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Subscription

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

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

कर्मन्द्रियाणि संयम्य य आस्ते मनसा स्मरन् ।
इन्द्रियार्थान्विमूढात्मा मिथ्याचारः स उच्यते ॥

He who outwardly restraining the organs of sense and action, sits mentally dwelling on the objects of senses, that man of deluded intellect is called a hypocrite.

Bhagavadgita, Chapter 3, Text 6

Editorial

Bhopal Gas Tragedy: A horrible tale of disaster

Bhopal Gas Tragedy is a dark chapter in the history of India which can never be forgotten. The incident which occurred in Bhopal on the night of 2 - 3 December 1984 resulted in the death of thousands of people. Such a big industrial disaster had not taken place before in the history of world. It's yet to be understood fully as to whether allowing Union Carbide to establish its factory in Bhopal was for development or was it a conspiracy.

Bhopal CJM who delivered his verdict after 25 years not only declared CEO of Union Carbide Warren Anderson an absconder but allowed other eight convicts to escape with a light punishment of two years jail terms each. What else could the judge have done? The punishment was in accordance with the provisions under the law. The matter of grave concern is the much more saddening things which now stand exposed in the wake of the court verdict.

The Congressmen have become so heartless that they allowed the death of 15,000 people to go unpunished for the sake of Anderson. No one ever played such a dirty game with the self respect of India before. The story that is coming out of the Bhopal gas tragedy verdict after 25 years makes one to believe that at the time of the occurrence Anderson was the CEO of Union Carbide and Arjun Singh the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh. The legislature, executive and judiciary now stand exposed for their roles in Bhopal gas tragedy. Hanumanganj police station issues warrant for the arrest of Anderson. The then chief minister Arjun Singh says that Anderson was not required for investigation. Entire administration was put on stake. Anderson was not only allowed to flee but given respectable farewell. On the one side car was provided by administration, state government's chopper is brought into service and administrative officials were deputed for the convenience of Anderson but the sight of crying children, weeping brothers and sisters and mothers and fathers writhing in pain could not move the Congress party. After all what was the compulsion for the then chief minister Arjun Singh? Who was pressurizing him? Was he under the pressure of Rajiv Gandhi? His silence only confirms the truth. It seems that he has

become a disciple of *mauni baba* of Ujjain so he is keeping mum. Arjun Singh is not breaking his silence and Sonia Gandhi is refusing to speak. Facts are coming out in the open. Not one but two chief justices of Supreme Court were kept at stake for vested interests. Who will now have faith in judiciary? SP, Collector all were on sale. Chief Secretary and DGP proved themselves not the protector but breaker of law. When there was no difference between Anderson and Arjun Singh then who could have raised a finger? The biggest disaster with the gas tragedy was that those responsible were not averse to create a disaster out of disaster. Media, the fourth pillar should be congratulated for protecting the Indian democracy. The manner in which media brought the killers and offenders in the dock as soon as the court verdict was pronounced will be inscribed in golden letters in the world of journalism. Media has once again exposed the political character of Congress. The Congress is known for its political character

since its inception. It was only owing to such political character that Indira Gandhi had imposed emergency on the country by carrying an all out assault on democracy. The dark night of 25 June 1975 can never be forgotten. The merchants of death should not be spared. No attempt should be made to protect the killers under the guise of granting compensation to the victims.

BJP has taken the struggle in its own hands after the court verdict on Bhopal gas tragedy was pronounced. The result is that the central government is on the back foot and miserably trying to save its face. Congress is unable to give answers to the country. Finding itself in dock Congress is trying to hoodwink the nation by announcing compensation. Truth always comes out in the open and rightly it is coming out before the people. Congress should not try to gobble the truth. In the days to come the people will seek answers from not only Arjun Singh and Sonia Gandhi but from the entire Congress Party. ■

Bhopal Gas Tragedy

Massive *dharna* and protest demo organized in MP

The BJP in Madhya Pradesh on 18 organized a massive *dharna* and protest demonstration at Polytechnic Square in Bhopal seeking justice for the victims of the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy. Addressing the *dharna*, state BJP accused the Congress of giving former Union Carbide chairperson Warren Anderson a safe passage out of the country. Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj said the Congress had betrayed the gas victims over the years. She demanded a fresh probe into all aspects of the case, including Anderson's exit from the country. Leading the charge Smt. Sushma Swaraj blamed former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi for giving a 'send-off' to Warren Anderson saying no further proof was needed to establish this. She said Quattrocchi was also given a send-off in similar fashion. By drawing parallels between Ottavio Quattrocchi and Warren Anderson and between the 1984 anti-Sikh riots and the Bhopal gas tragedy, the BJP launched a frontal attack on the Congress. Smt. Swaraj announced that she will move a motion in the Lok Sabha on the opening day seeking revocation of the 1989 settlement which was based on the death toll of 3,000, and demand a fresh settlement to factor in subsequent deaths. The motion will demand a respectable amount of compensation for each victim and a comprehensive system of treatment. Also, it will demand that absconding accused in the gas tragedy case be brought to stand trial. The motion will also be moved in the Rajya Sabha. State BJP president Prabhat Jha said *dharnas* would be organised in each of the *nagar panchayat* wards on June 25 to time the protest with the anniversary of Emergency. In the towns, *karyakartas* will take out torch rallies on the same evening. The party will also submit a memorandum to the President on the issue. BJP leaders from Madhya Pradesh also strongly criticized Arjun Singh and Sonia Gandhi and their continued silence on the issue of Anderson's escape. It was also alleged that the Congress had always been soft on foreigners. ■



If you are empowered, party will automatically be empowered : Gadkari

“Be a self-start engine and don’t wait for somebody to give you orders and instructions. Start working for redressing the grievances of the people. Identify yourself with the masses, empathize with their agonies and aspirations, work in the field, contribute through your intellect, give new ideas and be articulate while presenting party’s view points. The character of political activism is undergoing changes. Let us try to be adept at this transformation. It is only by cultivating political activism through diverse ways that you can empower yourself. If you are empowered, party will automatically be empowered.” This is how BJP President Shri Nitin Gadkari exhorted the



members of newly constituted National Executive at its first meeting in Patna on June 12.

Apart from exposing the UPA government over price rise, condemning it for repeated assaults on federal structure, patronising the culprits of Bhopal gas tragedy and calling for immediate curbing of Maoists menace, the National Executive termed the one year of UPA-II as the year of total disappointment, non-achievement, chaos, confusion, compromise, corruption, inconsistency and incoherence. It also praised the NDA government of Bihar for taking good developmental initiatives during the last five years and registered 11 per cent growth rate.

The gigantic hoardings, party flags and huge banners welcoming the delegates attracted the attention of one and all. There was unprecedented security at Chanakya Nagar, the venue of the meeting at Maurya Hotel. The Kautilya Banquet hall was renamed after former Vice President Shri

Bhairon Singh Shekhawat who passed away recently. It was exactly five minutes past 11 am when the party president Shri Nitin Gadkari accompanied by senior party leaders Shri LK Advani, Smt Sushma Swaraj, Shri Rajnath Singh, Dr MM Joshi, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Shri Arun Jaitely, Shri Ananth Kumar, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy and others entered the hall.

Before the formal inauguration, six priests from Darbhanga presented Ganesh Vandana and then the delegates stood up for Vandemataram. This was followed by lighting of the traditional lamp and formally inaugurating the meeting by Shri LK Advani, Shri Nitin Gadkari, Smt Sushma Swaraj and Shri Arun Jaitely.

Referring to Bihar’s march to progress and development Shri Gadkari said for the first time Bihar witnessed a government that is functioning and bringing the desired results. Previous rulers in Bihar had embarrassed the people with their insensitive and inefficient rule. Many in the world knew Bihar only as the initial alphabet of the acronym Bihar Pradesh. But now under the NDA rule, Bihar has been converted into a jujharu state. “I congratulate the NDA leadership here for making every Bihari a proud citizen of the State that has witnessed a phenomenal 11 per cent growth rate,” he said.

Demanding an apology from Congress on Bhopal Gas tragedy he said revelations by a former CBI official Shri BR Lall about how the then government at the Centre had tried to protect the Union Carbide management more particularly Warren Anderson, the fugitive CEO of the company; are horrific to say the least. “This episode has once again reminded the entire nation as to how Congress rulers from time to time, are compromising with the interest of the people of India for personal and political gains. Bhopal tragedy is the saga of treachery, back stabbing and betrayal. No words are powerful enough to condemn all those who mishandled this issue,” he said. Terming the CBI as Congress Bureau of

Suraaj and Sushashan needed for a Sukhi and Samruddh Bharat : Gadkari

BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari gave a very inspiring and emotive speech to the first meeting of the National Executive on June 12 at Patna (Bihar). Feeling proud to be in the land of the Lord Gautam Budha, Jayaprakash Narain and Babu Rajendra Prasad, he said the NDA government in the State of which BJP was an important constituent, had done both BJP and Bihar proud with record breaking achievements in registering progress in the earlier known as BIMARU state. Recounting the failures of the UPA-2 in the first year of office, Shri Gadkari said this government failed on all fronts – internal security, facing the Naxal-Maoist threat, external affairs, relations with neighbours, and above all, the worst performance on the economic front. He lauded the BJP-ruled States which had excelled in good governance and coming up to the expectations of the people. He called upon the people to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people in their fight for justice and in getting their grievances resolved.

Kamal Sandesh publishes the full text of Shri Gadkari's speech for the benefit of its esteemed readers.

Note: Full text of the speech and the resolutions passed in the meeting is also being published separately in a booklet form.

Respected Advani ji, colleagues on the dais and fellow delegates,

This is the first meeting of the new National Executive. I congratulate you all on your nomination to this important party forum and wish you every success in making a significant contribution not only in the deliberations of the meeting of this body, but also in the field. To be a member of the National Executive of BJP is not a small thing at all. It is an opportunity for all of us to prove ourselves as functionaries dedicated to the mission of Bharatiya Janata Party. As I have always been appealing to our members, let



us each try to be a self start engine. Let us not wait for somebody to give you orders and instructions. Start working for redressing the grievances of the people. Identify yourself with the masses, empathize with their agonies and aspirations, work in the field, contribute through your intellect, give new ideas and be articulate while presenting Party's view points. The character of political activism is undergoing changes. Let us try to be adept at this transformation. It is only by cultivating political activism through diverse ways that you can empower yourself. If you are empowered, Party will

automatically be empowered. Once again, I congratulate you and wish you all the best.

