



Kamal Sandesh
Fortnightly Magazine

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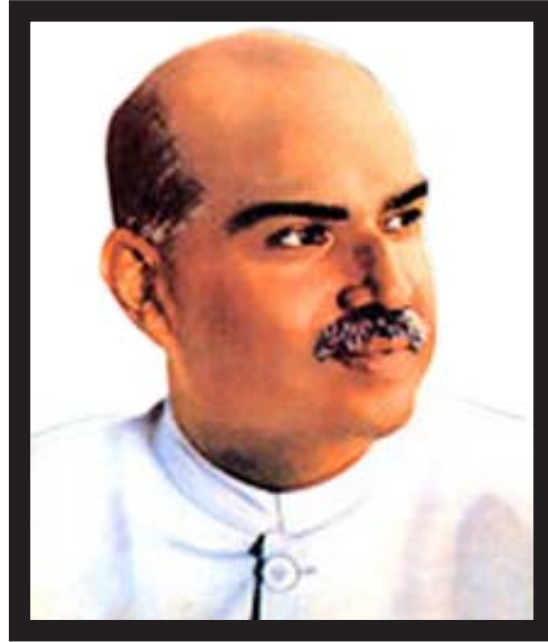
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“When Anna Hazare first raised the Lokpal issue he had been clubbed with the RSS. These days Baba Ramdev’s movement is being dubbed an RSS sponsored one. Let no one forget that even Jai Prakash Narayan had to hear similar noises when he was leading the anti-emergency movement”

– L. K Advani

“US declaring Tahawwur Rana innocent in Mumbai attack has disgraced the sovereignty of India & it is a ‘major foreign policy setback”

– Narendra Modi

“Congress and the UPA government are using the issues of psuedo-secularism and communalism to divert attention from their crimes of black money and corruption.”

– Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi

Letters to the Editor...



Politics of Congress behind defaming Ramdev

Dear editor,

Can a *sanyasi* by running dispensaries, manufacturing drugs and by imparting yoga to the people not do the social service? I want to ask if the UPA govt. can show the same courage, as it showed in the case of Baba Ramdev, of setting the CBI like agencies after the missionaries and their so many fathers to investigate their source of money being used in running so many hospitals, schools and such other social projects.

Everybody has right to be healthy through yoga and Aurvedic medicines- they too who are well-off and want to have them through special facilities. Therefore, what is unethical to meet out the expenses of *shivir* from the money obtained from such class of people? Missions of late Maharshi Mahesh Yogi, Satya Sai baba and such other are running so many schools where education is being imparted through capitation fees. Should the integrity of such missions be questioned only because they impart the education by getting the fees? Building the wealth and utilizing it in the welfare of people at large is no sin. But, acquiring the wealth through corrupt means and misusing it for the wrong purposes, solely for the personal luxuries is a sin. Actually UPA has no other way of saving its face on the issue of corruption and the police crackdown at its behest on peaceful demonstrators at Ramleela ground , Congress has stooped to the level that it's framing mindless charges on Ramdev one after another.

Were the parliament be the only one to look after all the affairs of the country, were it be the one to seriously fulfill its responsibility, and were the politician be the only ones to know how to run the country in the interest of the people then there would have been no need of revolutions the different parts of world witnessed so far in the history.

At the one hand the government displayed by unleashing the brute force against peaceful *satyagrahis*, traitors like Gilani and Arundhati Roy organized an anti-national seminar in Delhi with impunity on the other hand. By maligning and pouring venom on nationalist forces Congress is actually indulging in serving twin purposes together at one go.

**Rajesh Pathak
Bhopal, (M.P)**



Write to us
The Editor,

We welcome
Your views & Suggestions

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Ground level expansion of organizational work is the first requirement

Editorial...

Along with the preparation for 2014 Lok Sabha election the Bharatiya Janata Party will have to focus its energy not only on the ideological but also on the organizational expansion of the party. If BJP goes to the people like any other political party then people may show reluctance in accepting it. People don't want to see BJP as a copy of Congress. Congress is a *majboori*, not *majbooti* for the people. BJP is the strength of the nation; it is not its *majboori*. BJP will have to plan for the expansion of its organizational base in States like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam, Kerala along with Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Delhi, Rajasthan, Goa, Haryana and strengthen itself in Punjab, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand. Wherever BJP is strong, it will have to become effective. The BJP leadership should devise some concrete strategy in this direction. I also believe that BJP might be in the process of making such a strategy.

The grassroot level, active and hardworking *Karyakartas* who work continuously on ground will have to be given preference over the high flying leaders. The party needs leaders who wage struggle for the problems of the people more than the leaders who engage themselves only in giving media statements and advice to the party. We definitely need statements on corruption and price rise but we also want team of *Karyakartas* who can take the fight to logical ends. The country expects BJP to give a decisive fight. The country never hopes BJP to lead a movement only in media or resort to *satyagraha* but the people expect BJP to start a movement akin to the one started by Jayprakash Narayan.

We are today witness to a situation wherein not only the condition of the country is worsening but the nation has also passed into wrong hands. India has gone into the hands with doubtful intentions for the first time and it appears to be insecure. India had never seen such time. The government might be in power technically but the Congress led UPA government is the first government in the history of independent India which has not yet fallen from the chair but has continuously fallen in the eyes of the people for last one year. One who falls from the chair may be restored but one falling in the eyes of the people cannot be redeemed to its earlier position. The borders are insecure. The life of the common men is unsafe. Our foreign policy is in dangerous array. The constitution is not safe. The future of constitutional institutions is not secure. There is a question mark on the importance of parliament. The public anger is at its peak. The law and order is in shambles. The morale of the security forces is down. The youth who are future of the country are themselves facing dark future. The relations with neighbouring countries are deteriorating. The country is nowhere safe and secure. The administration has collapsed. Corruption and price rise are the main news in print and electronic media for last one year. Along with the farmers' suicides, no one can ignore the growing trend of suicides by people who have lost hopes in their lives.

The country is waiting for a strong leadership. BJP has the capacity to deliver. The country has expectations from BJP. The BJP will have to pay attention to the expansion of its organizational works. How the organization should expand. How it becomes acceptable in every section of the society. If BJP is the hope of the

country then BJP will have to think seriously over its modes and methodologies. In every State, under a well thought strategy a team of committed, mature and patriotic *Karyakartas* will have to be activated. This team will have to be sent out to work among the masses. A dialogue with the people with struggle and coordination will have to be established with a passion of reaching every person. BJP cannot escape from its responsibilities because it has to come up to the aspirations of the people. The BJP will have to appeal to the people in the same way in which Gandhiji had appealed to the nation to fight the Britishers. BJP will have to place before the youth a roadmap of struggle. The country is now fed up and it wants to get rid of the Congress and its UPA. It now only needs a committed alternative. And, only BJP can provide an alternative which is committed to the nation. BJP can do it. Before BJP, it was done by Jansangh. The second freedom struggle was fought by the then Jansangh leadership through revolutionary actions. The then Jansangh leaders were not afraid of the Jail of Indira Gandhi. They embraced death but never surrendered. Even today the BJP leadership and *Karyakartas* can embrace death for *Maa Bharati* but for this effective strategy and those who can act on it are needed. We have complete faith that BJP will definitely come forward to complete this divine mission. ■

MP BJP Minority Morcha felicitates Shivraj



Madhya Prasad BJP Minority Morcha felicitated Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in a function that was organised at Iqbal ground in Bhopal for serving the interest of minorities in the State.

Speaking at the function Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan reiterated his government's commitment to implement schemes for the welfare of the Muslim community in the State. He said that the number of students from the Muslim community who got scholarship had gone up from 10,000 to 81,000. Shri Chouhan expressed the hope that this number would go up to one lakh next year and added that separate hostels for Muslim girls will be constructed in all the districts of the State.

He said that three persons from the Muslim community who serve it well would be honoured with prizes of Rs one lakh each year and added that encroachment on Waqf Board properties would be removed.

Shri Chouhan said that the Congress always divided Hindus and Muslims whereas the BJP considers them as two hands of the Bharat Mata. Taking a dig at Congress Party, he added, Congress can't escape from responsibility if today minority is illiterate, poor and backward. Hindu-Muslim unity can make history.

Addressing the gathering of activists from minority community, BJP Spokesperson and Lok Sabha MP Shri Shahnawaz Hussain said, after independence of our country, Congress party instigated minorityism and created religious rift. Shri Hussain added, "In Madhya Pradesh Muslims are not only secure but they are also getting benefited from government policy and plans. Shri Chouhan rules the heart of minority." Further, he said, before felicitation of Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, I have seen such great felicitation of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the Iqbal ground.

Addressing the activists, BJP state President Shri Prabhat Jha MP alleged that Congress always used minorities as vote banks to fulfill its politically vested interest. He said that 82 Muslims, including 36 Muslim women, were elected on the BJP symbol in the recent elections to 268 urban bodies. On the occasion an exhibition of plans and policies of the State government, which are being run for benefit of minority, was also organised. MP BJP Minority Morcha President Hidayatullah Sheikh also addressed the activists who had gathered from across the State.(FOC) ■

Chidambaram should be removed from Cabinet : MM Joshi

Former BJP President and Public Accounts Committee Chairman Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi on June 18 launched a full-spectrum attack on the Congress led UPA government and specifically on Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram. He demanded that P. Chidambaram be removed from the Cabinet for his alleged role not only in the 2G spectrum allocation case but also in the latest scandal related to gas in which the CAG has alleged that undue favours were shown to Reliance Industries Limited in its Krishna Godavari basin gas operations.

