many errors in it these are not trivial errors. When it is known from all sides that in the report that there is no witness of any conspiracy and nobody has given any facts related to the conspiracy, how this Commission indulges Shri Advaniji and his colleagues. It is most unfortunate that a Masjid should have been built on a land sacredly held by the Hindus and it occurred 365 years ago.

It was a notion that the demand for the construction of a temple at the Ram Janmasthan, was anti-secular and that the construction, which was already there, should remain unchanged, was secular. Among the 68 persons, who were culpable for creating disorder, there

occurs the name of Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee. In the entire process, the person, who prepared the Report, misjudged the credibility of his own and that of Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee.

The Liberhan Commission is, however, kind to Shri P. V. Narsimha Rao. Besides, the question arises whether the article 356 should have been imposed in UP or not. The Report of the Commission says that when the UP Governor did not give report, the article 356 could not be imposed. The Report of the Commission blames the High Court of Uttar Pradesh and its Governor, and the Supreme Court and its observer. In this respect, action should be taken. The Report also mentions the names of such important persons as were present during the demolition of the Babri Masjid.

But in fact, most of the persons were somewhere busy or absent therefrom. Similarly, it puts forth a list of witnesses, the credibility of which is also dubious. It mentions a person who was a journalist and who was not actually a witness, but it was he who had to appear before the CBI. It means the achievements of the Commission are futile. The country has lost faith in what has been done during the last 17 years. The Report concludes that the Government, which has religion on its agenda, must be barred. The Commission makes a recommendation to review the whole Constitution, the recruitment policy of bureaucracy and caste-based postings.

There is one good recommendation in the report that no State Government should be allowed to discriminate against people who are not born within the State. But the recommendation to scrap Tenth Scheduled of the Constitution is not tenable. It also speaks against the media and journalists. It says that judges and commissions should be deployed to examine the cases regarding a monument and a place of worship where a dispute has arisen.

The Archaeological survey of India was directed by the Allahabad High Court to find out the structure underneath so that the fact can be unearthed. Similarly, the GPRS was entrusted to conduct a radar survey of the place. In the findings, it was said that there perhaps existed a temple till 1528 when Mr. Baqi constructed the mosque. There are many indigenous and foreign evidences regarding the existence of the temple. In the context of the above, efforts should be made to resolve the dispute through a process of negotiations with the parties, many of which are interested to perpetuate the dispute, because a civilized society cannot afford tensions and struggles. In this respect justice is required to all whether it is majority or minority.

## Throw Report in Bay of Bengal : M Venkaiah Naidu

With the death of Shrimati Gandhi, her son took over as Prime Minister and another colleague of his took command of the Ayodhya matter. From then on, a series of disastrous steps followed. The opening of the locks triggered off a great deal of controversy. Within hours of passing of the order by court the temple was unlocked and even the Doordarshan cameramen were present to cover the occasion. How did the Government acquiesce in this case? If it was wrong judgement, none of you had the guts to



stand up and say that it was a wrong judgement. Even the present Home Minister, the present Prime Minister, even many of the Ministers they were all there in that Government. At that time, you were calm. Suddenly, you remember now that it is a national shame. Whom are you trying to deceive in the country? This report has not support. Everybody has condemned this report. This document has no legal validity. This is full of politics, sermons, preaching and teachings without even knowing the fundamentals of politics and public life of the country. I am wondering who is the man who prepared this report. There are so many factual mistakes in the report. He does not know when the RSS was started. He does not know who was the founder of RSS. He named the founder of the RSS himself. His conclusions conflict with evidence. What was this man doing for all these years? In contrast you see the Shah Commission. Within one year and five months the entire report was prepared and then given to the Government.

The Liberhan Report is a Report for the vote bank politics. The Report is full of mistakes. I can understand some small mistakes, grammatical mistakes, or, some historical mistakes here and there. But, on each and every front, there is total ignorance. Mr. Liberhan brought discredit to the Commissions of Inquiry, and, in future, nobody is going to ask for setting up of a Commission of Inquiry. This is the best service he has rendered to the country.

Before the Home Minister makes any submission in the House, he must first of all, explain how this leakage had taken place. From where did the copy go to the hands of the journalists and to the electronic media? The Home Minister, with all the responsibility, must come to the House and explain why and how it

happened. Who is responsible for this? There was only a selective leakage, just to divert the attention from the spectrum, to divert the attention from Madhu Koda, to divert the attention from price rise and the plight of sugarcane farmers of Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country. You could have made some submissions to this House. Instead of that, you passed it on to some selective friends in the media, and Parliament has become a mockery. This Report is defaming the highest court of the land, the Supreme Court. You defamed the Supreme Court;

you defamed the former Prime Minister of the country; you defamed every institution; you defamed all the sadhus and saints in the country. Now, coming to the issue of the so-called conspiracy, which Mr. Liberhan has failed to establish. The Congress White Paper on Ayodhya says, "No conspiracy". Then, the Home Minister, father of the present Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. S. B. Chavan says that there was no conspiracy.

The IB told the Supreme Court, "No conspiracy". The CBI ruled out any conspiracy and the charge-sheet filed did not have any charge of conspiracy in it. The Bahri Tribunal, which was set up by the Government to discuss about the banning of the RSS, concluded that there is no evidence to suggest any conspiracy and quashed the ban on the RSS. The U.P. Government filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court stating that the demolition of the structure at Ayodhya was done under criminal conspiracy by any specific community or political party is wrong. The Allahabad High Court upheld the trial court order. The order was then challenged in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court did not give any adverse judgement. It refused to intervene in this matter.

We do not need any certificate from these people. You are creating ill-wills in the minds of the people. There are 20 more mosques in Ayodhya. Not even one was touched. The BJP believes that the theocracies are alien to our history. India being secular is not because of a particular person or a particular Government. It is because of the blood of the people of this country. There is no discrimination on the basis of religion in this country. Some people are trying to preach and teach lessons and arouse the feelings of the people.

Rama commands great respect everywhere in the world. That is why Mahatma Gandhi said Rama Rajya. You ridicule us and you say that we are communal minded. Talking about Rama is communal minded? And you have people who are supporting you in your Government, who ridiculed Rama, who ridiculed Rama Setu.