BIHAR: Land of Rich Heritage

Friends, I consider it a great privilege to welcome you here in Patna Sahib, the capital of Bihar. Both, the state of Bihar and this historic city of Pataliputra have a place of pride in our history right since the ancient times. This is the land of Mahatma Gautam Buddha, as also that of several great heroes like Chandragupta Maurya and Arya Chanakya. It is this land that produced great sons and daughters of Bharatmata like Bhagvan Mahavir, Guru Gobind Singh, Majrul Haque, Babu Kunwar Singh, Babu Rajendra Prasad, Ram Dhari Singh Dinkar, Kavi Sadanand Saraswati, Babu JagJivan Ram, Shri. Jayprakash Narayan and Smt Prabhavati ji, as well as Shri Karpoori Thakur are held in the highest esteem by the nation. At the outset, I salute this

Many in the world knew Bihar only as the initial alphabet of the acronym BIMARU. In the NDA rule, under the leadership of Nitish Kumar and Sushil Kumar Modi, Bihar has been converted into a jujharuu state.

sacred land before moving further.

Gautam Buddha's teachings of peace, harmony and sacrifice have their own place in the making of Indian ethos. His ultimate message to disciples was "Atta deepa bhav" or Atma Deepo Bhav, and its eternal relevance can never be forgotten. From Mahatma Gandhi to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Buddha's teachings influenced hundreds of philosophers and thinkers, making millions of people in the world follow Buddhism. Gandhi's struggle at Champaran on behalf of the indigo farmers gnaws at my heart even today. Great Centres of learning such as Nalanda and the spiritual centre that of Rajgir are gems in Bihar.

When we come to Bihar, very naturally we all remember Jayprakash Narayan. Like many of you here, I was also deeply influenced in my college days by JP, especially when he provided leadership to a popular movement for total transformation. Nation will always be grateful to him for his contribution in restoring democracy fighting the draconian rule of emergency. The city of Patna and more particularly the historic Gandhi Maidan have been witness to the mass mobilizations on JP's calls.

Nanaji and Bhaironsingh Ji

While talking about JP and the 1974 movement, the thought of Late Nanaji Deshmukh naturally comes to our mind. Again, it was here that Nanaji braved the police lathi charge and saved JP. In the sad demise of Nanaji, this nation and we in the BJP have lost a great leader who had the courage of practicing all that he preached. He demonstrated as to how even after sixty, one can effectively contribute for nation building even while moving beyond party politics. His innumerable and highly successful experiments in rural resurgence in Chitrakoot continue to inspire thousands of young people desirous of doing something concrete for creating a developed India. Through his work, he demonstrated as to how wonders are created when commitment and caliber go hand in hand. I pay my respects to this modern sage of India.

A few weeks back we also lost one of our very senior leaders, Bhaironsingh ji Shekhawat. His contribution in the making of Modern Rajasthan can never be forgotten. He was a statesman in true sense of the term. From Chief Minister to Vice President, he added grace to every position that he held. During the Jan Sangh days, he stood by the party directive even in the face of stiff opposition from a large section of the party on the issue of land reforms. For him Party and ideology were above everything. While offering my Pranams to both the departed leaders, I appeal all my fellow *karyakartas* to emulate the examples of abiding by high ideals set by them. Bihar's Onward March

Friends, we are in Bihar today and let me tell you that for the first time Bihar witnesses a government that is functioning and bringing the desired results. Previous rulers in Bihar had embarrassed the people with their insensitive and inefficient rule. Many in the world knew Bihar only as the initial alphabet of the acronym BIMARU. In the NDA rule, under the leadership of Nitish Kumar and Sushil Kumar Modi, Bihar has been converted into a *jujharuu* state. I must congratulate the NDA leadership here for making every Bihari a proud citizen of a state that has witnessed a phenomenal 11% growth rate.

I specially congratulate the state's Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Sushil Kumar Modi and all his colleagues in the cabinet who have collectively presided over this new miracle economy of the country. Remember, that bad governance

had taken Bihar to a negative growth rate between 5 to 15% and from there NDA has brought it to a positive 11%. I am sure, in the days to come people in Bihar will once again repose their confidence in NDA and make Bihar known internationally for its phenomenal success.

UPA-2: Year of Misgovernance

Friends, UPA-2 has completed one year in office. On the backdrop of the all round failure of the UPA-2 in its first year, it is worth pondering over this entire year of inaction. While actions like publishing a Report Card are certainly not unwelcome, it is also true that a brilliant student shows his merit through his actions and not through Report Cards. The Congress had promised to control prices of essential commodities in 100 days whereas the prices have increased by 100 per cent. The Prime Minister promised double digit growth rate, instead the government has achieved double digit inflation.

In the commodities exchange, forward trading resulted in only 0.3 per cent actual delivery and 99.7 per cent of transactions ended in speculation and manipulation. Wheat, sugar, cotton, oils and many other items are artificially managed to profit middlemen and hoarders. We have demanded that essential commodities be taken out of the purview of commodities exchange. But still the UPA is not paying heed to our demand simply because it has some vested interests in continuing with the status quo.

UPA-2's first year in office was a year of misgovernance. Earlier, the Congress used to blame the obstacles created by the previous UPA partners--more particularly the Communist parties--for their collective failures. Today, the Congress can just not escape the blame. Unlike NDA Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the political leadership of the UPA has no moral courage to seek answers from any of its constituent party ministers, be it the Agriculture Minister, Civil Aviation Minister, Communications Minister or even the Railway Minister. "We-will-not-see answers, you-do-not-raise-questions" seems to be the unwritten understanding of this government.

UPA-2 started with a sheer lack of political judgment on Telangana. Later there has been a series of failures. The UPA government failed in -

-
- ◆ evolving a coherent strategy to overcome the Naxal menace
- ◆ bringing the women reservations bill in the Lok Sabha,
- ◆ grasping the gravity of the situation in Manipur
- ◆ engaging USA strictly on our terms
- ◆ showing requisite resoluteness while dealing with Pakistan
- ◆ disallowing markets to dictate prices
- ◆ preventing markets from exploiting the poor both, in villages as well as in cities
- ◆ coming clean on the actual number of the poor people in India

In Pakistan, things are far from normal. The yawning gap between the assurances of the Pakistan government and their actions continues to be very wide. Unfortunately, the Indian government also has failed in giving a clear message to Pakistan that it will have to pay a heavy price if it continues aiding and abetting the terrorist.

All in all, it turned out to be a super flop show. This mis-governance, among other things is the result of some basic incongruities of this regime. The singularly most incongruent factor of the UPA regime is the fact that its administrative leadership lacks in political will and its presiding political deity has no exposure to the intricacies of governance. This has made things worse for the people of India and unfortunately, no advisory mechanisms can clear the mess that this has created. The integrity and the intentions of the government are thoroughly questionable.

Elections in Britain

Friends, on behalf of the BJP, I congratulate Britain's new Prime Minister David Cameron and welcome the formation of a Conservative-Liberal Government. That the new Government is committed to "enhanced partnership with India" is gratifying. It should be a partnership between a new India and a new Britain that factors in the realities of the 21st century. Interestingly, the recent British parliamentary elections have highlighted the flaws of the first-past-the-post electoral system. The BJP has for long been seeking a national debate on reforming our electoral system to avoid the

pitfalls of a fractured mandate or a mandate that does not reflect the national mood. Perhaps this could be a trigger for reviving the debate.

Situation in our neighbourhood

In Nepal, the situation is still in a flux. We desire peace and stability in this traditionally very close neighboring country. On the backdrop of political strife and tensions once again afflicting this Himalayan nation, we appeal government of India to extend all possible help for the cause of political stability in Nepal. Government of India should be conscious of the attempts by the Maoists to interfere in the religious affairs as when they removed the Indian priests in the Pashupatinath Mandir. We welcome all efforts for integrating Maoists cadre in civil society as also all administrative and other measures for undoing the injustice meted out to the people in the recent past. It is in the interest of the people in this entire region that the dominance of those who believe in violence is reduced and rule of law is further consolidated.

In Pakistan, things are far from normal. The yawning gap between the assurances of the Pakistan government and their actions continues to be very wide. Unfortunately, the Indian government also has failed in giving a clear message to Pakistan that it will have to pay a heavy price if it continues aiding and abetting the terrorist. A crisis of courage of conviction in the government has added to the complications on a gamut of issues concerning India-Pakistan relations. Our official warnings to our recalcitrant neighbour have proved to be hollow as there is an absolute lack of clarity. It is disappointing to observe the muted reaction of the Indian government to the mock trials in Pakistan and their failure to pin down the terror masterminds. While our Prime Minister has encouraged moving forward with talks, his Home Minister has gone on record not favouring a dialogue. We in the BJP feel that engaging in talks will remain futile until Pakistan takes concrete steps to wipe out the terror network operating on its soil. The impression gaining ground is that our diplomats do talk to Pakistan, but Pakistan listens to us only very selectively. Our position of zero tolerance to terror has been compromised by the confusing, if not conflicting, view on such a critical subject. The morale of those protecting us at the

borders and the para-military who are at the coal face will be undermined.

Srilanka has succeeded in attaining peace by defeating the terrorists, but they have now to win over the hearts of the IDPs. Our leader and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha- Smt Sushma Swaraj has stated our position to the Srilankan President Shri Rajyapaksa. We demand: The IDPs should be well resettled with honour and dignity. There shall not be any dilution to the 13 amendment to the Srilankan Constitution, thirdly and importantly India's security considerations on this regions' peace and security should be respected by Srilanka.

Similarly, our approach towards China is also that of confounding the confusion. During the recent visit of Indian President to China, while

Similarly, our approach towards China is also that of confounding the confusion.

India was apparently made to reiterate its ONE CHINA Policy, Indian side apparently could not seek a similar policy statement from China about the fact that Arunachal Pradesh is

an integral part of India. There are several instances from the recent past that have created an apprehension that the Indian Government only follows a reactive foreign policy and this situation must change.

Indo-US Strategic Partnership

Much hype has been created about India-US strategic partnership. BJP welcomes any move that will strengthen Indo-US relationship on the basis of protecting mutual interest and addressing concerns of each other. While we believe that India and the US have much to gain from a strategic relationship based on mutual interests and equality, the UPA Government appears to have become hostage to American interests at the cost of our national interests. In fact, India-US relations have now become a cover for promoting American interests in Pakistan and Afghanistan, as well as for promoting Pakistan's interests in Afghanistan, apart from pandering to Islamabad's absurd demands. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had taken India-US relations to a new level of mutual respect and strategic advantage accruing to India. The gains of the NDA years have been squandered by a pusillanimous UPA Government which is eager to do America's bidding without reciprocal gains. For example, it is shocking how the Nuclear Liability Bill is being drafted to accommodate

American business interests by cutting corners with our national interests; worse, it amounts to discounting the value of Indian lives.

We caution the government that people of India will never accept any deal or agreement with the US that will rob India of its strategic autonomy, flexibility and space for diplomatic maneuver in its foreign policy. There are several instances from the recent past that have created an apprehension that the Indian Government only follows a reactive foreign policy.

