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Massive BJP rally against price rise

Rally rattles Congress-led UPA. 5



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यः सर्वत्रानभिस्नेहस्तत्तत्प्राप्य शुभाशुभम् ।

नाभिनन्दति न द्वेष्टि तस्य प्रज्ञा प्रतिष्ठिता ॥

He who is unattached to everything, and meeting with good and evil,
neither rejoices nor recoils, his mind is stable.

Bhagavadgita, Chapter 2, Text 57

Editorial

Massive rally against prices in Delhi Shows aam aadmi is with BJP

Congress-led UPA may or may not accept the reality openly, but the fact remains that it cannot deny that what torments its mind at the moment is not tormenting others. Congress has thrashed the people harsh with the rod of rising prices. On the call of the BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari the people from every nook and corner of the country choked the streets of Delhi on April 21. The rally was a reflection of the mind of the people all over the country on the issue. It was so successful and so massive that it broke all records of any rally held by any political party at the national capital during the last over two decades. It was a rally of the people that gave vent to their feelings on this issue that hurts everyone except perhaps the Congress leaders. The cries of the people at the rising prices were as high as were the day temperature in Delhi which too had broken all previous records in recent times. The deafening slogans raised in the rally rattled the seat of power in the Parliament. This was not what BJP was saying or the Opposition was raising a hue and cry; it was the vociferous outpouring of the feelings of the people.

Congress has crossed all limits of treachery. By first holding a solemn promise to bring down prices to garner votes of the people and then breaking it the ruling party has just smeared its own face. The prices of every essential commodity of use in the kitchen of the common man have risen four-fold. To rub salt on the aam aadmi's wounds the Congress party and its government had been further threatening him with a doom's day saying that the prices will go up further. In the Parliament not only BJP but the whole Opposition raised a hell on the issue. But neither the echo in Parliament nor the cries of the aam aadmi moved the stone heart of the Congress. It did present the Budget but there was everything for others but nothing for the aam aadmi to put a balm on his wounds. Never had been any government so cruel to those on whose support had it been enjoying the fruits of power.

Pick battles big enough to matter, small enough to win.

~ Jonathan Kozel

Moved by the plight of the common man because of rocketing prices, Party President Shri Nitin Gadkari, in the National Executive Committee meeting at Indore, had given a clarion call to the *karyakartas* all over the country for a gherao of Parliament at Delhi. The *karyakartas* responded to his call with full support and determination. They spread to every nook of the country. They made the people understand and realize the enormity of the crisis of rising prices. Shri Gadkari put 14 questions direct to the Prime Minister. There was hardly any response. Actually Dr. Manmohan Singh had no satisfactory explanation to offer. Shri Gadkari exposed massive scams indulged in by UPA government. BJP took the price-rise issue to every village. It aroused an atmosphere of agitation in villages and towns of the country. Every *chaupal* in the country turned a hot ground for discussion on the issue of rising prices. It generated such an atmosphere that everybody in the country felt impelled to contribute his mite to give vent to the feelings of the nation on spiraling prices on April

21.

There is no election in the country at the moment. But BJP cannot remain immune, as does the Congress, to the plight of the *aam aadmi* because of back-breaking prices. It gave voice to the sufferings of the people. The “*sansad chalo*” slogan became a common refrain of the *aam aadmi*. The BJP has taken up cudgels on behalf of the people. It has blown a bugle for the unending struggle till justice is done to the people. This rally has bared the hollowness of the words Dr. Manmohan Singh has been uttering as Prime Minister from the ramparts of the Red Fort.

The Congress, Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh should understand that they can make some people fool for some time, but not all the people for all the times. BJP has put its finger on the pulse of the people. When the people return home from the rally, they will have to continue the struggle in the towns and villages. Shri Gadkari has already said that we have to continue our struggle on the roads and streets. “I am not worried about BJP”, he has declared, “I am feeling pained at

the plight of the people”. BJP leaders and *karyakartas* have to devote themselves to the problems facing the people living in the villages and towns, to get these redressed and to get them justice they have to wage an unending struggle.

Delhi stood witness to the strength of BJP. BJP itself was face to face with the fruit of its own hard work. The country expects of the political leaders and parties to wage a fight for their causes. It has to be admitted that for some years people did keep away from the spirit of struggle. If the struggle bears a fruit people of their own swarm to the leaders and parties and stand shoulder to shoulder with those who fight for their cause. With this massive rally BJP has made Congress-led UPA to see its face in the eyes of the people. The face of Congress stands amply smeared with the dust raised by the people crying against the rising prices. BJP deserves all the praise. The ultimate outcome and result of the struggle on the road for the cause of the people has its own reward. It may come sooner or later, but it does come in the long run. ■

BJP wins GTB Nagar by-poll; Setback for Congress

The BJP-SAD combine candidate Shri Inder Preet Singh defeated Antul Kohli of the Congress in the recently held MCD by-poll. Though a member of the SAD, the winning candidate is contested on BJP symbol. Shri Inder Preet Singh bagged 6,914 votes, while Antul Kohli got 5,692 votes.

The victory of the BJP-SAD combine candidate is being perceived by the party as significant during the ongoing protest of the party against the wrong economic policies and rising prices inflicted by the Congress ruled Governments on *aam admi*. It might be noted that price rise was also an important issue of the BJP during the campaigning for the GTB Nagar bypoll and BJP National General Secretary Shri Vijay Goel too had conducted *Padyatras* in that area.

Shri Subhash Arya, the leader of the House of MCD said, “By this result of the bypolls, the electorate of the area has shown their anguish towards the Congress led Delhi Government, who is unable to control the problem of price rise, and I am happy with the answer of the electorate.” ■

Historic BJP Rally rattles Congress-led UPA

The Message: Act or Quit



A special report by Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi

April 21, 2010 was a day that created history for many – for the Bharatiya Janata Party, for the people of the national capital of Delhi and for the *aam aadmi* when a massive crowd hailing from every part of the country, not witnessed for over quarter of a century, responded to the call of the BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari thronged the Ramlila Maidan to show their ire against the Congress-led UPA government for unprecedented price rise. Lakhs of people had started trickling to New Delhi from whatever mode of transport was available to them – by road, by rail, or any other conveyance, much ahead of the appointed day to register their protest against wrong economic policies of UPA government resulting in spiralling prices which go on spiralling unabated. Rising temperature in the capital for last one week could not deter the people from marching to New Delhi and as if

it was an acknowledgement of the people's resolve that the Sun god saluted the people that day by lowering the temperature to bearable degrees as the rally gained strength. While the Ramlila Maidan was over-packed to capacity, the overflow on the streets of Delhi stood witness to people in attires of different regions carrying colourful BJP flags, banners and caps marching with strong determination and resolve shouting slogans and

protesting in a democratically disciplined manner. Delhi roads wore the look of colourful rivers constantly flowing and converging into a sea of humanity in Ramlila Maidan. It was indeed historic, a never before spectacle, a result of the massive upsurge of people who continue to bear the brunt of price rise every day and every moment in their life.

The people were brimming with enthusiasm. They had come to shake the UPA out of its slumber which had refused to correct its economic

BJP MPs boycott LS, join rally against price rise

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on April 21 in New Delhi boycotted the Lok Sabha proceedings to join its mass rally in New Delhi to protest against the spiralling prices of essential commodities. BJP spokesman Shri Shah Nawaz Hussain told the media that party MPs felt it was more important to be part of the rally. BJP leader and Leader of the Opposition Smt. Sushma Swaraj, who addressed the house before the start of question hour, slammed the government's "wrong policies" for the price rise, and said BJP MPs were joining the "lakhs and lakhs of people" who had come from all over the country for the protest.

"Price rise is not an outcome of any natural calamity, it is the outcome of the wrong policies of the government," Smt. Swaraj said in her two-minute speech. She said though the first day of the budget session began with a debate over price rise, there was no satisfactory reply by the government and no effort was made to curb the price rise. Soon after her speech, the BJP MPs raised slogans against the government and moved out of the house to join the rally.

policies to bring reprieve to the starving people. Wake up...or We will shake you! That was the message the rallyists gave to the government. People were marching with placards and banners in their hands in the streets on Delhi interspersed with hoardings exposing the misdeeds of UPA. Full throated slogans were ranting the air. "*Sonia Manmohan ki Jodi, Aam aadmi ki Kamar Todi*", "*Sonia jiski mummy hai, woh sarkar nikammi hai*", "*Congress ka haath, Jamakhoron ke saath*", "*Ghero Sansad, bandho daam, Mahangai par kaso lagam*", "*Jabse Congress aayi hai, kamar tod mahangai hai*" – spiralling price rise was the issue everyone was talking about. Even



though the commuters in Delhi were stranded due to jam yet they expressed complete solidarity with the cause – after all everyone was facing the heat of rising prices. People were expecting that this massive rally will at least make the UPA wake up and free itself of the clutches of the hoarders, blackmarketeers and profiteers.