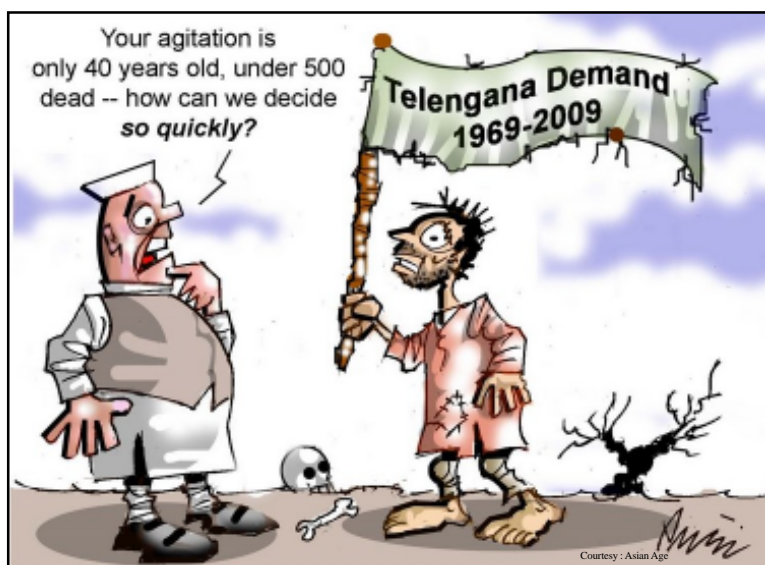
It is the people of India, who demolished the structure. It is the people of India belonging to all hues, the Kar Sevaks and the other people who gathered there. They all did it because the matter is getting delayed for years together and political parties are using it for political ends. Congress Party got the locks opened. We talk about not one person but about the belief of the people across the country and the world. Are we communal people? You been friendly with the Muslim League. You have alliance with people who opposed Vande Mataram. You do all these things and then just attribute in reverse to the Bharatiya Janta Party. As regards the Somnath Temple, the President of India went to do shilanyas there. Was he communal? Your leaders go there, you allow shilanyas, you send the Home Minister, your Chief Minister goes there and then, you propagate in Doordarshan on secularism and when we talk we become communal. If there is one party which is using religion for the sake of politics it is the present ruling party.

We got the majority. We ruled the country for six years. We gave the air connectivity, rail connectivity, highway connectivity, rural connectivity, telecom connectivity, television connectivity, port connectivity and we got political connectivity with all parties. We have taken every party along with us. We have to live together. We have to work together. We have to take the country forward. We cannot look back forever continuously to the pages of history earlier, though we should not forget history. In Ayodhya there are so many other temples. Many people asked me why you talk of this temple only? We are particular, because we believe that it is the birth place of Lord Rama. In this country, Rama is a household name. Rama is Maryada Purushothama. Some people are making comments about my leader. My leader did the greatest service to this nation for the cause of country's unity by brining in the concept of cultural nationalism. We are proud of our association with Ramajanna Bhoomi

Movement. We want to see that there is a magnificent temple in the birth place of Lord Rama. But, at the same time, we have no disrespect for Muslims or Christians. We want to have their own Mosque at a suitable place. We are not asking for handing over all the temples which were destroyed earlier.

Secularism does not mean irreligiousness. Secularism does not mean anti-Hindu. If you talk of Hindutva, it is wrong. What is wrong in Hindutva? Hindutva is the way of life. That is what the Supreme Court said. India is one, one nation, one people. A common civil code like in the State of Goa should come to the country, at the earliest, after an agreement by all the people.

The Liberhan Commission also mentions that Namaj was not being offered there for the last 70 years. You laid a foundation stone there. Do you want to perpetuate this sort of psychology and continue your vote bank politics or you want to address the core issue? Settle this issue once and for all. Be realistic. You know pretty well that nobody is going to do anything. For 50, 60 years, courts also did not do anything. It is a dispute about a site of 2.3 acres. Give and take approach should be there, because we want to live together, we want to live happily, we want to prosper, we want to compete with the so-called great countries of the West or the other countries and we want to become strong nation. Don't try to mislead the minority community of the country as if something is happening to them. Whether it is minority or majority, they are equal part of this country. So, please, allow a proper atmosphere for construction of a Great Rama Temple there. ■



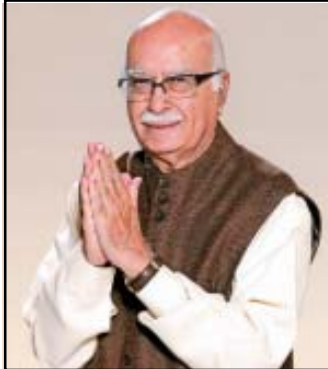
## Lal Krishna Advani is Chairman of BJP Parliamentary Party Sushma Swaraj is Opposition Leader in LS, Arun Jaitley in RS

From Our Correspondent

The process of putting the generation next at the helm of affairs in the Party commenced when on December 18 the BJP Parliamentary Party met in New Delhi and adopted an amendment to its constitution providing for the post of Chairman of the Parliamentary Party with the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha having their own leaders. The amendment was unanimously approved.

Thereafter, as per his earlier wish, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri Lal Krishna Advani relinquished his office of the Leader of BJP Parliamentary Party in Lok Sabha. As the party had authorized him to name the leaders in the two houses, Shri Advani nominated veteran parliamentarian Smt.

Sushma Swaraj as the Leader of the Party in Lok Sabha. Consequently, she became the Leader of Opposition in



Lok Sabha. He also re-appointed Shri Arun Jaitley as the Leader of Party (and Leader of Opposition) in Rajya Sabha. Smt. Sushma Swaraj becomes the first BJP woman member to don the post of Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and shares the roll of honour with late Mrs. Indira Gandhi and her daughter-in-law Mrs. Sonia Gandhi.

Mrs. Sushma Swaraj has the distinction of having challenged Mrs. Sonia Gandhi in 1999 Lok Sabha elections from Bellary in Karnataka where Congress was in power then. Mrs. Swaraj gave Mrs. Gandhi a tough time and lost by a narrow margin.

On December 21 Shri Advani announced the appointment of Shri Gopinath Munde as Deputy Leaders of the Party in Lok Sabha and re-appointed Shri S. S. Ahluwalia as Deputy Leader in Rajya Sabha. ■



## Munde Deputy Leader in LS, Ahluwalia in RS

Chairman of the BJP Parliamentary Party, Shri L.K. Advani on December 21, 2009 has appointed Shri Gopinath Munde as Deputy Leader and Shri Ramesh Bais as Chief Whip of BJP Parliamentary Party in Lok Sabha.

He has also appointed Shri S.S. Ahluwalia as Deputy Leader and Smt. Maya Singh as Chief Whip of BJP Parliamentary Party in Rajya Sabha.

Shri LK Advani has already declared Smt. Sushma Swaraj as Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Shri Arun Jaitley as Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha.

All these appointments have been conveyed by Shri Advani to Hon'ble speaker of Lok Sabha and Hon'ble Chairman of Rajya Sabha. Shri Advani was authorised by the BJP Parliamentary Party to make to above mentioned appointments. ■



# 1984 riot was a State sponsored massacre: Jaitley

*Brief points made by Shri Arun Jaitley, Leader of Opposition (Rajya Sabha) on December 14 while speaking on the Call Attention Motion for Relief to the Victims of the 1984 Riots in the Rajya Sabha.*

What happened in 1984 was not “a riot”. It was a State sponsored massacre of innocents. It was a revenge killing of thousands with the active connivance of the State. The Sikhs have history of being amongst the most patriotic citizens of India. They have stood up for India. The ill-conceived “Operation Blue Star” and the massacre of innocents has resulted in making India’s most patriotic citizens angry, sullen and rebellious.

## Collapse of Institutions

All institutions of democratic India collapsed during the killing of the Sikhs. The Police was a silent spectator; it refused to protect the victims; its investigations were sabotaged. 25 years later we find the victims still crying for justice. The sitting judge of the Supreme Court, who headed the Commission of Inquiry, Justice R.N. Mishra was unwilling to see the ruling party hand in the killings. Justice R.N. Mishra after retirement was rewarded with a Rajya Sabha membership and then the Chairmanship of a Commission. The Government was not sympathetic. Circumstances which indicate State involvement.

