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Fortnightly Magazine

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*"We will support the Lokpal Bill in the Monsoon session of Parliament. BJP wants a corruption-free India and we welcome the efforts by Anna Hazare".*

Shri Nitin Gadkari  
BJP National President

*"The real test of Government's sincerity about tackling corruption will be what action it takes about the three scams that have already come to light –the Spectrum Scam, the Commonwealth Games Scam and the Mumbai Defence Land Scam".*

Shri L K Advani  
(Chairman, BJP Parliament Party)

*"There has to be an effective law to check corruption covering both the political class and bureaucracy, measures such as confiscation of property of those found guilty should be put in place, and trial in corruption related cases need to be fast-tracked".*

Smt. Sushma Swaraj  
(Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha)

*"Serious questions have been raised on the Congress led UPA government's performance and ability to take firm decisions. Once the answers to these questions are received, the decision whether to hold early elections or not can be made".*

Shri Arun Jaitley  
(Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha)

### Letters to the Editor...

## Congress led UPA has failed to deliver

Dear Editor,

Now it has become almost a routine for the Supreme Court to rebuke the Congress led UPA Government for its intention and approach towards issues of national concern. But nothing including the fast-spreading dissatisfaction amongst the common men is making the Government change its course. Such is its arrogance that it is not even "willing to acknowledge the intensity of the tragedy".

It can let food grains go waste but not feed the hungry people. It is common knowledge that Government officials, denuded of scruples, have systemically and deliberately diverted food grains meant for the poor and sold them in the open market for illicit profit. But there has been hardly any action taken. Only when the judiciary comes down heavily on the Government it pretends to act.

One is certain that till such time the corrupt Congress rules India, tragic stories like the 'two-India' divide, rotten PDS system, stashing black money abroad, lack of transparency and accountability in governance will continue to emerge.

It is high time we put in place the leadership that we deserve. This Government has only made hollow promises, issued false claims and allowed corruption to breed. What is the use of a government when more than one-third of the country's people are living in poverty?

Rajeev Dwivedi  
Lucknow (UP)



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## Political parties should understand the aspirations of the people

# Editorial...

If a political leader chooses to keep his position intact in the society even by maintaining a distance from the word 'struggle' and embracing comforts of all kinds then it would be his mistake. The words like commitment, sacrifice, perseverance, morality, honesty and capability will never become irrelevant in India. India has always appreciated the leaders who wrote their history on the pages of honesty.

We have called 'langoti' clad Mahatma Gandhi as our 'bapu' and gave him the title of 'Rashtrapita' not only because of our Indian thinking and philosophy but also due to his active struggle which was linked to the glorious history of national self respect. The politicians of today will have to understand that the people of India see through their works with millions of eyes. No one can escape the changing nature and pace of change in communication and media world. Therefore everyone will not only need to be cautious but also transparent in their functioning. If we want to have our impact on the Indian politics and desire to change its course then we will have to present an example by beginning to live a life ourselves which is free from corruption and enriched with moral values. These days everyone has been saying that the country should be corruption free but how to implement this idea in the life of the people through effective and positive measures is yet to be seen.

Today even the political leaders will have to rethink as to why their credibility is getting eroded in the society and why people are losing faith in them. This is the main issue before the Indian politicians now. Loss of credibility and faith is a dangerous signal for the democracy.

In the Vedas and the Puranas, Indian philosophers, thinkers and great people have always maintained that the Kings who consider themselves to be the servants of the people have always been popular. The kings who showed disrespect to the people were thrown into the dustbins of history. Today the politicians and people's representative should understand that they are public servants. Their priority is to serve. Commitment is their hallmark. Morality is their necessary requirement. They have to place the progress of the society above their own progress. When common people talk about the politicians they expect their leaders to be guided by the principles of simplicity. His life should reflect 'Samskara'. He should be full of humility. His leader should not be corrupt. He should perform such feats which his people can feel proud of. The common people do not expect more than this from their leaders. Hope this could have happened!

Today the political parties want to claim 'martyrdom, by organizing part time 'dhiarnas' and getting arrested and lodged for a while in the field provided with 'poori-sabji' adjacent to the jails. How will it be possible? The situation is that some people want to correct everything through their speeches while today we need the leadership which follows the moral principles. People are waiting for the leader who can make

efforts to see India and understand it by traveling across the country. Pt. Deenadayal Upadhyay as Jansangh President had several times traveled across India. He attempted to see India not from the 'sky' but from the ground, to witness its ground reality. Therefore although he lived for short time, he still lives in our hearts and we begin all our programmes by lighting a lamp before his portrait.