Verdict on Bhopal Gas Tragedy

It will certainly not be out of place here to reiterate BJP's strong opposition to the Civil Nuclear Liability Bill. After the recent verdict on Bhopal Gas tragedy, the danger of capping the liability through such legislation has become more pronounced. Revelations by a former CBI official B R Lall about how the then government at the centre had tried to protect the Union Carbide management more particularly Mr. Warren Anderson, the fugitive CEO of the company; are horrific to say the least. This is the latest example of how those swearing by *Aam Aadmi* day in and day out are in fact stabbing the very commoners in their back. The Bhopal gas verdict is a cruel joke by our criminal justice system. BJP demands that the government should again knock the doors of the Supreme Court and aggressively seek review of its judgment. Bhopal is yet another example of how inherent weaknesses of our criminal justice system leaves enough room for the culprit go scot free. Bhopal has once again reminded the entire nation as to how Congress rulers from time to time, are compromising with the interest of the people of India for personal and political gains. Bhopal tragedy is the saga of treachery, back stabbing and betrayal. No words are powerful enough to condemn all those who mishandled this issue.

Terrorism

On the internal security front, terrorism refuses to vanish from the list of our common concerns. While legally speaking, the fate of Kasab is still uncertain; new revelations about the inexplicable delay in hanging Afzal Guru have further

established the weak-kneed approach of the UPA. Now, in the light of some new truths about the obstacles wantonly put by the former home minister coming to the fore, the Prime Minister owes an explanation to the nation as to why wrong informations was repeatedly given to the people? Ironically, UPA seems to have been bogged down more by the law and order situation after Afzal is hanged and not at all by the reasons for which he was put behind the bars. Here is a government that is more worried about the death of a dreaded criminal waging war on us, than about the lives of those who abide by laws.

The Naxal Threat

Besides, Naxal threat also continues to pose a very severe challenge before all of us. At umpteenth number of occasions BJP has said it in so many words that it will support any move by this government to effectively overcome the Naxal menace. And yet, the government appears confused and unfocussed. The internal security establishment seems to have failed in envisaging the gravity of this menace. While actions for economic and social development in all the underdeveloped areas mainly inhabited by the tribal communities are always wanted, they alone are not a guarantee for overcoming the Naxal threat. While Naxals are and have been openly challenging the authority of the governments, some of those in UPA are making statements that are

While we believe that India and the US have much to gain from a strategic relationship based on mutual interests and equality, the UPA Government appears to have become hostage to American interests at the cost of our national interests.

sympathetic to the Naxals. This dilemma in the approach is sending wrong signals. While on the one hand, these moves are causing a demoralizing impact on the police and para-military forces; on the other they are emboldening the Naxals. Let me warn the UPA that through these deliberate attempts of showing sympathy to both the Naxals and victims of their violence, you are playing with fire. This approach also betrays the lack of seriousness on the part of the government.

We are particularly perturbed by the merciless killings of innocents in Dantewada as also in the attack on Gyaneshwari Express in Midanapore district. Unfortunately, most of the national and international champions of Human Rights remain silent when Naxals deny the very fundamental

right to life to hundreds of innocent people. Bharatiya Janata Party appeals the human rights activists not to be selective while condemning Human rights violations. In order to educate people about the indulgence of the Naxals in mindless cruelty and rampant injustice, I appeal to our state units to organize *jan sunwai* type programmes where victims of Naxal barbarism should be sharing their agony with the people. Naxals enjoy some support in the intelligentsia and sections of the society mainly because they are largely ignorant about these aspects of Naxal activism. It is our duty to enlighten the masses about the same.

Congress betrays the Scheduled Castes

The recent events of social strife in Haryana are a matter of great concern. The incidents that happened in Mirchpur are highly condemnable. The victims are still living in Delhi in fear. The Congress government in Haryana has been insensitive and has failed to reassure the affected families to return to their homes.

CBI - Congress Bureau of Intimidation

While the nation is facing innumerable threats to its internal security, government is forcing the CBI to work for its political designs. The CBI has become a tool of intimidation. The latest revelation by an officer in the context of the Bhopal tragedy has reinforced our fear that the Congress is continuing this strategy to cow down opponents or to let free from our law their acquaintances- Quatrochhi, Anderson. This proves that their commitment is not for the people of India. We in the BJP strongly demand a JPC probe into the misuse of the CBI.

Neglect of the Farm Sectors

There is a long history of neglect of agriculture under the Congress regime. As regards agriculture, water and rural development has never gone beyond slogan mongering. While farmers are denied appropriate prices for their produce consumers are made to pay through their nose. In the recent past in the Congress ruled states as well as in Uttar Pradesh, procurement of wheat didn't happen on time, thus resulting in distress selling. This further was aggravated by the lack of adequate storage facility in the rural areas and in the market yards. There was a lack of a significant market

intervention strategy too. In this context, I appeal to our party workers to make it a point to visit public procurement centres whenever any new crop comes into the market. We have to ensure that farmers get their due without corrupt practices harassing them.

The Prime Minister has frequently referred to green revolution. But neither has he shown the will to move forward on this agenda nor has he revealed any blue print. The Minister for Agriculture has admitted that grains worth Rs 58000 crores goes rotten every year. Let me share here some of my ideas on agricultural development. Water is the key to farm development. BJP demands that irrigation should be placed in the concurrent list so as to effectively manage flood and drought. It is a pity that in India, farmers do not get quality seeds easily. Only a few days back farmers in Jodhpur had to brave lathi charge only because they were

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demanding quality seeds. The government has to take issues such as agri-finance very seriously. Let me assure you that in the BJP ruled states we have a comprehensive agricultural development strategy in place which is already showing tangible results in Gujarat, Bihar and Chhattisgarh and other BJP ruled states.

Situation in Manipur

Like you all, I am extremely perturbed about the situation in Manipur. For the last over 70 days Manipur is facing road blockade and life has become a misery for our brethren in Manipur. The blockade that started on April 11 was initially organised by Naga student bodies and some Naga nationalist civil society organisations in protest against the decision of the Manipur state government to hold elections to the Manipur Hill Areas Autonomous District Councils (ADC). We believe that the Naga leader Thuingaleng Muivah has played a dangerous game first by announcing his desire to visit his home village in Manipur and later by

joining the blockade. It is highly deplorable that Naga groups are allowed to hold the entire state of Manipur to ransom and the central government is just a spectator watching the hapless condition of the people of Manipur. While the genuine demands of Nagas certainly merit attention, politics of blockade has no place in a democratic polity.

We express our complete solidarity with the people of Manipur and ask the central government to show the same kind of sensitivity that it shows for the people of Kashmir valley. BJP demands that the central government should give a clear message that the nation sympathises with the people in Manipur through actions such as opening of alternate road accesses, air-dropping of food grains and essential commodities as well as a visit to Imphal by the Prime Minister to address the concerns of the people and in the process inculcate confidence in them. BJP warns the government that if it allows further worsening of the situation,

BJP condemns this price hike and warns the UPA that flames of rising popular anger against price rise will burn the mandate of this government to ashes sooner than later.

secessionist leaders from both the states will exploit the popular anger, giving further fillip to greater unrest and violence. I also appeal to all our party workers especially in metro cities where Manipuri students are in good number to go and meet Manipuri youth and communicate to them that people from other parts of the country are with them. BJP will observe 23 June, the death anniversary of Dr. Shyamaprasad Mukherjee as Manipur Solidarity Day and our workers in all capital cities will be fasting on that day while staging a day long dharna.

War on Price Rise

Friends, I am happy that we could mobilize masses on the issue of spiraling prices and successfully gave vent to the popular anguish when we marched to the Parliament in Delhi in April last. Price rise is an issue about which people need to be educated extensively and I am happy we could do that in multiple ways. We have not only highlighted the fact that this price rise is the result of wrong economic policies and fiscal mismanagement but also established the utter insensitivity of the government that has allowed

rottening of lakhs of tonnes of wheat. We have also very successfully highlighted the miseries of the potato growers. But unfortunately, this government has become so very unmindful of the hardships of the people that it has again added to their miseries. The rise in the prices of petrol, diesel and gas which is in the offing is adding insult to injury. Remember whenever the Congress is in power the prices always reach the sky. BJP condemns this price hike and warns the UPA that flames of rising popular anger against price rise will burn the mandate of this government to ashes sooner than later.

At this juncture, let me remind you all that our national campaign against price rise has still not ended. Crores of signatures we have collected on our memorandum to the President of India shall be presented to the Mahamahim Rashtrapati during the forthcoming monsoon session of the Parliament.

Suraj Sankalp

Let me now dwell upon some of our new initiatives and the progress that we have made on those fronts. In Indore, we had talked about more impetus to Good Governance. We have now become the first and the only party that has a Governance Cell, dedicated to provide all assistance to our governments to better their performance. Former Chief Minister of Goa, Shri. Manohar Parrikar is the convener of this cell. I am happy that recently a Suraj Sankalp Convention was held under the auspices of this cell in Mumbai. At this convention, we have once again committed ourselves to what is now being described as People-Oriented Pro-active Good Governance. All the BJP Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers besides over 60 ministers belonging to eight states along with some senior party functionaries in states as well as at the centre had participated in this two-day convention held at the Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini. This was the first of its type convention and the Suraj Sankalp or the Declaration of Determination that we have adopted at this convention reflects our resolve to provide Governance with a difference. We have committed ourselves to pro-people pro-active good governance. It is a matter of great pleasure that days before this convention, leading TV channel has nominated three BJP Chief Ministers as from amongst the best five CMs in the country. I congratulate all the BJP Governments for their success and wish them every success in implementing the Suraj Sankalp. Let me highlight

a few milestones achieved in the various states: The national average agricultural growth is only 2%, while in BJP ruled states like Bihar and Gujarat, it is several times above the same. In Gujarat, it has been consistently 9.5% from 2002 to till date. Karnataka successfully organized the Global Investors Meet which has brought in investors focus to this state. In this era of environmental consciousness our government in Himachal has made great strides and earned carbon points which certify their effective management. Chhattisgarh's impressive use of technology in making their Public Distribution System transparent to perform on time and efficiently.

We believe that Good governance is not confined only to public administration. It is relevant in managing our Party affairs as well. For that we have to galvanize our own Human Resources Development mechanism. In this regard our training cell has already started functioning in right earnestness. A report about whatever has already been done by the cell and also its future plans will be presented in this meeting. This Cell is all set to launch in July 2010, a three-year structured training programme for the party cadres. We have an ambitious plan to train 10,000 party workers in the current year. This Cell also launches its e-Training from Vijaydashami 2010. Similarly, we have also made a modest

beginning on the front of Antyodaya, our unique initiative for reinstating social service as a part of political work. Besides, our platform for non-member well wishers of the Party known as Friends-of-BJP has also started functioning. Reports on Antyodaya will be presented in this session. Besides, we had also held a meeting of all our State Finance Ministers to discuss matters pertaining to GST. Also, a special committee on Tribal issues that was formed after a meeting of all Tribal affairs Ministers from BJP ruled states is now giving final shape to its report. A committee under the

leadership of Bhagat ji Singh Koshiyari has already gone into the issues regarding our border security in the northern region and that will be presented here before you.