Addressing the massive gathering BJP national president Shri Nitin Gadkari said that the UPA government was anti-village, anti-poor and anti-people. He lamented that the Congress was bent upon eradicating poor instead of eradicating poverty. Corruption has touched its nadir under the present UPA government. There have been sugar, rice and *daal* scams. Foodgrains are rotting in the godowns while *aam aadmi* is dying of hunger and starvation. Above all, more and more youth everyday are joining the army of unemployed. The government has become completely insensitive and irresponsible to the plight of the people.

Shri Gadkari said that the union government lacks the vision and determination to control prices. On the other hand, the Prime Minister adds to the people's worries when he says that we are moving towards double digit growth. His minister Kamal

Nath blames the poor for consuming more food and thus contributes to the rise in prices. It only means that this Congress-led government does not want the *aam aadmi* to feed his belly to the full. Home minister Chidambaram expresses satisfaction that government has reduced the price of the biscuits meant for dogs. Agriculture and Food Minister Sharad Pawar says that the prices of sugar, wheat and rice are lower than that in US and England. But that is only half truth. He conceals the fact that the per capita income in those countries and the purchasing power of the *aam aadmi* is many times more than in India. Smt. Sonia Gandhi says that she will write a letter to government on price rise. If her letter is to do the trick, why has she not done so far?

The UPA government had promised to bring down the prices within 100 days of assuming power. But the prices continue to rise under a government led by an economist. The intention of the government is doubtful. The wrong economic policies and fiscal mismanagement are responsible for increasing prices in the country. He said that recently a charge-sheet was issued and 14 questions were put to the prime minister but the government could not reply. "I can say with confidence that no one in Congress can answer these questions", he thundered. "If they have the guts, they should agree to debate the issue in media", he said.

Shri Gadkari exposed the government by citing statistics and figures supporting BJP charges. He asked as to why it is so that the price of sugar in India is Rs 38/- per kg while it is Rs. 28/- in the world? Why 4.8 million tonnes of sugar was exported at the rate of Rs. 12.50/- while it was imported at the rate of Rs. 22/- per Kg? Even now more than 42 crore people are living below the poverty line. He said that he had figures of 25 countries where inflation is around 2% while in India it is 11%.

Lambasting the BSP government in UP Shri Gadkari said crores of rupees are being squandered away on raising statues but no efforts have been made to protect the interest of the farmers.

He said that the people have now started recalling the good old days under Atal ji led NDA government. Those were the days when people used to feel happy to treat the guests with food but now condition has so much worsened that it has now become a burden on them if a guest knocks

their door. They now only wait for him to leave so that they can have their meal.

Shri Gadkari said that ten times of the numbers present in the Ramlila Ground were standing on the streets of Delhi to register their protest. There is immense anguish and anger among the people against the price rise and this has been now amply proved by the massive presence in the rally.

Speaking at the rally, the chairman of the BJP parliamentary party Shri LK Advani congratulated BJP national president Shri Nitin Gadkari for organizing such a massive rally under his leadership. He said the rally was the largest one to have beaten all the records in terms of numbers.

He said that the UPA has completely failed in controlling the prices. The way in which prices have risen, has not only hurt the *aam aadmi* but the middle class too stands severely affected. The prices of the foodgrains have been continuously increasing during the last six years. It has risen to whopping 100% to 250%.

Shri Advani said that there are two main reasons for price rise under Congress rule. The first is the fiscal mismanagement and the second is corruption in the form of various scams. On the other side states under BJP government like Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Himachal are registering progress very well.

"The large number in which people came to join rally against price rise in Delhi is a warning signal for the UPA", he said.

Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Smt. Sushma Swaraj counted three reasons given by UPA government for price rise in the country. First - natural calamity, second - support price to the farmers, and, third - economic recession. These are wrong excuses. In fact, prices have risen due to wrong policies of the government.

She said that under UPA rule scams have taken place in the export-import of sugar, pulses and rice. This rally is against these scams. Today the people from across the country have come to warn the government. BJP will play a leading role in this struggle by the people.

She asked to people in the rally to raise the slogan of "*Mahangai rok do - warna gaddi chhod do*" which people responded vociferously. She warned the government that people will make it quit the power if prices remain uncontrolled.

Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitely said that when BJP announced the rally against price rise then there were some apprehensions in some quarters but now it was clear that apart from raising issues in the parliament BJP also fights intense battles on the streets.

Alleging that the UPA government has failed on all fronts, Shri Jaitely referred to its failure in fighting terrorism. The government has failed to fight against the naxals and also against the price rise, he said.

Shri Jaitely said that when a country comes out of the economic recession, prices normally come down. But in India the prices of foodgrains have increased. There is record harvest in the country.

BJP National President Nitin Gadkari congratulates party rank and file for unprecedented turn out at Rally Against Price Rise

I congratulate the party rank and file across the country for the unprecedented turn out at the party's anti-price rise rally at



Ramlila Ground in Delhi. The historic mobilization of people would not have been possible without a tireless campaign mounted by the BJP workers down to the village level in the last more than two months.

I extend my felicitations to all our national office bearers, members of the national executive, state presidents, state chief ministers, deputy chief ministers, state ministers, MPs, MLAs, MLCs, All Morchas, State Executive Members, Corporators, District Presidents, District Executive Members, Block Presidents, Block Executive Members, Zila Parishad members, Municipal Committee Members, Surpanches, Panches and all other functionaries of the party at various levels.

I salute my party men for this historic achievement. My thanks are also due to all friends of the media for their active cooperation. My thanks are due to all the Govt. Agencies in Delhi.

Last but not the least, I personally apologise on behalf of the BJP to the people of Delhi, NCR and the neighbouring states for the inconvenience caused to them due to the traffic disruptions during the rally.

Foodgrains are rotting in the government godowns. Farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. The prices of petrol and diesel have been increased in the budget. The excise duty on sugar has been raised. These are the results of wrong policies of the government. "If the situation remains unchanged then in coming six months the country may witness more price rise", he said.

Former BJP president Dr. Murali Manohar Joshi said that the rally was a *mahakumbh* against price rise. He said that the struggle will not end with organizing this rally but it will continue against the wrong policies of the government.

Dr. Joshi attributed price rise to the very character of the Congress. He said that in the times of Smt. Indira Gandhi also prices remained uncontrolled while the era of Janata Party and BJP led NDA saw prices controlled and stable.

He said that while UPA comes to power in the name of *aam aadmi* but works for the rich once it is in government. The UPA ministers have no time for controlling the spiraling prices as its Agriculture and External affairs ministers are more interested in cricket.

He challenged the government to explain as to what it has done except delivering empty assurances. Prices are rising due to speculators and hoarders. Speculative trade is prospering by stealing the pockets of the poor.

Dr. Joshi said that there is anguish among the people against the wrong policies of the government. He warned the UPA that a government which cannot protect the interests of the people has no right to continue in power.

Former BJP president Shri Rajnath Singh said that from every nook and corner of the country people have come to give a warning to the government that either it should reduce the prices or quit the government.

Shri Singh said that whenever Congress came to power prices increased uncontrolled while in the time of BJP led NDA prices remained stable and under control. Prices are increasing continuously

for the last six years – why? It is due to fiscal mismanagement of the government.

He expressed his concern that the focus of the government remains on the IPL while the BPL people are facing so much of hardships. Poverty is increasing in every village, poor are becoming poorer and rich are getting richer. 42 crores of the Indian population is forced to live below poverty. Lakhs of tones of foodgrains are rotting in the godowns. Neither food, nor water nor power is available on fair price. But the UPA government remains unperturbed. He said that the dream of a prosperous India cannot be fulfilled without improving the economic condition of the farmer.

The purchasing power of the farmers will have to be increased.

Shri Singh said that entire country is under the grip of inflation. Only BJP can fight against it. The message given by people through this rally in Delhi should reach every village.

Earlier in the day, the BJP also boycotted the Lok Sabha proceedings to join the massive rally. Speaking in the Lok Sabha, Leader of the Opposition Smt. Sushma Swaraj raised the issue of price rise holding the government responsible for the unfortunate situation.

She said though the first day of the budget session began with a debate over price rise, yet there was no satisfactory reply from the government and no effort was

made to control the prices. Soon after her speech, the BJP MPs raised slogans against the government and walked out of the house to join the rally. After the speeches, the people started their march towards the parliament. Thousands of people gathered at Jantar Mantar and burnt the effigies of prime minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, finance minister Shri Pranab Mukhrjee and UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi to register their protest against price rise. In the meanwhile, the senior BJP leaders were arrested while marching towards parliament and later released. The administration had put up barricades and heavy force was deployed to stop the procession from reaching the parliament.

The rally was also addressed by former BJP

Thousands of people gathered at Jantar Mantar and burnt the effigies of prime minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, finance minister Shri Pranab Mukhrjee and UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi to register their protest against price rise. In the meanwhile, the senior BJP leaders were arrested while marching towards parliament and later released.



