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न जायते म्रियते वा कदाचिन्नायं भूत्वा भविता वा न भूयः ।
अजो नित्यः शाश्वतोऽयं पुराणो न हन्यते हन्यमाने शरीरे ॥

The soul is never born nor dies; nor does it become only being born. For it is unborn, eternal, everlasting and primeval; even though the body is slain, the soul is not.

Bhagavadgita, Chapter 2, Text 20

Editorial

Rajasthan loses its warrior, nation its gentleman stalwart

Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawatji is now no more. He was the person who had become synonymous with the politics of Rajasthan. Our humble tribute to the memory of this great soul! It is not that easy to attain such a great position while working in the field of politics. He was an indefatigable warrior of Rajasthan. He was known for his undeterred spirit and enthusiasm. He created a record of sorts by getting elected to Rajasthan legislative assembly for ten times. He also adorned the office of the chief minister of Rajasthan for three terms.

If we look back at the life journey of Shekhawatji from Rajasthan police services to the post of the Vice-President of India, we can say that it is only a person with determination and strong will who can not only reach the moon but build a castle there. He was a warrior of highest order. He also maintained social relations with a cross section of people while engaged in political battles. He continued to nurture social relations while being in politics.

He was a great votary of human relations. He remained committed to the relations he nurtured. He was known for the kind of political moderation for which Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji is remembered by the people.

Shekhawatji possessed a magnificent personality attired in impeccable dhoti, kurta and jacket and glasses in black frame, hair on ears, straight eye brows, and stately features bearing smile on his lips. He lighted the diya of Jansanghi with his sweat and blood in the desert state of Rajasthan. It was because of his tireless efforts that the desert where it is difficult to find water today stands covered with greenery and happiness. That was why he received overwhelming support from the masses. While standing firm in his politics of ideology, he always got connected to everyone with his large heart and maintained his faith in moderate and liberal values. He was fearless. Yet he never allowed people to feel over-awed of his personality. He was an open minded person. He used to talk freely, even

scolded people but always with a smile. Some of his words were conveyed by his gestures and facial expressions.

Shekhawatji always engaged himself in value based politics. He opposed sati, supported the ending of zamindari system, and realized the goals of antyodaya. The entire country witnessed his impartiality, commitment towards constitution and dedication towards his responsibility when he was the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. He was highly respected by people. Indian politics which is witnessing continuous decline in the last sixty years today urgently needs great men like Shekhawatji. A great personality, a fearless fighter for the cause of Rajasthan, Shekhawatji has left us but his sixty years of political life will keep inspiring and guiding us giving strength to the organization.

He was the master of masters. For some he was *eknath* and for others *somnath*. Today when we find individuals who use to sow the seeds of bitterness and rivalry among people, he connected people with one another with love and affection, gave them *samskaar* and brought them into the ideological fold. We salute the soil of Shekhawati of Rajasthan which gave the Indian politics a great jewel like him.

We pray to the almighty that his soul rests in peace. In the politics of today the real tribute to his memory will be to proceed in the direction of liberal and moderate politics with large heart as shown by him.

Nothing to celebrate for UPA-II

One year of UPA-II has elapsed. Those who are in the government are claiming to have done much. They feel proud of their achievements but the people are finding it difficult even to get food day by day. They are crying under the weight of rising prices. Many are dying of hunger. There is no relief in sight. It would have been better had UPA government tried to understand the hardship faced by the people. The reality of UPA government posing itself to be making efforts to give relief to the people is that it is indulging in false assurances and duplicity. It relies on false promises chanting the mantra, *tvamev jhutham, tvamev sarvam*.

One year of falsehood has passed. We are facing

terrorist attacks from across the borders. Within the country we are being targeted by the naxalites. Our intelligence system has collapsed. On the one side China and on the other Pakistan is casting evil eyes on us. The incidents taking place on the borders make us feel weak and demoralized. But no one knows why UPA-II is busy celebrating with great fanfare the completion of its one year in office. It should explain the need for such celebrations. People have the right to know. One year of office is a reality but what has happened in this one year should be made public. Afzal and Kasab are still questions hanging in the air. Naxalites and Maoists are on their killing spree with impunity. By hijacking government plans in the name of forefathers, by bearing the name of Gandhi as surname, by mother becoming president and son the general secretary to run the party only proves that Congress is now left with no strength neither it has strong leaders to lead. UPA is engaged in committing political crimes every second. The manner in which Mamata, Mayawati, Karunanidhi and Sharad Pawar are treating the Congress shows that power is the only glue which has kept them together and their sole aim is somehow stick to the chair through whatever means.

There is a slight change in the prime minister of UPA-II. In UPA-I he was not seen always following Sonia Gandhi but in UPA-II he does not take a single step without her permission. The way in which UPA is misusing CBI and other constitutional institutions to serve its politically vested interests points to the fact that UPA-II believes in the politics of revenge. The country had to bear the brunt of the politics of revenge in the form of emergency. UPA should understand that it will not last long. Farmers are dying continuously, unemployment is on rise unchecked, the issue of *roit- kapda-makan* remains as it was before, poverty is not diminishing, and in fact it is increasing. UPA has shattered the dream of making 21st century as India's century.

There is no cohesion, no rhythm and no rhyme in the one year of UPA-II. Neither is there any preparation to see any melody coming out in future. If the situation remains unchanged, then there is no doubt that UPA is preparing for writing its own obituary at the earliest. ■

Naxals strike again, Blast civilian bus in Chhattisgarh, 40 die

From Our Correspondent

At least 40 persons, including 12 security personnel, were killed when Left-wing guerrillas blew up a private bus on May 17 at Chinagawaram, under Gadiras police station area of insurgency-hit Dantewada, Chhattisgarh. Sources in the State administration believed that the bus was targeted because security personnel were travelling in it. The sources said the ill-fated bus with about 70 passengers, including 29 securitymen, was on the way from Sukma to Dantewada when the landmine blast occurred.

A team of 150 securitymen including district police, CRPF and special police officers had on May 16 gone to the rebel-affected Katekalyan block on a search operation.

From there, they went to Bhusaras, where the CRPF has a camp. After the mission ended a group of 40 most of them SPOs crossed the Gaziras forest region on foot and took the bus to return to their bases.

Within five km of the securitymen boarding the bus, the rebels detonated the

landmine. The cops were said to be sitting on the bus roof. The blast created a huge crater and threw the bus several feet into the air. The detonation of a landmine soon after the securitymen had boarded the bus clearly proves that their movements were being closely watched, state govt. officials pointed out.

The shape of the smashed bus bore testimony to the intensity of the surgically-planned IED attack by the extremists, the most deadly attack since the April 6 ambush in which 75 CRPF men were killed.

▶ The escalation in violence in Naxal affected districts has come after the April 6 ambush in which 75 CRPF men were killed.

▶ On May 16, 6 persons were



killed in Rajnandgaon.

- ▶ On May 8, 8 CRPF personnel were killed in Bijapur district.
- ▶ It was the second biggest attack on a private vehicle by the Maoists. They had blasted a truck in Bijapur on February 2006 in Dantewada's Darbhaguda area, in which 28 civilians returning after attending a Salwa Judum camp were killed. ■

“Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh said, “This incident shows the cruel face of Naxals. We have been saying this... When the Naxal support base gets eroded, they resort to such methods. Their belief in people’s representatives and local population has finished.” Dr. Singh announced an ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh for the kin of each of the civilian victims and Rs 5 lakh for the families of the SPOs.”

BJP severely condemns Maoists attack on civilians in Dantewada

PM must come out with his views : Jaitley

The Bharatiya Janata Party strongly condemns the brutal attack by the Maoists on civilians and security personnel in Dantewada (Chhattisgarh) on May 17. This attack has re-emphasised the sad reality that Maoists continue to gain dominance in several regions of the country. The efforts of the Central Government, the State Governments and our



Press statement issued by Shri Arun Jaitley, Leader of Opposition (Rajya Sabha) on Maoists attack on civilians and security personnel in Dantewada (Chhattisgarh) on May 18.

security forces to recapture the secluded areas of Maoists influence has certainly suffered a temporary setback. India ▶▶



Naxals have LeT links : Dr. Raman Singh

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh on May 20 described Naxals as the biggest threat and alleged they had links with the Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Tayyebba (LeT). Dr. Singh told reporters in New Delhi, "Who else (if not Maoists) can be termed as terrorists? They are the biggest terrorists...Naxalism is a biggest challenge to the democracy. They want to capture power at gunpoint."

Asserting Naxals were better trained now and "force" would have to be applied along with development to deal with the problem he added, "Though I have no confirmation, some facts have come to light indicating that Naxals may have some connection with LeT militants... The manner in which they are using IEDs, explosives and weapons with 100 per cent technical surety shows there are experts behind this who are giving them training." Dr. Singh called for a joint effort between the Centre and the State to weed out the rebels. The Chief Minister welcomed any aerial support but ruled out air strikes as an option in the Naxal-infested areas because it could have collateral damage. "There are landmines in up to 100 kms in an area. **If there is a blast it will take hours to take the injured to hospital by road. Army helicopters can be used here. And also for supplying emergency rations,**" he said. **But I don't recommend use of air power as Chhattisgarh has a huge dense forest cover inhabited by tribals and if any such attack is launched, then they will suffer greatly... Bombing is not possible in these areas. This is not a war, he added.** In the last decade, more than 1,000 civilians and over 650 policemen have been killed. Naxalites have also blown up 132 electric towers, 106 school buildings and three hospitals in Chhattisgarh. Dr. Singh said it was proof that the Naxalites didn't want development.

The Chief Minister said the strategy was to continue with the development process as well as the use of force in Maoist-infested areas at the same time. He also made it clear there cannot be any hard or softline to tackle Naxalism. "What has been achieved by adopting a soft line against them in the last 50 years?" He, however, criticized senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh for commenting on Naxal issues and said only the Prime Minister or the Home Minister should speak on such matters. Some people feel they are experts on the subject and continuously issue statements after every Naxal incident. The issue should be kept away from politics. It is not a political issue where statements need to be issued, he said when asked about Digvijay's recent comments criticizing his Government on handling of the Naxal issue.

He also criticised human rights groups saying they create a lot of media hype about violation of human rights during operations against Naxals and stressed on the need to change the strategy to fight Naxals as they have also altered tactics from waging guerrilla warfare to a mobile war. ■ (FOC)

► cannot accept the logic that Maoists are merely 'misguided ideologues'. They are a violent and brutal organization who with the use of force wants to overthrow India's parliamentary democracy. They wish to replace India's parliamentary democracy with an ideological dictatorship where civility, democracy, constitutionalism, fundamental rights, freedom and growth will have no place. There will be no space for ideological dissent. Elimination of opponents and dissenters will be the rule.

How can under these circumstances anyone committed to India's democratic process weaken this fight against the Maoists? The statement made last evening by Shri P. Chidambaram, the Union Home Minister on this issue is a cause of concern. Shri Chidambaram appeared to be an injured martyr. He looked 'disheartened'. "What can I do with the limited mandate" was his response to the questions about government taking decisive steps to recapture the secluded islands of Maoism. He claimed that he had only a limited mandate from the Cabinet Committee on Security as against a larger mandate that he desired.

How can the fight against Maoism be crippled by the Cabinet Committee on Security's inability to give a larger mandate to eliminate Maoism? A limited mandate effectively means that our security apparatus must fight Maoists with one hand tied. The half battle against Maoism can never succeed. A half battle is a losing battle. India cannot afford to lose this battle against the Maoists.