Friends, during the last six months after I was given this responsibility, I have travelled across the country from Chennai to Chandigarh and Guwahati to Goa. I have met not only our party workers but also interacted with several opinion makers and prominent citizens wherever I went. There is a groundswell of good wishes for the BJP. We have supporters in every section and strata of

the society. Crores of countrymen have great hopes from all of us. They want BJP to keep its distinct identity intact. To be cynic is easy. Those who give up their efforts to be different or making a great difference lack in the courage of conviction. We are all optimists but our optimism is not and cannot be just a pious hope. We have to plan our path to make BJP accomplish its historic mission. Some thirty five years before, Delhi had heard the slogan *Singhasan khali Karo ki janata aye hai..!* Although this slogan was raised in Delhi, it had its origins in Patna, in the movement led by JP. Thirty five years after, if we look around; we have a different kind of emergency which is the product of misgovernance at the centre. Once again we have to raise our voice and ask the UPA government to perform or perish.

Let us prepare ourselves to this long drawn struggle.

Bihar has shown to the world where there is political will it is possible to make a good turn around. During this NDA rule, Bihar's all round performance has been historic, unprecedented, and spectacular. This performance is emulate worthy. For a *sukhi* and *samruddhi* Bharat, we need *suraj* and *sushashan*. In states where we are in power we have proved that we are working towards these goals. We should go to the people to show how Congress spells *vinash* while BJP brings *vikas*.

Bharat Mata ki Jai. ■

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India can't afford to lose the battle against Maoists



The National Executive adopted with one voice a resolution on the rising threat of Maoist activities in the country. It regretted half-hearted approach and double speak of the UPA-2 on this, in the words of the Prime Minister, the greatest threat to India's internal security. The Resolution was moved by BJP National General Secretary Shri Arjun Munda, MP and seconded by Chhattisgarh Chief Minister, Dr. Raman Singh and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Shri Arun Jaitley.

The geographical spread, the areas of influence of the Maoist activities in India and its intensity have both increased. Today, there is Maoist presence in almost 210 districts of the country. In 90 out of these 210 districts, the presence is effective. Maoism is a militarized movement. The object of the movement is to capture the Indian state through armed struggle. The Maoists believe that power will flow from the barrel of the gun. Their object is to establish an ideological dictatorship in place of a parliamentary democracy. In this ideological dictatorship, there is no place for political freedom, individual freedom, fundamental rights, free press, independent judiciary, free and fair elections or any form of entrepreneurship. The Maoists are already in the process of establishing a guerilla army. They want to take control of certain rural areas. Through these rural areas, they want to eventually encircle the cities. Some of these areas have become secluded islands of Maoist control. People in these areas of control are subjected to extortion. Businessmen, contractors, employees, teachers and farmers - all have to succumb to the extortionism of the Maoists. Cadres are being recruited on payment of a nominal monthly salary. Besides foreign arms, weapons are being seized from the armoury of the government. The Maoists have proclaimed, "the enemy's (government) armoury is our armoury". Killing and massacre of security forces and innocent civilians is taking place. The Maoist movement thrives on

poverty. They have a vested interest in sustaining the poverty in these areas. They prevent any activity of the civilian administration to build road, schools, dispensaries or the Panchayat Bhavans. Even the existing buildings of the state, which are used by the people, are being destroyed. Recent attacks in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand are aimed at both security forces and innocents civilians. A large corpus through extortionism is being collected each year. The Maoists have even resorted to opium and poppy cultivation to generate financial resources. Maoism thrives in the name of poverty. Its object is to eliminate democracy.

Maoists exploit poverty and backwardness in several tribal dominated areas of the country. The Maoists indoctrinate the innocent tribals and use them as a shield when they launch attacks against the security forces and the innocent civilians. It is ironical that effort of the civilian administration to enter these areas even for the purposes of the development is resisted by the Maoists.

The core support area of the Maoist movement comes from ideologically trained Maoists. These are not necessarily local inhabitants; a number of them being migrated from states like Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. These ideologically trained and motivated Maoists indoctrinate the next rank of their cadres. They have succeeded in developing a militarized wing of the Maoists, which is their guerilla army. The large mass of people supporting them, in fact, comprises non-ideological

and exploited tribal people. There is also an emerging class of urban-based over-ground faces this underground movement, who masquerade as human right activists. They are the public communicators on behalf of the Maoist movement. In fact, these people are bringing a bad name to human rights itself. They rationalize the use of violence by the Maoists.

Today, a distinct Maoist corridor exists from the Nepal border right till Telengana. Their regular activities were pushed by the security forces within a state to operate on the boundaries of the various states. Many in the political field have adopted an easier course by simply arguing that Maoism is a social reaction against poverty and lack of development. It is true that Maoism flourishes on account of poverty. It is equally true that development in the areas under Maoist control had been made difficult, if not impossible, by the Maoists themselves. They have a vested interest in perpetuating poverty in these secluded areas so that their own political activity can continue to grow. The tactics adopted by the Maoists have made it difficult for India's intelligence agencies to infiltrate into their areas. The Maoists have avoided the use of electronic equipments for fear of being trapped. Their top leaders get lost in the crowd of people of urban India and remain unnoticed. Those in charge of their military operations operate from rural areas, where civilian control has been gradually eroded.

The UPA-I has a wasted opportunity in the battle against Maoists. The Home Ministry, under UPA-I, failed to realize the enormity of the problem and the possible solutions, and responses to it. The Home Ministry under UPA-II initially showed signs of understanding the extent and enormity of the Maoist problem, but the entire national impetus being built up has been lost on account of the politics of the UPA and the Congress itself. During the UPA-I, the Congress had political adjustments with the Maoists in Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand where electoral conveniences guided it accordingly. When states like Chhattisgarh started innovative programmes to tackle the Maoist menace, the Congress was opposed to it. During the UPA-II there were initial signs of coordination, building up between the states and the Centre. The national mood was strongly in favour of a coordinated strategy against the Maoists. Despite several

setbacks, the national Opposition was in a mood to fully stand by the government against indiscriminate Maoist violence. However, differences within the UPA have started crippling the Central government's approach towards the Maoists

The Congress leaders started openly questioning the approach of the Home Ministry and the government of India. In West Bengal, an UPA ally, the Trinamool Congress, openly started hobnobbing with the Maoists because of electoral and vote bank consideration. Differences in the Cabinet spilled over into the public. The Home Ministry wanted an 'expanded mandate' to fight the Maoists. The Cabinet was willing to give only a 'limited mandate'. The Home Ministry favoured the use of air-power for surveillance; the Defence

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Minister was not cooperative.

Whereas the Maoists are expanding both their geographical reach and the intensity of their operations, the UPA's effort is to bog down the fight against Maoists in a meaningless discussion on whether they should be a security response against Maoists or it should only be treated as a socio-economic problem. The Myopic UPA government does not realize that even to execute developmental activities in areas of the Maoist influence, it is extremely important that these secluded areas be taken back from the Maoist control and handed over to the civilian administration. Unless, civilian control is established in these areas, and these areas are freed from weapons, violence and landmines, there can be no meaningful development activities in these areas. It is a three-fold strategy against the Maoists, which is necessary. The militarized operations of the Maoists must be met with coordinated and strong security action. Where it is possible to execute development projects, the same must be done with utmost priority. Where it is not possible to execute development programmes, without dismantling the Maoist control, it is important to first wrest control of these areas and then execute the

developmental programmes. There is also a need to carry on an ideological battle against the Maoists, and their movement, whose object is to dismantle and destroy India's parliamentary democracy.

The Bharatiya Janata Party is of the clear opinion that India cannot afford to lose this battle against the Maoists. We have to strengthen the security situation in areas of Maoist influence. There is a need to coordinate between the Centre and the states. Law and order is a state subject but when law and order problem transgresses into a threat to India's sovereignty and parliamentary democracy, the central government cannot shrug off its responsibility. The Nation cannot abandon its responsibility by the meaningless debates that revolves around the Centre versus state or security versus development. The whole Nation needs to speak in one voice. India is prepared to speak in that one voice. However, there are two voices being heard from within the UPA. The Nation does not know, which of the two voices the Prime Minister supports. ■

New Central Election Committee, Disciplinary Committee and Morcha Presidents announced

BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari on June 15 announced the names of its 20-member central election committee, a five-member disciplinary committee and heads of Women, Youth, Minority, Kisan, SC and ST Morchas of the party. The names of the members of committees and heads of Morcha are following:

Central Election Committee

1. Shri Nitin Gadkari, **President**
2. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee
3. Shri Lal Krishna Advani
4. Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi
5. Shri Venkaiah Naidu
6. Shri Rajnath Singh
7. Smt. Sushma Swaraj
8. Shri Arun Jaitley
9. Shri Bal Apte
10. Shri Anant Kumar, **Secretary**
11. Shri Thawarchand Gehlot
12. Shri Ramlal Ji
13. Shri Kalraj Mishra
14. Smt. Vasundhara Raju
15. Shri Gopinath Munde
16. Shri Arjun Munda
17. Shri Vijay Goel
18. Shri Narendra Singh Tomar
19. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
20. Syed Shahnawaz Hussain

Disciplinary Committee

1. Prof. Om Prakash Kohli, **President**
2. Shri Balram Das Tandon
3. Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi
4. Shri O. Raj Gopal
5. Smt. Mridula Sinha

Morcha Presidents



Smt. Smriti Irani

Mahila Morcha



Shri Anurag Thakur

Yuva Morcha



Shri Dusyant Gautam

SC Morcha



Shri Faggan Singh Kulste

ST Morcha



Shri Tanveer Ahamed

Minority Morcha



Shri Om Prakash Dhankad

Kisan Morcha

A year of disappointment and non-achievement



A resolution on one-year of UPA-II was adopted unanimously. It noted with regret that there has been nothing worth the salt to claim as achievement in one year. On the contrary, the one year has been marked with chaos, confusion, compromise, corruption, inconsistency and incoherence. The Resolution moved by BJP National General Secretary Shri Ananth Kumar was seconded by MP Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Smt. Sushma Swaraj.

The UPA Government at the centre has completed one year in its second tenure. Like the general unsatisfactory record of the UPA I; the first year of UPA II has equally been a year of disappointment and non-achievement. Chaos, confusion, compromise, corruption, inconsistency and incoherence have been the only distinguishing feature. Declarations have been made but delivery has been very poor. The only achievement is that it has remained in power even though with a slender majority in the Lok Sabha and minority in the Rajya Sabha; by making compromises with allies on issue of corruption and managing certain vulnerable sections of the Opposition.