- 48 hours non-stop killing — the only TV channel Doordarshan (State Controlled) showed the scenes of mourning of the Late Prime Minister with slogans in the background “khooon ka badla khooon”. It was a call for revenge killing.
- The convoy carrying the President

of India was attacked at AIIMS. The President was a Sikh and the crowd at A I I M S comprised of the supporters of the ruling party.



- With wide spread killing taking place all over the capital city, not a single case of police firing at mobs was reported. The instructions to the police were to help the killers rather than disburse them.
- The then Prime Minister, Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, rationalized the killings by saying –“ when a big tree falls the earth shakes”.
- No FIRs were registered against the accused for a decade. Later some FIRs are registered which obviously suffered from the vice of delay and non-investigation.
- In the PM’s constituency in the 1984 elections the campaign slogan against Maneka Gandhi who contested against him was ...”Beti hai sardar ki, beti hai gaddhar ki”.
- When eminent jurists and civil society activists brought out a factual report of the massacre, the government banned the PUCL, PUDR report on the killing of the innocents. Curiously the judiciary become insensitive to the plight of the victims. It upheld the ban. It resulted in deprivation of right of the people to know the truth.

- Eight Committees/Commissions have been appointed so far but the relief to the victims has still not come.
- Those who were perceived to be guilty were made MPs and Ministers.

The apathy of the Home Minister

Some Important leaders of the Congress party have been involved in instigating the massacre. The evidence against Shri Sajjan Kumar is available. The CBI closed the case against Shri Sajjan Kumar. Earlier this year on 2.4.2009 Shri P. Chidambaram, the Home Minister commented... “I AM HAPPY THAT MY FRIEND HAS BEEN ACQUITTED BY THE CBI”. Thereafter the CBI has sought permission of the Government in four different cases involving Sajjan Kumar and other Congress leaders. The main offence involved is of murder under section 302 and instigating persons to commit the crime. Strategically the offence under section 153A i.e. preaching communal hatred has been added to the charge sheet. The offence under section 153A is punishable upto 3 years in prison. The offence of murder is either punishable with sentence for life or death. Since section 153A requires permission of the government before filing a charge sheet the entire charge sheets are now being delayed by the government for want of sanction/permission. The Home Minister has already announced his friendship with Sajjan Kumar and his pleasure at the CBI discharging



Sajjan Kumar – Can he now be expected to be fair in the matter of granting permission for prosecution. The Delhi Government which has to grant the permission comes directly under the Home Ministry. The DIG and the Jt. Director of the CBI recommended the prosecution of Jagdish Tytler but the Director CBI reversed their opinion. The Director was given a post retirement job. A Police officer is now a member of a Commission reviewing the Centre-State relations.

The compensation to victims has still not been paid. The cases have not been pursued effectively. The credibility of the State is at stake. But the Government appears to be insensitive to their plight. ■

## Come clean on probe, US support in probe : Jaitley

The BJP on December 18 lambasted the Congress led Central Government for giving contrary statements on David Headley and Tahawwur Rana's involvement in the Mumbai terror attack and creating confusion. It also demanded a response about the level of co-operation extended by US agencies in the probe and questioned why the NIA failed to find any clue about the duo's role in Mumbai terror plot till the FBI nabbed them.

Raising the issue in the Rajya Sabha, Leader of Opposition Shri Arun Jaitley asked the Government

to update Parliament about the probe and come clean on the issue. He said reports about Headley being a US double agent and his travel documents along with those of Rana missing from the Indian Consulate in Chicago suggested that the case was getting "curiouser and curiouser".

They also sought clarification about Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao appreciating the US co-operation in the Headley case and contrary views expressed by the Home Ministry. (Home Ministry officials had said on Tuesday said the US did not inform the agencies here about Headley's visit to India in March even though the FBI was tracking him since September 2008.)

Elaborating upon his concerns, Shri Jaitley said the NIA was probing the Mumbai terror attacks for the last one year, but Headley's name did not figure in the list of suspects till the FBI nabbed him two months ago. Moreover, reports indicating that Headley was a double agent for the US Government and was caught some years ago on a drug trafficking charge now led several more questions, Shri Jaitley added.

Referring to reports about disappearance and reappearance of the travel documents of Headley and Rana to obtain visa from the Chicago Consulate had created "serious doubts", Shri Jaitley said and asked the Government to spell out the extent of US help in the probe. "We want to know the extent of co-operation extended by the FBI. It is reported that the FBI had recordings prior to 26/11. Was that information made available to us?" he asked. ■ (FOC)

### *Karnataka LC election*

#### **BJP registers gains**

The ruling BJP in Karnataka won 10 out of the 25 seats of the Legislative Council elections from local bodies held on December 18. The opposition Congress won also won ten seats, while Janata Dal(S), with which it entered into a pre-poll tie-up bagged the other five. Out of the 25 seats for which elections were conducted, Congress held 19 seats, BJP 4 and JD(S) one earlier. Though the ruling BJP was expecting a better result, it was still a gain for the BJP of six seats. Congress was on the losing side as it could retain only 10 out of the 19 candidates who had completed their tenure earlier. Fifteen new faces will be making it to the Upper House for the first time. Now in the 75 member House, Congress and BJP had 28 members each, JD(S) 13 and JD(U) one. The remaining were Independents.

Commenting on the outcome, Chief Minister Shri Yeddyurappa expressed satisfaction saying that BJP had increased its tally to 10 from four and Congress which had 19 could win only ten seats. BJP registered victories in Dakshina Kannada (2nd seat), Bellary, Chitradurga, Bidar, Raichur, Mysore, Belgaum, Dharwad (2nd seat), Shimoga and Mysore. ■ (FOC)

#### **BJP wins Gujarat civic body bypolls**

The ruling BJP has maintained its winning streak in the by-elections to the Gujarat local self-Government bodies too.

It won 35 seats while Congress bagged only 23 seats out of 68 seats in the district panchayats, taluka panchayats and nagar palikas for which by-elections were held.

In the by-elections to the seven Assembly constituencies in September, the BJP had won as many as five seats. ■ (FOC)

# UPA now admits the Existence of Holy Saraswati River

Earlier refused to agree despite Govt agencies confirming existence of the holy river

According to a *Pioneer* report in a significant shift from its earlier stand that probes conducted so far showed no trace of the mythical river, the Union Government has recently admitted that scientists have discovered water channels indicating “beyond doubt” the existence of the “Vedic holy river Saraswati.”

The Government’s fresh submission came in response to an unstarred question in Rajya Sabha on December 3 by Shri Prakash Javadekar (BJP), who wanted to know whether satellite images had “established the underground track of Saraswati, and if so, why should the precious water resources not be exploited to meet growing demands.”

To this, the Union Water Resources Ministry quoted in writing the conclusion of a study jointly conducted by scientists of ISRO, Jodhpur and the Rajasthan Government’s Ground Water Department, published in the *Journal of Indian Society of Remote Sensing*. Besides other things, the authors had said that “clear signals of palaeo-channels on the satellite imagery in the form of a strong and powerful continuous drainage system in the North-West region and occurrence of archaeological sites of pre-Harappan, Harappan and post-Harappan ages beyond doubt indicate the existence of a mighty palaeo-drainage system of the Vedic Saraswati river in this

region... The description and magnanimity of these channels also matches with the river Saraswati described in the Vedic literature.”