It is intriguing that whereas the Opposition is

willing to give full support to an effective strategy by the Government to eradicate Maoism, it is the Congress and the UPA, which is involved in demoralizing the entire security apparatus of this country in this battle. It is no longer peripheral leaders who want a soft stand against the Maoists. It is the centre-stage leadership of the Congress Party, which has now supported that stand. The recent letter by the UPA Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, to the



Congress workers published in the Party journal lends support to the softline on the Maoists. There are no two views on the multi-pronged approach to fight the Maoists. If development alone could solve the problem, the entire Nation would welcome it. But in order to ensure development and poverty eradication in the secluded Maoists dominated areas must first be entered upon and in order to establish the rule and governance of the civilian administration. Arms have to be flushed out. This certainly requires the security apparatus to support this operation. Those who believe in templates rather than action, can shy away from this real debate. Development of

the most backward districts must take place as a priority. But development can take place only when the government is in control of these areas. Currently it appears that the UPA government is in power, it is not in control.

All these statements about weakening the security battle against the Maoists are coming from non-governmental political leaders of the UPA. They are not accountable to the country. They are only accountable to their

Party. It is the Prime Minister of India who is constitutionally answerable to both the Parliament and the people. What is the governmental stand on the issue?

Why is the country's Home Minister feeling crippled in the fight against Maoists? Why is the Cabinet Committee on Security scared to mount a security offensive? It is time that the Prime Minister stood up and spoke on the issue and tell the Nation what are his views on the subject. Is he only in favour of a limited mandate to fight the Maoists? Is India going to see half a battle against Maoists or will we use all our national security resources to eradicate this menace? ■

Internal & external security of the country is in danger : Gadkari

From Our Correspondent

Addressing a mammoth Nyaya rally in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, which was organized against centre's injustice to the hill state on several issues BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari said Congress led UPA government is appeasing terrorists for vote bank politics and cautioned that soft approach towards the terrorists and naxals was fraught with dangerous consequences.

Shri Gadkari said the internal and external security of the country is in danger. There is an atmosphere of fear in the country because of Maoist & terrorist attacks. But the Congress led government at the centre does not fight terrorism. It is rather bowing down to terrorists and naxalites.

He said the UPA government had still not executed the death sentence of Afzal Guru, and the BJP had an apprehension that Azmal Kasab may never be hanged. "Should the government play such games with terrorists, just to use terrorism for vote bank. Has the meaning of secular has now been reduced to appeasement of terrorists? The Congress must understand that the terrorists, inspired by Laskar-e-Toiba, ISI or Al Qaida and are destabilizing the country do not have any religion, caste or creed. They are criminals and have to be dealt with strictly," he said.

Making a reference to alleged

intrusions made by China along Indo-China border, Shri Gadkari claimed that China had made encroachments on Indian Territory at 147 places. But the central government was so helpless that it has only put banners, requesting the Chinese to vacate the area.



The BJP President said naxalites were active from Pashupathinath to Tirupati, but the Congress led government lacked the will to end naxal menace.

Shri Gadkari said there had always been an attempt to label BJP as anti-muslims. "The BJP is not against any caste, creed or religion. We do not believe in dividing the nation on caste creed or religion. Had it not been so, the former prime minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee would not have picked up Dr Abdul Kalam for the highest post of President

of India. But BJP is against terrorism and terrorists," he held.

Launching a frontal attack on the Congress leaders and UPA government for price rise, he said the wrong economic policies and bad governance were responsible for inflation and price rise. He said different congress leaders,

including Congress President, Sonia Gandhi, Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh and Home Minister, P.Chidambaram have come out with explanations on rising prices, but have failed to intervene in the interest of common man. "The common man is suffering. The rich is getting richer, and the poor man, poorer. The Congress policies over the decades have revolved around garibi hatao. *Par kya hua?* (But what happened?) *Desh sey garib hi hat raha hai* (It's the poor man who is suffering day by day)," he said.

He said the centre can not do injustice to Himachal or any other state, only because its ruled by BJP. Elated with the enthusiastic and huge crowds at the rally, Shri Nitin Gadkari tried to touch the common chord as soon as he began speech. He said it was only in a democratic party like BJP that a ordinary party worker like me, who used to paste posters and distribute voting cards to people in elections, can dream of becoming party president.

But in Congress party, even leaders like Manmohan Singh to Pranab Mukherjee, P. Chidambaram or any other leader can never think of becoming Congress President. Because the post of President is booked in advance in Congress party. From Jawahar Lal Nehru, then Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi... then Rahul Gandhi and then his kids. Its all decided."

Addressing the mammoth gathering Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Prof. PK Dhumal said that diluting the industrial package by withdrawing excise exemptions that was granted by the Vajpayee government in 2003 for a ten year period was dishonoring a commitment. We will take the matter to court, should the package not be fully restored, he said.

The chief minister disclosed that in his recently concluded meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh he did let him know about the discrimination meted out by the 13th Finance Commission recommendations which had under assessed the states salary, interests and pension accounts by as much as Rs 1600 crores. Whereas other states had got higher allocation under the recommendations of the commission, Himachal had got the least, he said.

In his address BJP National Vice-President Shri Shanta Kumar said the party would continue to demand justice for the state. He said that it was the states case in the Supreme Court that has directed the central government on April 29 to intervene and settle outstanding issues with Punjab and Haryana within 3 weeks, otherwise the court would do so.

BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari supported the demands of raised by the CM and endorsed the states stand saying the party would stand by the state and partial withdrawal of the industrial package was unjustified. ■

SC raps UPA for sacking governors from NDA term

A five-judge constitution bench of the Supreme Court on May 7, according to TOI, dealt an "academic" yet stinging rap on the knuckles of the UPA-1 government for removing four NDA-appointed governors in 2004 immediately after coming to power and assuming office with outside support of Left parties. The governors of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat and Goa Sarvshree Vishnu Kant Shastri, Babu Parmanand, Kailashpati Mishra and Kidarnath Sahni - were summarily removed from Raj Bhavans, ostensibly because they were appointed by NDA government. The reason given by Congress led UPA government was that they were not in sync with the policies and ideologies of the UPA government. But; it turned out to be legally untenable. The court held that if the reasons for removal were irrelevant, malafide or whimsical, they could invite judicial intervention.

A five-judge Constitution Bench, comprising Chief Justice K.G. Balakrishnan and Justices S.H. Kapadia, R.V. Raveendran, B. Sudershan Reddy and P. Sathasivam was disposing of a petition filed by the former Member of Parliament, Shri B.P. Singhal.

Justice Raveendran, writing the unanimous 56-page judgment, said: "Governor cannot be removed on the ground that he is out of sync with the policies and ideologies of the Union government or the party in power at the Centre. Nor can he be removed on the ground that the Union government has lost confidence in him." The court verdict has vindicated the BJP stand that governor's removal was politically motivated to misuse the constitutional office for narrow political gains ■

...Continued from page 19

introduced the practice of allowing short supplementaries during the Question Hour. It was only during his tenure that all the questions listed for reply in the Question Hour could actually be answered, often leading to improptu discussions. Ministers had to be on their toes since there was a possibility of all questions being taken up. He was a pragmatic politician. He always knew that the pressure of leadership could create a disconnect between him and his electoral constituency. He changed his constituency almost in every election because his principles would make him unpopular. That was Bhairon Singh — pragmatic but principled. ■

(The writer is Leader of the Opposition in the RS)

To defeat Maoists, grasp the ground reality

By Shankar Roy Chowdhury

The belief that development can run concurrently with military operation is naïve. In an unpredictable and turbulent environment where destruction, mayhem and murder are the rule rather than the exception, the environment is hardly conducive to sustained development. It's time to grasp the ground reality!

The Maoists skate on thin ice — driven by an esoteric abstract — ideology. It appears convoluted to the lettered, let alone a tribal. It is too recondite an abstract to be sustainable under relentless military pressure. Had Maoism been fired by tangible, evocative, emotive issues like religion and ethnicity, may be it could've struggled on.

All tribals are not Maoists. Their deprivations, exploited through sophistry to harbinger salvation, draw them to the Maoist fold. The majority possibly enlist or support because of strong personal reasons or herd mentality.

Many well-intentioned people have opined that peace is attainable through dialogue and development is the sole panacea to the Maoist problem that too being undertaken concurrent with the military operations.

The idea, though well intentioned, is a non-starter. Maoists avow overthrowing the republic by force, rejecting democratic processes. Would they join in dialogue? Or would it be stratagem to seize breathing space to rest, refit and reorganise to return as a more menacing

force than ever before? Historically, insurgents do not enter dialogue unless they are made to realise the futility of their effort e.g. North-East or Kashmir insurgencies. The Maoists are yet to reach that state, currently riding a new high after the Sildah and Dantewada attacks. Will they abdicate their growing ascendancy?

The argument is patently bogus that the state is waging war and the hapless Maoists are merely reciprocating. Isn't violence their means to achieve

their aim? The Constitution mandates the States and the Centre maintain law and order. Maoists mandated to unleash murder and mayhem? There lies the subtle antithesis that eludes Maoist camp followers.

The belief that development can run concurrently with military operation is naïve. In an unpredictable and turbulent environment where destruction, mayhem and murder are the rule rather than the exception, the environment is hardly conducive to sustained development. The communication towers and schools were representatives of development and were razed to the ground. The net result was tremendous loss to the exchequer, and a colossal waste in effort and labour, lending to a confidence deficit in the Government.

However, concurrently feasible is the rejuvenating, albeit locally, of the State administration that has totally collapsed. Demotivated and surly administrators on punishment posting are hardly the ones to deliver. They should give way to those with integrity and courage, are deprivation ready and who can deliver. The basic necessities, including educating the tribal in trade and skills to keep them gainfully employed and schemes like the NREGS should be vigorously, fairly, transparently pursued to bring succour. Successfully implemented, it would wean away the tribal from the Maoists and provide the much needed, currently non-existent, intelligence. The main

The mission is to destroy Maoism. However, the approach of the States and the Centre are divergent. The Centre perceives it as a law and order problem (with the Centre as a facilitator) and hence it is the States' responsibility. The States believe it's a joint mission. The Maoists are not against any State or States per se, and instead is focussing on overthrowing the republic by violence. The manifestation of the republic is the Centre and therefore, it is an insurgency. If it is an insurgency, then the Centre is avoiding involvement in an uncertain long haul and is passing the buck to the States.

bone of contention is forest resource contractors and mining conglomerates raping the environment and destroying the traditional way of life. They must be reined in. They must be mandated to protect the environment and be sensitive to tribal customs and traditional way of life. Co-opted, they should provide tribal employment and contribute generously to welfare schemes. Failing to do so, should invite the penalty of losing their licence. This will demonstrate that the administration is just, unbiased and sincerely concerned about the tribal and would affirmatively disprove Maoist propaganda.

As far as winning the hearts and minds, rehabilitation of surrendered Maoists is a major aspect of counter-insurgency operations. It must be just and fair. Absorbing them in the police or the paramilitary is erroneous. Disillusioned with the Government rehabilitation, they may return to the Maoist fold. In such an eventuality, the end-state would be the Government 'presenting' a better trained individual, who is aware of the Government's counter-insurgency policy, mode of operations, the weapon systems, the state of training, morale and motivation, the hierarchy and their prowess and weaknesses and so on. The surrendered insurgent gone sour could additionally take a weapon along as a trophy of homecoming! Hence, the rehabilitation should focus solely on training surrendered insurgents in skills or trade that permit eking a decent and profitable existence. Ideally, they should be rehabilitated far from their roots

so that they are not in a position to either influence anyone or get influenced by their erstwhile comrade. Rare would be a case returning to the deprivations of the jungle abandoning a new and profitable life!