Dr. Joshi cited the draft report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General to demand that the government hold an inquiry into the "unprecedented leak," adding that the leak could not have been made from the CAG office, and that the Petroleum Ministry must be guilty. It was a matter of privilege; he said but did not clarify whether he intended to take it up as a privilege issue. Since the issue was now in the public domain, the PAC would be free to take up the matter even before the CAG completed its report and submitted it to Parliament, he said. Any member of the PAC can raise the issue at the next meeting, which would be held later this month he said.

Dr. Joshi said the Ministry needed to tell the people how long it intended to take before responding to the CAG's draft report. "Why is this delay?"

Dr. Joshi asked the Government, "Why did you allow this loot? Is the Government going to return the money to consumers who paid extra just because a private company had to make profit? Who were the Finance and Petroleum Ministers then? Under whose pressure did the eGoM clear a hike in gas prices? Under what pressure did the eGoM take this decision?"

He wondered why Mr. Chidambaram, who was Finance Minister at the time and a member of the Group of Ministers, had agreed to allow private gas companies to increase the price of gas to \$4.20 per British thermal unit against the earlier ONGC selling price of \$1.80. The decision to raise the price had benefited the private companies and led to a huge loss to the exchequer. What was the formula for determining the price of petroleum products, he asked. Mr. Chidambaram had not protected government revenues, he had bungled the list of the most wanted men sent to Pakistan and now there was also a question mark on his election to the Lok Sabha. "I demand that he be removed from the Cabinet," he said.

Criticizing Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, Dr. Joshi said, "As always, the Prime Minister keeps all such issues at arm's length." (FOC) ■



**The loot of national
asset continues
under Congress rule;
New Gas scam puts
Govt. in dock**

The CAG exposé of the murky wheeling-dealing behind the Krishna-Godavari Basin gas contract with Reliance Industries has put the UPA regime at the Centre in more trouble. The CAG has alleged that undue favours were shown by the concerned ministries of Congress led UPA government to Reliance Industries Limited in its Krishna-Godavari basin gas operations. The BJP asked the Congress Government to explain to the nation who benefited from Krishna-Godavari Basin gas contracts with Reliance, the deal in which the Oil Ministry's role has invited strong indictment from the CAG in its draft report.

Baba Ramdev breaks fast, vows to continue campaign against corruption

Yoga guru Baba Ramdev on June 12 broke his nine-day-old fast against corruption after appeals of spiritual, religious and political leaders but vowed to continue his campaign against corruption. On June 11 spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravishankar, met Baba Ramdev and appealed to him to end his fast. Next day again he met the yoga exponent for the third day at the Dehradun hospital to persuade him to give up his fast. Sri Sri Ravishankar informed the media that, "Ramdev has broken his fast by taking juice." BJP welcomed Baba Ramdev's decision to end the fast



PM, Sonia even didn't visit those injured : Sushma Swaraj

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited Baba Ramdev at his ashram in Uttarakhand and appealed to him to end his fast. She said "Corruption and black money have been a problem for the nation for a while. But what happened at Ramlila Maidan to the Baba's camp has become a whole new issue. When the government wanted to negotiate with the Baba, they sent four ministers. When they turned against him, they sent hundreds



of policemen.

She said I am surprised that the Prime Minister said of Ramlila Maidan that, What happened was unfortunate but there was no alternative. It was unavoidable. I want to ask him why neither Sonia Gandhi nor he have visited those

injured. His ministers said nobody was injured. I met 35 people in hospital of whom 4 were in critical condition. One, Rajbala, will remain paralyzed for life."

BJP demands compensation for Ramlila Maidan victims

Accusing the UPA Government and the Congress leadership of ordering the brutal crackdown on "satyagrahis" at Ramlila Maidan, the Delhi BJP demanded a judicial probe into the incident, compensation of Rs 5 lakh each to the seriously injured and registration of cases against police officers who used excessive force on the non-violent protesters.

Delhi BJP president Shri Vijender Gupta charged that Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram, Communications Minister Kapil Sibal and Congress General Secretary Digvijay Singh were

responsible for the "inhuman" manner in which the police beat up and brutalised the peaceful satyagrahis on the intervening night of June 3 and 4.

"The hands and legs of a large number of protesters were broken in the police cane charge and people were chased, surrounded and beaten mercilessly by the cops," Shri Gupta said, adding that many of the injured were women and the elderly. He demanded that the police personnel who led or ordered the action as also those who carried it out be identified, prosecuted and punished.

Despite nine days having

passed since the incident, Shri Gupta said no compensation has been ordered to the victims. Also, he said, no proper enquiry has been ordered into the incident. "A woman from Gurgaon, Raj Bala, who has been paralysed due to police lathicharge is still fighting for her life. Hundreds of other injured persons were driven out of hospitals without proper treatment," he said.

Stating that the police are in possession of over 40 CDs of CCTV footage related to the incident, Shri Gupta said this should be put before the Supreme Court, which has taken cognizance of the incident. ■

Gadkari inaugurates Nirmal Gangotri mega tourism circuit scheme in Uttarakhand

From Our Correspondent

BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari and Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank after performing puja on reaching *Gangotri Dham* inaugurated the Nirmal Gangotri Mega Tourism Circuit Scheme at Gangotri as well as laid the foundation-stone for extension of UREDA works. Apart from this, they participated at the Sparsh Ganga Campaign programme on June 17.

On the second day the BJP National President and the CM performed Ganga-pooja and visited the Gangotri temple for *darshan*. In addition to having an idea of

various systems at Gangotri *Dham*, they also interacted with common people.

Addressing a huge gathering for the Sparsh Ganga Campaign programme at Gangotri, Shri Nitin Gadkari said that Uttarakhand was blessed with celestial natural beauty and it had always been a centre of our religious faith and cultural heritage. "We have to pay attention towards conservation and enhancement of this cultural heritage", he added.

Shri Gadkari appealed to all the people to play active role in July 1-15, 2011 ○ 9

Ganga-conservation and making it pollution free. He said Ganga is not only our religious and cultural heritage, but also a supporter of lives.

He further said that a concrete action plan needed to be chalked out with a view to giving new dimensions to tourism and pilgrimage in Uttarakhand. Emphasizing on the need for maintaining

through Sparsh Ganga Campaign. About 1.60 lakh youth had already joined Sparsh Ganga Campaign. He said the *Chardham Yatra* was a means of uniting the whole country and said the BJP Government had launched many schemes for ensuring that the sanctity and grandeur of the Chardham remained intact.

Shri Nishank said the Nirmal Gangotri Mega Tourism Circuit Scheme was prepared for Gangotri. Under the scheme, various facilities would be developed up to Harshil besides Gangotri Dham. The State Government wanted to



organise *Chardham Yatra* on the lines of the Vaishno Devi Yatra, and under that system, a better shape could be given to the Yatra at the same time keeping the rights and traditions of the local Panda-Purohit priests safe. He directed the Principal Secretary Tourism, the Commissioner and the DM to have necessary consultation with the Panda-Purohit priests in this connection.

On this occasion, Shri Nishank said that a new initiative of making Ganga pollution-free from Gangotri to Gangasagar was launched

sanitation at pilgrim sites, he said that we had to adopt pollution-free development. Local populace and the private sector must have more and more participation in the developmental activities. He appealed to all the people to adopt good governance with a view to making a fear free and terror free society and a prosperous India.

All the Ministers, MLAs, officers in large number and common people in thousands were present on the occasion. ■

Crackdown on Ramdev's agitation reminded of Emergency days : Advani

From Our Correspondent



BJP Parliamentary Party Chairman and former Deputy Prime Minister Shri LK Advani formally inaugurated the first School of Drama in Madhya Pradesh, at a function in Bhopal on June 17. Adding yet another feather in its already embellished cap in the field of art and culture, the State capital would now boast of another centre of art in the form of country's first State level Dance School (*Natya Vidyalaya*). The main objective of the Drama School is to impart systematic education of traditional classical and modern theatre, training, teaching state-of-the-art performance techniques besides providing guidance in compilation, survey, documentation, museum, library-related works, and putting the students in touch with great theatre personalities. A documentation centre would be established for performable and non-performable past and future akhadas, martial arts,

ancient indigenous games. The school would also have a library of traditional and modern texts. Audio-visual material about classical drama and dramas related to agriculture and forest dwellers (folk type, drama type or Margi and Deshi) would be developed.

Addressing at a function organised at Ravindra Bhawan Shri Advani appreciated the works done by the BJP government in Madhya Pradesh and told the Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan that the need of hour was to introduce a bigger cultural auditorium similar to Ravindra Bhawan. He expressed happiness that maximum students in the first batch of the dance school are from Bhopal and Bihar.

Shri Advani also criticised the Congress led Union Government saying the crackdown on Baba Ramdev's agitation at Ramlila Ground reminded him of the Emergency days in 1975. "The action taken



by the Centre earlier this month on Baba Ramdev's agitation at Ramlila Ground reminded us of the days of Emergency, which was imposed in the country on June 25, 1975," he said while terming the police crackdown totally wrong.

On the issue of corruption, including the 2G spectrum scam, he said that BJP would take a tough stand on these issues in the coming Parliament session and will demand a detailed discussion on it. He alleged that the Government was not doing much against corruption and even in the case of 2G scam; it was the Supreme Court, which took a tough stand and not the Centre. He demanded a clarification from the Government on the Lokpal bill issue and said that the Government should come out with a bill as early as possible, so that, a detailed discussion can take place on it. Over the draft of Lokpal Bill, Shri Advani said that being a parliamentarian he would give his views on it once it is tabled in Parliament. Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan lauded the efforts of Culture Minister Laxmikant Sharma for his contribution in the field for the past five years.