A leading educationist and currently chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Yash Pal, who had published in 1980 in his own words “a small paper on the existence of Saraswati river which attracted attention,” concurred with the view. “Surveys so far have brought out clearly the path the river had taken when in flow,” the national research professor told *The Pioneer*. He did a stint with ISRO (which has played a pivotal role in the probes so far) from 1973-1980 where he set up the Space Application Centre.

On whether the Union Government should assume a proactive role on the issue of reviving the river to tackle the water shortages, he said, “With advancement of technology more research should be conducted. The river was not lost yesterday; perhaps due to tectonic shifts it disappeared ten thousand years ago. We have to keep these issues in mind.”

All through its tenure until now, the UPA Government had denied the existence of the mystery river. Then Culture Minister Jaipal Reddy had told Parliament that excavations

conducted so far at nine sites had not revealed any trace of the lost river Saraswati. He stated that the UPA Government had not extended the sanction for the project given by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee led NDA Government. Giving a progress report of the Saraswati River Heritage Project launched by the

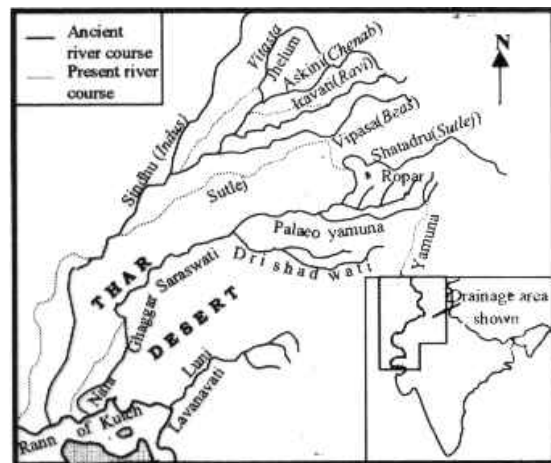


Figure 2. River systems, past and present, in the Northwestern India (ref. 11).

NDA Government, he had said that though the project report was prepared in September 2003 envisaging a cost of Rs 36.02 crore, it was later slashed to Rs 4.98 crore.

The Leftists, who commanded great influence over the first five years of the UPA regime, too, were dismissive of the evidences. Senior leaders even castigated probe agencies for ‘wasting’ time and money over the study of the mystery river. Three years ago, senior CPI(M) leader and Politburo member Sitaram Yechury slammed the ASI for its efforts.

A Parliamentary Standing

Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, which he headed in 2006, said, "The ASI has deviated in its working and has failed in spearheading a scientific discipline of archaeology. A scientific institution like the ASI did not proceed correctly in this matter."

These assertions had come despite mounting evidence of the river collected by central agencies such as Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Geological Survey of India (GSI), Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC), Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and the Central Groundwater Authority (under the Water Resources Ministry). The Government had also failed to acknowledge expert opinion that the river's revival could tackle the increasing water demands of more than 20 crore people in the North-West region of the country.

The first national impetus for research on Saraswati came during the NDA regime when the then Union Culture Minister Jagmohan in June 2002 announced excavations to trace the river's course.

He named a team of four experts - Baldeo Sahai of ISRO, Ahmedabad, archaeologist S Kalyan Raman, glaciologist Y K Puri and water consultant Madhav Chitle - for the task. But even earlier, States like Haryana had begun their study of the 'underground river.'

Talking of the progress, SL Aggarwal, an official in Haryana Irrigation Department said, "Work on the 3.5 km stretch of river Saraswati between Jyotisar and Bibipur would be completed in one-and-a-half months and then we would be able to revive the ancient river and be able to use the water for irrigation purposes." The Haryana

Government recently sanctioned Rs 10.05 crore for the project of revival of the river, with the Oil and Natural Gas Commission carrying out geophysical and geoelectric surveys for drilling of wells in association with Kurukshetra University for exploratory purposes.

A non-government organisation (NGO), Saraswati Nadi Sodh Sansthan, has also been working for the revival of the ancient river through its entire track. Two seminars were held on this issue on October 22, 2008 and November 21, 2009 at Kurukshetra where representatives from ONGC, Geological Survey of India and Indian Space Research Organisation were invited.

Rajasthan too has been an active participant in the project. Some four decades ago the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) had conducted excavations at a village named Kalibanga in Sriganganagar district of Rajasthan, unearthing a full-fledged township beneath a mound, locally called 'Theed.'

The ASI researchers came to the conclusion that the sight belonged to the Harappan period. Subsequent studies revealed that this flourishing town was situated on the banks of the Saraswati which once flowed from this part of the Rajasthan desert.

About two decades ago, scientists at Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI) at Jodhpur launched a project to track

down the traces. They concluded that the ancient channels were a dead river that could well be Saraswati. Interestingly, here, the ancient texts and the geographical history of the region were constant bases of reference of the studies.

Analyses of images earlier taken by the American satellite Landsat in the 1970's clearly showed the presence of underground water in a definitive pattern in the Jaisalmer region. As part of the project, then, underground water researchers were asked to dig bore wells at places from where this lost river used to flow. They selected Chandan Lathi near Jaisalmer for this purpose.

To the surprise of researchers, the water found after digging the bore wells at places on the course of the river was not only sweet but available in plenty. Encouraged by this discovery, they dug two dozen bore well in the area, from where the river used to flow, and in all of them they found sweet water.

A few years later Dr Vakankar, a noted historian, as part his Itihas Sanklan Yojna, visited this and other sites linked with the river. Together with another expert Moropant Pingle, he concluded that the Saraswati used to flow from this part of Rajasthan, Sirsa in Haryana, Bhatinda in Punjab and Sriganganagar district in Rajasthan.

With the Government indicating a shift in its position, it remains to be seen whether the research work by central agencies that had come to a near halt, will now resume. ■

## Rajya Sabha BJP MP passes away

BJP Parliamentary member in Rajya Sabha Shri S.Acharya passed away on December 21. Shri Acharya, 80, had been ailing for some time. The Rajya Sabha was adjourned following the death of Shri Acharya. BJP President Shri Nitin Gadkari, former Deputy Prime Minister Shri L.K Advani and other senior leaders condoled over demise of Shri Acharya. ■

## Ayurveda treatment achieved substantial improvements : Nishank

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said that Ayurveda treatment had achieved substantial improvements during the past 10 years. The recognitions achieved in the field in Ayurvedic medical treatment have not only elicited the interest and trust of the people of India but have also attracted the interest of the international community during the past decade, he added.

The Chief Minister said this while inaugurating the Madan Mohan Malaviya hall in Rishikul State Ayurveda College in Haridwar. The CM also dedicated to the public in Haridwar 20 local works completed and laid foundation for four other works being undertaken as part of the preparations for the coming Maha Kumbh Mela in 2010.

Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal also said that the first Ayurvedic plastic surgery in which a head was joined to the torso was undertaken in Uttarakhand. That was a medical treatment technique not yet being used in any traditional or other medical treatment system in any country, the Chief Minister added.

The positive scope for Ayurveda in Uttarakhand is further enhanced due to the abundant medicinal herbs growing naturally in the mountainous regions of the State. Much development has been achieved in the field of Ayurveda in the years since 2000 and still lot more will be achieved in the field.