That said, how does the nation enforce its writ?

Prima facie, there is no indication of any tenacity of purpose except orally.

Successful operations depend on making sound decisions, which subsequently develop into plans to be executed by subordinate staff and commanders.

Effective decision-making takes account of all aspects of operational planning such as deliberate planning prior to operations (contingency planning), responsive planning during operations and the concurrent planning of future operations.

This philosophy recognises that a conflict includes constant changes, uncertainty and time constraints and an adversary who will not necessarily behave as predicted. It acknowledges that prior to operations, detailed and thorough analysis must be conducted to develop the best possible plan and a range of contingency plans. However, it also acknowledges that developing the 'best plan' is often unrealistic.

The development and conduct of operations depends on an integral and continuous aspect known the Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield and planning consists of four steps:

- ▶ Mission analysis: This assists in identifying the mission and tasks essential to the successful outcome of

the plan. This results in a clear statement of the commander's mission and intent.

- ▶ Course of action development: Involves identifying a range of COAs. COAs are broad courses or options open to the commander to accomplish the mission. The number of COAs developed depends on the time made available in the commander's guidance.
- ▶ Course of action analysis: Involves planning each feasible COA, beyond engagement, through to its intended end-state. The results of COA analysis surfaces COAs with clear advantages and disadvantages.
- ▶ Decision and execution: The commander compares the strengths and weaknesses of each modified COA, and decides which COA will be developed into a plan and executed. The products of this step are the plan of action, contingency plans and supporting plans and orders.

The purpose of the IPB is to update the commander and staff with the situation as it develops, to identify opposition vulnerabilities and opportunities to defeat them, and to anticipate and identify likely and dangerous enemy actions. IPB recognises that part of the nature of conflict is uncertainty and that decisions must be made despite incomplete information. Importantly, IPB focuses information-gathering sources on proving or disproving those assumptions and, which COA the threat has adopted.

If that is how operations are organised, has Operation Green Hunt been organised in a military manner or as an ad hoc police mode of conducting local law and order issues?

The mission is to destroy Maoism. However, the approach of the States and the Centre are divergent. The Centre perceives it as a law and order problem (with the Centre as a facilitator) and hence it is the States' responsibility. The States believe it's a joint mission. The Maoists are not against any State or States per se, and instead is focussing on overthrowing the republic by violence. The manifestation of the republic is the Centre and therefore, it is an insurgency. If it is an insurgency, then the Centre is avoiding involvement in an uncertain long haul and is passing the buck to the States. Abdicating responsibility could be construed as dereliction of duty.

The Home Ministry must have vetted the COAs available to it. Apparently, it appears flawed. The Maoist attacks in Sildah and Dantewada indicate that each feasible COA, beyond engagement, was not thought through to its intended end-state; or else in Sildah, would there have been the bizarre deployment next to a market (to suit political needs) or send untrained CRPF men into Maoist territory? Apparently, neither the Home Ministry nor the CRPF fathoms the tenets of counter-insurgency. If they did, they would have balked before sending the adhoc party into Dantewada. The breathless

proclamation that 45-day training, a week's or a pre-induction being more than adequate to beard the lion in his den signifies ignorance! It takes years to convert a young soldier into a soldier and many years more to equip him with experience to be a counter-insurgent machine!...

...The Center's responsibility to quell the insurgency would vector, as per form, on the Army's participation. Notwithstanding, what is reckonable is whether there is surplus manpower for

No insurgency can flourish without astute leadership, personnel, stores, weapons and equipment. Therefore, the aim should be to eliminate the leadership — a difficult task, prevent fresh recruitment, destroy their weapons through raids and ambushes, seal the routes for replenishment and ensure isolating local support, both moral and material. This is what holds the key.

tasking and if the overuse of service weapons and equipment reducing the service life is acceptable. Given the Ministry of Defense's paranoia of scandals, without any replacement or modernisation in the offing, it is moot point. It is the Government's call if counter-insurgency is supreme over defence of the nation.

It has been stated that the Army will not be used, exception being Special Force units. It remains indistinct as far as the mode of employment that has been envisaged. Are they to be used for what is known as man-hunting which involves capturing or killing important

insurgents dubbed as high-value targets? To employ the SF in direct military operations would mean squandering a potent force for what regular forces can accomplish.

Since one cannot forsake operational readiness against external aggression, the option is to gear up the CRPF and authentically and sincerely train them for effective counter-insurgency rather than using them merely to slot voids in numbers with units of untrained personnel and enter the comfort zone. The strategy should aim at 'brainwashing' the CRPF of its police mentality and convert them into a military-like mindset to address counter-insurgency efficiently.

Understandable is the Centre's infuriation at the Maoists' unbridled march, showing up the Centre as bumblingly impotent. Strategy requires understanding ground realities — the strengths and weaknesses — rather than being spurred by infuriation and bruised egos. Ground realities have been given the go by or else there is no rationale that in Sildah, the personnel were located in a market, and in Dantewada, in one stroke, 76 men perished like flies! And to believe the audacious claim that the personnel were fully trained and counter-insurgency capable! The CRPF was kitted for counter-insurgency if the weapons captured by the Maoist is any indicator. It was just that they were untrained. Historically, such a large force has never perished in an insurgent ambush. In all probability, they were

resting not having taken the mandated precautions and were caught off guard. And to believe that on a mission to flush out insurgents they camped the night in a Maoist-friendly village! This type of languorous mindset must be ruthlessly obliterated and substituted by an aggressive, proactive, confident, no nonsense derring-do.

If the State and Central Forces lack training and numbers, then how will the Maoists be tackled?

First of all, what is essential is the confidence and knowledge to undertake the task. Apparently, the forces require time to achieve this state. In the interim, since there is no dearth of ex-servicemen with adequate counter-insurgency experience, such officers and men could be inducted in the various units and headquarters employed against the Maoists on the lines of US advisors with the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. No egos would be bruised since CRPF commanders would be nominally in command. Such advisors would be the core group for operational planning, off and on the job training and for advice while conducting counter-insurgency. This would give a fillip to CRPF's self-confidence and expertise in counter-insurgency...

...The area under Maoist influence is immense. Given the resources with the Government a single operation addressing all areas is impracticable. Concentration of force and economy of effort is the keystone. Specific areas have to be addressed with maximum resources, while containing areas elsewhere. An initial success is a paramount prerequisite to restore

the confidence of the force and avenging the recent mauling at Sildah and Dantewada. Success shall visit once there is the radical metamorphosis in the mindset and mode of execution of operations. ...

...On the aspect of inducting the Indian Air Force, logistic support will be a boon. Yet, the same aspect that harries the Army i.e. the overuse of service equipment without any sight of replacement will be worrisome. The US's Foliage Penetration, Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Tracking, Engagement Radar programme is trying to develop a low-frequency radar to track dismounted personnel under foliage. Therefore, given the yearning for deploying unmanned aerial vehicles, one hopes that the IAF UAVs are equally sophisticated and are in situ and not in the experimental stage.

Satellite surveillance, ground penetration radars, acoustic sensors, IR break beam, seismic sensors, ground surveillance radars, pressure transducers, tethered, guided, free floating balloons could prove positive force multipliers.

Technology is a great boon. In the final analysis, it is the man behind the machine who will change the environment in favour of the Government. Aimless employment of technology will not yield the desired result.

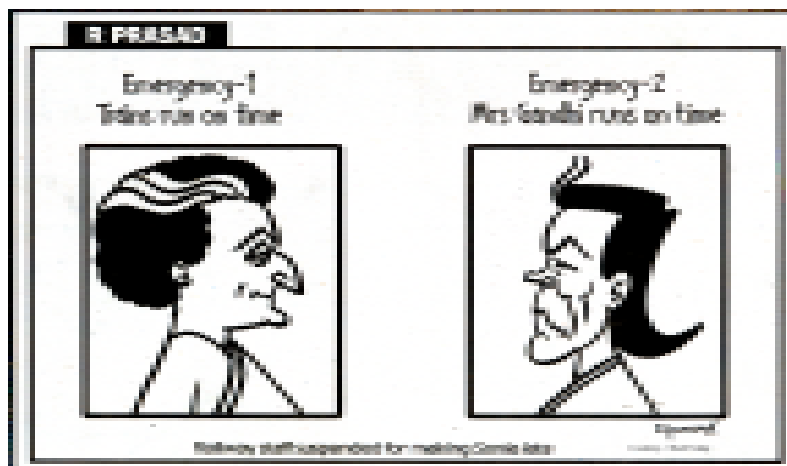
Offensive air support against the Maoists has to be seen beyond the comfort zone. The Maoists will not be based in open terrain. They will use close country under forest canopy cover, ravines and re-entrants. This type of terrain does not lend for effective offensive air support.

No insurgency can flourish without astute leadership, personnel, stores, weapons and equipment. Therefore, the aim should be to eliminate the leadership – a difficult task, prevent fresh recruitment, destroy their weapons through raids and ambushes, seal the routes for replenishment and ensure isolating local support, both moral and material. This is what holds the key. If insurgency comes, why is the political will and correct employment of trained and motivated force still far behind? ■

(Abridged)

Courtesy : The Pioneer

(The writer is former Army chief)



Shivraj Singh Chouhan spells out roadmap for 'Swarnim Madhya Pradesh'

From Our Correspondent

Vowing to convert Madhya Pradesh into a Swarnim (golden) State, Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan on May 14 called upon all, including the Opposition, to contribute towards fulfilling the dream. Speaking at the concluding day of a four-day special Assembly session, he termed the session as historic and successful and said no politics should be played over development of the state.

"I have chalked out a development roadmap with the help of members' suggestions and will leave no stone unturned to achieve mission objectives," the Chief Minister asserted.

Furnishing details of the development plan, Shri Chouhan said electricity has been the infrastructure base and the Government targeted generation of 5,000 MW by 2013. Coal is the principal component for power generation, but coal mined in Madhya Pradesh is being sent to other states while Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra are supplying coal to this State. "We have planned to import coal for our power plant," he informed.

He said that the Central Government would be appealed to bring back the idol of Goddess Saraswati taken to England from the historical 'Bhojshala' situated in Dhar district. The Chief Minister said that recruitment for Government

departments banned for the last several years would be lifted to improve efficiency of working.

According to an estimate the State can produce fish to the extent of Rs 10 thousand crores. The fishermen will be given loan at the rate of 3 per cent interest. He said that Madhya Pradesh is comparatively a peaceful State. The listed dacoits have been wiped out from the State.



Network of SIMI has been destroyed and Naxalite activities are under control. The State Government would continue its efforts to increase number of personnel in police force. At the same time Bharat Reserve Battalion with ex-servicemen would be constituted he said.

Shri Chouhan said that the Laghu Udyog Nigam will have no role in future for Government purchases and alternative arrangements would be made for the same. This would encourage small scale industries.