Therefore the most important thing today is that we need to have Bharatiya style of politics and not what we call today India style of politics.

The country today needs a politics which is Bharatiya to the core but it is not possible for the Congress which is in comma now. The main reason is that today Congress is not a political party but a party hijacked by a family and therefore the Prime Minister of India cannot rise above the mindset of a bureaucrat. Therefore it is natural for the people to look for an alternative. In this new alternative the people want to see Bharat and not India. Only BJP can fulfill this aspiration of the people. Therefore BJP will have to decide how it will meet the aspirations of the people. ■



## Corruption coupled with electoral setback will affect governance at the centre : Jaitley

From Our Correspondent

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley said he would not rule out the possibility of mid-term elections to the Lok Sabha in the wake of the political crisis faced by the Congress led United Progressive Alliance due to rampant corruption charges against its government at the Centre but, it was too early to predict the outcome of the situation he said at a meet-the-press event organised by the Press Club Kolkata on April 22.

He said, "Serious questions have been raised on the UPA government's performance and ability to take firm decisions. Once the answers to these questions are received, the decision whether to hold early elections or not can be made".

Pointing out that questions have already been raised on the competency of the UPA government's leadership, Shri

Arun Jaitley claimed that the crisis could deepen further as the Congress' performance in the Assembly elections in four States and one Union Territory is set to drop.

He said at a time when a drift has already set in the minds of the Congress leadership, ill-performance of the party in the Assembly elections could pose as a great challenge. A political crisis coupled with electoral setback will adversely affect the party politics as well as its governance at the Centre," he said.

Accusing Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh of failing to stop his ministerial colleagues from getting involved in huge scams, the Leader of Opposition said the Centre appears to be diverting all its strength either to cover up the corruption or intimidate activists involved in movement against corruption.

Mocking at the letter written by UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi to social activist Anna Hazare expressing solidarity with his anti-corruption campaign, Shri Jaitley said that writing letters amounts to nothing when Congress workers are intimidating anti-corruption activists.

Answering questions about the use of black money being used by the Trinamool Congress, he said, "Either the party has acquired a new set of resources or a new set of resourceful friends".

In the interactive session with media persons at the Press Club, he pointed out that the expensive election campaign run by Trinamool in neighboring Assam where it had put up candidates for the Assembly elections also raised eyebrows about the source of the money. ■

## BJP launches its Mahasangram rally from Meerut

Special Report by Vikash Anand

**B**haratiya Janata Party has launched its people to people contact programme in a big way in Uttar Pradesh by holding massive *Mahasangram* rallies in every corner of the State. The first rally was organised at the historic Meerut city on April 09, 2011. It turned out to be a grand success by all counts. People in large numbers

phase of crisis. "More than 10 lacs farmers have committed suicide in the country. 50% population of our country earns less than 20 rupees per day. I want to ask the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Smt. Sonia Gandhi to tell as to how a person can live on just Rs 20 per day in an era of unprecedented price rise".

Shri Gadkari said, "Mainly there are only two sectors of development - Agriculture and Industry. For developing industries we need water, electricity and road and for maximizing agricultural production we need seeds, irrigation, fertilizer etc". He regretted that in a BSP-ruled big State of UP the growth rate of agriculture is only 3% while in BJP-ruled Gujarat it was 14%. "If Gujarat can register an agriculture growth rate of 14%, why can't UP achieve the same growth rate", he asked.

Shri Gadkari said that politics based on caste and religion cannot usher in development. BJP does believe in the politics of development only and stands committed to it. The people of UP will have to choose whether they want politics of development or politics of caste and religion, he said.

Shri Gadkari regretted that in Uttar Pradesh Ministers had to tender their resignation over allegations of murder and rape. In such an environment how can there be development, he wondered.

Shri Gadkari alleged that in Noida land was allotted by the state Government to industrialists for a song. He declared that when BJP is returned to power it will change the face of Uttar Pradesh and get farmers justice.

Concluding his speech Shri Nitin Gadkari recited a few lines written by renowned poet Dushyant Kumar-



thronged the historical Ramlila Maidan in Meerut to listen to their State and national leaders. Braving scorching heat, the ground was packed to capacity with the people from nearby areas.

Addressing the rally BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari said, "It is my first rally in Uttar Pradesh. We have launched our mission from the historic land of Meerut. It is widely believed that whatever is initiated from the sacred land of Meerut is blessed with success and gets taken to its logical conclusion".