He said that during the year 1919 Malaviya established the Rishikul Ayurvedic College in Haridwar. At the time of its

establishment the condition of the Rishikul Ayurvedic College was quite different to what it is now after the State Government has facilitated the execution of building and development works amounting to up to Rs 8 crore, said the CM.

The Chief Minister also said that as all works not yet undertaken on the Earth are slated to be undertaken by the year 2019, developments pending since long in the field of Ayurveda are being facilitated by the State Government.

The Government of Uttarakhand has already facilitated the establishment of the Ayurveda University in the State which is the third university in the field in the entire nation. If the action plans envisioned in the vision 2020 are executed successfully Uttarakhand could even become the top most State in the field of Ayurveda in India, he added.



The Chief Minister also said that the quantity of medicinal and aromatic herbs cultivated in Uttarakhand would be increased in order to be or use to the entire nation.

Referring to the various works done as part of preparations for the Maha Kumbh Mela being held in Haridwar in 2010, he said that as majority of the constructions works being undertaken for the Kumbh Mela are temporary in nature, they would be usable for other religious festivals and occasions in the future.

He further added that the Maha Kumbh Mela would be the largest event of its kind to be held anywhere in the world in the present century. Till date works amounting to about Rs 50 crore were done in preparation for the Kumbh Mela but this time works amounting to about Rs 450 crore had been undertaken in Uttarakhand in preparation for the Maha Kumbh Mela. ■ (FOC)

### Reservation for Muslim a ploy in Jharkhand assembly elections: BJP

Smt. Pinky Anand, National Convenor, BJP Legal and Legislative Cell, Shri Shyam Jaju (BJP Central office incharge) Shri Balendur Shekhar, and Shri M.C.Diwan submitted a complaint to the Election Commissioner on 10th December, 2009

Complaint has been made against Senior Leaders of Congress including Shri Rahul Gandhi, General Secretary, Congress, Shri . Prakash Jaiswal, Union Minister of Coal and other statements and published by Senior Congress Leaders appealing to Muslim people's sentiments for securing votes in the Jharkhand Assembly election which was in progress. Such statements were intended to influence sentimental feelings of a particular community. ■ (FOC)

# Kerala's terror trail

By Balbir K. Punj

With the exposure of the Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) in north Kerala and finger of suspicion pointing to People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader and Islamist extremist Abdul Nasser Madani's wife Sufiya, the politicians of Kerala are in a rush to prove their innocence. Nasir Tadiyandavede and his brother-in-law Shafaz Shamsuddin are both from Kannur in Kerala and are accused of carrying out the July 25, 2008 Bengaluru serial blasts with funding and instructions from the LeT.

Remember how the same politicians, in almost one voice, had moved the Kerala Assembly to ask the Tamil Nadu government to release the same Madani from Coimbatore prison where he was facing trial in the serial bombing case of 1998, set up to assassinate BJP leader L.K. Advani. When finally Madani was able to win acquittal in the case, the same leaders from both the Left Front and the Congress made a beeline to the airport to receive him and even gave him a public reception.

After cosyng up to the PDP leader in the May general elections, Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader and Kerala home minister Kodyeri Balakrishnan staged a protest and declared that his department would not interfere with the ongoing police investigations into Sufia Madani's alleged role in various terrorist activities.

The lady has sought anticipatory bail as the Kerala police was closing in upon her for allegedly directing the Tamil Nadu bus burning in Kalamassery, Kerala.

T. Nasir, yet another alleged kingpin in the terror machine, now held between the Karnataka and Kerala police on suspicion of multiple roles in the serial bombing incidents in Bengaluru and the detailed plans to blow up several places in Kerala and elsewhere, has turned out to be a major LeT operative in the state.

He has confessed to receiving funds from Pakistani agencies. Nasir had been the key LeT operative

*In Kerala politics, the CPI(M) had long been suspected of supporting Islamic radicals. The revelations of Nasir only strengthen those suspicions.*

recruiting Muslim youngsters from Kerala to join the insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Indian security forces, after gunning down five infiltrators in Jammu and Kashmir, busted the LeT activity that had been on for years, especially in Kannur in north Malabar — hotbed of the Communists where CPI(M) cadres have killed several RSS, Congress and other political workers.

In Kerala politics, the CPI(M) had long been suspected of supporting Islamic radicals. The revelations of Nasir only strengthen those suspicions.

Nasir's activities for the LeT were widespread. He recruited young people for militancy in Kashmir. He conducted camps at

many places where young people from his community were brainwashed and even trained in arms and bomb-handling.

For some years this went on and the Kerala police had little hint about them. When the police managed to locate Nasir after he conducted a camp at Vakathanam, near Kottayam in central Kerala, political interference prevented the police from following the trail.

The busting came only after four of the five militants killed in Kashmir were found to be from Kerala. The security forces there suspected that the fifth man had escaped. He was Jabbar, ultimately traced to Hyderabad.

The Central government's instructions to the Kerala police to track this recruitment forced the Left Democratic Front state government to track down Nasir. He escaped while being led away by the police. Surely there was complicity at some level from powerful politicians that enabled him to escape from a posse of 100 policemen.

State home minister Balakrishnan now claims that he had informed the Research and Analysis Wing last April itself that Nasir had escaped to Bangladesh. The state home minister blames political rivals for drumming up a controversy over handling of terrorists.

In Kerala, the UDF and LDF are winning power and losing it by turn with clockwork regularity. It was during the UDF rule that Nasir-led terrorists burnt the Tamil Nadu bus to protest the Chennai government's refusal to release Madani on parole from Coimbatore.

Many other terrorist acts took place during UDF rule. So, there is perhaps little to choose between the UDF and the LDF. Both are more concerned with their vote banks among Muslims rather than public safety against terror attacks.

Nasir was finally located in Bangladesh. The charges against this LeT operative are many. He is accused of not only recruiting for the militant cause but also actively helping militant activity in India. His most daring act was to steal 200 kg of ammonium nitrate, a potent bomb-making material, from an Alwa-based explosives shop. This material was used to fuel several bomb attacks in Kerala, Bengaluru, as well as in other cities.

Another mystery behind the whole series of events is that the explosives shop owner who had reported the theft of ammonium nitrate etc from his shop soon withdrew his complaint. The Kerala police also did not pursue the case effectively. Who was behind this complete lack of responsible behaviour on the part of the security forces is a matter to be found out. Sources say if this is investigated, further linkages of Pakistan-based terror organisations with some key Kerala politicians would be exposed.

Where does this cascade of revelations and finding of large quantities of explosive material lead to? Kerala, especially the Muslim-concentrated northern part of it, was yet another breeding ground of terror with organic linkages to LeT in Pakistan and Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (HuJI) in Bangladesh. The same part of Kerala is also a pocket borough of the CPI(M).

The CPI(M) might now declare itself untainted by terror and communal extremism. But the finger of accusation and mound of evidence point as much to it as they do to Madani and Nasir and a host of others. The prevalence of this politician-extremist-linked fifth column within — Kannur, Hyderabad, Azamgarh, the trail goes to Kashmir — forms a huge question mark before the country. ■

Source: *The Asian Age*

## A rare example of communal harmony

### Muslims construct a Hindu temple in Bihar Hindus constructed the tomb of a Muslim saint

In a rare example of communal harmony and much different to the parochial mindset of Ulemas, Deoband and Muslim Law Boards, the common Muslims of Bihar are constructing a Hindu temple in a Bihar village. Three decades ago, their Hindus Brothers constructed the tomb of a Muslim saint in that village.