He also announced

disposing of revenue cases within time limit; implementation of Chief Minister's tap water scheme in villages up to a population of 1,000; construction of approach roads to agriculture land; separate unit for construction and maintenance of Government buildings; giving of land record copy along with loan book to farmers; if necessary getting

minimum Rs five lakh per acre of agriculture land; Rural Housing Mission, Separate Minister for welfare schemes of unorganized workers and poor, setting up of Mela Development Authority; Atal Child Health Mission for health of children and removing malnutrition; Janmitra Yojna for benefit of Government employees in rural areas; bus and taxi permits for better transport

facilities in rural areas and giving of certificate for houses in rural areas. Shri Chouhan further said that the MLAs had given very important suggestions. Action would be taken on the suggestions that are to be implemented soon. He said that the meeting to review development works in the Vidhan Sabha constituency would now be held in every two months instead of three months. He reiterated that prosperous and 'Golden Madhya Pradesh' would be made only with cooperation of all. ■

AN ERA ENDS

Bhairon Singh Shekhawat no more

Nation loses a political saint with an appeal that cuts across party lines

Had an unblemished six decade record in public life

Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, a renowned nationalist stalwart, a former Vice-President of India, three-time Chief Minister of Rajasthan and one of the esteemed leaders the country has produced, breathed his last at 11.10 am at the Sawai Man Singh Hospital in Jaipur, on May 15 just two days after he was admitted to a hospital complaining of uneasiness and breathing problems. This 87-year-old BJP stalwart and *Karmayogi* had dominated Rajasthan politics for about 50 years before moving on to the national stage.

He had not been keeping good health after undergoing an operation for oral cancer. He leaves behind his widow Smt. Suraj Kanwar and daughter Smt. Ratan Kanwar. His family members, including his son-in-law, Shri Narpal Singh Razvi were at his bedside when the end came.

Personal life

Born on October 23, 1923 at Khachariyawas in Sikar district of Rajasthan to Shri Devi Singh Shekhawat and mother Smt Banne Kanwar, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat was married to Smt. Suraj Kanwar and they had a daughter Smt. Ratan Kanwar who is married to Shri Narpal Singh Rajvi, senior BJP leader of Rajasthan.

Shri Shekhawat completed his high school but was unable to complete his college studies due to poverty and father's untimely death. He had to support his family. He worked as a farmer and found a job of a police constable. He was an RSS

functionary from a young age. In 1952, he quit his job to contest the first Assembly elections as a Bharatiya Jana Sangh candidate. The party then won nine seats and Shri Shekhawat was one of them.

Political Career

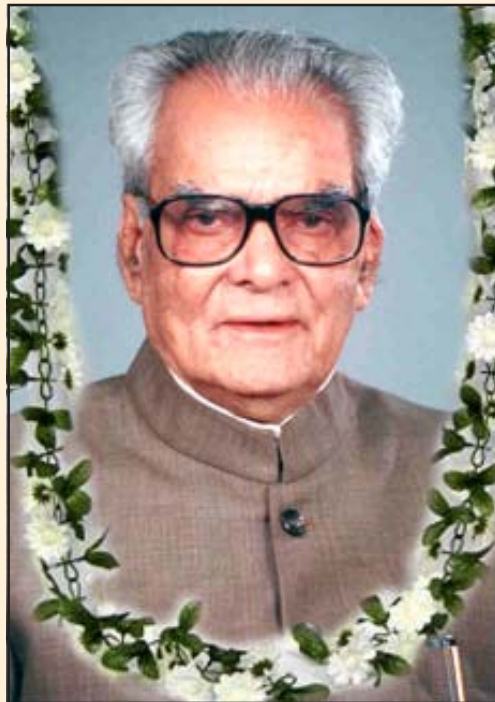
Respected as a deft politician, Shri Bhairon

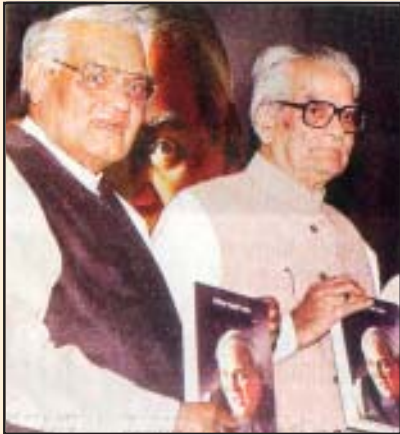
Singh Shekhawat enjoyed the enviable reputation of *Ajatshatru*, for having friends across the political spectrum in his over five decades-long political career. Known as 'Bhairon Baba' among his admirers for his immense political skills, he was thrice the Chief Minister of Rajasthan and led the opposition for several years in the desert state.

Shri Shekhawat entered politics in 1952. Until 1977, the Indian National Congress won elections in majority of the states in India. Shekhawat always posed a threat to the Congress Party in Rajasthan. In the 1967 elections, the Bharatiya Jan Sangh and Swatantra Party alliance

reached a near majority but couldn't form a government. But in the Janata wave in the year 1977, Shri Shekhawat won with a thunderous landslide victory bagging 151 out of 200 seats.

He was one of the founder-members at the time of formation of Bharatiya Janata Party in 1980. Thousands of his supporters joined the party with him. The Indian National Congress won the 1980 elections due to the split of opposition votes. Following the assassination of Mrs. Indira Gandhi in 1984, again BJP lost the election. The Congress





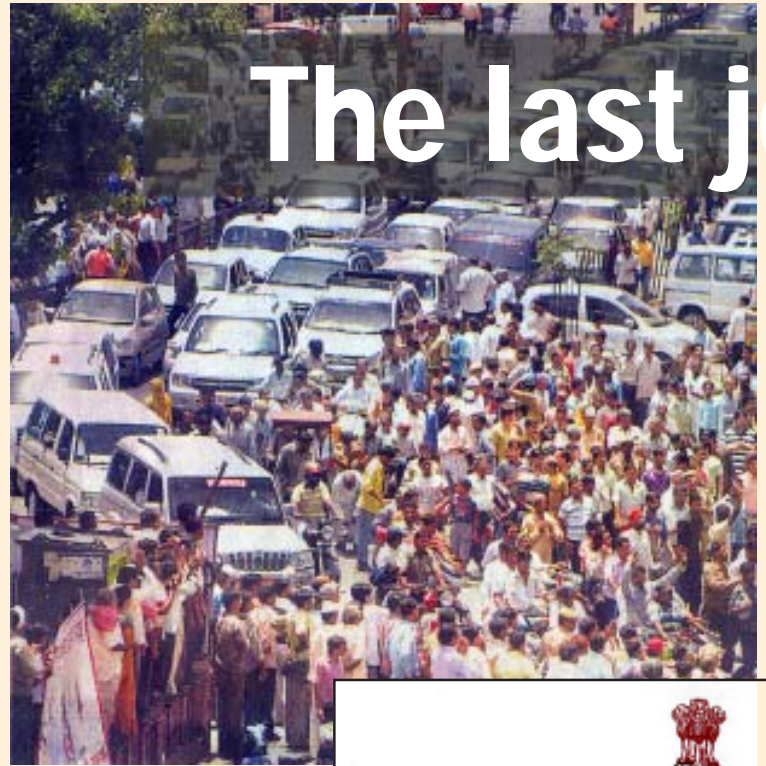
managed to win 114 out of the 200 seats in Rajasthan in the face of divided opposition; otherwise Shri Shekhawat could have made history. But he did make history later on, in the

1989 elections when the BJP-Janata Dal alliance won all the 25 seats in the Lok Sabha from Rajasthan and won 140 seats in the assembly polls that followed. He once again became the Chief Minister of Rajasthan.

Ironically, despite resounding victories, the first two times he was unable to complete his terms. In 1980, Mrs. Indira Gandhi dismissed his government and in 1992, his government was again dismissed after the demolition of the Babri Masjid.

In the next elections, after the split in the alliance, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat led the BJP to be the single largest party winning with 96 seats. Three BJP-supported independents also won taking the tally to 99. Many independents supported the BJP and its final tally was 116. The Congress did its best to stop Shri Shekhawat from forming the government, yet Shri Shekhawat was able to form the government.

In the next elections in 1998, the Shekhawat government lost on the onion price rise issue. But the BJP bounced back in the Lok Sabha elections in



The last j

the year 1999, just one year after the assembly polls. BJP won 16 of the 25 Lok Sabha seats from Rajasthan.

Shri Shekhawat was the only member of the Rajasthan Assembly to have won in every assembly election since 1952, except 1972 when he lost from Gandhi Nagar in

Jaipur. He was also elected to the Rajya Sabha from neighbouring Madhya Pradesh in 1974.

Shri Shekhawat was elected as the Vice-President of India in 2002, when he defeated the opposition candidate Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde by a margin of



अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी

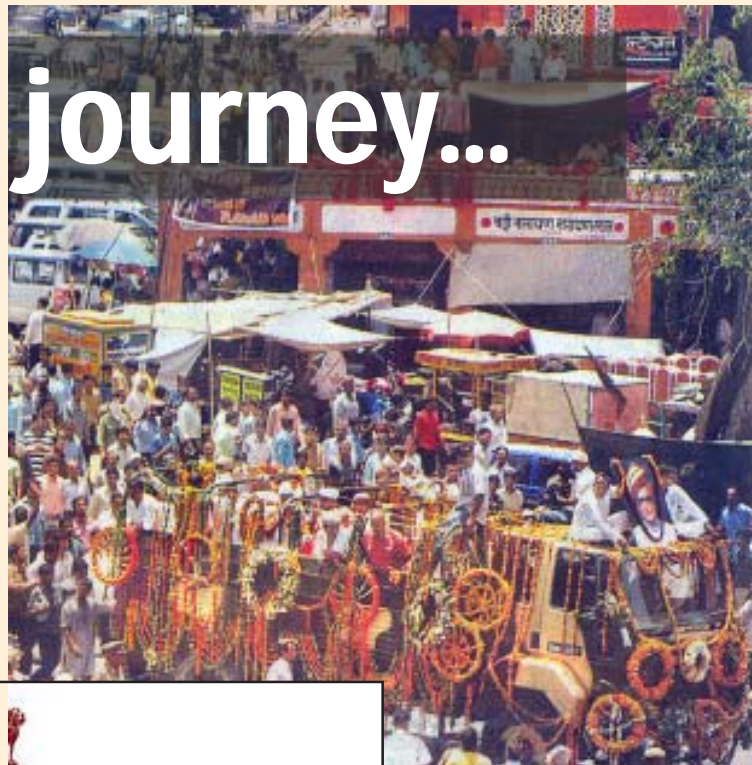
शोक संदेश

श्री मैरो सिंह शेखावत के निधन से ए
राजनेता, कद्यप राजनीतिज्ञ और माटी का सपूत हमारे बीच
श्री शेखावत शुरू से जनसंघ और बाद में
श्री पार्टी की नींव के पत्थरों में से वे एक थे। वे पार्टी के
दलगत सीमाओं से कहीं ऊपर था। यही कारण था कि वे ए
श्री। सचमुच वे अजातशत्रु थे। गुर विरोधी भी उनसे अपने
एक पुलिसकर्मी से उपराष्ट्रपति बनने का
संकल्प का प्रमाण है। वे राष्ट्रीय नेता होकर भी कभी अप
की मिट्टी ने उनके व्यक्तित्व को गढ़ा था। अतः वे उभा
तलाश लेते थे। वे एक कुशल प्रशासक, संवेदनशील राजने
वे सुख-दुःख के साथी थे। हमने साथ-स
पार किया। अनेक मुद्दों पर उनसे खुलकर बहस होती थी
मनुष्य थे। घोरतों के शोरत थे। उनकरी इस संवेदनशीलता
को लागू करना का सुअवसर दिया।

उनके निधन से भारतीय राजनीति के एक
हमारे बीच से छूट गया। मैरो सिंह जी की काया हमारे बीच
में सदैव रहेगी। उनके उपराष्ट्रपति बनने पर मैंने कहा था कि
बन कर हमरी है। आज मही भद्रन का तिलक फिर से अ
उनका बिछोह मेरे लिए असहनीय है। उ
मित्र की अंतिम विदाई के लिए शब्द नहीं हैं। मैं समझ न
कह सकता हूँ कि प्रभु उनकी आत्मा को शांति प्रदान करे
असहनीय दुःख सहने की क्षमति है।

नई दिल्ली
15 मई 2010

6A, Krishna Menon Marg, New Del
Tel: +91 11 23015308, 23793877 Fax:



journey...