Shri Gadkari said the country is passing through a  
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Every year grain worth Rs. 58 crores rots as there are no proper facilities for its storage, he said. "The government has failed to provide proper facilities for storage of grains. Rural India is reeling under power shortage and we all know that there can be no development without power. In UP tonnes of potato was thrown to the roads as there were no facilities to store them. When I visited Lucknow I saw huge statues constructed by the Mayawati government. Had she spent even 1/4th of the amount on building cold storages, the farmers would have got the facility to save their crop and not throw it on the roads."

हो गई है पीर पर्वत सी  
पिघलनी चाहिए।  
इस हिमालय से कोई गंगा  
निकालनी चाहिए...  
सिर्फ हंगामा खड़ा करना मेरा  
मकसद नहीं  
सारी कोशिश है कि ये सूरत  
बदलनी चाहिए।

Earlier, addressing the rally former BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh said, "Uttar Pradesh and India is passing through a crisis. I appeal to you all to save UP and India"

Shri Singh said, "UP CM Sushri Mayawati who criticizes Congress party in Uttar Pradesh extends her support at the Centre. Therefore, Mayawati government is as much responsible for the skyrocketing prices of essential commodities

was the NDA government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Whenever Congress comes to the power it brings with it the curse of price rise and corruption, Shri Singh added.

He warned that people were losing faith in politics and in political leaders owing to rampant corruption prevalent in the country.

Raising the issue of black money Shri Singh said, "Dishonest politicians along with corrupt officers have deposited huge money in foreign

have to be passed, he claimed.

He said, "Unless village and farmers of India are happy, India

*In the rally "First Information Report" a 140-page document compiling 100 scams by Mayawati Government was distributed. The alleged scandals and scams included land deals, foodgrain scam, alleged irregularities in sale of sugar mills, liquor licence, power projects and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The report is prepared by a team led by National Secretary Shri Kirit Somaiya and BJP National Executive Member Shri Arun Kumar Singh.*

cannot be happy because farmers are both the biggest producer and consumer. If farmers are happy then trader, government servant will be happy. 14% of GDP is contributed by farmers but in budget only 2% allocation is made for farmers."

Shri Singh added, "In the State, fertilizer, electricity etc. are not made available by Mayawati government to the farmers. Not to speak of people, officers are killed in broad day light in Uttar Pradesh. The UP's destiny is in your hand. Now the people have to decide it."

Shri Singh maintained that base price of grain was Rs. 1120 per quintal and if BJP was voted to power it would raise it to Rs1300 per quintal. He assured the people that BJP government would provide loan to farmers at 3% interest rate.

BJP National Vice President Smt. Karuna Shukla asked the people to take a pledge to oust corrupt Mayawati Government.

BJP National Vice President



as is the Congress party".

Shri Rajnath Singh said the prices of essential commodities are touching the sky because of corruption, scams and loot. He claimed that in independent India the only government which was able to control prices

banks having misappropriated it from the hard earned money of the people. If America can bring back its black money from Swiss banks why not India?" As per reports, around Rs. 25 lakh crore is deposited in Swiss banks and if that is brought back to India then deficit budget would not

Shri Kalraj Mishra said, "Soil of Meerut is known for revolution. The *Yatra* that has started from here will definitely usher in change in Uttar Pradesh." Referring to lawlessness in the State he said "Recently two Chief Medical Officers were murdered in the state. If Sushri Mayawati had even an iota of morality left in her conscience she would have been resigned from the government."

He assured that if BJP was voted to power the misappropriated property acquired by Mayawati would be confiscated immediately.

Addressing the gathering UP BJP President Shri Surya Pratap Shahi said, Mayawati has only one mission to make more and more illegal money from big projects. She earned crores of rupees through scams and scandals in allotment of Noida land. He alleged that she was distributing tickets for assembly elections to sons of rapists.

BJP National Spokesperson Shri Ram Nath Kovind said, "This *Mahasangram* is against corruption, misrule of Mayawati." He appealed to the people to vote for BJP. He said, "Wherever BJP is in power it is providing good governance and development. BJP ruled states are also being awarded for providing good governance and ushering in development in their states."

BJP National Secretary Shri Santosh Gangwar also addressed the rally. He said that we hope change would be taking place and that change would be in the form of a BJP government in the State. Instead of feeding the poor, Sushri Mayawati is busy erecting her own statues at a cost of Rs 3 crore 49 lakh. "There is no electricity. Now the situation is such that *Bahanji Lal batti me Janta Mombatti me jivan bita rahi hai* (Bahanji is moving with red light and people are forced to spend their life in candle light)".