Congress led UPA violating Constitution : Gadkari

From Our Correspondent

BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari addressing a huge gathering in Mumbai on April 18 charged that the Congress led UPA Government had, through its inability to bring down the prices of essential commodities and ensure proper utilization of the huge stocks of foodgrains lying in FCI godowns, failed to fulfill some of its obligations under the Constitution. He said the Government's failure to provide food to the poor, resulting in a state of hunger in several Indian States, is a criminal violation of Article 21 of the Constitution.

Presenting a 14-point "people's charge sheet" on price rise against the Manmohan Singh dispensation, Shri Gadkari said the Government had not only failed in bringing down the prices of essential commodities but had also contributed, in its own way, to a cent per cent rise in prices of essential commodities.

Shri Gadkari said "The UPA Government is completing its first year of its second term next month. Instead of bringing down the prices of essential commodities in 100 days as promised, the Government has in its own way contributed to the doubling of prices during the last 11 months." "If inflation touched 11+ per cent in March 2010 as against -1 per cent in August

2009 and food inflation has risen to 20 per cent, it is because of the UPA Government's faulty economic policies, coupled with factors like mismanagement, manipulation and negligence," he said.

"We have had a bumper crop. FCI and Government godowns are overflowing with foodgrains. A large chunk of available foodgrains is rotting. As on April 1, the Government has 183 lakh tonne of wheat in the central pool. 80 lakh tonne of wheat lying in the open has rotted," Gadkari said, as he spoke of one reasons for the increased food inflation.

Shri Gadkari said more than the various States or Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar, he preferred to lay the blame at the door of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for the alarming price rise and lack of efforts to ensure proper utilization of available food stocks. "Let us face it, Singh heads the Cabinet that takes decisions on policy matters — be it exports, imports or issues relating price rise and public distribution system.

The state Governments merely follow the guidelines issued by the Centre," said the BJP National President.

He said, "When a seasoned economist like Dr. Singh became a Prime Minister, like others I also expected a great deal from him (in dealing with Inflation in

general and food inflation in particular). But he has failed to deliver." "It is the responsibility of the Government to provide maximum available food resources for eradicating hunger. Its failure to provide food to poor, resulting in a state of hunger in several Indian states is a criminal violation of the Article 21 of the Constitution." Shri Gadkari said the Congress dispensation had violated the international law and basic human right of the people, that is, Right to food. He said the UPA had also violated Article 47 of the Constitution, under which the Government was obligated to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living.

He also charged that the UPA Government had indulged in criminal violation of the Essential Commodities Act, that it is "manipulating" the import and export policies relating sugar, wheat and rice, that it is "misleading" the people by saying that the price rise was not confined to just India, but it was a global phenomenon.

The National President added that the central Government had violated the Consumer Protection Act and that it had committed offences under sections 409 by indulging in acts aimed at helping speculators, manipulators, multinationals, corporates, sugar barons and middle in making "wrongful gains". ■

UPA Government mismanages in maintaining wheat and rice buffer stocks : Rajnath Singh

Accusing the Congress led UPA Government of mismanagement and carelessness in maintaining wheat and rice buffer stocks, former BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh demanded setting up of a parliamentary committee to investigate the status of wheat



lying in open in FCI godowns. Shri Singh raised this issue while he was speaking in Lok Sabha. Shri Rajnath Singh said while on the one hand people are dying of hunger, the UPA government is allowing wheat and rice to get rotten. During my visit to various go-downs in Haryana, I collected samples of rotting food grains. He said the stocks were lying in open since 2008. Shri Singh displayed the samples which he claims to have collected from government go-downs. He said a total of 72 lakh tonnes of wheat are laying in the open in FCI warehouses in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan. He demanded that the parliamentary panel should also find out reasons behind keeping the stocks in the open and alleged that rotten stock was being mixed with normal food grains before being sent for public distribution system (PDS) supplies. ■

People dying of hunger as food grains rot : Prabhat Jha



While on the one side the people of the country are facing food inflation, grains are rotting due to lack of storage facilities on the other. Rajya Sabha MP Shri Prabhat Jha has said in parliament mentioning a report of FCI, that the 10,37,738 metric tonnes of food grains got rotten during the last 6-7 years which was enough to provide full meal to one crore people for full one year. "Due to lack of storage and tarpaulin, many lakh tonnes of wheat are rotting and on the other hand, inflation is increasing and people are dying of hunger," he added. Warning the Central Government Shri Jha said "If the Central Government does not react to the situation on time, huge loss will occur." ■

Continued from page 8

president Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, National General Secretary, Shri Anant Kumar, chief minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, chief minister of Himachal Pradesh Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal, BJP Delhi State President Prof. O.P. Kohli, Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Prof. V.K. Malhotra and deputy chief minister of Bihar Shri Sushil Kumar Modi. The chief minister of Uttarakhand Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', BJP vice presidents Shri Shanta Kumar, Shri Kalraj Mishra, Smt. Karuna Shukla, Smt. Kiran Ghai, Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Shri Purushottam Rupala, Smt. Najma Heptulla, Shri Vinay Katiyar, national general secretary (Organization) Shri Ram Lal, Joint Gen. Secretaries (Organisation) Shri V. Satish, Shri Saudan Singh, National General Secretaries Shri Thavarchand Gehlot, Smt. Vasundhara Raje Scindia, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Shri Arjun Munda, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, National Secretaries Smt. Kiran Maheshwari, Shri Varun Gandhi, Sushri Saroj Pandey, Smt. Smruti Irani, Shri Kirit Somayya, Sushri Vani Tripathy were also present. Other senior BJP leaders including Dy. Leader of BJP Parliamentary Party in Rajya Sabha Shri S. S. Ahluwalia and Shri. Gopinath Munde in Lok Sabha, Dy. Chief Minister of Jharkhand Shri Raghuvar Das, Kamal Sandesh editor Shri Prabhat Jha, BJP Spokespersons Shri Prakash Javadekar, Shri Shah Nawaj Hussain, Shri Tarun Vijay, Shri Ramnath Kovind, Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman, BJP Headquarters incharge Shri Shyam Jaju also graced the occasion. Apart from national and state level office bearers, BJP MPs from both houses of the parliament and MLAs from different state legislatures also attended the rally. The proceedings were conducted by BJP general secretary Shri Vijay Goel. ■

In five years UPA failed to find a solution to Maoist problem : Arun Jaitley

Brief points made by Shri Arun Jaitley, Leader of the Opposition (Rajya Sabha) on April 15, 2010 while speaking on the debate on Dantewada Massacres of Security Personnel

We strongly condemn the massacre of our patriotic security personnel by the Maoists. Chhattisgarh is a state which has geared up to fight the menace of Maoism more than any other state and yet this is a great setback to us to demoralize our operations. I stand here not to apportion the blame but to increase the resolve in the fight against Maoism.

The UPA government wasted the five years of the UPA-I by neither understanding the problem nor suggesting a solution. The Maoists activities grew in this period. When the present Home Minister took over, we had some hope that he, at least, understood the problem. But the developments of the last few days have saddened us. Saddened not because our security forces suffered a temporary setback but because in the middle of a battle, a battle which this nation can not afford to lose, we find that the Home Minister is crippled by his own party and colleagues. The Home Minister said that we need a strong mind, a strong heart and staying power to fight the Maoists. What you have said is true, but a divided government, a divided UPA, and a divided Congress Party have become a liability in the fight against



Maoism.

The General Secretary of the Congress Party in a signed article says that the Home Minister has 'intellectual arrogance'. 'It is development not security action which will fight the Maoists'. Mani Shankar Aiyer agrees with him; and Mamata Banerjee made a statement that there are no Maoists in Lalgarh. She has called for suspending the joint operations. She has further called for arresting the West Bengal Chief Minister.

Look at the paradox. We, the Opposition, could have attacked the Government but we chose to stand shoulder to shoulder with the government. We refrained from asking for the Home Minister's resignation, because we do not want Maoists to rejoice. When the Home Minister made a

snide remark against the West Bengal chief minister, the Chief Minister acted with a sense of maturity. The whole Opposition and the nation want the battle against Maoists to succeed. Unfortunately, the government, the UPA and the Congress Party is divided. Some want the Home Minister to fall, some dispute his approach, some have ideologically gheraoed him. When the security forces want air force, another department of the government denies it. Did the Home Minister behave like the injured soldier because of this. The Home Minister is responsible for India's security. He can not be seen as an injured soldier gheraoed by his own party. The Home Minister will have to eventually decide where he stands in this conflict. Does he stand for a fight to finish against the Maoists? Does he stand with the nation- or he succumbs to party's discipline and gives up the fight. It is the Congress Party which is becoming a liability in this battle against Maoism.

What are the objects of the Maoist movement?