राजस्थान
संदेश

से एक समिप गिय, वैचारिक राष्ट्रयोनि, दरिल
मारे बीच से घला गया।

बाद में भारतीय जनता पार्टी की यात्रा में हमसाफर
पार्टी के जरूर से मगर उनका व्यक्तित्व और सम्पर्क
के से राजस्थान में तीन बार सरकार चलाने में सफल
ने अपने मन की बात सुलझान कर लिया करते थे।

ने का उनका सफर उनके परिश्रम और उनके दुःख
भी अपनी मिट्टी और जहाँ को नहीं भूले। राजस्थान
के अभावों और अन्तर्विरोधों में भी समन्वय का रास्ता
र राजनीतिज्ञ और अच्छे मित्र थे।

साथ-साथ राजनीति के कई शब्दों और प्रश्नों को
शेती थी। अंततः मैंने पाया कि वे एक संवेदनशील
मिलता ने ही 1977 में उन्हें अत्योदय जैसे कार्यक्रम

के एक युग का अवसान हो गया है। एक जनपुत्रोद्य
मारे बीच नहीं रही मगर उनकी माया हमारी स्मृतियों
था कि 'मिट्टी की लूल मागे गर घंदन का तिलक
र से अपनी माटी में मिल गया है।

है। उनके निधन पर मैं जकड़त हूँ। मेरे पास अपने
मन नहीं पा रहा हूँ कि क्या कहूँ। मगर इतना तो
न करे तथा हम सभी परिवर्तनों और पार्टीजनों को यह

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149 votes out of the 750 votes polled.

In July 2007, he fought the Presidential election as an independent candidate backed by National Democratic Alliance as a popular Presidential candidate after Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam; but lost.

Thousands bid farewell to Shekhawat

The mortal remains of Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, the man whom people loved to hail as "Rajasthan ka ek hi Singh" (the only lion of Rajasthan), were consigned to the flames with full state honours. Thousands of people, braving the mid-May sun, trailed behind the hearse carrying his body in Jaipur on May 16.

Mourners from far and near, both the commoners

and dignitaries who included Vice-President of India, Shri Hamid Ansari, four Governors, Union Ministers and five Chief Ministers, joined the grieving family members, friends and party men in bidding adieu to Shri Shekhawat.

It took five-long hours for the funeral procession, which started around 10.30 from the 14, Civil Lines residence, and wound its way through the Sardar Patel Marg (where the BJP office is located), Mirza Ismail Road, Johari Bazar, Bari Chauper, Choti Chauper and Chandpole in the historic city, to finally reach the newly earmarked site for the last rites near Vidhyadhar Nagar stadium, some 14 kms away.

It was at 3.20 pm when Vikramaditya and Abhimanyu, two grandsons of the late leader, lit the pyre. Granddaughter Mumal sat beside the body of her "Nanosa" (mother's father) till the bugles sounded and the guns were fired marking the end of the long journey.

Vice-President Dr. Ansari, BJP Parliamentary Party Chairman, Shri L. K. Advani, BJP national president Shri Nitin Gadkari, Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitely, Governors Shri Shivraj Patil, Shri B. L. Joshi and Shri Jagannath Pahadia, Union Ministers Shri C.P. Joshi and Shri Mahadeo Singh Khandela, Chief Ministers Shri Ashok Gehlot, Shri Prakash Singh Badal, Shri ►►



Shekhawat understood the concerns of the poorest of the poor : Pratibha Patil

Paying rich tribute to Shri Shekhawat the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Patil said the departed leader was a personality who deeply understood the concerns and aspirations of the poorest of the poor as a result of his experiences early in life, when, due to his father's death, he gave up his education to support his family. She recalled that he began his career as a farmer and later became a Sub-Inspector of police. He rose high in life through determination. "Till the end, he continued to interact with the people, which he enjoyed doing."

Vice-President Hamid Ansari recalled that Shri Shekhawat earned the respect and admiration of people for his dedication, sense of public service and innate simplicity. "His services to the country shall always be remembered."

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh: Describing Shri Shekhawat as one of the tallest leaders that Rajasthan had produced, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh said his life epitomized hard work and commitment to public cause. Noting that together with a few others, he defined a whole era in the Bharatiya Janata Party, Dr. Singh said his many qualities of head and heart included a liberal outlook and generosity of spirit. It was an exceptional courage of conviction, which led him to condemn the 1982 Deorala incident of Sati at a time when few in the State were willing to speak out against it. "Shekhawatji's persona was one of rare charisma."

Congress president Smt. Sonia Gandhi: I am deeply distressed over the sad demise of Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat. It is difficult to come across a person like him in public life. Shekhawat Saheb's public conduct, his understanding and political acumen are known to all. He had the rare capacity to keep a dialogue with all sections.

It is a huge loss for BJP & the nation : Advani

BJP Parliamentary Party Chairman Shri L.K. Advani said Shri Shekhawat's loss is a huge loss for BJP and the nation. During his Chief Ministership Shri Shekhawat ensured that the Antodaya scheme meant to reach the benefits of development to the last man in the queue was implemented in the right earnest, which reveals his commitment towards the upliftment of poor and down-trodden in the society. He will always be remembered by the people of Rajasthan for his services. He was truly a mass leader.

We lost a great son of Mother India : Gadkari

In the death of Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, we have lost a great son of Mother India, an outstanding statesman, an able administrator and a renowned public leader. The BJP has suffered irreparable loss in his death. Shri. Shekhawat was the first generation leader of the party and has served as its main pillar to make the party as a national party right from the Jan Sangh to BJP days. His outstanding performances at all levels led him to his appointment as the Vice-President of India. He continued to serve the party for more than a half century and never compromised with the ideology of the party. In him the BJP got its first Chief Minister in Rajasthan who left no stone unturned to implement the 'ANTYODAYA YOJNA' in the state of Rajasthan. He served thrice as Chief Minister of Rajasthan and made outstanding contribution towards well being of the state. He was a father figure for a BJP worker like me. In his death, we have lost a patron and a guide of the party. I convey my condolences to the bereaved family and friends. May God grant his soul eternal peace.

BJP lost one of able founders & guiding force : Naidu

Bhairon Singh Shekhawatji was a very astute and popular leader. In his death, the nation lost a great visionary and an able leader. It is an irredeemable loss to the BJP as it lost one of its able founders and guiding force. He was a kind hearted and gentleman to the core. He was, therefore, one of the most admired parliamentarians cutting across the party lines. I pay my homage to the departed soul. I offer my heartfelt condolences to all the members of his family. May God give them strength to bear this loss. May the departed soul rest in peace.

Nation lost a great visionary : Rajnath Singh

Former BJP National president Shri Rajnath Singh said I am deeply distressed over the sad demise of Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawatji. Coming from a humble family background and grassroots politics, he achieved the pinnacle of success in his life only for his hard work and devotion, and became India's 11th Vice-President. He also served thrice as Chief Minister of Rajasthan and made exceptional contribution towards the all round development of the state. In his death, the nation lost a great visionary and an able leader. With his demise an era ends in Indian politics. I offer my deepest condolences to all the members of his family. ■

► Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Dr. Raman Singh, Former BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh, Smt. Vasundhara Raje, Shri Shah Nawaz Hussain MP, Shri Kalraj Misra and Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Shri Jaswant Singh were among a large number of dignitaries who attended the funeral and placed wreathes on the body at the funeral site. Those who paid their last respect to Mr. Shekhawat at his residence included Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj, former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Union Minister Shri Sharad Pawar, Gujarat Governor Smt. Kamla Beniwal, Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Union Minister Shri Namo Narain Meena. ■



Shekhawat- a pragmatic but principled politician

By Arun Jaitley

Legendary political leaders are never judged only by the positions that they held. They are judged by the footprints they leave behind. Unquestionably, Bhairon Singh Shekhawat left his mark as one of the tallest politicians of India.

He came from a humble background. A police sub-inspector who was persuaded by the Bharatiya Jana Sangh to contest the 1952 general elections, he won his first election and went on to dominate the politics of Rajasthan as a colossus for over five decades. Very few Indian politicians matched his charming personality.

His ability to win over friends was unparalleled. He remained loyal to the Jana Sangh and then to the BJP, but his network of friends was spread over the entire political spectrum. He was as comfortable with Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as he would have been with Shri Chandrashekhar.

In his last innings as Vice President, he presided over the Rajya Sabha. A man with a modest educational background, he knew better than more erudite persons as to how to conduct the House. His personal rapport with members, his wit, humour and tolerance added to his strength. If two members held up the House, he would allow both of them an opportunity to speak and

so avert an adjournment that had looked inevitable. He sat through the debates either in the chairman's seat or listened to them in his chamber. As Chairman of the Rajya Sabha he had transformed himself from party activist into a statesman because of his non-partisan attitude.

How did he survive for five to six decades in politics and continue to grow? It was a combination of his mass leadership, support of the organization coupled with his greatest asset – his personal credibility. Even his rivals could never accuse him of impropriety. He maintained the highest standards of integrity, and never got embroiled in any unsavoury controversy.

The other hallmark of his personality was to rise to the occasion and take a principled stand. He was first elected to the Rajasthan assembly in 1952 along with 10 other Jana Sangh MLAs. During his first tenure in the assembly, legislation was introduced to enable the abolition of jagirdari. The Jana Sangh, as rightly advised by Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay, decided to

support the move to abolish jagirdari. However, this was opposed by almost all the other MLAs who resigned from the party to oppose the Bill. Singh was the only MLA left with the

Jana Sangh who supported the abolition of jagirdari. That too, when the move did not have much support in his own community.

Similarly, despite support by some in his community to sati, he stood out as a strong voice against the abhorrent practice. On

occasions like this, he never concerned himself with considerations of vote bank politics, and adopted social reforms as a part of his political activity.

It was a combination of his principled politics, mass leadership, affable personality and the highest standards of personal integrity that helped him stage comebacks after electoral setbacks. He remained a legislator for several terms, was the Leader of Opposition in Rajasthan on many occasions, thrice served as chief minister of Rajasthan and finally rose to become the Vice President.

In Rajya Sabha, he



Prabhat Jha elected MP BJP president

Former BJP national secretary and Rajya Sabha member Shri Prabhat Jha has been elected Madhya Pradesh State BJP president unopposed on May 8, 2010. BJP national vice president and election observer of party Shri Kalraj Mishra declaring the result of the election for the post of State BJP president announced Shri Prabaht Jha as elected to the post unopposed.

Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan congratulated Shri Prabhat Jha and hoped that his tenure as State BJP president will contribute in strengthening the organization in the state. He expressed his happiness over unanimous decision on electing Shri Prabhat Jha to the post realizing the dream of Shri Kushabahu Thakre who worked throughout his life for such ideal condition in the organization wherein decisions are taken with unanimity. He said unanimous election of Shri Prabhat Jha symbolizes the realization of Shri Kushabhau Thakre's dream of an ideal organization in the state. Describing Shri Prabhat Jha as a very committed, hardworking and devoted *karyakarta*, he recounted how Shri Prabhat Jha worked for the last thirty years with full dedication to strengthen organization from state to national levels. "He proved himself by successfully carrying out whatever responsibility the

party assigned to him", he said. He hoped that under the presidentship of Shri Prabhat Jha the State BJP will surely witness the dawn of *navprabhat* in the days to come.