The rally was also addressed by BJP National General Secretary and Party incharge of Uttar Pradesh Shri Narendra Singh Tomar and Co-incharge and Lok Sabha MP Shri Radha Mohan Singh, BJP National Secretary Shri Kirit Somaiya, Pradesh Mahila Morcha President Smt. Madhu Mishra, National Executive member Shri Arun Kumar Singh, Human Rights Cell National Convenor Shri Shudhir Agarwal, Leader of Opposition in Legislative Council Shri Raj Kumar Balmiki, Shri Nepal Singh, National Secretary Shri Ashoke Pradhan, Lok Sabha MP of Meerut Shri Rajendra Aggarwal and many others senior BJP leaders. Meerut Mayor Smt. Madhu Gurjar and BJP State regional Secretary Laxmikant Vajpayee presented a souvenir to BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari. ■

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## Session to discuss Lokpal bill may be convened: Shanta Kumar



National Vice-President of BJP Shri Shanta Kumar has said that to curb the rising menace of corruption in the country it is high time to pass the Lokpal Bill. He said that campaign launched by the social activist Anna

Hazare had provided golden opportunity to the nation to act vigorously to control the corruption. He said that center should immediately convene the special session of the parliament to consider this bill. He said after 42 years the people of this country had raised their voice against the corruption and it was the golden opportunity for ruling UPA government to respect the huge public mandate. He said government should adhere to the policy of "NOW or NEVER" otherwise people of this country will never forgive them.

In a press statement issued on April 8, Shri Shanta Kumar said that it was the complete failure of our political system that all parties and even NDA could not take effective steps to curb the corruption in our country and now the public had come forward to tackle this serious issue of corruption. He said Lokpal bill was an effective tool to curb the corruption. He said in the country like Hong Kong where rampant corruption prevailed during seventies only independent commission on corruption could save the country from this menace. ■



## BJP will bring back entire black money if voted to power : Nitin Gadkari

From Our Correspondent

Taking a dig at Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, the Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Nitin Gadkari said that the country needs a strong PM to tackle the problems of corruption, terrorism and naxalism. Shri Gadkari was addressing the Mahasangram Rally held at Beniabagh Park in Varanasi on April 18.

He urged the people to defeat the Congress, Bahujan Samaj Party and Samajwadi Party, if they wanted to make the country and state free from corruption. "Can the Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi explain how the 2G Spectrum, ISRO Devas and Common Wealth Game scams took place, and who will give the answer," Shri Gadkari asked.

Even small countries like Chile and Peru have amended their laws to bring the black

money deposited in Swiss Bank back, he said, and added, "But, it is shameful that the PM is stating that disclosing the names of people who have deposited over Rs 22 lakh crores in foreign banks was not good in 'public interest'." He also alleged that

the Congress knows it very well that if the names of people involved in looting the common man's money to deposit in foreign banks is exposed, its future would be in doldrums.

Targeting the PM on cricket diplomacy with Pakistan, the BJP president said, "Pakistan is continuing a proxy war and its role in Mumbai attacks has also been exposed. But, the PM is dreaming of a India-Pakistan Cricket series. We are not against this series, but, before expressing this desire, the PM should ask Pakistan to stop aiding and abetting terrorism in India." Commenting on the political scene in UP, Shri Gadkari said that it is unfortunate that the caste-based politics in UP had been playing a key role in bringing BSP and SP in power, while the need of the hour is to find immediate remedy against the problems like poverty, unemployment and starvation. ■

### Party uses own e-platform to webcast Varanasi rally

*With the live webcast of its Mahasangram Rally held in Varanasi, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on April 18 took a major technological leap.*

*The party, for the first time using its own established platform, webcasted the rally highlighting its fight against corruption, inflation and misgovernance of Central and state governments on the website <http://live.upbjp.in>.*



# Corruption in the country would end once BJP returns to power in Centre : Gadkari

From Our Correspondent

**B**JP national president Shri Nitin Gadkari said that the Congress regime's scams and scandals had become the most popular mega serial on television.

Shri Nitin Gadkari was speaking in a protest rally against corruption and price hike organised by the State BJP at Sapresala Ground in Raipur on April 16.

"Every day, new corruption cases involving Congress and UPA leaders are surfacing," Shri Gadkari said while mentioning in detail various corruption cases including 2G spectrum, CVC, the Hasan Ali case, Adarsh scam, black money issues, Commonwealth Games and many other scams.

"But on every issue, why have Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi expressed their ignorance," he wondered.

He held the Congress regime's economic policies responsible for poverty and corruption.

He alleged that Congress government in Maharashtra was harassing a police officer who was investigating the case against stud farm owner, Hasan Ali Khan. The BJP president said that there were at least 20 lakh people in India who subsisted on the income of Rs 20 a day, which was the fall-out of the corruption. He also appealed to the naxals to give up violence



and participate in the development process.