As many as 25 students from different parts of the country who have already received admission in the school presented 'Nandi Path' on the occasion. ■

BJP to take anti-corruption campaign from *Sansad* to *Sadak* : Rajnath

From Our Correspondent

Nilagiri (Balasore) Rally

Former BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh on June 12 slammed both the Congress led UPA government at the Centre and the BJD Government in Odisha for their 'anti-farmer' policies. He said both the governments had cheated the people and deprived them of their rights after coming to power.

Shri Rajnath Singh was speaking at BJP's *Bhrastachar Hatao Abhiyan* (anti-corruption campaign) at Nilagiri in Balasore district. He condemned the crackdown on Baba Ramdev and thousands of people who were on a peaceful strike against corruption in Delhi.

He said the BJP would protest against the wanton attack on people's democratic rights and to reaffirm the commitment of bringing back the money stashed in foreign banks. He said, "Most of the political outfits want the black money to be brought back to the nation. But the Congress led UPA Government never takes any effective action even as skeletons continue to tumble from its own cupboard. That is the reason they do not want implementation of a well-drafted Lokpal bill," he said.

Shri Singh said if the black money could be brought back, people of the country would get their share of Rs. 1,80,000 each. The BJP will take this campaign from *Sansad* to *Sadak*, he said, adding that the party will not join Anna Hazare or Ramdev for the purpose.

Criticizing Naveen Patnaik led BJD Government the former BJP National President said the audio CD on the deal during the last Rajya Sabha election had exposed the real face of the so-called 'transparent and clean' government. "I demand immediate sacking of ministers involved in the horse trading and criminal proceedings against them," he said. Shri Singh criticised the State Government for forcibly acquiring land from the farmers and providing water to industries

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instead of adopting schemes for the growth of farmers and agricultural sector. He urged the people to defeat the corrupt and dishonest governments both at the Centre and the State in the next election.

Keonjhar Rally

Addressing another *Bhrastachar Hatao Abhiyan* (anti-corruption campaign) public Rally at Keonjhar, Shri Rajnath Singh said BJP was the only party trying to root out corruption from the country.

He said the BJD Government in Odisha and the Congress-led UPA Government at the Centre have crossed all limits of corruption and the public is fed up with them. He said the BJP has launched a campaign against corruption and for safeguarding the interests of common people in the State.

Alleging that the Odisha State Government is supplying water to industries instead of helping farmers, he said it was the farmers who had rights over the water sources of the country.

On these occasions BJP state president Shri Jual Oram said the Naveen Patnaik Government is ignoring the interests of common villagers while forcefully acquiring land for POSCO and other

industrial companies. He demanded Naveen Patnaik's resignation for his Government's involvement in the MNREGA, Mining, Midday Meal and many other scams.

Rajnath demands White Paper on black money

Accusing UPA government of being "selective and evasive" on corruption, BJP former national president in Bhubaneswar on June 12 demanded a White Paper on black money detailing the Centre's action plan for asset recovery from abroad and a special session of Parliament to discuss the issue.

Interacting with media persons he said, "BJP wants Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to share the details of his government's action plan for asset recovery from foreign countries through a White Paper on black money".

He said if the government is serious in its intent and commitment it should convene a special session of Parliament soon after the monsoon session to discuss and formulate a national policy against black money and corruption which would serve as a guideline, the former Union minister said.

Maintaining that yoga Guru Ramdev and social activist Anna Hazare have raised legitimate issues on corruption, he said Congress-led UPA government' stance on black money seems to be selective. On one hand the government seems to be hesitant in taking concrete action on black money as it could embarrass the Congress, on the other hand it cracks down on followers of social activists like Baba Ramdev who were peacefully demanding retrieval of black money, he said.

Shri Singh clarified that overwhelming response to anti-corruption agitations by Anna Hazare and Ramdev was not due to failure of national opposition political parties in raising the issue. BJP has been raising the issue in all fora including Parliament, he said.

Price rise

Holding Congress government responsible for soaring inflation, he asked it to explain steps initiated to contain it and form a National Price Stabilisation Fund to neutralise price rise. There should be an effective mechanism to control price rise. The Centre needs to constitute a National Price Stabilisation Fund or formulate a Price Stabilisation Policy to neutralise price rise, Shri Singh said.

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The former BJP national president further said, "The Centre should also explain what steps it has initiated to neutralise and lessen price rise as it claims to have identified the reasons behind skyrocketing prices of commodities".

Dubbing the UPA government as a failure on economic front, Shri Singh said the recent hike in petrol prices had dealt a body blow to common people as the prices were raised for seventh time in past 13 months.

The government claims that the hike in crude price in international market had led to rise in petrol price; he said adding even after that the price of petrol in India should not have exceeded Rs 45 per litre.

Despite fluctuation in oil price in international market, petrol is still being sold in neighboring China and Pakistan at much lower rates than in India, he said.

He added, "It gives a clear indication that the UPA government is worried about the profit of petroleum companies, but it has shown no concern for the common people of the country". ■



Rajnath writes to PM over China diverting Brahmaputra flow

Expressing concern over reports of flow of Brahmaputra River being diverted by China, former BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh in Indore (MP) demanded that India should enter into an agreement with the neighbouring country on the issue.

Shri Singh said reporters that, "I have written a letter to the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the wake of reports of flow of Brahmaputra river being diverted by China and demanded to take appropriate steps in the matter. Nine dams were constructed and if the course of the river is diverted, it may inundate India's north-eastern states".

He said, "Union Government should handle the issue diplomatically and ink an agreement with China over the Brahmaputra River in the same manner it had entered into a pact with Pakistan on the Sindhu River". ■

Nitin Gadkari's letter to Maharashtra CM

Dey's murder case should be handed over to CBI : Gadkari



In a shocking incident the Mid Day's crime editor Jyotirmoy Dey was brutally murdered by four motorcycle borne assailants in broad daylight near his residence in Powai, Mumbai on June 11. Outraged by the incident, journalists across the country organised protest marches to raise the issue of safety of reporters and the journalists in Mumbai demanded a CBI probe into the murder. Suspecting oil mafia's hand behind the murder, the protesting journalists marched to Mantralaya and asked the Congress led Maharashtra state government to appoint CBI in the investigation to expose oil mafia. BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari has also written a letter to Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Prithviraj Chavan, expressing concern over the slow pace

of investigations about the ghastly murder of Jyotirmoy Dey and demands to handing over the investigations to CBI But the Chief Minister bluntly rejected their proposal to accept that. Following is the text of the letter.

June 15, 2011

To
Shri Prithviraj Chavan
Chief Minister, Maharashtra,
Mantralay, Mumbai

Subject: - Inquiry into the Murder of senior journalist Jyotirmoy Dey

Dear Prithviraj ji,

This is to express my deep concern over the fact that the investigations into the ghastly murder of senior journalist Late Shri J. Dey have made no headway even after five days.

Late Shri Dey was well known for his unimpeachable track record as a crime reporter. He had an unflinching commitment to the cause of fearless and objective reporting. All through his career, he strived for setting higher standards in journalism in multiple ways. Those who have murdered him have posed a serious challenge before some of the cardinal principles of democracy including the freedom of expression. I personally as well as all in the BJP join our media fraternity express our solidarity with the journalist friends who are all very understandably worried about this situation.



I also express my deep concern over all those very serious issues concerning the law and order

situation, this murder has brought to the fore. I believe that the State Government has taken this incident very seriously. I would request you to look into the possibility of the involvement of some of the underworld dons, from here as well as from abroad; in this heinous crime. As I understand, this incident also signals the joining of hands of criminal elements and the terrorist tendencies. I express my deep concern about this and request you to take immediate steps to book the perpetrators of this crime and thereby create confidence in the minds of media-persons in particular and the people in general.

Let me also point out here that allegation of the involvement of some police officials in this case have already appeared in the media. Also, several associations of journalists have already demanded that the investigations be handed over to an agency other than the State Police. Considering the fact that the government has already transferred a police official whose involvement is alleged, it is essential that the investigations be carried out in an unbiased manner and in a credible way.

It is therefore we officially support the demand that this case be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

I hope that by standing behind our courageous media-persons, the State Government will continue to strengthen the legacy of fearless journalism in our country.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely,
Nitin Gadkari



Thousands participate in BJP Kisan Bachao Yatra in UP

After successful completion of *kisan bachao yatra* BJP plans more *yatras*

The Bharatiya Janata Party has planned more kisan yatras in July-August to build upon the success of the Agra to Noida "*kisan bachao yatra*", which ended with a kisan panchayat in Bhatta-Parsaul on June 11.

Addressing a press conference in Lucknow on June 12, the BJP Vice-President and UP's election in-charge, Shri Kalraj Mishra said farmers' meeting would be held in Katesar, Karchana and Bundelkhand during the course of the *kisan yatras* in July. He added that party leaders will also meet farmers of other areas where agitation has been launched against the land acquisition policy of the Mayawati government.

Shri Mishra who led the *kisan bachao yatra* along the Yamuna Expressway route from Agra to Noida demanded a judicial probe by a sitting judge into the Bhatta-Parsaul violence of 7 May. The BJP leader slammed the state government for its insensitiveness towards the plight of the farmers and said that thousands of villagers of Bhatta and Parsaul were still missing.

BJP released a report on the atrocities committed on the Bhatta-Parsaul farmers said that the police had let loose a reign of terror in the villages and the people were not allowed to move out for getting food items from outside. Stating that 22 persons were still in jail. Shri Mishra said the BJP had offered them legal help for securing bail.