BJP national general secretary and the outgoing Madhya Pradesh BJP State president Shri Narendra Singh Tomar said that it was an ideal condition for the party that president to the party has been elected unanimously which needs to be emulated in future. Congratulating Shri Prabaht Jha on his election Shri Narendra Singh Tomar wished him a successful and illustrious stint as State BJP president.

Shri Prabhat Jha in his brief address expressed his gratitude to the party *karyakartas* and leaders for reposing faith on him and giving him the responsibility of the party in the State. He

assured everyone that he will always remain a *karyakarta* and the post of party president will always belong to the *karyakartas* of the State BJP. He said that he will take everyone along and laid emphasis on the principles of mutual affection, respect, discipline, coordination and consultation. BJP national general secretary Shri Thawarchand Gehlot, former chief ministers of Madhya Pradesh Shri Sunderlal Patwa and Shri Kailash Joshi, Dr. Laxmi Narayan Pandey, Dr. Satyanarayan Jatia, Smt. Maya Singh, Shri Kaptan Singh Solanki, Shri Vikaram Varma, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan and other senior BJP leaders were also present on the occasion.

Kamal Sandesh parivar and editorial board has congratulated Shri Prabaht Jha on his election as MP BJP State president and wished him success in all walks of life. Shri Prabaht Jha is also the editor of *Kamal Sandesh*. ■ (FOC)

Shrikant Sharma appointed national convener of BJP media cell



BJP national president Shri Nitin Gadkari on May 13 appointed Shri Shrikant Sharma as national convener of the BJP media cell.

Shri Sharma, who has been working in the BJP's media cell in various capacities since 2004, has been functioning as media Co-Convenor since Shri Nitin Gadkari took over as president last December.

Shri Sharma a former Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) leader was president of DAV College Students Union in 1991. He contested for general secretary's post in Delhi University Students Union polls in 1992-93. ■ (FOC)



Ananth Kumar & Dharmendra Pradhan appointed Bihar BJP in charge & co-in charge

BJP National General Secretary Shri Ananth Kumar was appointed as the party in charge in Bihar, where Assembly polls will be held later this year. A decision to this effect was taken by party national president Shri Nitin Gadkari. Shri Gadkari also appointed party National General Secretary Shri Dharmendra Pradhan as the co-in charge. ■



Vijender Gupta is new president of Delhi BJP

BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari appointed former Standing Committee Chairman of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) Shri Vijender Gupta as president of Delhi BJP. A three-time councillor from Rohini constituency, Shri Gupta (45), replaced present Delhi BJP president Prof. OP Kohli. Shri Gupta had also contested from Chandni Chowk constituency in the 2009 Lok Sabha elections. In a political career spanning over two decades, he has been chairman of the MCD Standing Committee. Prior to that, he was Leader of Opposition in Standing Committee, MCD (2002-07). He had also been chairman, Law and General Purpose Committee, MCD (1997-1998), and secretary, Delhi BJP since 2002. Shri Gupta has been the general secretary of BJP Mandal Pitampura (1990-93) and has been elected three times as Councillor of MCD with the highest margin since 1997. Shri Vijender Gupta's active political career began as vice-president, Delhi University Students Union, during 1984-85. Interacting with media persons after his appointment Shri Gupta told that I am a party soldier and whatever task the party would assign to me, I would accomplish with full dedication and integrity. ■



Ram Sevak Paikra elected Chhattisgarh BJP president unopposed



Shri Ram Sevak Paikra is unanimously elected as Chhattisgarh new BJP State president on May 10. He is the sixth BJP president of Chhattisgarh since it was carved out from Madhya Pradesh in 2000. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh, all his 12 ministerial colleagues, the outgoing State president Shri Vishnu Dev Soy and other all party office bearers supported Shri Paikra's candidature as he moved four sets of his nominations. As there was no proposal from anyone offering another candidature, the national observer of BJP Shri Juel Oram announced Shri Paikara elected to the post. Besides the election of the State president, the State BJP also elected all the 10 party MPs from the State and a former MP Smt. Karuna Shukla to the BJP's national council. ■

S.P. Shahi is U.P. BJP's new president



BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari appointed Shri Surya Pratap Shahi as the new President of Uttar Pradesh BJP on May 12. He succeeds Shri Ramapati Ram Tripathi who took over the reins of the party in September 2007. A BJP leader from Deoria district in eastern Uttar Pradesh and a former MLA from Kasia, Shri Shahi was the Excise Minister in the BJP governments headed by Shri Kalyan Singh, Shri Ram Prakash Gupta and Shri Rajnath Singh in the 1990s and in 2000. Before being appointed as the U.P. unit President he was the Vice-President of the State BJP. Shri Surya Pratap Shahi is an old Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Karyakarta. He had been active in student politics since 1975 and had also held several responsibilities in the ABVP. ■ (FOC)

Congress policies made rich richer, poor poorer : Gadkari

From Our Correspondent

Addressing a huge gathering in Chandigarh BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari on May 13 accused the Congress led UPA government of adopting wrong policies like shifting essential commodities in the Forward Market Trading that, he said led to the price rise with the food grains rotting in godowns all over the country. Out of the Rs just 10,88,224 crore turnover of 2009 at all commodity exchanges, delivery was Rs 35,891 crore that is a mere

beneficiaries in the huge disparity between the price given to farmers and the price paid by the



consumers?’ ‘Are they manipulators, speculators, corporates or the multinationals?’

The BJP National president said the present Union

in all segments of food management -food price rise, research and development, production, storage, distribution and consumption.

Shri Gadkari added while the people are dying of hunger, the rotten food grains are being purchased by the distillers for liquor at a throw away price. The Planning Commission put the BPL population in its 2005 report at 31 crore and the Tendulkar Committee puts it at 42 crore in December 2009.

The BJP National President reiterated that the Pakistan government would have to prove its role in combating terrorism in its country and only then the Indo-Pak talks could lead to a resolve for peace in the region. The BJP also wants peace with Pakistan as this would bring prosperity on both sides but for that Pakistan will have to prove itself,” he said.

On the dispute between Punjab and Haryana on the SYL canal, Shri Gadkari said the BJP was in favour of linking of rivers, as this would do well to the agriculture sector. ■



33 per cent and it is this artificial turnover that pushed up the prices of food items,” Shri Gadkari said.

Criticizing the UPA regime for shifting the essential commodities in Future Trading in July 2004, Shri Gadkari said that Commodities Exchanges were created to help farmers and consumers but those became the den of speculators and manipulators who “make money on internet and cell phones at the cost of farmers and a common man.” Releasing the second set of 14 questions to Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, Shri Gadkari asked, ‘Who are the

government itself confessed that the food grains worth Rs 58,000 crore was lying rotten and wasted, while Union Food minister Sharad Pawar stated in Mumbai recently that such a huge loss was due to lack of management.

Citing the BJP delegation’s tour to different parts of the country to take stock of the food commodities in the country, Shri Gadkari even displayed the samples of rotten wheat collected from the godowns and open storages in Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

He further said the UPA government has failed miserably

Tossed around by partners

By A Surya Prakash

As the United Progressive Alliance Government enters the second year in office since its return to power in 2009, it is becoming increasingly clear that the coalition's politics of survival is proving to be detrimental to the maintenance of standards in public life. Recent events also show that the office of Prime Minister is becoming weaker by the day and that he has virtually lost the power to either discipline or sack non-Congress members of the Union Council of Ministers.

The continuance of the Telecom Minister, Mr A Raja, and the Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister, Mr MK Alagiri, in the Government is indicative of the normlessness that is creeping in and the declining authority of the Prime Minister.

In fact, the presence of Mr Raja in the Union Cabinet despite the serious charges of corruption and favouritism levelled against him is a text book case of how helpless a Prime Minister can become when dealing with Ministers who do not belong to his party. Mr Raja is at the centre of what is called the 2G Spectrum licence scandal — a scam that has been brought to light by the thorough and dogged investigations of The Pioneer's journalist J Gopikrishnan.

These investigations establish that Mr Raja decided to make the 2G Spectrum allotments after he became Telecom Minister in 2007 and fixed October 1 of that year as the cut-off date for

receiving applications. However, when he announced the list of winning bidders in early 2008, he sprang a surprise by declaring that the cut-off date had been advanced to September 25, 2007.

Also, there was evidence of collusion between the Minister's office and some of the allottees. Since the Spectrum licence allocation looked very fishy, many investigating agencies, including the CBI and the Income Tax Department, began probing the matter. The CBI came into the picture after the Central Vigilance Commission felt that this scam warranted a full-fledged probe. The Income Tax authorities taped the conversations of the Minister with a lobbyist and found that the entire licencing procedure had been vitiated. They also gathered evidence of possible kickbacks being deposited in tax havens and ploughed back through proxy entities in India.

It is estimated that Mr Raja's decisions vis-à-vis 2G Spectrum have cost the exchequer at least Rs 1 lakh crore. The Pioneer has also reported that the Minister had even ignored the advice of the Prime Minister that the allocations should not be made without his consent. The tapping of telephones and the preparation of transcripts of conversations involving a Cabinet Minister is indeed extraordinary. Equally extraordinary are the raids conducted by the CBI in the offices of the Telecom Ministry. The evidence produced by the tax authorities and the CBI is enough

to warrant prosecution of the Minister and his cohorts who manipulated the award of licences. The continuance of such a Minister in the Government is unprecedented and is far more scandalous than the 2G scam itself.

Mr MK Alagiri is another Minister who ought to be shown the door. This Minister is neither seen in office nor in Parliament. He was absent when the Lok Sabha discussed the shortage of fertilisers and seeds last November. There was turmoil in both Houses of Parliament yet again during the recently concluded Budget Session because of his absence. Members were informed that the Minister was holidaying in Maldives when Parliament was in session. His deputy Mr. Srikant Jena was standing in for him but the Government did not have a satisfactory explanation when MPs asked whether Ministers could be on holiday while Parliament was in session. No Minister belonging to the Congress would dare do something like this.

Ministers like Mr Alagiri, who hail from parties like the DMK, know that the survival of the Government depends on their continued support. So, they cock a snook at the Prime Minister and behave as if the rules of conduct just do not apply to them. But, the Minister's absence from Parliament during the Budget Session poses a bigger problem. How can Parliament ensure

accountability of Ministers if it even cannot ensure their presence in the two Houses?

Contrast this complete lack of manoeuvrability on the part of the Prime Minister vis-à-vis Ministers belonging to alliance partners with his tough as nails approach to Ministers from the Congress. The best example is that of Mr Shashi Tharoor. He was ticked off publicly for his policy-related remarks on Twitter. Then IPLgate happened and the Rs 70 crore sweat equity given to his lady friend by the owners of the Kochi IPL team sealed his fate.

Mr Tharoor had done wrong. It was a classic case of misuse of office and nepotism and he lost his job. The Congress has a tradition of rendering swift justice in such matters, provided the person at the centre of the controversy is not a member of the Nehru-Gandhi family. The BJP too has a record of dealing firmly with party officials and Ministers who become a source of embarrassment.