Shri Gadkari assured that the corruption in the country would end once BJP returns to power in the Centre.

Speaking on the occasion former BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh also mentioned about the alleged failures and corruption of the Congress regime. Only a BJP or NDA Government can provide corruption-free good

governance. "Let me point out that it's only the BJP Government of Raman Singh which is caring to give shoes to tendu leaf collectors, bicycles to tribal children and 35 kg rice at Rs 1 and Rs 2 per kg to the poorest and the poor," Shri Rajnath Singh said adding that this was possible only in Chhattisgarh.

Rajnath Singh pointed out that Chhattisgarh was making impressive progress in development and appealed to the Maoists saying, "Please spare Chhattisgarh from violence as the State is making good progress on development front".

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Shri Raman Singh also spoke at length about corruption cases under the UPA Government at the Centre. He also spoke about his State Government's development initiatives and welfare schemes for the poor people living in remotest areas. ■ (FOC)



Cartoon Corner

## BJP willing to talk to Kashmiri separatists but within the ambit of constitution : Rajnath Singh



Former BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh on April 11 said BJP had “no reservations” about talking to different shades of opinion in Jammu & Kashmir, including Kashmiri separatists, as long as they were

willing to talk within the ambit of the Indian constitution.

“We welcome all shades of opinion in Kashmir, including the separatists, for talks. But it will be within the ambit of the constitution,” said Shri Singh, who is in Jammu along with the BJP’s J&K parliamentary study group. He said the group was not going to knock at the separatists’ doors, but would hear them if they came forward to talk.

Shri Singh, also the group’s chairman, said the BJP did not have a vision document on Jammu & Kashmir so far and the party leadership felt the need for having one to project it in the country and the Parliament. “The party believes that genuine aspirations of the people of Jammu & Kashmir should be taken into consideration if peace and prosperity has to prevail,” he said. “We are here for that.”

Shri Singh said the group would hold discussions and take feedback from civil society members, bureaucrats, political and social organisations.

“We will study the genesis of the people’s problem and highlight them in the Parliament,” he said. “The BJP has not formally invited any certain section of the society but those who want to meet us are welcome.” (FOC) ■

## Gadkari appoints new BJP office bearers

BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari on April 20 appointed new office bearers of the party. Smt. Kiran Maheswari was appointed as National General Secretary. A former National President of BJP Mahila Morcha she was also earlier a National Secretary of the party. BJP Headquarters in charge Shri Shyam Jaju and former BJP National Mahila Morcha President Smt. Surma Padhi were appointed as National Secretaries.



## Rajni Abi elected new Mayor of Delhi



Smt. Rajni Abi was on April 20 elected as the new mayor of Delhi. Smt. Abi, 49, was a Bharatiya Janata Party nominee. She defeated her rival Smt. Savita Sharma

of the Congress by 88 votes.

She took over from Shri Prithvi Raj Sawhney, also from BJP. After being declared the winner she announced her decision to protest against the impending split of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). She said that a split in MCD would be against the interests, growth and development of the people of Delhi. Talking to media person Smt. Abi also specified that her top priority will be to maintain the cleanliness of the city and implement green initiatives as they are the need of the hour. Smt. Abi was born in a family of academicians in 1962. She did her graduation in English Literature from Miranda House, Delhi University.

She went on to study at the DU Faculty of Law and was a gold medalist both in LLB and LLM. She has been teaching at the Faculty of Law for the past 19 years. BJP nominee Shri Anil Sharma was also elected as Deputy Mayor of Delhi. ■

## Economic Mismanagement eroded purchasing power of common man : Rajnath

The UPA Government's abject failure to contain inflation has forced the poor and other weaker sections of the society to live a life of despair. Its economic mismanagement has eroded the purchasing power of the common man.

During the ongoing assembly elections the Left parties are blaming the Congress led coalition at the Centre for high inflation. They seem to have forgotten that the Left parties supported and sustained the UPA Government at the Centre for four years.

Both the Congress party and the Left lack political will to address the issues pertaining to *aam aadmi*. A series of scams have been unearthed since the UPA-2 has come to power. The people want stringent action against those who are involved in cases of corruption.

Under immense pressure from the Opposition parties and civil society the UPA Government has taken few half-hearted measures to book certain people involved in corruption but it has largely remained slack and selective in its approach. If the UPA Government is sincere in its intent to punish the corrupt then how come no major arrests have been made in other cases of corruption like Adarsh Housing Society scam and CWG scam.