The object of the Maoist movement is to capture the Indian state through armed insurgency. They want to overthrow the government. They want a system of ideological dictatorship, no ballot, no

We all should unite to win the fight against Naxalits : Yashwant Sinha



Synopsis of the speech of Lok Sabha MP Shri Yashwant Sinha in Parliament initiating the discussion on Maoist attack on CRPF Personnel at Dantewada District of Chhattisgarh

Tuesday, the 6th of April, 2010 will go down in our internal security history as a black day. Seventy three policemen were ambushed and killed by the Maoists in the jungles of Dantewada District of Chhattisgarh. Never before in independent India's history have so many security personnel lost their lives in a single operation by any rebel group. It represented the failure of Indian democracy, of the Indian Constitution, of all our development efforts and the style of governance of this Government. We condole their deaths, we express our deepest sympathy to their families.

Immediately after the incident our party came out with a statement in which we declared that we stand firmly with the Government in this fight against the Maoists. The point which comes to our mind is, while the Opposition is with the Government in this fight, is the Congress Party with the Government? Is the UPA with the Government? When we need to stand together in this fight, the ruling coalition stands severely divided. Unless there is unity of purpose in the Government,

unless there is determination for resolute action, we will not win this war.

The seriousness of Dantewada incident can be inferred merely by it that our jawans continuously fought for three long hours and laid their lives in the process. They also sent messages for help. But no help was provided to them Even after 10 days the Home Ministry could not prepare even a statement. In the last six years, on such a grave incident that has taken place 4,246 people including the security forces had been killed in the Maoists' incidences. More than 50 percent of the people had been killed only in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand during the said period which is more than the lives lost in the various Indo-Pak wars. We will continue to face defeat at the hands of the Maoists unless a clear policy is framed with a firm resolve to fight with them.

Operation Green Hunt was started without proper preparations. The State Governments were not taken into confidence before starting this operation. Operations are planned at other levels. They are not planned at the Home Minister's level or at the level of

the Chief Minister. Actually, operations will always be planned by police officers who are in-charge. Incidents like Dantewada would never have happened if operation Green Hunt had been started with full preparations.

What this Operation Green Hunt is? How is it being planned? How are the States being taken into confidence? What is the coordination which has been established with the State Governments? The Paramilitary security personnel were pushed into Dantewada in the same manner as our soldiers were pushed against the Chinese in 1962 without proper planning and preparations. Some members have mentioned about Centre-State cooperation and have said that this is a State subject. But, this is not a State subject only. Statements are made time and again that the buck stops here, there and everywhere. I say that if the buck stops, it stops at this Parliament. This fight will not stop until we all are united. Operation Green Hunt or any other operation will not succeed if there is lack of coordination with States and people.

The news items published in media or telecast on television

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Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr. Raman Singh has described the insurgency-hit tribal Bastar-Dantewada region as the "toughest area" where in a Maoist attack 76 security personnel lost their life, expressing confidence that the state would be able to assert its authority as a step towards establishing peace in the next three years. Interacting with reporters in Raipur on April 15 he said, "Everyone knows that the fight against the Maoists will be long-drawn. All efforts are on to boost the infrastructure in the Naxalite areas. It is a tough task. Still, I am confident that the state government will be able to assert

Fight against Maoists will be long-drawn : Dr. Raman Singh



its authority in areas where Maoists have influence".

"In the past five years, the state government has been trying to impress upon the Centre about the gravity of the Naxalite problem. But it is only during the last one year that the Centre realised the threat being posed by the Maoists and acknowledged it as a serious internal security threat," he said, adding: "The Naxal issue is above

politics, and is directly linked with the country and democracy."

Dr. Singh, who launched his two-phased 'gram swaraj' campaign from the insurgency-hit Bastar region, said the state has set up a high-level committee headed by Chief Secretary P Joy Oommen to oversee the development initiatives of Bastar region. "The committee has been empowered to take decisions, grant necessary relaxations so as to speed up infrastructure development such as construction of roads, bridges, schools and hospitals in the area," he added. ■

BJP condemns barbaric Maoist attack

The Bharatiya Janata Party strongly condemns the barbaric, inhuman and anti-national attack of the Maoists in Chhattisgarh on the security forces killing a large number of CRPF and State police personnel. This attack is a grim reminder to the Nation that both the geographical spread and the intensity of fire power of the Maoists has increased manifold in the past six years of the UPA Rule. This attack and the large loss of lives of our security forces is a challenge to the patriotic and nationalist forces of India that we must launch a fight to finish against the subversive Maoists forces.

The Maoist Movement is aimed at the over-throw of India's Parliamentary Democracy through the use of violence. Maoists survive and gain in an environment of poverty and backwardness. The Maoists through subversion are preventing development of the backward regions. Almost 200 districts of the country have a sizeable Maoist presence. The Maoists extort money from the people. The Maoists depend on ammunition obtained from foreign soil as also looted from the police armoury. The impact of Civil Administration in a number of these 200 districts is marginal.

While Maoist grew many folds during the 2004-

09 period, the Central Government was silent spectator. In Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh the Congress cosyed up to the Maoist on Election eve. The BJP Government's initiative in Chhattisgarh was opposed by the centre. Even post 2009 when the Home Ministry tried to change its approach, there was no unanimity in the Government. Sections of the UPA have made Maoist friendly noises in some States. West Bengal is a telling example of this.

Today the intelligence network of the Government establishment in relation to the Maoist activity is minimal. There is a dire need to strengthen this network. The paramilitary forces have to be strengthened, modernised and equipped with adequate fire power under a time bound programme. The Bharatiya Janata Party have always stood for the vocal and proactive approach against the Maoists. Today, when the situation is most critical the party calls upon all political parties and sections of opinion to stand united in the fight to finish the Maoists. We call upon the Government of India and all States to work out and strengthen the unified strategy against Maoists. The BJP, as a Nationalist political force shall lead this National resolve. ■

Resolution on Naxalism adopted in a meeting of the BJP Central Office Bearers at New Delhi on April 08, 2010

Gadkari blames UPA government for failing to check price rise

Bharatiya Janata Party will now give maximum priority to expanding its base in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal and come up with a plan soon said Sh. Nitin Gadkari. Speaking to reporters after attending a meeting of Tamilnadu State office-bearers, BJP National President Shri Natin Gadkari



said there was an image problem of the party in many States. The reality was that BJP was not communal, casteist or anti-minority. Rejecting a suggestion that the party was ineffective in the South, Shri Gadkari said a plan to revitalise the party was being prepared, especially for the Southern States and for West Bengal. Presenting a set of data collected from answers to parliamentary questions and RTI petitions, he reiterated his demand for keeping essential commodities out of futures trading. He said 99.67 per cent ►►

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Interlinking of rivers will surely help in development of India : Nitin Gadkari



BJP National President, Shri Nitin Gadkari's press conference in Pondicherry on April 12, 2010

India's population is over 100 crores. This is likely to increase to 150-180 crores in 2050. The need of food grain and water will be tremendous. It is becoming necessary to develop projects, which will help to increase food production & the flow of water.

Every year normally we get

4000 Billion Cubic Metre (B.C.M.) water and 1900 B.C.M. water is mixed with sea without being used. With growing demand of water, disputes over the use of fresh water are becoming very common causing avoidable tensions between states. Due to uncertain and inequitable rains every year we face scarcity of

water in dry seasons. The fury of floods in some parts of the country also causes havoc every year. "Interlinking of Rivers" can provide a solution to these problems and also bring most of the irrigable land under cultivation. It can get us additional 200 B.C.M. of water.

Dr. K.L. Rao, the Minister of Power and Irrigation in the Cabinet of Smt. Indira Gandhi presented a plan to link the Ganga and Cauvery in 1974. This proposal had 2640 km long Ganga Cauvery link as its main component. The scheme had also proposed flood control measures. Dr. Rao had estimated this proposal to cost about Rs. 12500 crores, which at 2002 price level was put at about Rs. 150000 crores.

Dr. APJ Adbul kalam has said that an infrastructure development programme of the scale of the interlinking of rivers would open up a whole new world of job opportunities for

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BJP's focus is on development, socio-economic reform, and nationalism : Nitin Gadkari



During his first visit to Chennai as party president, Shri Gadkari came to the headquarters of The Hindu Group of publications and had an interaction with its journalists on April 10. The issues covered in the on-the-record part of the 45-minute session included inflation, the steep rise in the prices of essential commodities, futures and forward trading in these commodities, the Women's Reservation Bill and the one-third quota for women in party posts, the naxalite challenge, and Ayodhya.

Excerpts from Shri Gadkari's opening remarks and answers to our questions:

Opening remarks

As the BJP president, my first priority is that politics is an instrument of socio-economic reform. When I was a student, I decided to work in politics for doing something for the country, for society, and for the poor. In my whole life, I have been working on this principle. Fortunately, I had a good experience with infrastructure. As Minister [for Public Works in Maharashtra during 1995-1999], I had a track record of constructing the Mumbai-Pune Expressway and flyovers in Mumbai. The Worli-Bandra Sea Link [connecting the western suburbs of Mumbai with the city] was also started by me. With Rs. 5 crore equity, I completed works of Rs. 8,000 crore. I am the only politician in the country to raise Rs. 4,000 crore from the capital market. And all my projects are economically viable. This experience stands me in good stead when I look for helpful ideas about development.