However, national parties become weak-kneed when they have to deal with corrupt or incompetent Ministers belonging to their allies. Since the first priority of the Prime Minister is to ensure majority support in the Lok Sabha, he hesitates to pull up such Ministers, lest he offend an alliance partner and jeopardise his Government. Aware of the Prime Minister's vulnerability on this score, many of these Ministers behave as if they are not bound either by the norms or the rules that govern the conduct of Ministers. Mr Manmohan Singh is not the first Prime Minister who has had to make such compromises.

Mr HD Deve Gowda and Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee also suffered such constraints while in office. This is easily the most negative feature of coalition politics. If we wish to ensure that the executive remains accountable to Parliament, we need to do something to stop Ministers like Mr Raja and Mr Alagiri from misusing office and undermining the dignity of Parliament.

That can happen only if the presiding officers of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha step in to make such Ministers answerable to Parliament. Such a no-nonsense approach by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha may also insulate the Prime Minister from the tyranny of the smaller parties and put an end to the adharma of coalition politics. ■

(Courtesy : The Pioneer)

Seminar on "The CBI and its credibility"

Congress misusing CBI : Gadkari

From Our Correspondent

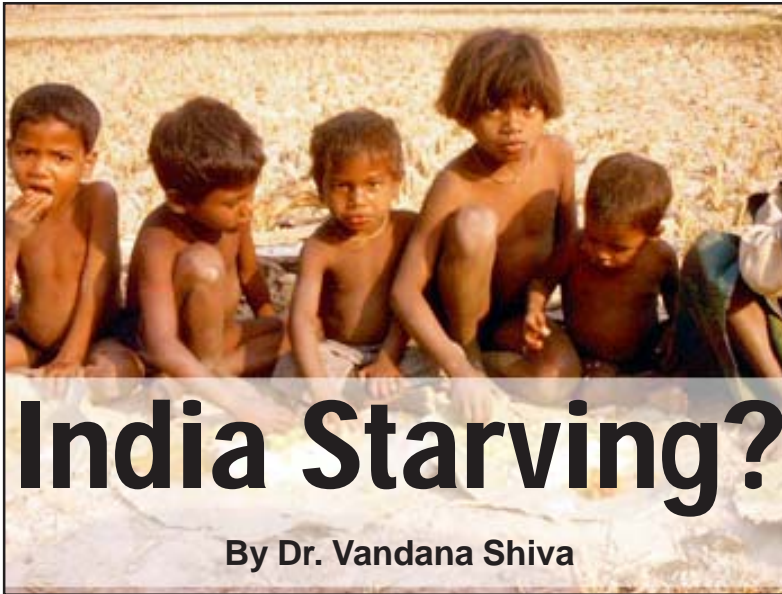
Bharatiya Janata Party national president Shri Nitin Gadkari said the process of deterioration of the four pillars of democracy had begun under the present Congress led UPA regime and this was not a good sign for the future of the country. In the present times, we need an independent and impartial judiciary and executive, a transparent legislature and the media that acts on the principle of justice," said Shri Gadkari, speaking at a seminar on "The CBI and its credibility" organised by "Lok Abhiyan" in New Delhi on May 10.

Saying that the Congress party had misused the investigating agency to save its government on several occasions, he said: "There are several instances of the CBI withdrawing cases against Congress leaders and its allies during its regime."

Stating that the Prime Minister could not escape responsibility, he said it is difficult to believe that the Prime Minister does not have the knowledge of the doings of the CBI.

Referring to the issue of CBI investigation into the Sohrabuddin encounter case in Gujarat, Shri Nitin Gadkari said it was unfortunate that the investigative agency was being misused to demoralize and blackmail those officers who had stood against terrorism. He further said the Congress party glorifies terrorism. If it continues like this, no one in this country can muster the courage to fight terrorists.

Addressing the seminar Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley said the government was "economical with words" and "economical with truth" while replying on the issue in Parliament. The use of such technology against terrorists and Maoists is understandable. But to use it against political opponents is unacceptable. ■



India Starving?

By Dr. Vandana Shiva

India became independent soon after the Great Bengal Famine that claimed two million lives. An independent and free India reclaimed her food sovereignty and food security.

The *Harijan*, a newspaper published by Mahatma Gandhi and banned from 1942 to 1946, was full of articles written by Gandhi during 1946-1947 on how to deal with food scarcity politically, and by Mira Behn, Kumarappa and Pyarelal on how to grow more food using internal resources. On June 10, 1947, referring to the food problem at a prayer meeting, Gandhi said: "The first lesson we must learn is of self-help and self-reliance. If we assimilate this lesson, we shall at once free ourselves from disastrous dependence upon foreign countries and ultimate bankruptcy. This is not said in arrogance but as a matter of fact. We are not a small place... We are a subcontinent, a nation of nearly 400 millions. We are a country of mighty rivers and a rich variety

of agricultural land with inexhaustible cattle-wealth. That our cattle give much less milk than we need is entirely our own fault. Our cattle-wealth is any day capable of giving us all the milk we need.

Our country, if it had not been neglected during the past few centuries, should not today only be providing herself with sufficient food, but also be playing a useful role in supplying the out side world with much-needed foodstuffs of which the late war has unfortunately left practically the whole world in want. This does not exclude India".

Recognizing that the crisis in agriculture was related to a breakdown of nature's processes, India's first agriculture minister, K.M. Munshi, worked out a detailed strategy on rebuilding and regenerating the ecological base of productivity in agriculture, with the recognition that the diversity of India's soils, crops and climates had to be taken into account. The need to

plan from the bottom, to consider every individual village and sometimes every individual field was considered essential for the programme called "land transformation". At a seminar on September 27, 1951, Munshi told the state directors of agricultural extension: "Study the life's cycle in the village under your charge in both its aspects -hydrological and nutritional. Find out where the cycle has been disturbed and estimate the steps necessary for restoring it. Work out the village in four of its aspects: existing conditions; steps necessary for completing the hydrological cycle; steps necessary to complete the nutritional cycle, and a complete picture of the village when the cycle is restored; and have faith in yourself and the programme. Nothing is too mean and nothing too difficult for the man who believes that the restoration of the life's cycle is not only essential for freedom and happiness of India but is essential for her very existence".

The Food system is broken once again. Per capita consumption has dropped from 177 cal/day to 150 cal/day. And it has been broken deliberately through the Structural Adjustment Policies of the World Bank, part of the trade liberalisation rules of the World Trade Organisation. It is also being continuously broken by the obsession of the government to turn seed, food and land into marketable commodities so that corporate profits grow, even though farmers commit suicide and children starve. Two lakh farmers have committed suicide in India since 1997. Farmers' suicides are triggered by debt, and the debt trap is created by a

corporate-driven agriculture that maximises corporate profits by pushing non-renewable seeds and agri-chemicals on impoverished and innocent farmers.

Every fourth Indian is hungry today, according to United Nations data. India has beaten Sub-Saharan Africa as the capital of hunger: One million children die every year as a result of under-nutrition and hunger;

Every fourth Indian is hungry today, according to United Nations data. India has beaten Sub-Saharan Africa as the capital of hunger: One million children die every year as a result of under-nutrition and hunger; 61 million children are stunted; 25 million are wasted; 42 per cent of the world's underweight children are now in India. Tinkering with fragments of the broken chain will not fix it.

61 million children are stunted; 25 million are wasted; 42 per cent of the world's underweight children are now in India. Tinkering with fragments of the broken chain will not fix it.

The food chain begins with the natural capital of soil, water and seed. The second link is the work of hardworking small, marginal farmers and landless peasants, most of whom are women. The final link is eating.

The first link has been broken by ecological degradation and corporate hijack of seed, land and water. When peasants

lose access to land, seed and water, they lose access to food. Increase in hunger is a direct consequence.

The second link that has been broken is the capacity of the farmer, the food producer, to produce food. Rising costs of production, falling farm prices, and the destruction of food procurement by dismantling the public distribution system (PDS) creates debt. Since farmers are the backbone of India's food security and food sovereignty, breaking the farmers' back is breaking the nation's food security. There can be no food security in a deepening agrarian crisis.

The third link in the food chain is people's entitlement and right to food. The combination of rising food prices, decreasing production of pulses and nutritious millets has reduced the access of the poor to adequate food and nutrition. Hunger and malnutrition are its inevitable consequences.

And while millions of our fellow citizens starve, the government fiddles with poverty figures — 37 per cent in the Tendulkar Committee Report, 50 per cent in the Saxena Report, 77 per cent in the Unorganised Sector Report. This is a deliberate attempt to avoid addressing the root cause of hunger and poverty.

Poverty is a consequence, not a cause. But instead of addressing the food crisis, the government is addressing a fragment of the consequences of the crisis.

In the context of the food and nutrition crisis, the proposed National Food Security Act (NFSA) is a mere fig leaf. It is inadequate because it ignores the first two links in the food chain,

and reduces the scope of existing schemes for the poor and vulnerable. For example, the NFSA offers only 25 kgs of grain, instead of the 35 kgs per family per month fixed by the Supreme Court. The Indian Council of Medical Research fixes the caloric norms at 2,400 Kcal in rural areas and 2,100 Kcal in urban areas. The Tendulkar Committee, which is now the Planning Commission's official basis, fixes average calorie consumption at 1,776 Kcal in urban areas and 1,999 Kcal for rural areas. Through juggling figures the hungry become well fed, the poor become non-poor.

Food security demands a universal PDS that serves both the poor farmers and the poor eaters by ensuring fair prices throughout the food chain. Instead the government is committed to ever-narrowing "targeting" because it is committed to handing over agriculture to global agri-business, and handling over so-called food security schemes to companies like Sodexo who will collect our tax money to distribute food coupons to the poor, who will in turn use the food coupons to increase the profits of MNCs.

As small farmers are displaced by agri-businesses, the destruction of natural capital will increase, further weakening the first link in the food chain. The agrarian crisis facing two-thirds of rural India will deepen. For a country as large, as poor, as hungry as India, food sovereignty and self-reliance in food production is not a luxury, it is a food security imperative. ■

*{Dr. Vandana Shiva is the executive director of the Navdanya Trust}
Courtesy : The Hindu*



Muslims in Gujarat enjoy equal opportunities : Advani

In my blog dated 3rd May, I had written about the Swarna Jayanti Samaroh of Gujarat. In this I had pointed out how Narendra Bhai Modi had proved a unique Chief Minister who had converted a prashasanik programme into a People's Programme and made every citizen feel a proud participant in the sankalp to make Gujarat a model state in every sense of the word.

Generally speaking, by now, people have widely come to acknowledge that in terms of honest governance and development of Gujarat, Narendra Bhai's achievements are beyond dispute. What is often questioned is how harmonious are inter-communal relations in the state, and specifically speaking, how happy and contented the Muslims are in the State.

In 2006 Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh appointed a high power committee headed by Justice Shri Rajinder Sachar to make a detailed study of the economic, social and educational conditions of Muslims in the country.