Price rise

On his assumption of office for the second time in May 2009, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has declared the first 100 days agenda of his Government. Containing price rise was on the top of this agenda. Now after completion of 365 day there is no sign of inflation coming down. The common man continues to suffer as the whole sale price index remains close to double digit whereas the inflation of food prices is at a high of 17-19%. Now it is close to three years that the prices have been rising and that too under a Government headed by an economist like Dr. Manmohan Singh. Gross

mismanagement of food economy by the UPA Government is directly responsible for food inflation. The Government has patronised the interest of middle man at the cost of the farmer and the common man. The massive irregularity in the

operation of the commodity exchange and the policy relating to export and import of food grain and food products bear ample proof of the same. Food grain stocked in Government godowns are rotting while its availability in the market at affordable price continues to remain problematic. It is a matter of great satisfaction that during the NDA regime under the Prime Ministership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee prices remained under control and these were available in plenty. Both the farmers and the consumers were happy and this sound management of food economy was achieved in spite of many natural calamities. The Congress Party led Central Government lacks the will to control inflation. It has failed to explain to the nation why the food economy of surplus left by the NDA has been



The Congress Party led Central Government lacks the will to control inflation. It has failed to explain to the nation why the food economy of surplus left by the NDA has been reduced to an economy of scarcity and inflation.

reduced to an economy of scarcity and inflation. Unsatisfactory state of infrastructure and agriculture

The state of infrastructure and agriculture remains very unsatisfactory. The National Highway programme was a great success story of

the NDA regime under the Prime Ministership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. In fact, the success rate was 71% against the target which further rose to 81% in the year 2004-05 because of the good ground work done during the NDA regime. During the UPA I it got almost derailed because of chronic delays, ad-hocism, lack of monitoring and corruption in decision making leading to adverse comment even by the Planning Commission and the CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General). It was claimed that against the NDA target of construction of 11 km of road per day now 20 km of road will be constructed during UPA II. The claim remains only on paper. The Planning Commission has revised the target from 20km to 6km per day. According to the Commission's report on Highways development for the year 2009-10, the Ministry could spend only Rs.11608 crores against the target of Rs. 29934.67 crores (nearly 30,000 crores) i.e. just about a meagre 40%.

The entire power sector, so crucial for growth is in real mess. The PMO itself is aware of the highly unsatisfactory performance of the power sector. It is to be noted that in the 5 year period 1998-2003 (during the NDA regime) the Ministry of Power played a pivotal role in the reform process culminating in the bipartisan support for the Electricity Act 2003. The subsequent 5 years (UPA I) was itself described by the PMO in a note now available through RTI as "a half decade of missed opportunities" wherein the reforms impetus was virtually abandoned. The same continues even in the first years of UPA II where the power sector continues to under perform. In fact, persistent shortfalls on account of electricity generation, has held back our GDP growth.

The air transport constitutes a very important area of infrastructure. It is now increasingly evident that under the UPA II we are witnessing the virtual demise of Air India. The sickness which developed during UPA I has almost become cancerous during the 1st year of UPA II. The NDA govt. had initiated steps for "inter linking of rivers" which would have solved the perennial problem of floods and drought in India. It would have also solved the power problem by generating 6000 MW of cheap by hydel power. The UPA has abandoned this project. In the year 2007 the merger of Indian Airlines and Air India was done and based upon the reports of the

consultant we were told that the new merged entity would make a saving of 500 crores every year. Leave aside any turnaround after merger the accumulated loss of Air India today stands at Rs. 7200 crores and is likely to become Rs. 10000 crores by the next year. We hear frequent reports of accidents, chronic delays and collision between two aircrafts being averted at the last moment. Should not the UPA II take responsibility for the gross mismanagement of this critical sector?

Nearly 60% of the population is covered by and dependent upon the agriculture sector, yet it constitutes only approximately 17% of the GDP. The inflationary impact because of continued price rise is being very seriously felt on this sector. The agriculture income remains highly unsatisfactory without much improvement in the year 2009-10. In

It is to be noted that the United Nations Development Index has placed India at a rank of 132 even below Bhutan. The Global Hunger Index of International Food Policy Research has placed India at the 65th position from amongst 88 developing countries.

fact, as per the Annual GDP data released on May 31, 2010 the agriculture income has grown by a meagre 0.7% i.e. it continues to remain poor. Till date, the UPA II has not unfolded any elaborate and comprehensive plan coupled with sound delivery mechanism to address the chronic problem of agriculture sector, so crucial for growth. The suicide of farmers continues unabated. Many of the announcements and relief are not able to address the concerns of poor farmers.

Confusion and uncertainty looms large about the exact number of BPL (below the poverty line) families, which information is very crucial for a whole range of social development programmes including food security. As per the Planning Commission 27.3% of the rural household are below the poverty line. The N C Saxena expert group appointed by the Government, based on calorie intake estimated that 50% of rural household are living below the poverty line. The Arjun Sengupta Commission (The National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector) found that 77% of the population lived on less than Rs. 20/- a day and therefore this should be the basis

for BPL. The Suresh Tendulkar Committee concluded that 37.2% of the country's population is below the poverty line. It is to be noted that the United Nations Development Index has placed India at a rank of 132 even below Bhutan. The Global Hunger Index of International Food Policy Research has placed India at the 65th position from amongst 88 developing countries. Obviously, there has to be clarity about the exact number of BPL families in the absence of which any notion of food security would be meaningless. The UPA II is yet to formally declare as to what is exact number of BPL families.

It is very surprising that employment generation now has become a very low priority area for the

India has weakened its position in pressurising Pakistan on the issue of cross border terrorism. India is eager to talk with Pakistan in spite of dismal cooperation for action against the terrorists who had masterminded the 26/11 Mumbai attack from Pakistan.

UPA. Earlier it used to boast to give one crore job to unemployed youth every year. Now it has stopped even mentioning that because of a very dismal record. Large scale unemployment both in urban and rural areas continues to create uncertainty for millions of young people and the UPA II continues to remain indifferent. Foreign Policy

The autonomy and independence in the management of India's foreign policy seems to have become a casualty in the first year of UPA II. The firmness with which India used to stand up to international pressure on strategic issues is lacking. The Sharm-El-Sheikh joint declaration was not only a shame for the country but was contrary to the January 2004 joint declaration between the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the then President Musarraf wherein Pakistan for the first time acknowledged that it shall not permit its territory to be used for terror attacks against India. In Sharm-El-Sheikh the biggest blunder was committed by bringing in the reference to Baluchistan. Now, the UPA has decided much against the strategic interest of India that dialogue with Pakistan shall go on irrespective of any action being taken by Pakistan against terrorist operating

from across the border for terror attacks on India. India's conventional stand has been abandoned. American pressure was evident in India's role at Copenhagen in the ministerial conference on climate change. The US pressure is again evident in the hurried manner in which Civil Nuclear Liability Bill has been prepared and introduced. In the context of only public sector being allowed in India to operate nuclear plants there does not seem to be any relevance of the Bill. If it is designed to safeguard the interest of American supplier of nuclear power plant then there has to be adequate provisions for proper compensation and criminal liability in case of any accident. The life of an Indian is not cheap in comparison to any American or, anybody else. The gross injustice which the victims of Union Carbide gas tragedy in Bhopal have suffered must make us all alive to this critical aspect. The BJP demands that all requisite steps must be taken for expeditious justice to the victims of Bhopal tragedy.

Soft on terrorism

The UPA II like UPA I is soft on terror.

It continues to give repeated signal to terrorist and their patrons both within the country and across the border that strong action against them is tradable for votes. The most shameful confirmation for this is the public acknowledgement by the Chief Minister of Delhi Smt. Sheila Dixit that she was pressurised by the former Home Minister Mr. Shivraj Patil not to take any action on the plea of pardon of Afzal Guru whose death sentence was confirmed even by the Supreme Court, in one of the worst terrorist attack on the Parliament. The file was delayed for more than three years. The General Secretary of the Congress Party Mr. Digvijay Singh visited the families of the terrorists in Azamgarh who were killed in the Batala House in Delhi. A brave Police officer Mohan Lal Sharma was killed by the terrorist in the encounter there. Yet, the Congress General Secretary and many Ministers of the Cabinet continue to raise question about the entire incidents purely for vote bank politics. India has weakened its position in pressurising Pakistan on the issue of cross border terrorism. India is eager to talk with Pakistan in spite of dismal cooperation for action against the terrorists who had masterminded the 26/11 Mumbai attack from Pakistan. In the trial of 26/11 there is only one conviction and no significant

action has been taken against the handlers in Pakistan who planned and executed it. The gross failure of the Indian investigative and intelligence agencies in not being able to discover the role of David Hadley on their own in the planning of 26/11 only shows how vulnerable we are. Maoist continues to kill and massacre with impunity. Information of linkage between terrorists groups and the Maoist only highlights the serious challenge we all face.

Corruption

The first year of UPA II has once again shown the inability of the Prime Minister to take any action much less strong action on notorious cases of corruption. The slow down in the execution of National Highway Project is also attributable to corruption and extraneous influence in the award of contract. The national exchequer suffered a loss of about Rs. 60000/- crores in the allocation of 2G spectrum and now when the CBI in the investigation has found the allegation to be substantially true, the Prime Minister is unable to exert his authority and remove the Minister concerned. Ministerial lobbying for an IPL cricket franchise or for Chinese companies has now become the acceptable behaviour of the UPA in spite of serious issues of impropriety. A minister continues to be attacked publicly by their colleague in the Cabinet.

Subverting Institutions

The unashamed misused of CBI has become a permanent feature of the UPA governance whether it is UPA I or, UPA II. A legally vulnerable judgement by the Trial Court exonerating RJD leader Shri Laloo Prasad in the disproportionate assets case was not allowed to be challenged by the CBI in spite of serious recommendation by the CBI itself to file the appeal. The same CBI was made to challenge the order of the High Court accepting the appeal of the State of Bihar. Even after the Supreme Court judgement that only the CBI can challenge the judgement, no appeal was allowed to be filed. Shri Laloo Prasad in spite of phoney opposition on price rise was too willing to support the UPA directly or, indirectly during the voting on cut motions. The dilution of CBI case was used as a tool to get the support of Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav when the left withdrew support during UPA I and that of Ms. Mayawati and the BSP during the cut motion by the UPA II. Even authorised and un-

authorised phone tapping was resorted to manage and tackle the Opposition. Lobbyists continue to operate inside and outside the Government.

The Role of the BJP

In the last one year, the BJP has demonstrated with renewed vigour that it is only the BJP, which has exposed the anti-people policy and governance of the UPA II and is capable of occupying and strengthening the genuine non UPA space along with its allies. For the BJP the last one year has been particularly significant. We have a new President and a new leadership in both House of the Parliament. The Party organisation has been restructured down to the States. It has a powerful presence and its activities are spread across the country. The Party cadre have been continuously and consistently protesting against the failures of the UPA in all parts of India. In both Houses of Parliament we have succeeded in putting the Government on back foot on many occasions. In whichever State we are in power the BJP Governments have given a very good account of pro-people governance. The BJP is determined to fulfil the historic responsibility of a nationalist opposition. ■

Rajya Sabha Election

Venkaiah Naidu, Rudy, Naqvi elected to Rajya Sabha

BJP Candidates for Rajya Sabha including Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Shri Rajeev Pratap Rudy, Shri Chandan Mitra Shri Anil Madhav Dave, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Shri Tarun Vijay, Shri Piyush Goel and Shri Ram Jeth Malani have won Rajya Sabha seats.