I feel that industry and agriculture are important. For industrial development, we need water, power, transport, and communication. For agriculture, we need water, power, seed and fertilizer. At the same time, irrigation is important. Unfortunately, after 1947, agriculture and the rural field have suffered neglect. Presently, the problems that we are facing are because of the neglect of agriculture and the rural areas.

After completing my tenure as Minister, I started to work in rural areas. I am not a corporate man or an industrialist. I am very much interested in biodiesel, ethanol, bio-fertilizer, bio-methanisation, solar energy, and power. My philosophy is that people have faith in two things – government and god. But here is the third thing – you can be an architect of your socio-economic life. I had started with my BJP friends and friends from Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad a cooperative

'We feel that we should have Ram Mandir. This is the issue of our *asmita*. We will not deviate from it.'

'I am a worker of the BJP, inspired and motivated from my ABVP days.'

"Let the politics of the 21st century be politics for progress and development," says Nitin Gadkari, the Bharatiya Janata Party's 52-year-old president, adding that he regards politics as an instrument of socio-economic reform. Further, "good governance is one of the essential pre-requisites ... we are studying how we can increase the process of development in all fields of society by good governance in all the States where we are ruling. The second thing is the training programme for our workers. We have started it. This year our target is getting 10,000 trained workers." The BJP president blames "the wrong economic policies and bad governance of the UPA" for the high rate of inflation and the sharp rise in the prices of essential commodities. He also criticises it for neglecting agriculture and rural India.

departmental stores called Purti. Now we have attained a turnover of Rs 35 crore. Because of interference from the government, we selected the model of a public limited company. We have three sugar factories. I am generating power from biomass — 24.5 megawatt from bagasse and eight MW from rice husk. My vision was diversification of agriculture to power and energy sector.

My dream has been to get ethanol — a green fuel — and the know-how to make our engines run 100 per cent on the basis of ethanol. That is my preoccupation now.

Basically I am working in biofuel. Because of distillery, we have got a biomethanisation plant. We are generating biomass from sugarcane. The main product is power; the byproducts are sugar, ethanol, and bio-fertilizer. I am very much interested in that development.

I feel that the 21st century is an important century in which, along with nationalist feelings and mode of thought, we need development and progress in all sectors of society. The BJP is the party that is devoted to developing all fields of society, with particular emphasis on agriculture and the rural sector.

Good governance is one of the essential prerequisites. We have a good governance cell [in the BJP] and we have appointed Manohar Parikkar, ex-Chief Minister of Goa, for that position. We have nine States where we are the ruling party. We are making a syllabus, studying all schemes of all governments, including those of the Left and Tamil Nadu. We are studying how we can increase the process of development in all fields of society by good governance in all the States where we are ruling. The second thing is the training programme for our workers. We have started it. This year our target is getting 10,000 trained workers.

As for Tamil Nadu's development, water is an important issue. The river connectivity project is one of the important projects for our country. From the Cauvery, you can get only about 800 TMC [thousand million cubic feet] of water. But by connectivity of rivers, you can get more than 4,000 TMC of water. Now, in Gujarat, which is a BJP-ruled State, we have a 20 per cent increase in the water table. Because of Narmada, the agricultural growth rate is 14 per cent in Gujarat. The Indian average is minus 0.2 per cent.

Now, as far as the party is concerned, we have a lot of political plans. I personally feel that price rise and inflation are related to the wrong economic policies and bad governance of the UPA [United

Progressive Alliance]. That is my honest feeling. I am not talking politically.

As you can see, we exported sugar at Rs. 12.5 per kg to other countries. One-and-a-half years ago, the government gave Rs. 1.7 as export subsidy and transport subsidy. Now we are importing sugar at Rs. 28 to Rs. 35 per kg! We have purchased from abroad red wheat at Rs. 19 per kg. But the government is giving Rs. 9.5 to farmers. In essential commodities, there is a turnover of Rs. 4,50,000 crore but the delivery is of Rs. 4,500 crore. There is 99.24 per cent speculation and manipulation. In 2004, the government added essential commodities in the commodity exchange. The beneficiaries are manipulators, speculators, multinational corporates, and black marketers. The farmers are not getting good prices.

In Haryana and Punjab, the government is getting wheat from farmers at Rs. 11.5 a kg. You watch, after one month, the retail price will go to Rs. 26! Why should the government allow speculation? Why did they add essential commodities in the commodities exchange?

The country's agricultural sector needs cold storage, pre-cooling plants, and godowns. As far as my information and statistics go, we have only one-third capacity of godowns for our foodgrains. The government has never given priority to pre-cooling plants, cold storage, and the agro-processing industry.

Irrigation is a subject in the State List. Atal Bihari Vajpayee appointed a committee under my chairmanship for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, which was prepared by me for Rs. 60,000 crore. I was the main advisor for the four-laning of national highways. At that time, the question arose about village connectivity, which is a State subject. I told Vajpayeeji that because of this lack of connectivity, a lot of people in rural India were facing problems for many years. He took a bold decision: the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana would be financed 100 per cent from the Central government and it would be a scheme of Rs. 60,000 crore.

We need to add irrigation to the Concurrent List. We need a scheme by which States and the central government contribute 50 per cent each. This can double irrigation capacity, which is going to solve the problems of the agricultural and rural sectors. Our sincere emphasis is on development of agriculture and rural India. We are trying our level best in our State — Bihar — where the GDP growth rate was minus 0.5 per cent. Now, in Bihar, it is 11

per cent. In all BJP-ruled States, we have got good GDP growth. Today, we are preparing a plan to increase it. How can we increase employment potential, how can we eradicate poverty, and how can we increase GDP and per capita income in the States — that is our preoccupation.

Let the politics of the 21st century be politics for progress and development. I feel that politics is an instrument of socio-economic reform. I am not selecting politics as my career. I am a worker of the BJP, inspired and motivated from my Vidyarthi Parishad days. I want to do something for the country and for society. I am a small worker of the party. I started my work by pasting posters and writing on the walls.

Still, I am working at the ward committee level. It is possible only in the BJP, that a small worker like me can become the president, the highest post. In other parties, it is unthinkable. Even Manmohan Singhji can't think of becoming president of the Congress party. That is a post meant for the Family. Definitely, our party is a party with a difference. Any rethinking within the BJP on the Women's Reservation Bill?

Not at all. As far as supporting the Bill is concerned, there is no problem. When the party's policy is for the Bill, everyone has to come with me. We will not allow any MP to take any role against the party's policy. But many parties have some reservations. Particularly, on the incident in the Rajya Sabha of eviction of members by marshals, there was unrest among members of all parties. That was not good for democracy. But as far as our principle is concerned, we have supported the Bill. That is our official viewpoint.

On food inflation and price rise

In Haryana and Punjab, wheat farmers are getting Rs. 11- Rs. 12 per kg. Two months ago, in the retail market, the price was Rs. 24 to Rs 26 per kg. Only related to sugarcane, in Maharashtra, we are giving Rs. 2,000 per tonne. Even in Tamil Nadu, the price is probably Rs. 2000 per tonne. But in the case of other essential commodities, when agriculturists produce grains, the price is less. Afterwards, futures and forward trading increase the value but farmers get a very meagre price. At the same time, consumers have to pay two times higher. This is in 80 to 90 per cent of the cases.

My party's opinion is that essential commodities should be eliminated from [the ambit of] futures and forward trading. [Union Petroleum Minister] Murli Deora has said that for crude oil purposes, this futures and forward trading has increased the value of crude oil in such a way that it creates a lot of problems for many countries. So he opposes it. We have to study this matter in depth. If this commodity exchange, particularly futures and forward trading, is going to be helpful

only to the people who have got money power, is it good for society? Because of this speculation and manipulation, the common man — the farmer, the journalist, the teacher, and the professor — is paying a heavy price. It is not in the interests of the poor.

On implementing a one-third quota for women in party posts

We have 33 per cent women office-bearers. We have decided to give 33 per cent of posts to women. We have got qualified people. We have a lot of women workers. Their contribution is enormous. They have calibre. We need to encourage them. I select people who are ready to work for the party.

On the Maoist challenge

The way in which the Maoist movement has spread from Pashupathi to Tirupati shows the wrong policies of the UPA government. In the Andhra Pradesh election, the Congress party made an agreement with naxalites and their sympathisers. For political purposes, they take help from naxalites. We feel that this is a very, very problematic issue. It is against the nation. As far as the government is concerned, we give full support for the government to fight terrorism. We will fight against all types of terrorist elements.

There is an impression that your former ally, the Trinamool Congress, is hand in glove with Maoists in areas like Nandigram. We are not concerned about Trinamool. I do not know what type of policy they pursue. But we do not compromise with national interests, whether we are in power or not. In Assam, political parties are inviting foreigners to come into the country and they are given voting rights — this type of politics, we oppose.

Why should the BJP not drop the Ayodhya issue when it is focusing on development?