He accused the Mayawati government of acquiring land without the consent of the farmers. He alleged that land after being acquired at a less cost from the farmers was sold to the private builders at a much high price.(FOC) ■

Was Tahawwur Hussain Rana Acquittal in 26/11 Mumbai attack in Chicago Trial – A Part of the Deal : Ravi Shankar Prasad

The acquittal of Tahawwur Rana by a US court is yet another example of insensitivity and indifference that India faces from the international community and more particularly when the issue is related to terrorism on Indian soil. Rana who is said to be involved in 26/11 Mumbai attack and has proven links with Lashkar-e-Taiba now stands acquitted by a Chicago court. Lack of initiative and negligence on the part of Indian Government has led to the acquittal of Tahawwur Hussain Rana in 26/11 Mumbai attack in Chicago trial. BJP has lambasted the Congress led UPA for not taking the investigation seriously. The BJP chief spokesperson and National General Secretary Shri Ravishankar Prasad while criticizing the UPA government demanded that the government must take vigilant steps for conviction of the terrorists in the Mumbai terror attack and pursue the cases related to terrorism to their logical conclusion. We are publishing the text of the press statement of Shri Ravishankar Prasad issued on 10 June 2011 hereunder:



On 10th June 2011 morning the TV media has given news of the verdict in the jury trial in Chicago Court about the various terror related crime of Tahawwur Hussain Rana including his close association and working in conspiracy with Laskar-e-Taiba (LeT) as also his involvement in the 26/11 Mumbai attack. It appears that as per the verdict he has been held guilty of conspiring with LeT as also being involved in a major terrorist attack in Denmark. However, he has been acquitted as far as the massive 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attack is concerned in which hundreds of innocent Indians and foreigners were massacred by terrorist who had come from Pakistan. In the same trial with the aid of plea-bargain David Headley had elaborately testified about the involvement of senior ISI officials

in the planning, training and logistic support for the terrorist to execute this attack. We also learnt that even the Pakistani Navy gave training to the terrorists.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was the prosecutor in this case in the USA Court. It seems rather curious and odd that though Tahawwur Rana has been found guilty of conspiracy with the LeT (an internationally banned terrorist organisation) and involved in the terrorist attack in Denmark and but acquitted in 26/11. Was all the prosecution evidence properly presented before the Court by the FBI? Since it was a crucial trial did the Government of India ensure that the US prosecution agencies pursue it properly?

The country is certainly entitled to know whether the acquittal of Tahawwur Hussain

Rana was the part of a deal between FBI and the ISI of Pakistan. This question is very critical because ISI was clearly in the dock. Surely, the entire operation would not have been executed under the overall command of Major Iqbal of the ISI only. He and other officials of the Navy who provided logistic training to the LeT and others who actually committed the attack must have been doing so at the command of very senior authorities in ISI and also in the military establishment in the Pakistan. All this would have been exposed and the ISI would have suffered serious embarrassment. Naturally, there is a serious suspicion as also apprehension. Recently the US administration gave a clean chit to the Pakistani leadership in shielding Osama-bin Laden in Pakistan. We demand that the Government of India must

Dr. Mookerjee- A fearless Nationalist

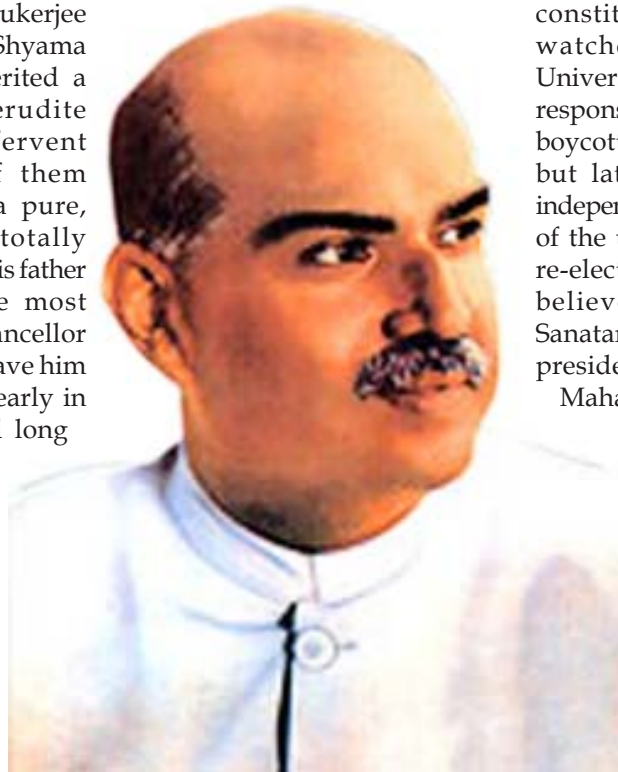
By V. Sundaram

Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee (1901-1953) was a great scholar, an ardent Hindu nationalist and an outspoken Parliamentarian. He was born on 6 July, 1901 in a family of very high social standing in Bengal. From his parents Sri Asutosh Mukerjee and Jogmaya Devi, Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee inherited a splendid saga of erudite scholarship and fervent nationalism. Both of them inspired him to live a pure, dedicated, selfless, totally fearless and manly life. His father who was perhaps the most distinguished Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University gave him the following message early in his life: "To have lived long does not necessarily imply the gathering of much wisdom and experience. A man who has pedalled 25,000 miles on a stationary bicycle has not circled the globe. He has only garnered weariness". No wonder Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee

packed into his short life of 52 years unsurpassed exertions and unremitting toil of several lives.

Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee had a brilliant academic record in Calcutta University, taking his Honours Degree in English and securing the first position in the first class from the Presidency College in 1921. He also took his MA degree in Indian vernaculars. In 1924

he took his B L degree from Calcutta University again topping the list. He went to England to pursue further legal studies and was called to the Bar in 1927 from Lincoln's Inn. Though he was fully qualified for it, he never



practiced law as a profession. He became the youngest Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University in 1934 at the age of 33 and continued in that position till 1938. Calcutta University conferred on him D Litt and Benares Hindu University honoured him with LLD in 1938.

Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee's political career was marked by his deathless

commitment to his ideals of burning patriotism and selfless service. His political career began in 1929 when he became a member of the Bengal Legislative Council.

He was elected as a Congress candidate from the university constituency. He acted as a watchdog for the Calcutta University in the Council. But in response to the Congress call for boycott of Council, he resigned, but later re-entered it as an independent member for the sake of the university when he was re-elected in 1937. As a firm believer in Hindutva and Sanatana Dharma, he became president of All India Hindu Mahasabha in 1939. That did

not come in the way of his becoming the Finance Minister of Bengal in 1941 in the hectic days of the II World War. Even while remaining in the government, he actively opposed the British government when the leading Congress leaders were arrested

after the Quit India Resolution was passed in Bombay on 9 August, 1942. When his views on the patriotism of the Congress leaders went unheeded, he resigned from the Ministry as a protest against the British policy of oppression and suppression of civil liberties in India.

The great Bengal famine of 1943, generally referred to as *Panchasher Manvantar* by the

Bengalis (the famine of fifty, ie the Bengal year 1350), was a great calamity. During the period 1943-46, 38 lakhs of people died as a result of the famine and the epidemic diseases that accompanied it. When this issue came up for debate in the Bengal Legislative Assembly, Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee indicted both the Food Minister of Bengal HS Suharawardy and his business friend Ispahani in these words: "In the name of the starving millions of Bengal I condemn you. On behalf of the helpless families of rural Bengal who have lost their breadwinners, champions and protectors I condemn you. Bengal has not seen greater acts of official crime in its long history".

Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee covered himself with glory by his Himalayan relief efforts during the deathly days of Bengal famine. Government of Bengal appointed an apex relief organisation called Relief Coordination Committee with Badridas Goenka as president and Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee as vice-president. Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee saw to it that 5000 relief kitchens were opened in Bengal for catering to the needs of famine-stricken people. He rose above narrow party alignments and in the process emerged as the most shining symbol of Bengali protest against the arrogance of British imperial authorities and the misdeeds of the Bengal government.

Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee was initially a strong opponent of the partition of India. But following the communal riots of 1946 organised by HS Suharawardy, July 1-15, 2011 ○ 17

Prime Minister of Bengal, Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee strongly advocated against Hindus living in a Muslim-dominated State government controlled by the Muslim League. He supported the partition of Bengal in 1946 in order to prevent the inclusion of the Hindu majority areas in a Muslim-dominated East Pakistan.

On the advice of Mahatma Gandhi, Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru inducted Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee in the interim Central government in New Delhi as a Minister for Industry and Supply. He came to be widely respected by many Indians and also by members of the Indian National Congress and Sardar Vallabhai Patel.

But on the issue of Nehru's 1949 Delhi Pact with Pakistan Prime Minister Liyakat Ali Khan, Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee resigned from the Central Cabinet on 6 April, 1950. He was firmly against Nehru's invitation to the Pakistani Prime Minister and their pact to establish Minority Commissions and guarantee minority rights in both countries. He wanted Nehru to hold Pakistan directly responsible for the terrible influx of millions of Hindu refugees from East Pakistan, who had left the State fearing religious suppression and violence aided by the State. Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee described Nehru's action as "abject Muslim appeasement", and was hailed as a great hero by the people of West Bengal.

On 21 October, 1951, after a long and detailed discussion with Sri Guruji Madhav Sadashiv Golwalkar, Leader of

Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, also strongly advocated a Uniform Civil Code for both Hindus and Muslims. He wanted a ban on cow slaughter. He pointed out the paramount political necessity of ending the special status of Muslim majority Jammu and Kashmir in the larger interest of India's integrity and national unity. Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee defined the contours of the Hindutva agenda which later became the wider political expression of India's Hindu majority in the 1990s. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, L K Advani and several other latter-day BJP stalwarts were inspired by the personality and example of Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee.

the RSS, Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee founded "Bharatiya Jan Sangh" (Indian People's Union) at Delhi and became its first president. Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, with his legal background, also strongly advocated a Uniform Civil Code for both Hindus and Muslims. He wanted a ban on cow

“I remember I saw a number of Congress leaders and especially Gandhiji and some of us begged of him to appreciate the real point of view whether it will be possible for the minorities to live in Pakistan, in view of the circumstances under which that new country was taking its birth. And we suggested a planned exchange of population and property at governmental level as part of the partition scheme. He was not willing to accept it because their view point was that what they were agreeing to was not a communal division of India, but a territorial division of India”.