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu and former Lok Sabha MP Aayanur Manjunat were elected to Rajya Sabha from Karnataka. Party spokes person Shri Rajeev Pratap Rudy has won Rajya Sabha seat from Bihar while Shri Chandan Mitra and Shri Anil Madhav Dave made it to the House from Madhya Pradesh.

BJP candidate from Rajasthan Shri Ram Jethmalani and Shri V P Singh were elected to the Upper House of the Parliament. BJP Vice-President Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi won unopposed to Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh and Shri Tarun Vijay also elected unopposed from Uttarakhand. BJP treasurer Shri Piyush Goel was elected from Maharashtra. (FOC) ■

Congress Party has been historically intolerant of non-Congress parties



Power has got into the head of Congress-led UPA-II. It is bent upon bleeding the federal structure of Government in violation of the spirit of the Constitution. Through various proposed Bills and draconian directives, UPA-II is trying to put impediments in the path of development of the States ruled by BJP and other non-UPA parties. The BJP National Executive has vehemently opposed these anti-democratic actions of the Manmohan Singh Government in a resolution unanimously adopted in the meeting.

The Resolution was moved by BJP National General Secretary Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad and seconded by Gujarat Chief Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister, Shri Sushil Modi.

The Congress Party has historically been intolerant of non-Congress parties and repeatedly dismissed and otherwise harassed popularly elected non-Congress Governments in the States, starting with Kerala way back in 1959. Later it indulged in wanton and wholesale destabilization of non-Congress (SVD) coalitions after 1967 and repeated this in 1980. The Congress Party, especially the dynasty that has controlled it almost throughout since Independence, cannot stomach the idea that India is a multi-party, pluralist democracy. While paying lip service to democracy, federalism and Republican institutions, it privately desires that every Indian man, woman and child should behave like subjects under a monarchy.

Now that an informed citizenry, conscious of democratic rights and norms of federalism, has compelled the Congress to desist from dismissing elected State Governments at whim, the ruling party has resorted to various underhand methods to torment non-Congress regimes. Using financial and investigative powers vested with the Union Government, the Congress has been conducting systematic manoeuvres to destabilize and derail non-Congress (or non-UPA) State Governments especially targeting popular BJP Chief Ministers.

Unnerved by the success of BJP/NDA Governments in implementing pro-poor economic programmes, their proven ability to set new benchmarks in inclusive development and establish transparent systems of governance, the Central Government has launched a vicious and vindictive campaign against our State Governments.

Steps initiated by the UPA1 and UPA2 Governments at the Centre are aimed at surreptitiously seizing powers vested with the States and concentrating them in the hands of the Government in Delhi. For example, the Central Government has recently circulated a draft proposing amendments to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995. The new draft includes a provision whereby District Magistrates will be required to report any breach of the Rules directly to the Centre. This is a clear instance of trespassing on the State's jurisdiction.

Further, the Centre has recently circulated the draft of a Bill "The Public Services (Protection and Regulation) Bill 2010". According to this the Central Government wants to specify and regulate public services such as education, health, water supply, sanitation, housing, public transport, housing and electricity. If this Bill becomes law it would be an

outright infringement on the States' legislative powers and an elected State Government's accountability to its electors with regard to the provision of public services.

The Centre's recent moves fly in the face of the Sarkaria Commission's recommendations for the devolution of greater financial and administrative powers to the States. The Commission had also made some specific recommendations about the role of Governors and also proposed that active politicians should not be appointed to that post. However, Governors in several States are flouting these norms, obviously at the Centre's instigation. In many cases, instead of seeking opinion of the State's Advocate-General about legislation or legal issues concerning the State, Governors have been communicating directly with the Attorney-General of the Central Government. On the appointment of Chief Justices of High Courts, the Central Government nowadays thinks it unnecessary to consult Chief Ministers.

- ◆ Congress cannot tolerate India's political plurality
- ◆ UPA Government is plotting new laws to take away States' powers
- ◆ Recommendations of Sarkaria Commission thrown to the winds
- ◆ Centre grossly misusing CBI to settle political scores with BJP CMs
- ◆ Laws passed by State Assemblies are being maliciously withheld
- ◆ BJP Govts in States are being systematically harassed financially
- ◆ BJP will fight to defend Constitution and preserve India as a Union of States

The Centre is also misusing its captive agencies to mount political offensives against democratically elected non-Congress State Governments. On the eve of the Swarnim Gujarat celebrations to mark 50 glorious years of the State's formation, the Central Government unleashed the CBI to defame and demonise its popular Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Working hand-in-hand with subversive elements masquerading as civil society activists, the Centre's investigative agencies sought to rake up the issue of encounters against dreaded anti-national terrorists. The timing of the reopening of these issues gave away the Centre's political motives.

The Gujarat Government led by Shri Modi has been constantly targeted by the Congress, which has been conspiring to frame the Chief Minister for eight long years although without any success. Unsubstantiated and patently false charges continue to be bandied about against the Chief Minister and other BJP leaders. Meanwhile, the Union Government has repeatedly refused permission to enact GUJCOC, a tough anti-terror

law that has been twice passed by the State Assembly. It is common knowledge that GUJCOC contains provisions similar to laws like MCOCA in UPA-ruled Maharashtra and this law is applicable in many other UPA-ruled States. But the Centre has singled out Gujarat and is determined not to allow the President of India to give assent for its enactment.

Gujarat is not the only State that has come for such politically motivated actions that violate the Constitution federal framework. Each and every NDA-ruled State has suffered grievously at the Centre's hands. In Madhya Pradesh, a Union Minister arbitrarily ordered suspension of work on

the Maheshwar power project, vital for the State's economic sustenance. This authoritarian order was issued on spurious grounds because the State had already complied with all necessary conditionalities. The idea, clearly, was to prevent Madhya Pradesh from generating more electricity to bring prosperity to its farmers and industrial

workers. While Congress Ministers keep parroting the target of 10 percent annual growth, they seem determined to keep non-Congress States in the bondage of poverty and underdevelopment.

Chhattisgarh became a role model for the country by introducing a scheme to provide subsidized rice and wheat to BPL families in the State. The Rs 2 a kg rice and Re 1 a kg salt scheme has been a runaway success and the State's large tribal population is its main beneficiary. Piqued by the BJP Government's popularity, the Centre has been periodically reducing foodgrain allocation to Chhattisgarh from the Central PDS pool. This has forced the State Government to procure foodgrain from the open market to ensure the State's poor do not go hungry. But it has placed an increasingly heavy burden on the State's resources.

All other BJP-ruled States have faced brazen discrimination by the Centre on one issue or the other. In the case of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the Industrial Promotion Package for backward Hill States, which lapsed on March 31, 2010, was not renewed. But for Jammu and Kashmir

it was extended till 2012 and for North-Eastern States till 2017. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Ramesh Nishank Pokhriyal pleaded for extension of this facility at least till 2013 since it is a newly created State. But he was rebuffed. Similarly, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal's request that plan allocation for his State should be increased at par with other Hill States was turned down. The rise in Himachal Pradesh's allocation is the lowest among Special Category States.

One statistic alone is telling. Following its abject failure to control price rise and disturbed by the BJP's success in putting the Government on the dock on this issue, the Centre tried to shift the blame on hoarders. Accordingly, its agencies launched raids across States to uncover stored foodgrain. Of these raids 83 percent happened in non-UPA ruled States and just 17 percent in UPA-ruled States!

In the matter of providing relief to States affected by natural calamities, the Centre's heart seems to bleed only for Congress-ruled States. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has repeatedly complained that Central relief for Kosi flood victims was not only paltry but also delayed. Clearly, this was an attempt to show the NDA Government down in people's eyes, possibly at the instigation of a past and potential future ally of the Congress in Bihar. In previous years too the Centre grandly announced relief for flood victims in the State and then quietly refused to disburse funds for house reconstruction later, leaving the State Government stranded.

Karnataka too has been at the receiving end of the Centre's discriminatory policies. There is a huge gap between the funds allocated for security upgradation in UPA-ruled State Capitals, Hyderabad and Chennai, compared to Bangalore, which is India's IT hub and highly vulnerable to terror attacks. The issue of mining royalties to mineral rich States is also hanging fire. Karnataka has protested against the Centre's appropriation of royalties. Recently non-UPA ruled Odisha has joined Karnataka in voicing the same complaint.

All of a sudden and without proper consultation with non-UPA Chief Ministers, the Centre has announced implementation of the Right to Education Act. While the BJP endorses this legislation in principle for it is an extension of the NDA Government's highly commended Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the Centre wants the States to

cough up a huge share of the funds needed for RTE. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan estimates this will cost a staggering Rs 13,000 crore for his State alone. In fact, the Centre is planning to abolish all State Secondary Boards and replace them with a Central Board and forcibly introduce a common syllabus. This is yet another assault on our federal structure as it does not take into account the enormous diversities of culture, language and educational standards in this vast country.

UPA 1 had already burdened the States with the Sixth Pay Commission recommendations on the eve of the 2009 Lok Sabha elections in a clever ploy to garner electoral advantage. And now it wants States to pay out huge amounts for RTE. This is a clear attempt to pauperise BJP State Governments so that they are forced to cut back on popular welfare schemes.

The systematic harassment of non-Congress State Governments reflects the Congress Party's anti-federal mindset. The Manmohan Singh Government has created two categories of States: The privileged, consisting of those ruled by the Congress and its allies and the underprivileged comprising those ruled by BJP and its allies. This is not only a violation of the Constitution but also a form of political apartheid. Drunk with power, the UPA Government has launched an all-out financial and legal war against BJP regimes in the States. In the process institutions like the CBI and Planning Commission have been reduced to extension counters of the PMO and 10 Janpath.

The makers of our Constitution envisaged a federal structure, which is why our country is designated The Union of India. But the Congress is hell-bent on subverting the Constitution and making India a unitary State in which the will of the people becomes subservient to one political party's megalomania.

The Bharatiya Janata Party warns the UPA Government to desist from these subversive and underhand activities against elected non-Congress Governments in the States. BJP reiterates its deep commitment to federalism, as evident from the way the NDA Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee conducted itself. The BJP will not take the UPA's unconstitutional assaults lying down. Public opinion will be mobilized against these illegal actions and our party will compel the UPA Government to abandon this dangerous game. ■

Salient points of concluding speech by Shri L.K. Advaniji at BJP National Executive Meeting, Patna (Bihar)

It is a coincidence that the first meeting of the national executive constituted by BJP national president Shri Nitin Gadkari was scheduled on 12-13 June 2010. But as I started writing my weekly blog yesterday the memory of the political history of June 12 came to my mind.