The UPA Government's dismal and dodgy action against

corruption and the corrupt is extremely disappointing. It appointed a person of tainted credentials Mr PJ Thomas as the CVC who was chargesheeted in Palmoleine export scam. The Supreme Court not only questioned the entire CVC appointment process but also 'indicted' the Prime Minister for this lapse in decision making.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has found reasons for his

effective governance to its people. No limitation should stop the Government from performing its prime duties.

Corruption is an issue which has generated an unprecedented anger and outrage among the people. Social activists like Anna Hazare and other prominent public figures in the country have urged the Government to curb rampant corruption and graft effectively through installing a strong

legislative framework. Why the Government has shown hesitation in accepting his demand to form a joint committee comprising citizens and intellectuals along with officials to draft the Jan Lokpal Bill? The Government should immediately issue an official notification to constitute a joint committee.

During the BJP led NDA regime we introduced the Jan Lokpal Bill twice in 1998 and 2003 but due to absence of broad based consensus the Bill could not be legislated.

We would have succeeded in our mission if we were not voted out of power in 2004. The NDA has

made its intentions clear by working towards a consensus to legislate Lokpal Bill during its tenure whereas the UPA is keen to dilute the entire Bill than to work towards a consensus. The BJP demands the Government to incorporate necessary changes to give the Jan Lokpal Bill more teeth before it is introduced in Parliament. The



***Press statement issued on April 8, 2011 by former BJP President, Shri Rajnath Singh at Kannur.***

inaction against corruption in the limitations of coalition politics. The BJP wants to know more about these limitations from the Prime Minister. We believe that corruption should not be accepted or tolerated on the pretext of any limitations or compulsions. It is the primary duty of any government in power to provide clean and

Government should address the malady of corruption and graft with firm conviction and right intention. People in Kerala feel betrayed by LDF-UDF

Kerala is a state rich in natural and human resources. It needs a Government which gives topmost priority to issues pertaining to peace and prosperity. Unfortunately the LDF and UDF fronts have failed to deliver on both these fronts. During the current LDF rule corruption and violence destroyed the economy and social fabric of Kerala. The State once called 'God's own Land' has been turned into a 'Wasteland' during five years of the LDF regime.

Earlier people in Kerala used to find employment in Gulf countries but after the recession the money order economy of the State has taken a hit. Due to absence of employment opportunities in Kerala the people here are forced to migrate to the neighbouring states.

Lack of employment opportunities is giving impetus to violence and intolerance. No wonder Kerala has become hotbed for recruiting people to unleash anti-national activities in India. The BJP has promised to bring a comprehensive legislation to curb terrorism and organized crime in Kerala.

The voters in Kerala are thoroughly disappointed with the present LDF Government headed by Shri VS Achuthanandan. The Government's image has been tarnished by numerous cases of corruption and scandals like 'Ice Cream Parlour'. To divert people's attention from its failures the LDF is fighting 'Rice-War' with the UDF. The Election Commission has called the LDF announcement a violation of the model code of conduct.

Only the BJP has successfully  
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fulfilled its electoral promise to give food-grains at nominal price to the poor. The Congress party had promised to the country in 2009 that it would distribute food-grains at nominal price within 100 days of coming to power. It has been two years since then but this scheme is still a distant dream.

These assembly elections of 2011 will be a turning point in India's political history as the Left parties are facing people's ire in almost all pockets of its influence. They befooled people in the name of ideology and adopted a fake pro-poor image for many decades. The Left parties have long drifted away from the poor as its ties with real estate agencies and lottery agents

gained prominence.

Sensing electoral defeat the LDF has secretly started hobnobbing with extremist organizations like Jamaat-e-Islami. This clearly indicates that the Left is so desperate to regain its lost ground that it has no hesitation from striking deals with communal organizations like Jamaat-e-Islami.

The BJP does not claim that it will come to power in Kerala on its own. We are ready to play the role of 'Whistleblower' or a 'Watchdog' in State politics. We urge the people to give us enough bench strength in the Assembly so that the issues affecting people should not be ignored by anyone who come to power. ■

## Marxist Government looks tired, it should be given a leave : Advani

BJP Parliamentary party Chairman Shri L.K Advani accused the Bengal's Marxist Government for thwarting "development" instead of taking it ahead in the three decades of its rule.

Shri Advani addressed several rallies from Nadia to Birbhum to South 24 Parganas in West Bengal. While addressing rally he emphasized on developmental issues.

Contrasting Bengal with the BJP ruled State of Gujarat, Shri Advani said that, while in a short time the BJP Government of Gujarat had put the State on the fast track of growth making it "one of the most advanced States" the Marxists in 34 years of their rule "failed to develop Bengal" for which it should be banished from power.

Since the Marxist Government looked tired it should be given a leave, he quipped, adding that the NDA Government in the Centre had once become synonymous with development and would do so again if it came to power.