Today we are having not only a communal division but also a territorial division of votebank politics in every State in India today.

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In the 1952 general elections to the Parliament of India, Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee and the BJS won 3 seats. When he was proceeding to Kashmir in 1953 in order to go on a hunger strike on reaching there to protest against the law prohibiting any Indian citizen from settling in that State (which was in their own country) and the need to carry I D cards, he was arrested on 11 May, 1953 while crossing the Jammu & Kashmir-India border.

Although the I D card rule was revoked on account of his efforts, he died as a political detenu on 23 May, 1953. Even before he had set out from Delhi, Sri Guruji Golwalkar had advised him not to go to Jammu & Kashmir and warned him about the possibility of his not returning back alive from Kashmir. Sri Guruji had also sent a letter to the same effect through a special messenger which failed to reach him on time. According to many well-informed people, he was politically assassinated with the full political blessings of Sheik Abdullah and Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru.

At a time when all the Congress leaders including Pundit Nehru found themselves in the mire of triple “secular” synchronisation, conceptual confusion, political

incompetence and human failure to deal with the Muslim problem in India, Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee spoke these prophetic words in his last speech in Parliament on 15 November, 1952:

“I remember I saw a number of Congress leaders and especially Gandhiji and some of us begged of him to appreciate the real point of view whether it will be possible for the minorities to live in Pakistan, in view of the circumstances under which that new country was taking its birth. And we suggested a planned exchange of population and property at governmental level as part of the partition scheme. He was not willing to accept it because their view point was that what they were agreeing to was not a communal division of India, but a territorial division of India”.

Today we are having not only a communal division but also a territorial division of votebank politics in every State in India today. In 1947 we were dealing with only one reasonable and responsible statesman like Jinnah.

Today we are constrained to deal with hundreds of self-proclaimed “Jinnahs” not knowing what they want and not allowing anybody else also to understand what they want. If only our countrymen had listened to the advice of Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee at that time, there would have been no problem whatsoever between Hindus and Muslims either in Pakistan or in India after 1947. ■

The Writer is a retired IAS and columnist.

Courtesy :

www.drshyamaprasadmookerjee.org

Our 2014 Mission is NDA government at Centre : Gadkari

“BJP has to spread its wings more extensively among the SCs, STs, dalit sections, OBCs and the unorganized sector so that by the time 2014 Lok Sabha elections are there, we are well ahead of our rivals to form a government at the Centre”, declared BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari.

On June 1 he was addressing the concluding session of two-day meet of the National Conveners and Co-conveners of all the BJP Cells convened by the Morcha/Cells National Coordinator Shri Mahendra Pandey at BJP headquarters at Ashok Road, New Delhi.

“My 2014-mission is to win more than 200 seats on our own” Shri Gadkari declared in his 45-minute *margdarshan*. “Further support to form a government at the Centre will flow on its own”, he added expressing his confidence.

BJP President called upon each one of the party workers to associate at least 10 persons who had so far never voted for BJP. “If we succeed in this endeavour”, he said, “Nobody can prevent us from forming the next government in Delhi”.

Stressing that Cells were an important part and parcel of BJP and that the party is taking their work very seriously, Shri Gadkari said the Cells should function as the engines that move the organization forward and not its compartments. BJP has to involve more and more people from every section of society, he added.

The Party, Shri Gadkari said, is

like a perennial stream which goes on swelling in size as it flows down its source taking more and more small streams along. The Party has to function like a flowing stream growing in size and strength as it marches forward, he added. He said organization, initiative and planning are the strength of any political party. Distribution of work and decentralization also play an important role in the evolution of a political organization. BJP has to reach out to 42 crore persons working in the unorganized sector, he advised.

The meeting commenced with the introductory remarks of Shri Mahendra Pande who issued a 7-page guidelines for the cell activities and introduced new conveners and co-conveners nominated since the last meeting.

Many Cells made audio-visual presentation of their activities.

Mrs. Najma Heptullah, BJP National Vice-President, made an audio-visual presentation educating

the Cells how they could inter-act with the Standing Committee in Parliament to highlight issues concerning the people. Shri Vinay Sahasrabudhe, member, BJP National Executive, delved on party’s expectations from the Cells and gave a few hints how to strengthen and expand Cell activities.

The Cells were divided into five groups in which they presented a report of their activities and future plans. Review reports on the group discussions were presented by BJP Spokesperson Shri Prakash Javadekar, Party Headquarters incharge Prof. O. P. Kohli, SC/ST Morcha prabhari Shri B. S. Mathur, Shri Vinay Sahasrabudhe and Shri Mohinder Pande.

In between, Shri Gajendra Solanki, Culture Cell Convener, regaled the gathering with recitation of some of his nationalist poems.

The two-day programme was compered by Shri Mohinder Pandey. (FOC) ■

Cells are organs of ideology : Ram Lal

The two-day meet on May 31 was inaugurated by the National General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Ram Lal. In his address he stressed the importance of Cells as organs of ideology who should be experts in their field. They should associate more and more people who may not necessarily be party members. The Cells should benefit from their knowledge and experience. The Cells need to work out ways and means to contribute to the strength of the party, its policy and serve the nation. A sense of change needs to be infused in the society and it is the duty of the Cells to achieve it through their activities in the social field too, he said.

Before conclusion of the meet General Secretary (Organisation) Shri Ram Lal conducted an inter-active session when he elaborated on certain points raised by various Cells. He also enumerated the Do's and Don'ts for the Cell activities.

What is Sonia Gandhi hiding?

By Rajender Puri

This is not the first time that the UPA chairperson has quietly gone abroad in a manner best described as being furtive. Why the secrecy? Why create the illusion in the public mind that she is in India when she is not, asks rajinder puri.

On Monday, Tamil Nadu chief minister Miss Jayalalithaa visited Delhi. She met her Delhi counterpart Mrs Sheila Dikshit. India's biggest TV channel blared: "Will Jaya also meet Sonia?" Was the channel unprofessionally ignorant or was it colluding with the exercise to hide the furtive movements of Mrs Sonia Gandhi? Earlier on the same day, there was a statement issued by Mrs Gandhi deploring the murder of a prominent journalist in Mumbai. Was all this being done to create the illusion in the public mind that Mrs Gandhi was in India while she was not? This is not the first time that Mrs Gandhi has silently gone abroad in a manner best described as being furtive. Why the secrecy? What is the purpose of Mrs Gandhi's undisclosed visits abroad?

An RTI applicant, Mr Ramesh Verma, had sought from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) details of the foreign visits of the Chairperson of the National Advisory Council (NAC) and Congress president Mrs Sonia Gandhi. The Central Information Commission (CIC) forwarded the application to the PMO. "It seems the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry July 1-15, 2011 ○ 20

had informed that the Central government had incurred no expenditure on the foreign visits Sonia Gandhi during the last 10 years," CIC commissioner Mr Satyananda Mishra has stated. The application to the PMO



was received on 26 February, 2010, transferred to the external affairs ministry on 16 March, 2010 and then forwarded to the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry on 26 March, 2010. However, it was not known by the Cabinet secretariat whether the RTI applicant had been provided with the information that was sought. The CIC commissioner criticised the PMO for its casual approach.

The PMO did not obtain the information from the appropriate ministry after the query was specifically directed to it.

Congress leaders are frothing at the mouth demanding total transparency from members of civil society. Probes have been launched against some of them. Should not the government display equal transparency pertaining to India's most powerful politician who is the chairperson of the ruling UPA coalition as well as the chairperson of the government's NAC? They need to answer the following questions:

Did Mrs Gandhi travel abroad on an airline or by a private jet? If the latter, whose jet was it?

What was the purpose of the foreign visit made by the Chairperson of the NAC and the UPA?

What is the itinerary of the NAC Chairperson? Which countries and cities did she, or will she, visit?

And while they are at it, our worthy Congress leaders may as well also address these ancient and perennial questions:

Why does not the government refute the allegation made by a former member of the

Gloom in India Inc, says survey

Two independent surveys - Economic Times-Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and ET-Synovate- according to news report published in The Economic Times, say that Congress led UPA can't take decisions and that is going to hurt economic growth. A little over three-fourths of corporate honchos surveyed at 75 companies by The Economic Times and industry body FICCI are unhappy with the way Manmohan Singh & Co are handling the country's political and economic situation. Some 80% say that forget path-breaking reforms, even the pace of routine decision-making has slowed. And 72% have that sinking feeling that this crisis in governance is going to hurt economic growth. A majority of those surveyed feel the situation is serious enough to affect their business and investment plans in some manner; and 15% expect their plans to take a major hit.

The gloom in India Inc (India in corporate) is corroborated by another survey of 43 CXOs done with Synovate, the majority of whom are unhappy with the current mode of governance and fear that it may derail the India growth story.

Clock is Ticking For UPA-II

An ET-Synovate survey of CXOs reveals India Inc's darkest fears: that decision-making is paralysed and economic growth could suffer. The only glimmer is that the government can redeem itself with a rally of reform in the three years it has left in power.

Is this governance crisis likely to hurt India's growth?