The Sachar Committee after completing the task assigned to it, submitted a detailed Report of over 400 pages. Given below are some very pertinent facts based on the statistics provided by the Sachar Report which look into various parameters like education, employment and income of the Muslim population living in rural and urban areas of the country through elaborate tables. Here are some findings concerning Gujarat:

- ▶ In terms of literacy level, Muslims in Gujarat stood at 73.5 percent as compared to the national average of 59.1. While the figure for the urban males was 76, it was 81 for those living in rural areas as compared to the national average of 70 and 62 respectively in similar category. [The Sachar Committee report : Appendix table 4.1, Page No. 287]
- ▶ Even Muslim women in the urban areas of Gujarat have average literacy rate 5 point higher than the national average whereas their counterparts in rural areas of Gujarat fare even better with a literacy rate of 57 percent as compared to the national average of 43 in similar category. [The Sachar Committee report

: Appendix table 4.1 b, Page No. 289]

- ▶ Also in Gujarat, a greater percentage of Muslims have attained primary, secondary and higher secondary level education compared to the national average and compared to other states. Against the national average of 60.9% (and 42.2% in UP), Gujarat had 74.9% Muslims at the primary level while the percentage is 45.3 at Secondary level as compared to national average of 40.5% and 29.2% in UP. [The Sachar Committee report : Appendix table 4.6 & 4.7, Page No. 295-296-297-298]
- ▶ The average years of secondary schooling for Muslim children between age 7 and 16 years is higher in Gujarat at 4.29 years compare to



the national average of 3.26 years. The figures in West Bengal, UP and Bihar are 2.84, 2.60 and 2.07 years respectively. The truth is that the Muslim children in Gujarat are benefiting from equal opportunities to access secondary schooling as other children. [The Sachar Committee report : Appendix table 4.2, Page No. 290-291]

The other aspect is the economic well being of Muslims in Gujarat. Here also, the Sachar Committee dispels the myth.

- ▶ In terms of per month per capita income, Muslims in the urban areas of Gujarat earn an average Rs 875 which is more than the national average of Rs 804. In contrast, it is Rs 662 in UP, Rs 748 in West Bengal, Rs 811 in Punjab, Rs 803 in Andhra Pradesh and Rs 837 in Karnataka. [The Sachar Committee report :

Appendix table 8.2, Page No. 364]

- ▶ The story is similar in rural Gujarat where the per capita monthly income of the Muslims 20-25% more than the Muslims living in the rural areas of most other states. It is on an average Rs 668 as compared to the national average of Rs 553. [The Sachar Committee report : Appendix table 8.3, Page No. 365]
- ▶ In terms of people living below poverty line, Gujarat had 54% Muslims living below it in 1987-88 while the figure stood at 34% in 2004-2005 showing a healthy pace of improvement. [The Sachar Committee report : Appendix table 8.5, Page No. 367]
- ▶ Even in terms of share of Muslims in state employment, i.e. government jobs, it is 5.4% in Gujarat while it is 2.1% in West Bengal, 3.2% in Delhi and 4.4% in Maharashtra. [The Sachar Committee report : Appendix table 9.4, Page No. 370]

Overall, the total picture dispels the malicious propaganda that injustice is being done to Muslims in the state of Gujarat. The study undertaken by the Sachar Committee on educational condition clearly shows that the Muslims of Gujarat are progressing well in the field of education. They are provided ample opportunities and they are well cared for. The facts on their economic conditions dispel similar myths about their being discriminated against or being denied equal opportunity.

The fact is echoed by none other than the Imam of the Jama masjid in Ahmedabad, Mufti Shabbir Ahmed Siddiqui who reportedly commented sometime back "Muslims have an opportunity to prosper in the peaceful environment that the Modi government has created. Modi has provided an atmosphere which is conducive for those who want to trade peacefully in Gujarat."

In setting up the Sachar Committee, Government had its own objectives. But going through the comparative statistics compiled by the Committee, I feel Gujarat should be grateful to Justice Sachar for proving convincingly to the country that under Narendra Bhai Modi's regime Muslims are far better off than their compatriots in other states. ■

(Courtesy : L.K.Advani's blog)

Ramjanam Bhoomi-Disputed structure demolition case

HC rejects CBI plea against LK Advani and others

In Ram Janmabhumi disputed structure demolition case, the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on May 20 rejected a CBI petition to revive criminal conspiracy charges against the BJP leaders Shri L K Advani, Shri Murli Manohar Joshi and 19 others. The CBI had sought a direction for continuing proceedings against Shri Advani and Joshi, Sushri Uma Bharti, Kalyan Singh and others in connection with the demolition of the disputed structure on December 6, 1992. In a 44-page judgment, according to The Indian Express, Justice Alok Kumar Singh of the Lucknow bench said there was no merit in the CBI revision petition challenging the May 4, 2001 order of the special court which directed dropping of the criminal conspiracy charge against Shri Advani, Shri Joshi, Sushri Uma Bharti and others. Justice Alok Kumar Singh in his order said: "Nothing is found against the correctness, legality, propriety or regularity in respect of any of the findings of the lower court". "There is no embellishment in the impugned order dated May 4, 2001 neither on factual or legal matrix. Hence, there is no occasion for this court to make any interference in the impugned order," he said.

In a 44-page judgment VHP leader Ashok Singhal and Shio Sena chief Bal Thackeray were among the 21 who got relief from the order of the special court. On May 4, 2001, the special court had dropped the conspiracy charge against Shri LK Advani and the others. ■ (FOC)

Saroj Pandey gets into the Limca Book of records



BJP National Secretary and MP Sushri Saroj Pandey has been included in the Limca Book of Records for becoming the first woman leader to hold three elected positions i.e. Mayor, MLA and MP simultaneously for a short period of 15 days from May 16 to 30, 2009. She was elected the Mayor of Durg in 1999 and re-elected in 2004; won the Assembly election from Vaishali Nagar on December 8, 2008, and got elected to the Lok Sabha from Durg on May 16, 2009. Sushri Pandey is a scholar, politician and social worker all in one. She did her M.Sc. (Child development) from Bhilai Mahila College (Pt.Ravishanker University, Raipur) and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. ■ (FOC)

'Tireless Voice-Relentless Journey': A book on M Venkaiah Naidu released

From Our Correspondent

Tireless Voice-Relentless Journey' an ensemble of select speeches of Sri Venkaiah Naidu has been released in the presence of BJP Parliamentary Party Chairman Sh. L.K. Advani, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Chief Ministers of Karnataka, MP and Uttrakhand Sh. B.S. Yeddyurappa, Sh. Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Sh. Ramesh Pokhariyal Nishank and other eminent leaders and citizens.



Shri Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu's four decade long saga in public life is marked by a steady evolution-student leader, youth leader, Member of the State Legislative Assembly, leader of the masses, President of the state unit of the BJP, Member of the Rajya Sabha, National Spokesman of the BJP, National General Secretary of the BJP, Union Minister and National President of the BJP. Despite this phenomenal rise, he is rooted to the moorings of humility, honesty, integrity, no compromise with the chosen political philosophy, forthrightness, fearlessness, commitment to the cause and more importantly, the supreme value of patriotism. Shri Venkaiah Naidu is known for an extraordinary ability of compressing the core content of any issue into a witty one liner, which would have a two-fold impact - instruct and delight. Shri Satya Kumar, personal aide of Shri Naidu, friends Shri Tummala Ranga Rao, Shri Velamati Ramanath and particularly his journalist friend Shri Apparasu Krishna Rao have contributed in bringing out this publication. The book is published by Kalajyothi Process Pvt.Ltd., Hyderabad. Senior journalist Dr.Inaganti Venkata Rao has written an insightful foreword to this book. ■

Sakhi Manch meets

Aim at building and strengthening the Party's image : Sushma Swaraj



The Second meet of the *Kamal Sakhi Manch* was held on May 03 in Delhi in the house of Smt. Neelam Pratap Rudy w/o Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy MP and BJP National Spokesperson. Members raised several concerns and opined that the spouses of BJP MPs should reflect the ideals of the organisation through personal conduct and behaviour. The Leader of Opposition in Lok

Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj who was present in the meeting said that every *Sakhi* should aim at building and strengthening the Party's image amongst the people through their conduct and deeds. One should come to know that you belong to BJP purely by your public presence and conduct. Emphasizing that a woman of BJP links and bridges the gaps between politics and family, Smt. Swaraj said that as a woman *Sakhis* should encourage participation of Women in politics and political activities across the country. It was informed that on May 04 a Health and Fitness programme was organized for the all members of the *Sakhi Manch*. The members also visited the residence of Smt. Kamla Advani where a film on the life of Shri L K Advani was screened. The Meet concluded with vote of thanks by the Convenor of the Sakhi Manch Dr. Prachee Prakash Javadekar. ■ (FOC)

KARNATAKA

Accord classical language status to Kannada : Naidu

Former National President of BJP Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has urged the Union Government to complete the pending formalities required to accord the classical language status to *Kannada*. He was speaking after laying the foundation stone for the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath's artists' convention centre in Bengaluru on May 16.

Shri Naidu said that the Centre had been deliberately delaying according the classical status to Kannada. The Madras High Court had only admitted a writ petition on the issue of according classical status to Kannada and had not issued a stay order. Speaking on the importance of developing and showcasing art and culture, he promised to release another Rs. 25 lakh for the centre before the end of the month from the MPs Local Area Development Fund.

Karnataka Govt. plans global investors' meet in June

The BJP Government led by Chief Minister Shri BS Yeddyurappa is organising a global investors' meet on June 3 and 4 as a platform for business leaders, investors, corporate houses, policy and opinion makers, to accelerate the State's economic growth. According to sources, Shri Yeddyurappa has been inspired by Gujarat counterpart Shri Narendra Modi and his success in harnessing global investments. The 'Advantage Karnataka - Global Investors Meet' will showcase the State's readiness in attracting major funds from across the world. The meet will focus on sectors such as aerospace, infrastructure, tourism, IT, automobiles and biotechnology, among others.

Shri Yeddyurappa told that, "Karnataka is the destination. The global meet would serve as a platform to showcase the State and also an opportunity for one and all to make Karnataka a final business destination," he stated.

Industries Minister Shri Murugesh Nirani said the BJP Government had cleared 833 projects, netting total investments of Rs 4.02 lakh crore. The Government was expecting the memorandum of understanding to be signed soon. Shri Nirani said

the projects included Arcelor Mittal's proposal to build a 6-million tonne capacity steel plant in Karnataka with an investment of Rs 30,000 crore and South Korean steel giant Posco's proposal to set up a 6-million tonne per annum integrated steel plant with an investment of Rs 32,300 crore.

ODISHA

BJP central team visits Kalinga Nagar Demands probe into the death of a tribal

The BJP on May 17 demanded a probe into the death of a tribal allegedly due to police firing at the Kalinga Nagar industrial complex in Jajpur district, Odisha on May 12. A five-member parliamentary team of the party, led by Rajya Sabha member Shri Rudranarayan Pani, visited Kalinga Nagar steel hub in the district. As the role of the police in the killing and subsequent cremation of Laxman Jamuda of Chandia village is suspicious, it should be probed, party National General Secretary Shri Dharmendra Pradhan said. Both the police and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik have been telling a blatant lie over Jamuda's death and misleading the entire State to cover up the crimes, he said.

The party will file a PIL in the Supreme Court over Jamuda's death and subsequent hijacking of his body by the police. It would also move the National Human Right Commission and National Tribals Commission. A member of the delegation, Shri Balbir Punj strongly criticised the State Government for arresting local MP and condemned the ongoing police atrocities on the activists of Kalinga Nagar *Bisthapan Birodhi Mancha*.

While the poor and innocent tribals of Kalinga Nagar have been asking basic amenities for their sustainability, they are being greeted with police bullets. I will raise the Laxman Jamuda issue in the coming Parliament session," said Shri Nishikant Dubey, Lok Sabha member and a member of the team. Among others Odisha BJP President Shri Jual Oram, National General Secretary Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, BJP MPs Shri Nishikant Patel, Shri Upendra Jadav and former National Mahila Morcha President Smt. Surama Padhi, former MP Smt. Archana Nayak, BJP state Yuva Morcha President Shri Bibhuti Jene and others also accompanied the team. ■