The discussion that took place in our Patna meeting was completely satisfying. There were two points on the agenda:

Three resolutions: First - the expansion of Maoist activities, second - UPA-II a year of failure and pessimism and third - Resolution on Centre's Assault on the federal structure of the Indian Union.

Three Reports: (1) Preliminary report of party committee on the encroachments on Indo-Tibet border, (2) report related to *Aajivan Sahyog Nidhi*, and (3) *Suraaj Sankalp*.

I feel that among all these documents the resolution related to assault on federal structure of Indian Union by Centre and committee report on Indo-Tibet border are inspiring and of greatest importance. Last evening when both our parliament members Shri Bhagat Singh Koshiari and Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy were presenting the report a sense of pride was evident on the face of the members present in the hall.

The work done by our parliamentarians at the height of 19,000 feet was not done before by any other parliamentarian or political activist and the kind of picture that they presented before the executive clearly shows that while China is very active in building roads and aerodromes near Indo-Tibet border, India is totally inactive inside its border.

When in 2008 I wrote my autobiography then naturally I described the manner in which Indian politics progressed in independent India in the context of Bharatiya Jansangh and Bharatiya Janata Party. I personally felt satisfied after writing



the book but also felt that a detailed history of Bharatiya Jansangh and Bharatiya Janata Party nurtured by great personalities like Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, Shri Nanaji Deshmukh and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee should be written.

I was born in 1927 in Karachi (Sindh). I spent first twenty years of my life in Sindh. I became a *swayamsevak* of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh in 1942 while I was in Sindh. I came to Rajasthan in 1947 and lived there upto 1957. After 1957 Delhi became the centre of my activities. I have been active in politics

since Jansangh was born in 1951. I have been a direct witness to all the elections from the first general elections in 1952 to the 15th general elections in 2009.

While living in Rajasthan I deeply felt that had a visionary and determined leader like Sardar Ballabhai Patel not been there at the time of independence there would have been a probability of India not only getting divided while attaining independence but possibly getting disintegrated also. In August 1947 India became independent. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru became the prime minister and Sardar Patel the deputy prime minister. The biggest task before the government was to integrate with the country the 530 princely states spread all over India. Sardar Patel had to carry out this task after independence and he got very little time for it. In December 1950 he died.

In the government there was a very able officer VP Menon with Sardar Patel. Shri Menon has written two very good books, one - "The Story of Transfer of Power", and second - "The Integration of Indian States". These two books introduce us to the remarkable administrative capabilities, immense patriotism and excellent vision of Sardar Patel.

I can say by looking back that if Bharatiya Jansangh had not been formed and Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee not been martyred in jail, there would have been no unfurling of tricolour in Jammu and Kashmir and no one could be going on pilgrimage to Vaishno Devi without permit.

Not only this, by remembering the phase of emergency during 1975-76, I can say that the face of Indian politics would have been different from what it is today had not the Bharatiya Janata Party and the entire *sangh parivar* waged the nationwide struggle against dictatorship and had not the positive result come out of the 1977 elections. In those days of emergency Congress mouthpiece *National Herald* had continuously advocated that India should not have multi-party democratic system but one-party democracy like some of the African countries.

Today if India is respected in the entire world it is not only because India is considered an emerging economic superpower but also because India is the only developing country which has proven itself to be a successful democracy excepting 20 months of emergency.

In 1962 India had to accept humiliating defeat at the hands of China. The aggression by China proved fatal for prime minister Pandit Nehru. I went to Ladakh for the first time as a journalist in 1962 and quickly learnt how indifferent the Congress government was towards the security of the country. In 1964 China took first step towards becoming a nuclear power by carrying out atomic explosion in Lop-Nor. Immediately after that Jansangh passed a resolution that India should move on the path of making atom bombs. Others kept criticizing us but our party which considered the security of the country as the most important never deviated from the goal.

In 1998 we got the opportunity. While preparing the manifesto we convinced our allies in NDA. In March the Vajpayee ministry was sworn in and Pokhran took place in May. Each and every Indian, inside and outside the country, was filled with pride and self-respect.

Every member of Bharatiya Janata Party should be proud of the fact that in maintaining the integrity

of India, in keeping the Indian democracy intact and in making India a nuclear power Bharatiya Jansangh and Bharatiya Janata Party has played a unique role.

When I look back at the political journey of last six decades then I feel sad to see that the dreams we had woven in 1947 have not been realized. Every year when I see two reports then I feel deeply hurt. In the annual report of Transparency International which records the position of a country on the basis of corruption index, India is always placed above in the list. And the UNO report on Human Development Index in which India is always placed below in the list. In 1997 when India completed 50 years of

its independence I embarked upon the longest journey of my life. Party had given it the name of *Swarna Jayanti Rathayatra*.

By travelling all over the country in 59 days party offered its tribute to all patriots who

earned independence for the country by their sacrifices and struggle.

Party also gave the message to the country that even after 50 years if the country is still backward and could not claim its rightful position in the world even after having all kinds of possibilities then the reason is that although *Swaraj* has been attained due to sacrifices of our people but those who came in power could not convert it into *Suraaj*. Bharatiya Janata Party has made a commitment to the country that wherever we get the opportunity to form government we will reciprocate by giving *Suraaj* to the people.

The commitment made in 1997 was evident when we formed government at the centre in 1998. For six years Shri Vajpayee led NDA gave a highly successful government to the country.

Today in all the states where we are in government party is honestly trying to work in tune with this commitment and in this way the role which Bharatiya Janata Party is playing in Indian politics is a source of strength and determination of our *karyakartas* and an example of our increasing goodwill and credibility among the people. ■

Congress Govt. knowingly facilitated the escape of Warren Anderson

Press statement issued on June 17, 2010 by Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad MP, BJP General Secretary and Chief Spokesperson on Bhopal Gas tragedy.



It is now becoming increasingly established that the Congress Government at the Centre and the State of MP most willingly and deliberately conspired to ensure a safe passage to Warren Anderson, the Chief of the Union Carbide, in spite of the fact that he was one of the principal accused in the near massacre of thousands of innocent people in the Bhopal Gas leak. It is indeed a cruel joke that the Congress Party whose Government committed the most unpardonable, unpatriotic and inhuman act of giving safe passage to Anderson, are today claiming that any criticism of late Rajiv Gandhi, the then Prime Minister would be unpatriotic. They have not learnt any lesson from emergency days during 1975-76 when any criticism of then Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi was also declared unpatriotic. The Congress lost heavily thereafter. The BJP strongly condemns these most undemocratic comments of the Congress.

It is not a curious coincidence that the licence to the Union Carbide to establish the plant at Bhopal was issued on 31/10/1975 when the emergency was in operation and all the freedoms were curtailed. This too was granted in spite of objection by the then Ministry of Industrial Development, according to which the technology was obsolete. In fact, in the latest judgement of June 7, 2010 the CJM Bhopal has himself noted that no evidence was produced during trial that there was similarity between the plant at Bhopal and Virginia

(USA).

The television comment of Anderson arrogantly claiming that "House arrest or, no arrest, bail or, no bail, I am free to go home" and the almost meek and submissive comment of Arjun Singh, the then Chief Minister of MP that "there was no intention to prosecute anyone or, to try or harass anyone" (in spite of thousands of persons having been killed) itself confirms that there was a deal for safe passage. In this connection the following points are very relevant.

The Union carbide on 07/12/1984 (the day Anderson was arrested and released) issued a statement which was reported in different American Newspapers. The relevant part of the statement published on 07/12/1984 itself in the Pittsburgh Press, published from Pittsburgh (available on Google news archive) is being quoted below:

"A company (Union Carbide) statement issued at headquarters in Danbury said the arrest violated an Indian Government promise to provide Anderson with safe passage. Warren Anderson went to India fully expecting to be of assistance and was provided with safe passage assurance from the Indian Government".

Therefore, there is a formal confirmation by the company itself in public statement that the Government of India had promised

a safe passage.

The Congress Party is conspicuously silent on the public claim of Gordon Streeb the then Dy.

The television comment of Anderson arrogantly claiming that "House arrest or, no arrest, bail or, no bail, I am free to go home" and the almost meek and submissive comment of Arjun Singh, the then Chief Minister of MP that "there was no intention to prosecute anyone or, to try or harass anyone" (in spite of thousands of persons having been killed) itself confirms that there was a deal for safe passage.

Chief of Mission at the American Embassy, New Delhi that Anderson was freed as a part of an agreement and allowed to go back. He further claimed that he requested the intervention of Government of India, when he was arrested to secure his release.

The Congress Government as it appears from a variety of circumstances; more than willing to help the Union carbide in one way or the other and ensure that its liability was not become very strict. Immediately after the incident it passed the Bhopal Gas leak Disaster (Processing of claims) Act 1985 under which according to Section 3, the Central Government acquired the exclusive right to represent every person whether within or outside India, who is entitled to make any claim arising out of Bhopal Gas Leak.

Thereafter, it agreed before the Supreme Court for a final claim settlement of \$470 million USD only and even in this proceedings the Attorney General appearing for the Government of India on behalf of the Government had suggested the maximum amount of \$500 million USD only which the Court finally determined to be \$470 million USD. Vide the order dated 14/02/1989, it also agreed for dismissal of all claims or civil, or criminal proceedings. The two Supreme Court judgements are reported in 1989 (1) SCC page no 674 and 1989 (3) SCC page no 38.

The above judgement was agreed to by the Congress Government on the premise that the total no. of death was about 3000 and those injured was about 30,000-40,000. This was also patently wrong and cruelly absurd because the exact number is

five times more.

When there was protest even on the quashing of criminal charges then the same was revived. However, when the Supreme Court gave a very questionable judgement in the year 1996 diluting the charge from 304 part II IPC (punishable for 10 years) to 304 A (punishable only for 2 years), no review was filed by the Government of India.

During trial when evidence came of culpability of the Union Carbide in ensuring security and safety leading to killing of thousands of innocent persons even then the CBI did not request the Court for reframing of the charge for the serious offence of 304 part II IPC.

Hardly, three years ago, the UPA I had seriously opposed before the Supreme Court the plea by some NGOs to enhance compensation.

Lastly, if at all Anderson was required to be removed from Bhopal because of some law and order problem then why he was allowed to go out of India. He could have been detained at any other place. He was accused of serious crime yet without being produced, or a Court order he was given a safe passage by the Congress Government out of the country itself. These facts are too telling.

There is revulsion and anger not only in India but the world at large about the rank injustice having been done to Bhopal Gas victims. It should be our collective efforts to give them justice. The Government of India and the CBI must take urgent expeditious steps to ensure quick justice and punishment for crime, enhancement of compensation and a fresh vigorous effort to get Warren Anderson extradited. ■

Delhi BJP protests against hike in CNG

The Delhi BJP leaders on June 18 have protested against the increase in CNG price and submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister seeking reduction in its price. The protest has been launched after the Government took the decision to increase CNG price by Rs 5.60 per kg. CNG rates in Delhi, now, have gone up from Rs 21.90 to Rs 27.50 per kg. Accusing the Government of failing to check price rise, BJP said the Government has ignored the problems of common people. "The price of CNG has increased six times within a year. Nearly 3.5 lakh people use CNG vehicles in the Capital who will be directly affected," said Delhi BJP president Shri Vijender Gupta. He said that local transport would become costly which in turn will affect the prices of essential commodities. The leaders including Shri Vijender Gupta, Shri VK Malhotra, Shri Vijay Goel and Shri OP Kohli also courted arrest during the demonstration at Parliament Street.