63% Yes
33% No
4% Don't know/cant say

Do you expect reforms in the remaining three years of this government's term

51% Yes
37% No
12% Don't know/cant say

Are the business houses also involved in corruption?

64% Yes
22% No
14% Don't know/cant say

Has this government (UPA) met legitimate demands of civil society?

44% Yes
47% No
9% Don't know/cant say

The government's performance on governance issues has been rated low by India Inc - handling of economic & political issues has been rated poor

The pace of routine decision making has come down, is the majority view

India Inc feels that governance crisis will hurt India's growth

Reforms will not be derailed is the dominant view

Handling of 2G scam crisis draws flak from India Inc

Corruption is rampant in the government and some business houses too have their fingers in the corruption pie

And the government is not meeting legitimate rights of civil society

"The more the number of hurdles and permissions the government imposes the more it facilitates the corruption process"

S P HINDUJA
chairman, Hinduja group

"Corruption is a problem with both the govt & business houses and any one else who wants to get undue favours by resorting to illegal means"

RAHUL BAJAJ
chairman, Bajaj Auto

"Currently what we see is more of reactions to situations and problems rather than policy decisions or action on the ground"

HARSH GOENKA
Chairman, RPG Enterprises

» Soviet government's official KGB Commission, confirmed by the official spokesman of the Russian government addressing the media, that the KGB had been donating funds to Mrs. Sonia Gandhi's family, including her mother, since 1971? Why does the government not demand an apology from the author of the allegation and failing its receipt launch a

defamation case against the author and the Russian government?

Why do the government and the Congress party not explain the purpose of the meeting between accused money launderer Hasan Ali and the political secretary of the Congress president, Mr Ahmed Patel, that was investigated and confirmed by Maharashtra

police?

The public awaits from Congress leaders Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Mr Digvijay Singh, Mr Kapil Sibal, Mr Chidambaram and the rest, answers to these questions. Transparency, like charity, should begin at home.

The writer is a veteran journalist and cartoonist ■

Courtesy : The Statesman

I have always been cynical about palmists, astrologers, etc. In politics quite a few hesitate to embark on a new project without having a clearance from the soothsayer they trust.

I have often recounted how on one occasion my own skepticism was rudely shaken.

Way back in the 1970's we had in our party (then Jana Sangh) National Executive a reputed professional astrologer, by name Dr. Vasant Kumar

been wondering if June 2011 also is going to become a similarly unforgettable month for us all.

In June 1975, two big events had occurred in quick succession.

On June 11, results of the elections to the Gujarat State Assembly were announced. Until that point of time Gujarat was an invincible citadel of the Congress (I). But the combined opposition under the guidance of Shri Morarji Bhai Desai smashed this citadel and swept the state assembly.

Vasant Kumar "Pandit ji, aapkey nakshatra aage ke liye kya bol rahe hain?" In early 1976, the Lok Sabha elections were due. My political assessment on the basis of Gujarat had made me optimistic about 1976. His reply dispelled the casualness from my query, and also all my optimism.

"Advaniji" he said, "frankly I don't understand. I feel intrigued by my own assessment." He added: "what I can read from the stars tells me



Pandit. He was based in Mumbai (then Bombay). He was a committed activist of the party who had courted arrest fourteen times including during the movement for Kashmir's total integration, and the struggle against the Emergency. He had risen in the party ranks first to become President of the Bombay City Jana Sangh and later of the Maharashtra Pradesh Jana Sangh.

Last week, there was a two day meeting of the BJP's National Executive at Lucknow. Party President Shri Gadkari asked me to deliver the Valedictory Address on June 4 evening. I began my speech with the remark that June 1975 would always remain an unforgettable month for Indian politics. And I have

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The following day's event was a virtual thunderbolt for the Congress. In an election petition filed against Smt. Indira Gandhi, Justice Jagmohan Lal Sinha of the Allahabad High Court struck down her election to the Lok Sabha from Rae Bareilly, and further barred her from contesting for six years on grounds of electoral corruption.

These two happenings naturally created a sense of euphoria in all non-Congress circles. Indeed it was in a very elated mood that our party executive whose meeting had been fixed immediately after the Gujarat Assembly polls counting, had assembled at Mount Abu on June 15, 16 and 17.

Relaxing after lunch on the second day I casually asked

that we are headed for a two-year exile."

Ten days later, on June 26, Emergency was announced by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

True to Vasant Kumar's forecast the Emergency did last twenty one months! It really became a two-year *vanavas*!

Before shifting in 2002 to my present residence on Prithviraj Road, I had been at C1/6, Pandara Park for 32 years (that is, from 1970 onwards, when I was first elected to Parliament). My immediate neighbours there (at C1/7) were the Tandon brothers; (one of whom Gopal Tandon was my Special Asst. when I was I & B Minister with Moraraji Bhai Desai and the other Bishan Tandon was a Jt. Secretary in the PMO with Smt.

Gandhi during the emergency period).

Bishan Tandon's PMO Diary is a revealing document which shows how the supersession of three senior most judges - Justice Hegde, Justice Shelat and Justice Grover was a planned operation essentially to ensure that Justice Hegde did not get elevated to the office of Chief Justice and instead Justice A.N. Ray secured that position. The P.M. was keen to ensure that her election petition even if it were accepted by the High Court could be thrown out by the apex court. This happened anyway because after the emergency, the amendments made in the Constitution and the law made the supersession superfluous.

After the two events of June 11-12, we in the opposition were expecting some crackdown like arrests etc. But frankly, none of us expected an unprecedented Emergency like this one - in which total censorship of the media, more rigorous than even in a war, censorship even of reportage of parliamentary debates, imprisonment of veterans like Loknayak Jaya Prakash, Morarjibhai Desai, Vajpayeeji, and Chandra Shekharji, incarceration of all important Opposition MPs and, of over one lakh opposition activists would take place.

On June 5th morning there was a wedding ceremony in Chennai whose invitation I had accepted. Venu Srinivasan's (TVS) daughter was to be married to the son of N.R. Narayan Murthy (Infosys). I reached Delhi on June 4 evening, and
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accompanied by my daughter Pratibha, arrived at Chennai around midnight.

A couple of hours later Pratibha woke me up, and asked me to switch on the TV, and have a glimpse of the brutal crackdown on the gathering of Baba Ramdev's followers at Ramlila Maidan - men, women and children - that was taking place. I switched on the TV and the scene was really horrible.

At a press conference convened by our local unit at 11.00 AM the next morning I said : Gen. Dyer's guns and bullets

Gen. Dyer's guns and bullets weren't there, but the cruelty on women and children on display easily reminded viewers of the Jalianwala Bagh outrage.

weren't there, but the cruelty on women and children on display easily reminded viewers of the Jalianwala Bagh outrage.

At my press conference I again drew a parallel between the latest events, and the happenings of 1975. Only a cornered government unable to defend its misdeeds before an angry populace and a desperate leadership can behave in this manner. I urged the President to have Government convene an emergent session of Parliament to consider three issues: the Series of Scams, the issue of getting back black money stashed abroad, and the crack down on a peaceful assemblage. I called this behaviour by the Police Authorities as Naked Fascism.

When Anna Hazare first raised the Lokpal issue he had been clubbed with the RSS. These days Baba Ramdev's movement is being dubbed an RSS

sponsored one. Let no one forget that even Jai Prakash Narayan had to hear similar noises when he was leading the anti-emergency movement.

I found an editorial of Hindu's Business Line very pertinent in this context. Captioned "Do people matter" the opening paragraph of the editorial says:

"Cracking under the relentless pressure from the Hazare - Ramdev campaigns over the last eight weeks, the Government is making one mistake after another as it desperately tries to divert public attention away from corruption. The main takeaway for the people is that this Government will go to any lengths to protect

the corrupt. The mistakes have been well-chronicled, but it is the ingenuous arguments that now stand out. One is that groups of well-meaning citizens cannot be allowed to hijack the legislative agenda; the other is that the RSS is behind the anti-corruption movement. Taking the second argument first, one must ask: even if it is true that the RSS is behind the movement, does that somehow make it illegitimate? Why is the Government trying to shift attention from corruption to the RSS? If RSS volunteers helped out in an earthquake or a flood, would that help be rejected by the Government? So the point is not who is doing it but what it is sought to be done. And this clearly makes the Government nervous to the extent that it is even using phrases from the Emergency days, such as "an attempt to de-stabilise the Government." ■

Development Vs displacement

Protection of farmers' interest a priority : Arun Jaitley

From Our Correspondent

Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley on June 7 asked BJP's Economic Cell to study various development wings of developed & developing economy for the purpose of land acquisition so as to formulate party's strategy for acquiring land for public purpose to ensure that oustees of land have no grievance.

Addressing a conclave on Development vs Displacement organized under aegis of BJP Economic Cell, Shri Jaitley emphasized that there is no substitute for development and also no substitute for land but farmers must be compensated in such a manner that their worries are over for good.

Shri Jaitley further said that a widespread debate has begun on land acquisition issue throughout the country after Singur & Nandigram episode and that farmer whose land is under acquisition cannot be befooled as is evident of recent Bhatta Persual agitation. The BJP is of the view that for any developmental projects non-cultivable land should be acquired as is the case in Gujrat and for essential projects land could be acquired with heavy compensation package by making farmers a permanent

equity holder in such projects.

The programme was organised by BJP Economic Cell under the leadership of Shri Gopal K Agarwal at Shri Sai Auditorium, New Delhi. Other speakers at this event were BJP National Spokesperson Shri Prakash Javadekar, Mr. P. S.

views.

Shri P. S. Vats from Bharatiya Kisan Sangh said that in our agriculture based country, development at the cost of inhuman land acquisition is grossly improper.