As far as the Ram Mandir issue is concerned, I have already, in my presidential address in Indore, declared my policy. We feel that this is the issue of our *asmita*. We have got only one place where Ram was born. So this concerns the faith of crores of people. We feel that we should have Ram Mandir. We will not deviate from this issue. ■

(Courtesy : The Hindu)

Long haul lies ahead

By Joginder Singh

76 security personnel – 74 belonging to the CRPF and two to the Chhattisgarh Police – were killed in the thick forests of the Dantewada district on April 6. Not only were the security men butchered by the Leftwing extremists but the latter also took away their arms and ammunition.

This is neither the first nor the last bloodbath that we are going to see in the war against Maoists who are determined to usurp the authority of the state. Indeed, the guerrillas top the list of attacks on our security forces.

The biggest problem in dealing with Maoist violence has been that strategies, lack of

intelligence and perceptions vary from State to State and from occasion to occasion. The authorities are simply not decisive enough. The causes of Maoism, estimated to be a Rs 1,500-crore empire, are variously described as a law and order problem or a movement deriving its strength from the lack of development and employment opportunities in the affected areas. Perhaps, it is a combination of all such factors.

The Central forces are trying to help the States regain control of the so-called 'occupied' or 'free zones' that Maoists have created. It is for the States to ensure that development follows the forces. The most important development work that needs to be undertaken in the Maoist-affected areas without delay is the building of good roads so that poor villagers and tribals can have access to the facilities that are available to the rest of the country.

Nonetheless, the vicious cycle of fear and killings is something that is always going to come in the way of those wanting to undertake development projects or improve the existing infrastructure in the Maoist-dominated areas. People would rather be safe than stick their necks in a fight between the insurgents and the Government. No investor is going to invest in any area plagued with violence and unabated killings.

The world has known only two ways of resolving any

The following are some major instances of Maoist attacks:

- ▶ **April 4, 2010:** Maoists trigger a landmine bombing, killing 11 security personnel of the elite anti-Maoist Special Operations Group in Koraput district of Odisha.
- ▶ **February 15, 2010:** 24 personnel of the Eastern Frontier Rifles are killed as Maoists attack their camp in Sildah in West Midnapore district of West Bengal.
- ▶ **October 8, 2009:** 17 policemen are killed when Maoists ambush them at Laheri police station in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra.
- ▶ **September 26, 2008:** Maoists kill BJP MP from Balaghat Baliram Kashyap's sons at Pairaguda village in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh.
- ▶ **September 4, 2008:** Maoists kill four villagers in a forest in Aaded village in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district.
- ▶ **July 27, 2008:** Six people are killed when Maoists trigger a landmine bombing in Dantewada district, Chhattisgarh.
- ▶ **June 29, 2008:** Maoists attack a boat carrying four anti-Maoist police officials and 60 Greyhound commandos on the Balimela reservoir in Odisha, killing 38 security personnel in all.
- ▶ **June 23, 2008:** A group of motorcycleborne Maoists open fire in Lakhisarai district court premises in Bihar and free four of their comrades, including the self-styled zonal commander of Ranchi.
- ▶ **June 16, 2008:** Maoists kill 11 police officers in a landmine attack followed by armed assault. In a separate attack, four policemen are killed and two others seriously injured when Maoists ambush them at Beherakhand in Palamau district, Jharkhand.
- ▶ **June 13, 2008:** Maoists launch two landmine and bomb attacks in a small town close to Bokaro, killing 10 policemen and injuring several others.
- ▶ **May 22, 2008:** Maoists kill 16 policemen in the jungles of Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra.
- ▶ **April 13, 2008:** 10 paramilitary troops are killed in eastern Odisha when Maoists attack a bauxite mine in Koraput district.

dispute, that is, first, by using force and, second, through negotiations. Unfortunately, no party that is winning a war wants to come to the negotiating

following the policy of 'willing-to-strike-but-afraid-to-wound' is not only futile but also counter-productive. Nobody worships the setting sun. Here,

of the local culture or languages in the Maoist-affected areas. At present, State police forces are ill-equipped, ill-trained and ill-prepared for tackling the Maoist menace. The Centre should handsomely fund and train them since after all Maoism is a national problem.

When the very existence of the country is at stake, following the policy of 'willing-to-strike-but-afraid-to-wound' is not only futile but also counter-productive. Nobody worships the setting sun. Here, unfortunately, the setting sun is the Government which, for one reason or another, has not been able to establish its authority.

Unless a strong message goes out to all disruptive forces, including Maoists, our security forces will continue to be nothing more than cannon fodder. Any more killings of security personnel engaged in the battle against Maoists will not only demoralise them, but also send a wrong message to the people living in Maoist-dominated areas that the Government and its security forces are weak. The Left-wing extremists have already warned the authorities of more lethal attacks in future. The Government must steel its resolve to win this decisive war, and both the Centre and the States should prepare for the long haul ahead. ■

(Courtesy : The Pioneer)

table. As long as the Maoists know that they are winning they will not hold dialogue with the Government. They have had undisputed run of the areas under their control due to the indifference of the civil administration.

Unfortunately, the setting sun is the Government which, for one reason or another, has not been able to establish its authority.

About 5,000 security personnel have been killed since Maoists unleashed war on the Indian state. For Maoists – or Naxalites or whatever we may choose to call them – this is a no-holds-barred war. But on the part of the Government, there is quibbling over whether the state should use the Army and the Air Force against the insurgents. A specious argument doing the rounds is that a country's military should not be used against its own people. On the other hand, Maoists don't give a hoot about killing fellow Indians which, by the same logic, are their own people.

It has no law to specifically deal with such cases and crimes.

An important factor which needs to be borne in mind is that without the involvement of well-trained, well-equipped and motivated State police forces there is no way that the problem of Maoism can be tackled effectively just by using Central forces who are neither familiar with the local terrain nor aware

When the very existence of the country is at stake,



Courtesy: Mail Today

enterprise, no freedom and no fundamental rights. They want to achieve it through guerilla army. They want to capture the rural areas. They want these to become secluded islands of their authority. They thrive in poverty and therefore they do not want development in any backward area. They extort money from contractors, farmers, employees and traders. They recruit cadres by paying them Rs. 3,000 per person per month. They snatch weapons from the armory of the government. Their extortion amount is Rs. 1,500 crores a year. They believe that power flows from the barrel of the gun. They believe that the enemy's armoury (police weapons) is their armoury. They want to encircle the cities and then capture power. They earlier wanted to kill class enemies, now they call them police informers. They use opium and poppy cultivation to collect money.

Do you want to go by the advice of Mamata Banerjee, Digvijay Singh and Mani Shankar Aiyar? And where police can not enter, send in engineers to build roads and schools, get kidnapped, looted and killed?. You will first have to break the iron wall of these secluded areas. You will then have to continue the development.

You will have to fight the Maoists ideologically. Maoism is a militarized movement. Maoism is not a poverty eradication programme, it is a democracy elimination programme. Who are the Maoists?

You have the ideologically trained Maoists. They indoctrinate people. You have the militarized wing of the Maoists.

You have the poor innocent rural people, who are used by the Maoists as a shield. You have the Human Rights Activists who are in fact the over-ground face of the underground movement. They have nothing to do with liberal Human Rights movement. They rationalize violence. Now within the democratic parties, you have 'half Maoists'- those who do not indulge in violence but justify the acts of the Maoists. It is these people that the Home Minister must ignore. How do you fight the Maoists?

Maoism is a militarized movement. It will have to be fought by the security forces. The secluded areas need to be recaptured and recovered. If development activities are continued before recovery of these secluded areas, the resources would be looted by the Maoists. We need development. We need an end to social and

economic inequalities. We need to isolate, the ideological Maoists from the militarized wings. We need to fight the movement, ideologically rather than rationalize them.

After you recapture the area, you need the coordinate with the centre and the states. The Home Minister needs to improve his interpersonal relations with the Chief Ministers. He needs to ignore the advice of the 'half Maoists' in his own party. He needs to counter the allies, who sympathize with the Maoist cause.

And he needs to ignore these new 'anti-insurgent experts', who are weakening the battle against Maoism. The nation and the Opposition will stand shoulder to shoulder with the government, but there are many creeping down to weaken the Home Minister. The Home Minister's strength to ignore his own colleagues is on trial. ■

Gulbarga (South) BJP MLA passes away

Gulbarga (South) MLA Shri Chandrashekhar Pat Revoor (54), who died of a massive heart attack on April 15, was laid to rest at his native village Revoor in Afzalpur taluk on April 16 evening with full state honours.

Karnataka Chief Minister Shri BS Yeddyurappa, BJP National General Secretary Shri Ananth Kumar and BJP State President Shri KS Eshwarappa were among the dignitaries who attended the funeral.