Earlier, the auto-rickshaw drivers had on June 17 protested against the increase in the CNG price in the Delhi. (FOC) ■



MEMORIES OF THE EMERGENCY

By Shri L.K Advani

Today, India commands respect in the world, not only because it is perceived as an emerging economic power, but also because from among the developing countries, it is the only one that has been functioning as a vibrant and vigorous democracy.

Within the country, however, many are blissfully unaware that in June 1975 we came very close to a situation when the ruling party wanted to bury multi-party democracy and introduce a single party set up. In my blogs this month, therefore, I have been consciously trying to recall the happenings of the Emergency inflicted on the country on 26th June, 1975.

The country needs to be intensely alive to this phase of independent India's history. Allowing this phase to be forgotten would be tantamount to doing a grave disservice to Democracy!

As I pointed out last week two events that took place on 12th June, 1975 led to the Emergency. And the Emergency brought to the surface the innate distrust some leaders of the ruling party have always had for democracy. Smt. Gandhi herself once said those days: "The nation is more important than democracy".

The National Herald, the daily paper in Delhi started by Pandit Nehru, wrote an editorial then praising the one party system in African states like Tanzania as being no less virile than the multi-party system. The paper observed:

"The Westminster model need not be the best model, and some African states have demonstrated how the people's voice will prevail whatever be the outward structure of democracy. By stressing the need for a strong Centre the PM has pointed out the strength of Indian democracy. A weak Centre threatens the country's unity, integrity, and very survival of freedom. She has posed the most important question: If the country's freedom does not survive, how can democracy survive?"

Numerous books have been written on the Emergency of 1975. Most of these have been written by Mrs. Gandhi's critics. These days I am going through an interesting book written by an admirer of hers, Uma Vasudev, a well known journalist

who shortly before the imposition of the Emergency had an appreciative book published about her with the title "Indira Gandhi - Revolution in Restraint."

But the Emergency and all that happened during that period deeply disturbed her.

The upshot was yet another book about the same leader titled "Two faces of Indira Gandhi".

The book opens with this passage :

"Sitting out in the political cold in the hills of Pachmarhi in June 1976, six hundred miles away from India's capital, Pandit Dwarka Prasad Mishra, Indira Gandhi's master tactician and confidant in her battle for intra-party supremacy in 1967-69, related an anecdote to an administrator friend calling on him: "There was a political prisoner I knew in the thirties who was so fond of his pet cat that he was allowed to keep it with him in his cell. One day his nerves cracked and he beat the cat blue. The cat sat cowering in a corner, not knowing where to turn, for the cell door was locked and it was trapped. Each time its one-time protector would come near, it would shrink against the wall and whimper. The jailor heard the cries and came running. As soon as the cell door flew open, the cat, instead of rushing out, leapt at her owner's throat in such ferocious anger that he nearly died before they could release its grip. The moral of the story is," said Mishra as his tiny eyes gleamed behind his glasses, "that if you want to hit the enemy, you must leave a way out for him. Otherwise his despair can make him a killer."

The reference was Maoist but the application was nearer home. It was one year since Indira Gandhi had declared an internal emergency in India on 26 June 1975. The opposition elite was still in jail, including such big names as Jayaprakash Narayan, Morarji Desai, Atal Behari Vajpayee, Raj Narain, L.K. Advani, and Pilo Mody - together with men from her own Congress Party like Chandra Shekhar, Mohan Dharia, Krishan Kant, Ram Dhan, and P.N. Singh. Censorship of the media was still in force. Argument and dissent were mouthed in whispers, while rumour

aggravated fear. The politician and the intellectual subsisted in uneasy confrontation, the area of direct knowledge became narrower and narrower, and truth seemed to have more than the seven colours of the rainbow. "

Continuing with this line of analysis, Uma Vasudev writes in the last chapter of her book captioned "Dark Side of the Moon" :

A determined old man walked into Bangalore's jail one day in June 1976. He wanted to see Lal Krishan Advani, president of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, who was incarcerated there with a hundred other detainees since the bleak dawn of the emergency. When Advani appeared before him, the man saw a tall, slim, distinguished-looking and fair Sindhi, with very regular features, a moustache, and a quiet manner which gave nothing away.

"Well ?" smiled Advani.

"I'm sixty-five," the man burst out. "I can't stand what she's doing. I've done whatever I wanted to. I've nothing more to live for. Tell me what to do. I'm prepared to die. I can go and shoot her".

"No," said Advani.

But the average worker inside the jails was getting impatient. There was a growing feeling that the leadership within was becoming complacent and that there were no plans towards a new move.

"You seem to think there's no need to do anything any more," complained Advani's companions in prison.

No authoritarian regime had been overthrown by violence, thought Advani. There was no alternative but to wait for the people to rise.

"There was so much anger against Indira Gandhi at the time. Do you think she might possibly have been assassinated then, or if she had managed to scrape back to power later ?" I asked.

"Considering the extent to which she had gone, she might have, perhaps - had this been another country. But not in India. India is too big and it's not in the temper of the people; otherwise, it would have happened even earlier. Besides, the leadership of the political forces opposed to her is positively opposed to this kind of thing also. They disapprove of these measures. There is too strong a commitment to peace." Said Advani.

Press censorship during the emergency was

extremely strict. Criticism of the Government, the ruling establishment or even of the Emergency was not permitted. I was therefore surprised to receive in Bangalore jail where I was kept for the greater part of those nineteen months a copy of the QUEST (a quarterly journal from Mumbai dated Nov.-Dec., 1975), which carried an article by Ashis Nandi which in substance said to the rulers that if you persist with your present course of action you would be inviting assassination. The article bore the tell-tale title "Invitation to a Beheading: A psychologist's guide to assassinations in the third world".

An excerpt from this article read :

"The relationship between an assassin and his victim is deep and enduring. Death only openly and finally brings them together. Of course, there are tyrants who turn virtually everyone in a country into a prospective assassin and leaders who build bastions against their assassination in the minds of men, thereby reducing the circle of prospective assassins to the microscopic group of hired psychopaths and the mentally ill.

Emperor Nero belonged to the first category and Martin Luther King to the second. There is also the special case of rulers who by the consent of the majority are tyrannical within the country and, to the extent they get the chance, in the world outside. Their pathology leads to collective suicides rather than individual assassinations. Adolf Hitler is the hackneyed but glaring example of the species. But such leaders are hardly typical. There is a much broader range of situations where the ruler is popular and charismatic but propelled by his inner drives, prepares the ground for his assassination. In such cases there is a close fit among the motivational imperatives of such a man, his attempts to remould the polity after his own psychological needs, and the type of invitation he extends to his potential assassins.

The first characteristic of such a ruler is an inability to trust deeply and wholly. Though his flamboyant style may hide it for a long time, he lives in an inner world peopled by untrustworthy men. Even when he trusts some, it is transient. A chain of lieutenants comes in and goes out of his favour in a fashion reminiscent of people getting in and out of a railway compartment.

The ruler suspends this suspiciousness only in the case of his family members, men recruited from outside politics to act as 'commissars', and politicians who have no independent bases and

are fully dependent on him..."

When Uma Vasudev met me after my release and had a long discussion with me about the Emergency happenings, the National Herald's advocacy of a one party setup like that of Tanzania, (a point that her book referred to above had also mentioned) came up in the discussion. Ms. Vasudev said to me: But is it not true that while this editorial was written on August 11, a fortnight later, on August 25 the same newspaper wrote:

"The PM has made it clear in recent days that there will be no attempt to establish a one party system in this country and that she is not thinking

in terms of a constituent assembly or a new Constitution. As far as the party system is concerned, the one party system, however well it might answer needs theoretically, will not be forced; it can come about only in the course of natural evolution, and at present there is no such prospect."

Uma Vasudev, after citing this statement of the Prime Minister, asked me: "What happened between August 11 and August 25?"

My immediate answer was: "Mujib's assassination on August 15", I added: "That gave her a shock; and made her realize that the kernel of Democracy must be maintained." ■

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Intimidation he said the CBI has become a tool of intimidation for the Congress. "We in the BJP strongly demand a JPC probe into the misuse of the CBI," he said.

Extremely perturbed over the law and order situation in Manipur and the hardships the people of the State are facing due to economic blockade, Shri Gadkari declared that the BJP would observe June 23, the death anniversary of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, as 'Manipur Solidarity Day' and the party workers in all the capital cities would observe day long fast. "For the last over 70 days Manipur is facing road blockade and life has become a misery for our brethren there. We believe the Naga leader Thuingaleng Muivah played a dangerous game first by announcing his desire to visit his home village in Manipur and later by joining the blockade. It is highly deplorable that Naga groups are allowed to hold the entire State of Manipur to ransom and the Central government is just a spectator watching the hapless condition of the people of Manipur. While the genuine demands of Nagas certainly merit attention, politics of blockade has no place in a democratic polity," he said. He further said that the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt Sushma Swaraj would visit Manipur shortly and would brief the Prime Minister and the Party about the real situation there. Expressing complete solidarity with the people of Manipur he asked the Central government to show the same kind of sensitivity that it showed for the people of Kashmir Valley.

Smt Sushma Swaraj lambasted the Congress Led UPA Government over its failure on containing price rise, infrastructure development,

foreign policy, harnessing terrorism and some other issues. About the corruption in 2G spectrum allocation she said the exchequer suffered the loss of about Rs 60,000 crore in it and the CBI found this allegation to be substantially true. "The Prime Minister is unable to exert his authority and remove the Minister concerned. Ministerial lobbying for an IPL cricket franchise or for Chinese campaigns has now become acceptable behaviour of the UPA," she said alleging that the UPA's confidence has turned into arrogance.

In his concluding remarks Chairman of BJP Parliamentary Party Shri LK Advani said the party workers should be proud of the party's achievements and mindful of the contributions it made in making the country a bipolar and strong nation. He reminded the workers that the BJP is not a party of individual but of several lakh workers.

Shri Alok Kumar, national convener of party's workers training cell, presented a detailed action plan for imparting training to the party workers, while Shri Vamanacharya unfolded a plan for promoting Antyodaya activities. A group of BJP leaders under the leadership of former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand and Rajya Sabha MP Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari studied the Chinese border in Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Laddakh and presented its report. Former Governor, veteran party leader Shri Kailashpati Mishra was honoured by Shri L. K. Advani for his outstanding contribution in the expansion of the party in Bihar. **(A report by Pramod Kumar)**

(Courtesy : Organiser) ■