Accusing the Marxist Government for failing to generate employment and ensuring health care services and power to every village Shri Advani said the BJP ruled States were far more advanced than the ones ruled by the Marxists.

Shri Advani said the UPA II was a corrupt Government and being a part of it the Trinamool could not avoid responsibility of backing a corrupt government. He demanded that the politicians from all the parties including Congress, Left and the TMC should make public their accounts "to dispel the doubts being raised by many quarters." (FOC) ■

# BJP aims to remove socio-economic disparities : Gadkari

From Our Correspondent



**B**JP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari on April 14 in New Delhi said the party is determined to create a fearless, hunger and terror-free environment in the country, to make the country prosperous, flourishing and united. Shri Gadkari was speaking in a function that had been organised on occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar.

“The resolution of the BJP is to bring a change in the political system, so that social and economic disparity can be eradicated. It is the resolution of the BJP and the party will make it possible. Then only will the country flourish and prosper,” said Shri Gadkari.

He said it was BJP, which restored the birth place of the Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar in Mhow (Madhya Pradesh) and declared it as national memorial, when it was in power.

While referring the endeavors made by the party for revamp of Deekshabhoomi in Nagpur, he said, “We believe in social and economic equality. Mere verbal assurances will not work, political leaders have to bring this in our behaviour and make it a practice. There should be social and economic justice to all, with this objective, we should move ahead and work. I feel myself fortunate that I could spend Rs five crore for refurbishment of Deeksha-bhoomi when I was Minister.” Deekshabhoomi is the

place Ambedkar converted to Buddhism along with his wife and followers in 1956.

Comparing Ambedkar with Martin Luther King junior, Shri Gadkari said like him, Baba Sahab also dedicated his life to fight for the rights of socially and economically depressed section of the society.

On the occasion, Delhi BJP President Shri Vijender Gupta, BJP SC Morcha President Shri Dushyant Gautam, Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Prof. VK Malhotra, Delhi BJP Vice-President Shri Vijay Jolly, and seniors party leaders were also present.

Shri Gadkari also distributed scholarship to 100 dalit school children. ■

## The other life of Nitin Gadkari

Politics is not his only source of power. Nitin Gadkari, the BJP president, makes an unlikely poster boy for clean energy. He produces as much as 36 MW of power every month from bio-fuel. Renewable energy is the cornerstone of his Rs 500 crore Purti Group. It's as much a passion with Gadkari as is running the country's main opposition party. Perhaps more. He has addressed as many seminars on biotechnology as he has political rallies. Dressed in baggy trousers and colourful shirts, he is no stereotype politician. "The reason why I don't wear kurta-pyjamas is that I don't want to look like a professional leader," he says. "I am not artificial. I am the way I look. What I say, I mean," he adds,

with a disarming frankness. He is the only second-rung BJP leader not posturing to be prime minister. "I don't want to be PM. I have no such target. My goal is social development.

If we are the ruling party, we will implement projects through government. If in Opposition,

then through private initiatives," he says. His earnestness lends credibility to political cliches. His business empire is spread over three districts of the Vidarbha region of rural Maharashtra—Nagpur, Bhandara and Wardha, an area infamous for farmer suicides. A public limited company, the Purti Group has 4,000 stakeholders, a majority of whom are farmers. The group has three sugarcane factories

in the rice-producing Chandrapur district produces 8 MW of power by converting rice husk into energy. "My focus is diversification of agriculture towards the energy and power sector," he says. The BJP is the only party which has a separate cell for promoting the use of bio-fuel. The 53-year-old party president has often been criticised for not being "political" enough to lead a mainstream

party. "I don't care what people say about me. It's not arrogance, please do not misunderstand. But I have set my path and my mission and I will carry on." He then adds with a mischievous twinkle, "If there is a will there is a way. If there is no will, there are only survey, seminar and committees."

The reference to a bureaucratic Prime Minister's penchant for committees is all too clear. Soon after he took over as BJP chief in December 2009, he told every leader to undertake at least one development project. The attempt is to promote an NGO-style of governance. He shrugs his