Former chief minister and JD(S) state chief Shri Kumaraswamy and Health Minister Shri B Sriramalu also paid homage to the departed leader. The last journey went from his house through the main streets on its way to his native village Revoor. All the shops remained closed. ■



channels after Dantewada incident show how our security forces personnel live in their camps. These camps lack basic facilities. Is it not our national duty to show concern about these Central Security personnel who protect our country putting their lives in danger. Whether any one in Government of India visited the families of those who laid their lives in Dantewada to sympathise with them? Whether members of their families received compensation? Whether their dependents have got jobs? There are a number of pseudo-liberals in our country. They support Maoists. None of these pseudo-liberals talked about human rights of these 76 jawans.

These pseudo-liberals have not express their sympathies with the bereaved families of these jawans. This country does not need any advice of these pseudo-liberals. Now-a-days, the practice of drill has been discontinued in State Police and Central Police Forces. Now-a-days, police personnel do not practise shooting at the shooting range. If this is the state of police training, what can we expect from them? As a result of which, state governments are slowly becoming dependent upon the Central forces. Today, the state police is not able to defend itself. Therefore, I request the Government to provide all the necessary facilities for modernization of the police forces. The police do not have modern weapons, equipments and vehicles. Large areas of this country in the Maoists areas are in their control. Their writ runs large there. What are we doing under the Area Dominance Approach? How deep we are

prepared to penetrate? The State police force is not able to do this. We have to deploy the Central forces for this. They have to establish their camps there and to work for their dominance in that particular area. But, they have to keep in mind that local people do not get alienated in this process. Cooperation of people is the most important factor and it includes intelligence also. It is said that intelligence was provided and intelligence was available whenever any incident

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happened. But, was it real time intelligence? Was it an actionable intelligence? No sense of security left in the minds of the people of this country after the Dantewada incident and that sense of security cannot be restored till we control this menace.

There is a need to formalize the system of institutionalized periodical meetings of the cadre officers of the Central Paramilitary with the Home Minister to review the professional matters relating to the internal security of the nation. A panel of retired Central Paramilitary officers could be formed to think and advise on matters of internal security for the nation. Experienced Central

Paramilitary forces officers should be placed in the Ministry of Home Affairs to process the various proposals of the CPMF which has a bearing on the functioning of these forces. A transparent command and control system need to be made functional so that over every five units there is an officer of DIG rank to supervise and monitor the functioning of the units and over every 15 units an officer of IG rank is placed to supervise their functioning so that operational and tactical lapses could be avoided while planning and executing the anti-Naxal operations. A career planning and management cell for constables, SOs and officers should be established to ensure timely promotion and filling up of vacancies in the field.

A healthy, effective and viable joint functioning of State and Central Police officers need to be evolved so that officers of matching seniority are able to plan and work together in a cohesive fashion. All these steps will be meaningless, if developmental works are not undertaken in Naxal affected areas. These are the most poor and backward regions of the country. There are no facilities of electricity, drinking water and hospitals in these areas. Funds allotted for their welfare do not reach them. The Government should formulate a special development scheme for 32-33 Naxal affected districts of 9-10 States of the country. Efficient and honest officers should be posted in these districts and they should be given a fixed tenure. We can win this fight against Maoists if are a step ahead of them in every sphere of activities. ■

UPA's confused diplomacy hurts India's war against terror : Rajnath

India is currently facing its biggest diplomatic failure as it has not been able to gain anything from the US or Pakistan in its fight against terrorism said BJP former National President Shri Rajnath Singh. Addressing the concluding session of the J&K BJP Executive Meeting in Jammu on April 18 he said, "The USA and Pakistan have been working in tandem against the Talibani extremists for the past five six years. However, the US has not helped India in its fight against terror even though it is one the worst terror afflicted country in the world. On the contrary the approvals Pakistan has won from the US put no break on terrorist activities directed against India."

Shri Singh has alleged that Pakistan's shrewd diplomacy has outsmarted the UPA Government in recent significant diplomatic developments pertaining to India's strategic interests. He added, first, the USA has expressed its willingness to forge a strategic partnership with Pakistan. Second, the UPA Government has not been successful in its repeated attempts to get requisite permission to interrogate

American terror agent David Coleman Headley. The USA does not want any evidence to come out about Pakistan's direct involvement with Headley and the Mumbai attack as protecting India from further terrorist attacks from Pakistan-backed groups is not of much interest to the US at present, said Shri Singh.



Withdrawing nearly 37000 troops by the UPA Government from the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir in 2009-2010 was serious blunder, said Shri Rajnath Singh. He said that the UPA Government exposed our porous borders to increased threats of cross border infiltration.

Shri Singh said the BJP is also concerned over the worsening security situation inside Pakistan as it is with the continuing infiltration in Jammu and Kashmir. Withdrawing nearly 37000 troops by the UPA Government from the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir in 2009-2010 was serious blunder, said Shri Rajnath Singh. He said that the UPA Government exposed our porous borders to increased threats of cross border infiltration.

Cautioning the Government, he said that UPA should make serious amendments in its policy of withdrawing troops from J&K and take concrete steps to strengthen the security of our international borders.

All the senior leaders and office bearers of the party were present on the occasion. ■

Dr. Joshi selected the best Parliamentarian of the year 2009

Former BJP National President Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi has been chosen as the best



parliamentarian for the year 2009. The Award Committee, which selects the nominees for the honour, finalised has name at a meeting on April 21. Seventy-six year-old Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi has had a long parliamentary career. He was twice in the Rajya Sabha and is a fifth term member of the Lok Sabha elected from Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh). He was Home Minister during the 13 day government of Shri A.B Vajpayee in 1996 and was in charge of HRD ministry when the NDA government was in power in 1988-1999 and from 1999-2004. ■

Candle light protest by 'YOUTH4BJP' against price rise

'Youth4BJP' organized candle light protest at India Gate in New Delhi on April 9, 2010 against spiralling prices of commodities. Participants of the protest assembled at India Gate. Members gathered to show their aguish against existing regime concerning unprecedented price rise with banners, placards and slogans. One of the important event was paying tribute towards the CRPF soldiers killed in Dantewada by keeping two minutes silence in solidarity to the bereaved families. ■

HIMACHAL PRADESH

63rd Himachal Day celebrated

To bring a smile on the faces of senior citizens in Himachal Pradesh, all above the age of 65 would now be given a set of free dentures. This was announced by the State Chief Minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal on April 15 at Rohru on the occasion of 63rd Himachal Day celebrations.



While announcing the new scheme, he said this service would be made available in 76 health centres all over the State and would benefit more than 10,000 senior citizens.

The Chief Minister said the National Health Insurance Scheme had been started in all the districts of the State under which insurance cover of Rs.30,000 had been given to all the BPL families. He said the State had gone one step further by providing an insurance cover of Rs.1.75 lakh in case of a critical and serious illness.

Addressing the apple growers in the interior Shimla district constituency, he also announced many horticultural schemes. He said 36 per cent of total Plan outlay had been kept for the social services sector in the State.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

BJP bandh against Inter-district Recruitment Bill Shutdown near total in Jammu region

A complete bandh was observed in the Jammu region on April 9 in protest against the Inter-district Recruitment Bill with all markets, local transport, business establishments, most of the private schools and other educational institutions remaining closed. The bandh call was given by the BJP and supported by various political and social organisations, which were against the controversial



Bill. However, the bandh passed off peacefully and no untoward incident was reported from any part of the region.

The functioning of government offices, already hit by the employees' strike, was affected adversely due to the bandh as attendance was very thin. Even public transport also remained off the roads.

The BJP supporters were seen moving in vehicles early in the morning carrying flags and asking shopkeepers to close their establishments. Various parts of the city, including Satwari, Gandhi Nagar, Gole Market, Kach Chawni, Janipur, Parade and other areas, also presented a deserted look. The bandh was supported by various political and regional organisations, including the Bar Association of Jammu, Kashmiri Pandit Sabha, Brahman Sabha, All J&K SC/ST United Front, Anusuchit Jati Aarakshan Bachao Manch, Shiv Sena and other trade and transport organisations.

Admitting the bandh was total and peaceful, a senior police officer said, there was a complete shutdown in the city. No untoward incident was reported and it remained peaceful throughout the day. Besides Jammu, Kathua, RS Pura, Bishnah and Akhnoor also wore a deserted look, the sources said.

State BJP President Shri Shamsheer Singh Manhas said the bandh was total and peaceful. He expressed gratitude towards the people of the Jammu region for observing a complete shutdown.

UTTARAKHAND

CM thanks all for Kumbh success

Interacting with mediapersons in Dehradun on April 15 Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has said that more than 5.5 crore people have taken dip so far in Kumbh Mela-2010, which began on January 14 and its number would cross the six crore figure because it would continue till April 28. Around 20,000 security personnel were deployed to ensure law and order situation for the Mela, he said.



He said nationals from more than 140 countries took a dip in Haridwar and Kumbh Mela has become a matter of research. He also expressed

gratitude towards Uttar Pradesh government, which extended full support to the Uttarakhand and provided security personnel as per demand, and the Prime Minister and Home Minister. He also expressed thanks to Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia, who said that it was not only a matter for Uttarakhand but also a matter of national pride.