Shri N C Maheshwari national president of



Vats, Mr. N.C. Maheshwari, Mr. Subash Agarwal.

Mr. Subhash Agawal represented ASSOCHAM views on the issue.

In his key note address BJP national convener Shri Gopal Agarwal emphasized on corrective action in acquisition of real estate sector, and creation of regulatory authority. He also opined that social impact of land acquisition needs to be considered after consultation with all stakeholders and converging diverse

Association of National exchanges members of India focused on regulatory issues involved in land acquisition and regulatory authority for the sector.

Shri Prakash Javadekar MP suggested an understanding of people's mindset whose land is getting acquired. He said that benefits should be extended and profit should be shared. For this purpose government agencies should undertake confidence building measures before acquiring land. ■

BJP strongly condemns gang rape of minor girl in UP

Reacting on the gang rape and assassination of a minor girl by policemen in Lakhimpur, Uttar Pradesh BJP National Mahila Morcha President Smt. Smriti Irani on June 13 said it is yet another dreadful reminder of the increasing crime against women in one of India's most densely inhabited states. It is revolting that those who pledged to safeguard the constitutional rights of citizens have trampled the innocence of a child depriving her of life. She said what is deafening is the silence of the so called "saviour of the downtrodden" - Kumari Mayawati. A chief minister whose administration in the present day stands indicted of a soft approach towards criminals in uniform. Is a mere "suspension" sufficient to bring justice to a mother who seeks out answers as to why her child was hanged till death in a police station if not to conceal a horrifying gang rape? Why a post mortem instead of giving answers is giving rise to new questions?

Smt. Irani said what is equally inexcusable is the dual criterions applied by the representatives of the UPA. While the Minister of Women and Child Welfare spoke to news channels challenging the UP government, one reflects on her silence during the lathi charge on women and children at the Ramlila Grounds on the fearsome night of June 4th.

She further said the BJP *Mahila Morcha* strongly condemns the alleged vicious gang rape and passing away of the Minor girl in Lakhimpur thereby demanding that a full judicial inquiry be set up under the supervision of the Supreme Court and the perpetrators be given the strictest possible ruling for the heinous crime committed if found guilty.

Local BSP MLA behind Barabanki killings : Vinay Katiyar

Condemning the sacrificial murder of a five-year-old girl in a Barabanki village and the subsequent death of her murderer in police custody, BJP National Vice-President Shri Vinay Katiyar said the local BSP MLA Meeta Gautam is responsible for the incident.

Shri Katiyar, after visiting the Bhitokhar village in Barabanki alongwith with Mahila Morcha activists, announced that he would stage a day-long dharna in the hamlet where the incident took place. Shri Katiyar demanded that the victim's body be subjected to a second autopsy.

Addressing media persons at the party headquarters in state capital Lucknow he alleged that police stations had transformed into slaughter houses due to involvement of phenomenal cash in transfers and posting of police officers during Mayawati's regime.

He said once upon a time, the UP Police used to be the best in the country. But today, it has touched its nadir due to misuse and faulty handling by the BSP government and its mandarins.

He demanded that the police officers responsible for the death of the accused Tantrik be severely punished to set a precedent. About the incident, Shri Katiyar said that police not only failed to act promptly in recovering the kidnapped girl but also botched up the probe by arresting a kin of the victim — Gaya Prasad and claiming that he was a Tantrik who sacrificed the girl to please a dirty.

He said, "Interestingly, the dog squad sent from Lucknow entered a different house but the local police acted on its own and arrested Gaya Prasad and Anil Maurya, both of whom are close kin of the deceased". Shri Katiyar further alleged that Gaya Prasad was severely assaulted in the police lock-up which resulted in his death.

What is more, despite the kin's insistence, the police buried the bodies of the girl and Gaya Prasad instead of cremating them. Now the family members want fresh autopsies by doctors from Lucknow to ascertain the exact cause of death, as the role of local doctors was highly biased, Shri Katiyar said. (FOC) ■

NREGS and the fast disappearing artisan

By Nirmala Sitharaman

The design and execution of the much-touted National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) are likely to leave a lasting impact on some areas of our economy. Surely, the prototype version did not foresee that it would act as a catalyst for changes that otherwise required a strong political will, viz., mechanisation of agriculture.

Traditional skills, which for centuries, even in adverse circumstances, provided livelihood for millions of families, are being undervalued. For want of marketing skills resulting in poor sales, they may have bred underemployment, but unemployment and insecurity, they did not.

However, in the recent past, growing input costs and failure to realise sustainable price for their produce resulted in suicides among people with skills inherited over generations. AP weavers' demand

The NREGS is acting as a catalyst in an already calamitous situation among handloom workers in parts of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. A recent delegation of weavers from Andhra Pradesh demanded from the Prime Minister a NREGS exclusively for handloom weavers.

Joining the queue for NREGS

is the small number of Ona Villu makers in south Tamil Nadu. Essentially from the community of carpenters or the viswakarma, these are families which have for generations undertaken the service of preparing the bow of Sri Rama for the ancient Tiruvattaru temple.

Requiring three months of total dedication and

paltry wages for these artisans.

The two sons of a now deceased artisan, who made the villu in Tiruvattaru for more than four decades, have migrated to different villages, one joining the "employment guarantee" queue. The villu, however, are much sought after, less as prasadam and more as unique art pieces to adorn upmarket homes in the metros.

A thinking government, regional or central, would ensure sustainable wages for the 90-day penance, and for the rest of the year promote the artisan by linking up with craft bazaars held all over the country.

Handloom weavers producing yardage of sarees, dhotis or upholstery too prefer to dig canals and fill earth in them again! Ironically, the patolas and paitanis are possessions of pride for most women who can afford them! Men also do

make a fashion statement with their "Fabindia" kurtas.

Historically self sustaining communities with skills are now finding joining the unskilled list of dole seekers more assuring! Skills mastered over generations and self respect as job creators are virtues that no longer sustain livelihoods!

Does it matter that the scheme is applicable only to unskilled workers? The economic condition of the

The weaver, the carpenter, the goldsmith, the kalamkar, the Bidri blacksmith no longer have any incentive to carry on. The system has excluded them. The schemes which were tailor-made for them were poorly funded and suffered due to half-hearted implementation. Among this class of self employed, whose core competency is in creating hand crafted, eco-friendly products, a perception has set in that governments do not value them though the markets may. And their skills are no good to reach the market that exists.

commitment, they live a life of penance during the period – selecting the wood, crafting and readying the bow.

A theme drawn from the Ramayana is then drawn and painted on them with selected natural dyes. They are then offered on the sacred Onam day with due accompanying ceremony.

The faceless bureaucracy managing temples, quoting archaic rules fix ridiculously

unskilled is seen to be cushioned with money from the NREGS, grains from PDS, funds for housing and health insurance too. Justifiable and no questions asked.

Little incentive

But the weaver, the carpenter, the goldsmith, the kalamkar, the Bidri blacksmith no longer have any incentive to carry on. The system has excluded them. The schemes which were tailor-made for them were poorly funded and suffered due to half-hearted implementation. Among this class of self employed, whose core competency is in creating hand crafted, eco-friendly products, a perception has set in that governments do not value them though the markets may. And their skills are no good to reach the market that exists. Prof Shankar Acharya, responding to a question on distortions in the labour market commented, "...the other thing that worries me about NREGA is that you are creating dependency in the labour force. It is putting across that the government is there to provide me employment and it is not sustainable. (moneycontrol.com, India, 07/02/2011)

The other collateral damage this scheme is alleged to have caused in the rural areas is the changes in farm practices. During planting of paddy from nurseries on to the field and during harvest, farm hands are unavailable.

Impact on farming

Even the small farmer today has to join in the

village "mechanised harvester" pool. The just ended harvest season saw convoys of harvesters reaching out to far flung villages in Karimnagar, Nizamabad and Warangal as substitutes for farm hands. They were not displacing them!

The agriculturally rich coastal Andhra farmers feel that they are losing out on the cost advantage due to the non-availability of workers. Unemployment even among the unskilled was never an issue in many districts where work, albeit seasonally changing in nature, was available.

Small and medium enterprises are also hard pressed for semi skilled and unskilled workers. Units in cities such as Hyderabad, Vishakapatnam and Tanuku are convinced that workers are no longer moving out of their villages.

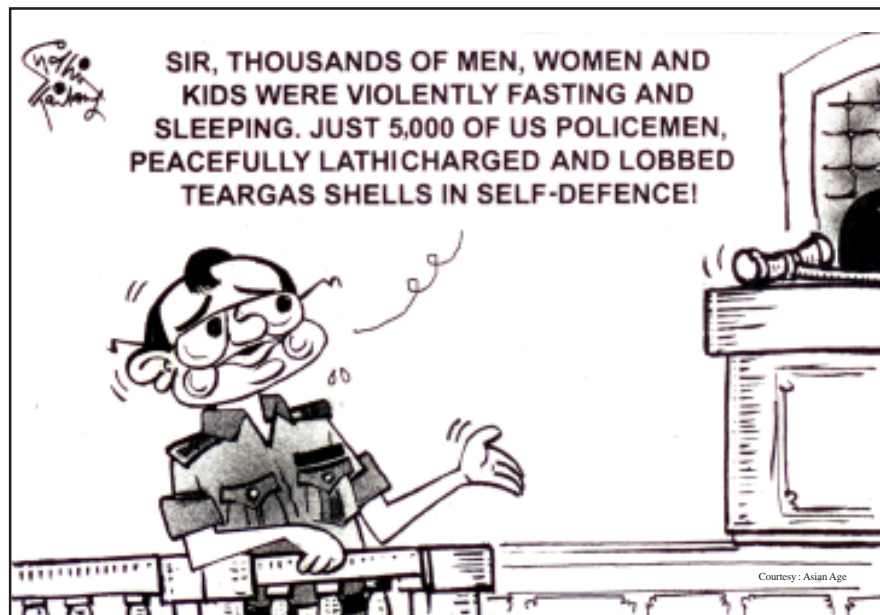
In villages, there are no more farm hands, nor are count-worthy assets being created with

the NREGS workers' participation. So where are our abundant unskilled/semiskilled workers?