Mohammad Fakhru Islam, a resident of Kadarabad village in Begusarai district, donated about 2,700 sq ft land for construction of a Hindu temple. Two Muslim villagers, Mohammad Hashrat and Mohammad Wasi, along with other Muslims, began constructing the temple at Kadarabad Ghat. "Muslims have laid the foundation of the new temple dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva in the village," Mr. Hashrat said. "We will construct the temple to send a strong message of harmony," Mr. Wasi said.

They are constructing the temple despite protests from within the community. A few people from within the community opposed them but they went ahead with the construction of the temple, villagers said these Muslim and Hindu brothers are examples of our society and their work is a rare example of communal harmony. ■

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Jual Oram elected new Odisha BJP President

Senior BJP leader and former union minister Shri Jual Oram was elected as President of the Odisha State unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Shri Oram born in a poor family of

Kendudihi village of Sundergarh in 1961 did Diploma in Electrical Engineering. He was working with BHEL when he decided to quit his job and join politics. He joined BJP in 1989. He was elected to the state legislative assembly twice in 1990 and 1995. He was also elected as member of Parliament thrice in 1998, 1999 and 2004. He worked as state party president twice from 1997 to 1999 and from 2004 to 2006. This is his third term as state party president. ■ (FOC)



Delhi BJP raises its voice against price rise

In the Delhi Assembly on December 08 the opposition BJP members protested over the issue of price rise and increase in taxes and fares.

As soon as the House assembled for the first day's proceedings, the BJP members — who had all come dressed in black to register their protest against the manner in which the common man has been burdened with price rise and higher taxes, tariffs and fares — were up on their feet. Three senior BJP leaders Prof. V. K. Malhotra, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi and Dr. Harsh Vardhan severely criticized the Sheila Dixit led Congress govt. in Delhi for the sky rocketing price rise.

This is the blackest year in Delhi

Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Prof. V K Malhotra began by saying that Delhiites were finding it hard to survive and it was a “question of their existence”. He said this situation had arisen because the Government had not been working with compassion. “This is the blackest year and we are wearing black clothes to show what we feel,” he added.

As other BJP members kept raising slogans against the Delhi Govt. Prof. Malhotra charged that the recent increases in taxes as well as bus and metro fares and power and water tariffs had made it difficult for many to survive. Prices shot up between 50%- 300% in Delhi

Former Delhi BJP President Dr. Harsh Vardhan drew a comparison between the prices of various commodities a year ago and now and read out from a list that detailed how the prices had shot up between 50 per cent and 300 per cent in several cases. He said its black marketing and hoarding which shoot up prices of essential commodities in Delhi and the Congress govt is fully aware with it.

Law and order situation terrible

Former Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi Mukhi said the law and order situation was abominable as there have been 440 murders in the past ten months and street crime has risen so much that every other day a trader is robbed or a woman assaulted somewhere. He said people are now compelled to take their associates along while carrying cash.

Thereafter as the Speaker initiated the question hour, the BJP members continued their protest forcing a half-hour adjournment.

BJP rally against price rise **Delhi Govt. not addressing the issues: O P Kohli**

The Delhi BJP organised a dharna near Delhi Assembly on December 14 protesting against the steep rise in the prices of essential commodities in the past one year. Blaming the State Government for not addressing the issue, Delhi BJP President Prof. O P Kohli said the unprecedented rise in the prices of food grains, pulses, sugar, vegetables, oil and milk was affecting every resident of the city. “Even basic amenities like water and electricity have become costly. The DTC and metro railway fares have also been increased. Before all this, school tuition fees were hiked.”

Charging the Government with betraying the residents of unauthorized colonies, Prof. Kohli said on the eve of the last Assembly elections, the Government had promised regularization of such colonies and also issued provisional certificates. “However, even after one year these colonies have not been regularized. People of these colonies feel cheated,” he added.

On the issue of purchase of costly low-floor buses, Prof. Kohli said the public transport system could have been made more comfortable by purchasing ordinary buses in large numbers at lower rates. “Incidents of fire in these low-floor buses have been taking place in the past two weeks. Due to technical defects and lack of proper maintenance of these buses, the common man is not feeling safe travelling in them.”

He accused the Chief Minister of spending heavily on government advertisements from public funds. “On the one hand power and water tariffs are being increased citing losses, while on the other public money is being wasted on hoardings and advertisements.” Leader of Opposition in Delhi Legislative Assembly Prof. V K Malhotra, BJP National General Secretary Shri Vijay Goel and former Delhi Chief Minister Shri Madan Lal Khurana also addressed the protesters.

Koda's scam money used for Commonwealth Games village : Malhotra

Initiating the debate on the 'no confidence motion' moved by the BJP in Delhi Assembly against the Sheila Dikshit Government, Leader of the Opposition in Delhi Assembly Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra on December 15 alleged that scam money was used for the construction of the Commonwealth Games village in the Capital. Prof. Malhotra alleged that Emaar MGF, which is constructing Commonwealth Games village, has resorted to blackmailing and got a Rs 700 crore bail-out package from the Government. Expressing surprise, he asked why the Government has given bail-out package to Emaar MGF.

"The Government has provided land free of cost to construct Commonwealth Games village. But this company could not construct the Games village on time and demanded a bail-out package. This is the company where former Jharkhand Chief Minister Madhu Koda had made huge investments of his hawala money," he added. Koda is alleged to have swindled the treasury to build a personal fortune. It might be noted that The Pioneer had earlier reported that Koda had invested through hawala in Dubai-based Emaar MGF.

Blaming the Sheila Dikshit Government for inflation, Prof. Malhotra highlighted Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee's statement that States are responsible for checking skyrocketing of essential commodities. He

alleged the Congress Government has failed on all fronts and it has failed to resolve any problem in the past 11 years. Criticising the Government's recent move to increase water tariff, bus fares, Metro fares and withdrawal of power subsidy, Shri Malhotra alleged that this Government is not sensitive and the common people are suffering from day-to-day increasing prices of essential commodities. "The Government has failed to provide safe drinking water but it has brought a new excise policy allowing opening of more liquor shops in the Capital," he said.

He said that the Government has spent Rs 15,000 crore in the name of Commonwealth Games on only five per cent areas of Delhi while it has failed to spend a single penny on 1,600 unauthorised colonies where over 50 lakh people reside. On the cleaning of Yamuna, over 1,200 crore has been spent but it is not cleaned. "What has this Government done in the past 11 years for the cleaning of Yamuna?" he asked.

On delaying of Commonwealth Games projects, he said that the Games were awarded to Delhi in 2003 but they failed to monitor the projects on regular basis. On the issue of hanging of Afzal Guru, Prof. Malhotra said that this Government can clear the file of Manu Sharma in a day but it did not clear the file of hanging of Afzal Guru, an accused in Parliament attack case. (Agencies) ■



Food inflation rises to 19.95%

The surge in food prices has continued unabated, with the food inflation rising to 19.95 per cent for the first week of December due to supply shortages. The finance minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, who has comprehensively failed in controlling prices of essential commodities, said that in order to control food prices, the government will import essential commodities. The high food prices could also spill over to other sectors. Workers, who provide different services and who spend a major portion of their income on food are likely to demand more money for their services.