The Chief Minister also appreciated the efforts of the officials, security personnel, local residents, mediapersons and pilgrims, who followed the instructions of Mela authority.

Among others Tourism Minister Shri Madan Kaushik, Chief Secretary Shri NS Napolchayal, Principal Secretary to CM Shri Subhash Kumar, Principal Secretary Home Shri Anup Wadhawan, DGP Shri Subhash Joshi were present on the occasion.

MADHYA PRADESH

CM warns of nation-wide stir if beef served during CWG

MP Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan on April 18 warned of a countrywide agitation if beef was served to foreign sportspersons during the Delhi Commonwealth Games. Addressing the *Rashtriya Arya Mahasammelan* (National Arya Congregation) in Bhopal at the local Ravindra Bhavan's open-air auditorium the Chief Minister said, "The State Government is serious about bovine protection and it is regrettable that the Centre is yet to provide assent to stringent legislation drafted in this regard."



Shri Chouhan said if the reports of the Central Government plans of serving beef to the foreign players during the Common Wealth games in New Delhi have any substance in them then he would launch a countrywide agitation protesting the move. Pointing out that the Arya Samaj had played a crucial role in the country's freedom struggle, the Chief Minister said Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati nurtured the independence ideology after

the first war of independence failed to fructify in 1857.

The Chief Minister further said, "I am an ordinary worker of the Samaj. My life's direction altered after reading 'Satyarth Prakash' while being incarcerated during the Emergency period."

Shri Chouhan informed that a Government welfare scheme would be named after the Maharishi. The seer's life sketch would be included in school textbooks, and a Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati research chair would be set up at a university, he added.

He said that society especially the electronic media needs to change its views towards the women. Many schemes including the *Ladli Lakshmi* Scheme are successfully run in the State to stop women foeticide, he added.

KARNATAKA

State to be slum free in three years : Yeddyurappa

- ▶ *Dalits & backward classes would be provided with housing*
- ▶ *Dr Ambedkar's birth anniversary would be celebrated in a grand manner*

Chief Minister Shri BS Yeddyurappa on April 14 said that Karnataka would be made a slum-free state in the next three years.

At the 119th birth anniversary celebrations of Dr B R Ambedkar at Vidhana Soudha, Shri Yeddyurappa said that Dalits and backward classes would be provided with housing and basic amenities to ensure the stated goal.



Shri Yeddyurappa further said that the housing colonies, which will be built in three years, will have all basic amenities including water, electricity and sanitary facilities.

He added that from next year onwards, Dr Ambedkar's birth anniversary would be celebrated in a grand manner at the gram panchayat level.

The CM also awarded 12 people belonging to different walks of lives with the Dr. Ambedkar and Babu Jagjivan Ram awards.

Ahmedabad recommended for 'UNESCO Heritage City status'

The Gujarat government's desire to get 'UNESCO World Heritage City' status for Ahmedabad got boosted at a three-day 'International Conference on Asian World Heritage Cities' that kicked off in Ahmedabad on April 19, 2010. The International Conference was inaugurated with an inspiring speech by Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi who also released a coffee-table book on Ahmedabad's heritage brought out by *The Times of India* on the occasion. Throwing light on the rich heritage and culture of Ahmedabad, Shri Modi said, "I haven't spent much time in Pol. But Pol (Old city) area reflects the collective society culture of Ahmedabad."



Among others the conference was also addressed by city mayor Shri Kanaji Thakore, municipal commissioner Shri IP Gautam, UNESCO director for India, Shri Armoogum Parsuramen, and ASI Director-General Shri Gautam Sengupta. Shri Gautam presented to Shri Parsuramen and Shri Sengupta the proposal containing the details for claiming heritage city status. He said, "The city has a rich historical and architectural legacy and has the potential to achieve the status of a World Heritage City."

The three-day conference was organised by AMC in association with UNESCO, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Indian Heritage Cities Network, and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA). AMC's efforts to get heritage city status for Ahmedabad assumes importance as despite India's great heritage, not a single city has qualified so far for 'Unesco World Heritage City' status. Shri Parsuramen said, "Ahmedabad's claim for heritage city status is consistent effort by the people, especially the people residing in the Walled City." The conference was attended by representatives from Asian heritage cities in Malayasia, Sri Lanka, Japan, Laos, Nepal, Vietnam, and Thailand.

State Govt. misleading public on controversial Vedanta project : BJP

The Bharatiya Janata Party on April 15 slammed the Naveen Pattnaik led BJD Government for misleading the public on the controversial Vedanta University project in the wake of the Lokpal judgment. Senior BJP leader Shri Bijoy Mohapatra told mediapersons that after the Government was caught on the wrong foot, the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) is trying to cover up its misdeeds and the favoritism shown to the Vedanta Foundation.

In a response to the clarification of the CMO on the Lokpal report, Shri Mohapatra said the Government statement is misleading, not based on facts and legally not tenable. The Government's clarification that the report of the Lokpal should not be made public before it was laid in the Assembly as per Section 15 (4) and (6) of the Orissa Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act is only a plea by the CMO to keep the report under wraps. Shri Mohapatra said the government had made a very novel design to shield its 'corrupt' machinery, in which the Chief Minister himself was not above suspicion in the shady deal with Vedanta Group pertaining to university project. "In fact, the objective of the Naveen Pattnaik government is not to implement the recommendations of Lokpal that sought action taken report within three months of the delivery of judgment," he added.

He said the Lokpal Act said that no person shall publish any proceedings relating to investigation which is pending before the Lokpal, nor shall any person publish such proceedings after the investigation is completed.

He said that the media has not published the proceedings but the findings of the Lokpal and there is no bar on the media publishing the findings of the Lokpal, he argued.

He said, the public has the right to know full details of the deal with Vedanta and Chief Minister Naveen Pattnaik must give explanation on the controversy. Meanwhile, the State unit of BJP planned to intensify its opposition on the controversial Vedanta University project for which Orissa government pledged more than 6000 acres of prime land in Puri-Konark marine drive. ■

Dhumal vows to wage a 'political war' with people's support

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Prof Prem Kumar Dhumal has vowed to wage "a political war" with the people's support to ensure the Centre makes an early announcement to restore the special industrial package to the hill State, which lapsed last month. The special package gives industrialists and investors several tax exemptions for setting up units in any part of Himachal Pradesh.

"The withdrawal of the industrial package is a deliberate attempt to damage the interests of Himachal Pradesh. The people of the State will not tolerate such an act of discrimination. We will wage a political war with the people's support and that of other party leaders to ensure

injustice is not done to Himachal Pradesh," said Prof Dhumal.

As all his earlier attempts failed to move Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to continue the privileges Himachal Pradesh



enjoyed under the special package, Prof Dhumal along with Smt. Vidya Stokes and Shri Thakur Kaul Singh of the Congress would now finally meet Prime Minister Singh in New Delhi to press

their demand. "We have our future course of action in place to fight for justice if Prime Minister Singh does not do justice to us. He is an economist and understands the economic

complications of withdrawing the industrial package to us. He will certainly act now," added Prof. Dhumal.

The issue of the industrial package, which was extended to Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand during the NDA regime in 2003 up to 2013, has brought the State's political foes together. How fruitful their togetherness proves effective in getting the facility restored remains to be seen. The special industrial package facility lapsed from the two hill States in March this year after the Congress led UPA Government reduced the tenure by three years, while leaving the same untouched to 2013 in the case of Jammu and Kashmir, and other north-eastern States. It is worth mentioning that the principal opposition party — the BJP — is in power in Himachal and Uttarakhand. ■ (FOC)

Continued from page 14

► of the value traded on the commodity exchanges was based on speculation with only 0.33 per cent being the actual delivery.

He blamed the Congress led UPA government for failing to check price rise and said its wrong economic policies and bad governance had resulted in double digit food price inflation and negative agricultural growth. He challenged Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to an open debate on the economic situation in the country and said the party would lead a signature campaign and also hold a rally in New Delhi on April 21 to highlight the issue. The BJP National President further said the party would extend support to the government and Home Minister P.Chidambaram on the fight against the Maoists and said it would not wish to politicise the issue. He also reiterated his call to undertake projects to interlink the country's rivers and said linking the Ganga and Cauvery would result not only in boosting irrigation but would also contribute to adding nearly 25,000 MW to the power grid. All the senior BJP leaders and office bearers of State BJP were present on the occasion. ■



youth.

The BJP also believes that Interlinking of rivers is the project, which will surely help in development of India. By interlinking of rivers regional imbalances could be reduced significantly and lot of benefits by the way of additional irrigation, domestic and industrial water supply, hydro power generation, navigational facilities could also be achieved.

The BJP-ruled Gujarat has interlinked 21 rivers. With the availability of additional water for irrigation, Gujarat agriculture is growing at much faster rate as compared with the rest of India.

If given a chance by the people in the next general elections, the BJP would accord high priority to the inter-linking of rivers. ■