Sushma Nath, a senior bureaucrat in the Finance Ministry was reported (Wall Street Journal Digital Network, 1 March 2011) to have said that the programme was intended to offer last-ditch employment to poorest citizens, not attract workers away from higher-paying manufacturing jobs. At a time, when global competitiveness is challenging the Indian industry, these developments need to be carefully studied, with a sense of urgency.

A thinking government, regional or central, would ensure sustainable wages for skilled artisans and help them market the handcrafted products, instead of letting them join the NREGS queue. ■

(The Writer is BJP National Spokesperson)



MADHYA PRADESH

After Karnataka, MP to have exclusive budget for agriculture

After the Madhya Pradesh State Cabinet approved the Agriculture Budget, Madhya Pradesh will now be the second State in the country to have an exclusive "Agriculture Budget" in addition to the General Budget, which is presented annually in the State Assembly. The only other State in the country to have such a budget is Karnataka, which presented the first such budget in February this year.



Interacting with media persons Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said, "We will be presenting an exclusive budget dedicated to agriculture. The step is being taken as the state has seen some record production of wheat in recent times and also it has a large agrarian population".

The agriculture budget will focus on all the branches related to the farmland as horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, Panchayats and forestry. The intention of such a budget is to focus on development schemes related to irrigation, power supply for farming and supply of fertilisers and other goods to the farmers. The budget will be prepared in consultation with all the stakeholders involved in agriculture. The State Cabinet decided to constitute an Agriculture Cabinet (*Krishi Cabinet*).

This cabinet will be competent to chalk out plan in an integrated manner on matters related to agriculture and other matters in the agriculture sector and take decision thereon. The formal nomenclature of this cabinet will be "Cabinet Committee for Agriculture Sector-related Matters". Ministers of the agriculture and agriculture-related departments will be members of the committee to be headed by the Chief Minister. The Agriculture Cabinet will include Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Fisheries, Cooperative, Water Resources, Narmada Valley Development, Energy, Panchayat and Rural

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Development, SC, ST Welfare and Forest Departments.

This committee will deliberate on and decide about the budgetary planning and provision of all the related departments. The committee will also undertake the work of re-appropriation or making other changes in these departments' development-related budget within financial limits. The committee will fix short-term and long-term strategies for agriculture sector-related plans and will also consult experts for it.

DELHI

Companies awarded contracts with consent of CM at 150% higher price : Vijender Gupta

Recently the Delhi Jal Board working under the Chief Minister Smt Shila Dixit has awarded contracts of water treatment plants of Delhi under economic connivance with companies of France, Austria and some Indian companies at 150% higher rates and thereby caused loss to



the government exchequer which is comparable to the bungling in Commonwealth Games.

According to a reliable information received by BJP Pradesh President Shri Vijender Gupta if impartial enquiry is conducted by the CBI then it will be found that the Chief Minister, Senior officer of DJB and foreign companies besides Indian companies caused loss of 160 crore rupees to the government exchequer. Shri Gupta has demanded CBI enquiry in to this big bungling under the supervision of Supreme Court.

Shri Gupta said that on May 27, 2011 in a meeting of DJB under the Chief Minister two companies, L&T and Degramont were awarded contract of 284 crore and 84 crore rupees respectively which was not necessary. L&T Company has been awarded the work of SCADA systems for Bhagirathi STP and its BPS and UGR. Similarly Degramont has been awarded work of

Rehabilitation, operation and comprehensive maintenance for 10 year of 40 MGD, Phase-II, Rithala STP for 84 crore rupees.

Shri Gupta said some companies formed a cartel to commit bungling of crore and got separate contracts. The conditions of tender were prepared in such a way that only L&T, VA Tech Wabag, Veolia Water may be able to fulfill the condition although 9 companies had applied. Only these companies were awarded contracts as planned.

He said that plan was framed in such a way that only these companies may be awarded for more works by the DJB. These are construction of 20 MGD STP for Nilothi, 20 MGD STP for Papankala, 20 MGD STP at St. Nurshing Home Nalla, 40 MGD STP at Coronation Pillar. This conspiracy was hatched in the meeting of the DJB officers and senior officers of companies in February 2011 in which L&T, Degramont, Veolia Water, V A Tech Wabag, SPML, Triveni Engineering participated.

He said works of 368 crore rupees has been awarded to these companies so far and there is plan to award works of about 242 crore to other companies. This may be done any day in a meeting chaired by the Chief Minister for benefiting other companies also.

Shri Vijender Gupta has demanded Delhi government, Home Minister and the Prime Minister that CBI enquiry be ordered in the irregularities in the contracts awarded and not to allot other works to the companies hatching conspiracy and tender should be invited again openly.

KARNATAKA

BJP Kisan Morcha stages protest against price rise

Condemning the failure of the Congress-led UPA Government at the Centre to contain the rising prices of essential commodities, activists of the Bharatiya Janata Party Kisan Morcha staged a protest in Bangalore on June 14. Shouting slogans against the Union Government, the protesters said essential commodities had become dearer owing to the flawed economic policies of the UPA government. Inflation had reached an alarming



level and people from low-income groups were finding it difficult to meet their daily expenses, they said.

Chairman of Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation, Shri K.M. Hanumantharayappa said, the rate of toor dal and paddy fluctuates every week, which is not feasible for farmers. So we want the UPA to fix a reasonable support price for these commodities.

Demanding a ban on Endosulfan across the country, the protesters also wanted the Government to revert to the earlier 31 per cent import duty on raw silk.

Shri Hanumantharayappa said the Union Government should frame a policy on subsidy for fertilizers and diesel for farmers' tractors and tillers. We also want a permanent grant for the export of cotton as it guarantees the farmers some fixed income.

BJP leader Smt. Rajalakshmi Gopal said it was the Government's duty to ensure and protect the welfare of the poor, be it farmers, the underprivileged or women.

She further said the BJP would continue its struggle against price rise and take it to national capital, Delhi if necessary.

CHANDIGARH

BJP's Bhagat Chunni Lal new Punjab Deputy Speaker

BJP senior leader Shri Bhagat Chunni Lal was elected as new Deputy Speaker in Punjab Assembly in an one-day special session. Seventy six-year-old Shri Lal, MLA from Jalandhar South,

is a two-time MLA from the same seat.

After the election Punjab Chief Minister Shri Parkash Singh Badal said, "Shri Lal was the most deserving candidate for the post. We are happy to elect such a hard worker who has all along served the people of his constituency."

Later Shri Badal, along with other three legislators took Shri Chunni Lal from his seat and led him to the new seat besides leader of the Opposition. The seat of the Deputy Speaker was vacant after BJP legislator Shri Satpal Gossain was inducted into the Cabinet.

The one-day special session was called by Speaker Shri Nirmal Singh Kahlon to elect the new Deputy Speaker. After paying tributes to CM's wife Smt. Surinder Kaur Badal and Haryana former Chief Minister Shri Bhajan Lal the house elected Shri Lal. ■

Cambodian Deputy PM urged to save thousand-year-old Shiva temple at war zone

To ensure the protection and safety of the Shiva temple on the Thai-Cambodian border BJP National Spokesperson Shri Tarun Vijay met Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers Sok An on June 17 in Phnom Penh. The Cambodian Deputy PM urged Shri Vijay to raise the issue on the global level for generating public opinion in favour of protecting the temple and declaring the temple hill as the peace zone. Shri Vijay said he would bring the matter to the attention of BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.



It is of noteworthy, the world heritage site temple built between 9th and 12th centuries as a dream project of Shiva devotee king Jayavarman II, originally known as Shikhareshwar Temple, is situated on a mesmerizing picturesque mountain just on the Thai-Cambodian border and though the International Court of Justice has given a verdict in favour of Cambodia and recently UNESCO declared it as a world heritage, Thai authorities are claiming it and there have been a number of incidents involving heavy shelling by the Thai army causing serious damage to many of the *Gaupurams* of the temple and it has remained closed for tourists for the past 3 years. (FOC) ■

Continued from page 15

properly examine the entire matter and ensure that as per US law an appeal is filed by the prosecution agencies.

In a Court in New York some of the relatives of the Jews who were killed in the 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attack have filed a suit for heavy damages in which summons have been issued to the ISI Chief. The Government of India has a stake in the successful conclusion of this suit because it gives an opportunity to expose the sponsorship of terror by the ISI before the bar of international justice. It is important to ensure that the Government of India must mobilise the involvement of Indian community and Indians who were victims of this terrorist attack as also do everything possible to ensure that the fate of Chicago trial is not repeated in the proceeding in the New York Court. The Indian Home Minister Mr. Chidambaram is on record having alleged the involvement of ISI in the 26/11 Mumbai attack for which overwhelming evidence is available.

The UPA Government must realise that the people of the country want that all the terrorist involved in the 26/11 attack in Mumbai including their patrons and sponsors must be punished and given the severest punishment. There is already much delay. The negligent way in which under the supervision of the Home Ministry, the list of terrorists was prepared whose repatriation was sought from Pakistan has already brought ridicule to us. The Government must take vigilant steps for conviction of the terrorists in the Mumbai attack and take strong measures against the emerging threat of terrorism to the country from across the border once again.