As compared to last year the prices of potatoes were up by 136.39 per cent, vegetables by 41.09 per cent, pulses by 40.81 per cent, wheat by 13.91 per cent and rice by 12.70 per cent.

Also prices of cereals were up by 13.55 per cent, onions by 15.42 per cent and milk by 13.61 per cent. The increase in food prices is due to shortages caused partly by a weak monsoon and partly by floods in some other parts of India. ■

BJP wants NIA probe into terror cases

The Kerala BJP demanded a probe by a Central agency, preferably the National Investigation Agency, into the terror cases in the State as it saw a conspiracy to scuttle such inquiries. State BJP President Shri PK Krishnadas said that the arrest of Sufiya, wife of Abdul Nasser Madani, was being delayed as a result of a political conspiracy.

Shri Krishnadas told newsmen in Kannur that both the CPI(M) and the Congress were responsible for undermining the investigations into the terror cases, including those of the burning of a Tamil Nadu State bus at Kalamassery off Kochi in which Sufiya Madani was tenth accused.

He said there were clinching evidences with the police against South India's LeT chief Thadiyantavide Nazeer and Sufiya in the bus-burning but the former UDF regime and the present LDF Government had caused serious lapses which affected the probe. While the former UDF government tried to cover up the case, the present LDF regime had frozen it, he said, adding there was the conspiracy behind this.

He said that the police of the LDF Government had declared Sufiya the tenth accused in the Kalamassery case hastily in order to avoid action against her by the Karnataka Police which had gathered convincing evidences against Nazeer and Sufiya. This plan was hatched by none other than Tomin J Thachankery, Inspector General of Police (Kannur region), who was known to be close to the official leadership of the CPI(M).

Referring to State CPI(M) secretary Pinarayi Vijayan's allegation that the former UDF government had torpedoed the case of attempt to assassinate former chief minister EK Nayanar to save a relative of Minister of State for Railway E Ahamed, Shri Krishnadas said the CPI(M) leader owed an explanation as to why the subsequent LDF Government had not acted against the Muslim League leader's relative. He also alleged that the CPI(M) had covered up Nazeer's involvement in the case of the murder of Vinod in Kannur.

Shri Krishnadas demanded a probe to ascertain whether monetary interests were involved in the CPI(M)-PDP alliance during the last Lok Sabha elections. Human rights activists and legal experts such as VR Krishna Iyer, who had come to the support of the PDP chairman when he was in jail, should also make their

stand clear, he said. He added that the BJP would organize protests demanding that all terror-related cases be probed by the NIA.

Orissa

Naveen Patnaik Govt's face exposed *IBM continues raids on illegal mines*

Allegations about scams of Naveen Patnaik led BJD Government involving crores of rupees in mining sector in Orissa were turning out to be true as the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) found serious violation of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules 1988 in Keonjhar and Sundargarh districts.

IBM's Regional Controller of Mines who is based at Bhubaneswar recommended suspension of mining operations in two more mines, one each in Keonjhar and Sundargarh districts. The mines included Nuagaon Iron Mine of KJS Ahluwalia in Keonjhar and Kanther Koira Iron Mine of Rungta Mines Private Limited in Sundargarh district. "Both mines have been ordered to suspend mining operations following the observation of the ground conditions being in gross deviation from the approved mining plan," IBM said in a statement.

Besides recommending suspension of mining operation of two mines, the IBM task force has also served show-cause notice on Koira Iron Ore Mines of Essel Mining and Industries Limited for violation of MCDR-1988. The regulating body said it had informed the State government about the suspension orders.

The task force of IBM has been inspecting some of the randomly picked up mines in the Keonjhar and Sundargarh district in the iron and manganese sector.

Vigilance raids

Although IBM was accused of being negligent while plundering of public money was taking place, investigation by this central agency was expected to unearth many other irregularities in the sector.

During past two months State Vigilance Department teams have already made several rounds in mineral rich region of Keonjhar and Sundargarh and stumbled upon cases of illegal extraction of valuable minerals.

However, vigilance wing of the State police is facing charges of functioning in partisan manner while carrying out in the investigation.

Since long BJP and other opposition political parties and citizen forums have been constantly putting pressure on the State government to hand over the investigation to Central Bureau of Investigation so that investigation remained uninfluenced.

Uttar Pradesh

Mayawati misusing bureaucracy : BJP

The Bhartiya Janata Part alleged on December 15 that Chief Minister Mayawati was misusing the bureaucracy for furthering her political ends and it was unfortunate that the bureaucracy had demeaned itself by letting her carry out her designs. BJP state vice president and spokesman, Shri Hriday Narayan Dixit said that the 'Fifth Floor' (CM's office at the Secretariat Annexe) has turned into a political cell of BSP." It was unfortunate that officers of the IAS cadre were working as BSP agents which is unprecedented," he said.

He said, "Recently, an IAS officer addressed the media on the issue of separate state while a second officer spoke on the issue of problems of cane farmers". "It has been an established practice for Chief Minister and ministers to speak on such issues not IAS officers," he pointed out.

Shri Dixit said that in a healthy democracy, the bureaucracy is the constant government while political governments come and go. "Both have their separate importance but the BSP has removed the thin line separating the two resulting in the IAS officers working BSP functionaries. Due to the mishandling of the bureaucracy by the BSP Government, it has lost the faith of the people," he said.

Himachal Pradesh

Govt. to make State free of polythene

As 15,000 delegates and over 100 world leaders from 192 countries have converged at Copenhagen for

12-day summit on Climate Change, Himachal Government has its steps to the fore in its endeavour to make the State polythene and plastic free by launching a six-day campaign from December 21.

Aiming to be launched with the active cooperation of NGOs, social, educational, religious and cultural groups along with Mahila Mandals, the campaign would be made effective and organised by roping in various environmental experts. During a high-level meeting, Chief Minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal said that there was dire need to segregate non-biodegradable waste for recycling and other use and the campaign would focus on collection of polythene, plastic and other such waste with active support of urban local bodies and Panchayati Raj institutions besides other organisations and NGOs.

Calling for making the campaign a mass movement and an integral part of living, Prof. Dhumal said: "An important component of the campaign will be to educate the people about the adverse affect of non-biodegradable waste on climate, environment and ecology and why its safe disposal is necessary."

"Himachal has already banned the use of plastic carry-bags and a vast majority of people has voluntarily accepted the ban and stop using plastic bags," he said adding that use of plastic for metalling of roads would be the next step in making Himachal plastic-free.

"It has been scientifically proved that plastic roads are more lasting and useful for smooth vehicular movement. The plastic waste collected by different agencies will be handed over to local Public Works Department officials who after shredding will use the same for construction of roads," the Chief Minister added. ■

Gujarat govt. makes voting in civic bodies compulsory

Mandatory voting will infuse faith in democracy : Modi

The Gujarat State Assembly on December 19 passed Gujarat Local Authorities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2009, making voting to municipal corporations, municipalities, and district, taluka and village panchayats compulsory. The Bill also ratifies the Centre's suggestion to reserve 50 per cent seats in all local bodies for women. Majority of them, including Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), will go to polls next year.

Participating in the debate BJP MLAs suggested, those who do not vote should be penalized with denials of driving license or passport, or concessional bank loan, or government jobs.

Justifying it, the govt. said the Bill was "absolutely essential for strengthening democratic process" so that the true spirit of the will of the people is reflected in the electoral mandate.

Later in a statement, Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that the bill will help decrease poll expenditure. It will also curb black money, rampant in electoral expense right now, he added.

He further said, "Gujarat is the first state to have given the option of negative voting in the Bill underlining, it will help encourage good and able candidates to participate in the voting process." Shri Modi further added, "I think that it will make people less indifferent towards the democratic process. This will infuse faith in democracy and it will stop the process in which representatives getting elected obtaining as less as 25 per cent votes. ■

Duty and Cosmic Will

By Sri Swami Sadananda

It is very difficult to explain what duty means. There are different notions about duty, not only in different countries, but also in the same country, among different grades of society. We may say that duty comes up only when society has been formed. In a state of nature, where society is not organised, the idea of duty does not arise because, as in the animal world, there will be the attempt on the part of the strong to subdue the weak. If you ask a tiger what its duty is, it might say that its duty is to kill all that can be killed and eaten. Therefore, it is only after human society has been organised that the idea of duty arises. It dawns upon the human mind because of the necessity to preserve oneself against one's enemies. There is a danger of the strong attacking the weak, and, therefore, civilized man requires that some control should be exercised by the strong over themselves lest they should do harm to the weak.

Basic Principles

We may, therefore, say that duty varies from time to time according to the stage of development reached by society. Yet, underlying all these different forms of duty observable in different periods of time, there are certain fundamental principles which do not get changed. For instance, the idea that one should love another as oneself is a duty which underlies all other forms of duty. In short, we can say that there are one's duty to the community and one's duty to oneself. What should one do to make oneself happy and what should one do to see that he does not create



unhappiness to his neighbours? That is the essence of real duty. When one thinks of oneself, one has to ask the question of what one is. One is not the body, or the mind, or the dweller in the body only. One is all these as long as one is in the world and alive. Therefore, one has a duty to one's body, a duty to one's mind, and a duty to the indweller.

Obligations

For instance, when a person was a baby, he was brought up by his parents. In his helplessness of an infant if he had been neglected by the mother, or by other persons, he would certainly not be alive to grow. This obligation which he has already received is a debt which has to be discharged. In other words, there is no human being who has not been obliged to his neighbours for something or another. Beyond the help received from the neighbours, or human beings, there is the help received from nature itself. Seasonal rains are responsible for the growth of food grains. In our scriptures they speak about the Devas, or the gods, that are responsible for the benefits conferred upon man in the form of rains, etc. Therefore, it is said in the

Bhagavad Gita that if one does not discharge one's duties to the Devas but lives only for himself, he is like a thief, because he gets something for which he does not pay anything at all.

Cosmic Will

It is, indeed, very difficult to find out what Cosmic Will means. There is the Cosmos worked by God according to His Will. Therefore, God's Will is Cosmic Will. Otherwise, since cosmos is only a practically dead thing without intelligence in it, it will be difficult to understand how it can have a will of its own. Without belief in God, belief in Cosmic Will or Cosmic Momentum becomes superfluous. One can be in harmony with God's Will only if one knows what it is. The question, therefore, arises whether it is possible at all to know the Will of God. To know anything we must have some kind of relationship between the object and ourselves; especially in the case of God's Will or the mind there must be a kind of sameness between our will or mind and God's Will or God's Mind. Is there anything like that? The Upanishads declare that we are only part and parcel of the Ultimate Reality, or God. That is the reason why it is possible for us to have some kind of conception relating to what God wills.

The question arises only when situations arise requiring us to decide what we should do and what we should not do. Till then we act more or less like automatons as impulses guide us. But during critical periods we are not quite clear what should be done and what

should not. We have no clear means to know what we can do to understand the Will of God. It is possible to get the right solution by a careful examination of ourselves. Aspects of Mind

We will notice that anything that we do has to be previously thought about. Thinking is the function of the mind. In the mind arise ideas. Ideas express either something relating to knowledge, or to feeling, or to willpower. Every one of us is guided by one's feeling. The feeling might be good or bad. The man who wants to avoid the bad and allow only good ideas to arise in his mind exercises that part of his mind which is called intellect. He decides by right thinking that bad feeling should not be allowed to predominate and that only good feelings ought to be allowed to rule over oneself.

Even after this, man finds it necessary to exercise his will, which is another aspect of his mind, to act according to the decision arrived at by the intellectual aspect of his mind. When he does that he may be said to have used all the powers of his mind for doing any particular act. There is no further responsibility for him. He has done his best because he has exercised both his intellect and his will for the avoidance of the evil thought and the promotion of the good thought. Ultimately, therefore, it is the feeling aspect of the mind that has to undergo proper scrutiny. When we examine the feeling, as and when it arises in the mind, we get the clue to what we have been accustomed for a very long time to do, either in our past life or in this life itself. Suppose a person finds a 100-rupee note lying on the road without anybody apparently observing it, what will be the reaction in his mind? If he has been accustomed to grab

things, with or without any justification, his mind will first tell him, "Take the money for yourself." But if his mind has been trained in the past lives, or in this life itself, not to grab things which are not his, he will go away without caring for the money that lies on the road, or hand it over to the nearest police station. It does not belong to him, and he does not want it.

It is on such an occasion that he has to examine the reaction, and, from the reaction, judge about his past life. If the reaction is to grab, he can come to the conclusion that he has been a greedy person in his previous life, and it is this tendency to be greedy that shows itself in the present life also. It becomes all the more necessary, therefore, for him to see that he does not allow this impulse to predominate, and he should make the best effort he can

by the exercise of his intellect and will-power to wipe out that tendency to be greedy. If he does that, he acts in such a way as would give the greatest satisfaction to God. That is God's Will, and that is the way in which he can perform a duty which is in harmony with God's Will. Therefore, the solution to the question of knowing God's Will consists in this. Analyse your own impulses. If they happen to be bad impulses, involving injury to others, untruthfulness, incontinence, avarice and dishonesty, avoid all these; they are not God's Will. If contrary, they are the Will of God, which have to be judged by a motiveless, pure conscience. This is the fundamental duty that everyone has to keep before one's mind for all time. ■

(Excerpts from the speech of Swami Shri Sadanandaji Maharaj of the Divine Life Society, Rishikesh)

Congress exploited, looted Jharkhand : Nishank

The Congress has never missed any chance to exploit and loot Jharkhand, and the Koda scam only proves it, said Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank at a Press conference in Ranchi on December 14.

Speaking about Congress' rule and exploit policy, Shri Pokhriyal said that the party has always been involved into corruption and fraud during its regime. Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh were formed during Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA Government with an objective to move on the path of development, progress and growth, but even after nine years of formation, the State lacks proper roads, water and electricity supply, medical and health facilities.

Comparing the present conditions of both the States, Shri Pokhriyal said: "Both the States were similarly backward, but the BJP Government in Uttarakhand has brought significant changes in the State. "This is the time, when the people of Jharkhand can change their future. The common man must think before exercising their right to franchise. The Congress has favoured candidates like Koda. The Congress leaders have deposited tax payers' money in various Swiss bank accounts, which is the biggest proof of corruption," he said.

The rising inflation is the result of age-old Congress Government's policy, which can only be changed by the BJP-led Government," he said. ■