***Renewable energy is the other passion for the BJP National President who presides over a Rs 500-crore empire.***

**By Priya Sahgal**

that do not just produce sugar but also ethanol and alcohol from its byproducts molasses and bagasse. "Ethanol is a green fuel produced by farmers. It's an import substitute for oil where profits go to terrorists. Using biodiesel helps farmers and tribals," he says. Another factory

to a bureaucratic Prime Minister's penchant for committees is all too clear. Soon after he took over as BJP chief in December 2009, he told every leader to undertake at least one development project. The attempt is to promote an NGO-style of governance. He shrugs his

shoulders when asked how many have followed this diktat. "I want to change politics as an instrument of socio-economic reform," he says. "Politics should not be just about power but be development oriented." His eyes sparkle as he relates an anecdote to prove how this brand of social entrepreneurship pays dividends. The Purti Group bought loss-making sugar factory in Bhandara, NCP leader Praful Patel's stronghold, in October last year. It had run up a loss of Rs 25 crore. Purti Group paid Rs 14.10 crore for it and promised once it's running, it would provide employment to 5,000 people (only to youth belonging to the area) and generate work for 2 lakh sugarcane farmers. Soon after the inauguration, the BJP won two zilla parishad elections in the NCP bastion. "Politics of development wins every time," says Gadkari, looking immensely pleased with himself. For a party that is often perceived to be steeped in age-old rhetoric, his talk is refreshingly new-age. He talks in simple bullet points such as India does not have uranium reserves to generate nuclear power; just as China generates 18,000 MW of hydropower India too needs to look at renewable energy as a source of power. These are not just sound bites but issues which concern him enough to seek a meeting with the Prime Minister asking for a national policy on bio-fuels. A sign on Gadkari's desk in his Mumbai office states candidly – I like people who can get things done. As PWD minister in the Shiv Sena-BJP Maharashtra government in 1995-1999, Gadkari made his mark on the May 1-15, 2011 ○ 17

state's infrastructure. As many as 55 flyovers were completed, giving him the nickname of Phulkari (flyover man). He is also the man behind the famous Mumbai-Pune expressway, which, he points out with child-like glee, "everyone is using – from Ratan Tata to Amitabh Bachchan". Legend credits him with coming up with the PPP model of partnership long before

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the Manmohan Singh-Montek Singh Ahluwalia duo popularised it. "The ministry had a budget of Rs 1,500 crore and Rs 12,500 crore of approved projects pending. So, work got delayed due to lack of funds," he recalls. "The BOT model was not popular then. But I thought if you can buy a TV or a fridge on instalments, why not bridges, tunnels and roads." To raise money, he floated the

Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) and perhaps for the first time in India, a government company raised funds for infrastructure projects through the open market. He claims he raised an equity of Rs 5,000 crore and got Rs 8,000 crore worth projects completed.

Later, he clashed with Shiv Sena which wanted the Mumbai-Pune expressway project given to a private company that had quoted Rs 3,600 crore. Gadkari gave the project to MSRDC, which he says completed it in two-and-a-half years for Rs 1,650 crore.

As PWD minister, Gadkari went beyond infrastructure. He smartened office furniture, ordered computers for every staffer and changed the look from sarkari to that of a multinational. May be he can do the same for his party. "I don't like protocol.

No one comes to the airport to receive me. I don't go to the airport to receive others. I have never put up my poster nor anyone else's," he states firmly. Books on Obama, the Dalai Lama and agro-banking line his shelves in Delhi. He loves "fighting movies", specially the Amitabh Bachchan starrers Zanjeer and Deewar. Otherwise, he says, "I like pictures with a message, like Taare Zameen Par and Swades"

The portly Gadkari has been trying to lose weight but admits it's a tough task. "What I see, I eat, so I don't know how successful I will be," he confesses. Yet, it may be easier for him to lose weight than to get the BJP back in shape. ■

(Courtesy: India Today)

# Build pressure to make Pakistan accountable for 26/11 : BJP

On April 13, 2011 BJP demanded that Indian Govt. should build pressure to make Pakistan accountable for ISI and Government's role in 26/11 attack, in the wake of confession by Canadian Pakistani LeT terrorist/operative Tahawwur Hussain Rana and its endorsement by the Union Home Secretary G. K. Pillai. The Govt. should really capitalize on this opportunity to expose direct role of Pak Govt. on the global forums.

BJP further demands that India should not show any leniency till Pakistan accepts its responsibility; acts effectively against perpetrators of 26/11 attack and dismantles the terror infrastructure.

BJP National Spokesperson Shri Prakash Javadekar said, "We should not let them off the hook without their fulfilling the promise given in Jan, 2004 that it will not allow its land to be used for any terror activity targeted against India."

He added, "It is now evident that ISI was not playing just a peripheral role but actually controlling and coordinating the attacks from the beginning till the end. Both Headley and Rana have named many ISI officers who were deeply involved in the planning and the execution of the attack".

Further he said, "Pakistan's complicity is fully on display when the main perpetrators of the 26/11 attack Hafeez Sayeed

and Zaki-ur-rehman-Lakhvi are roaming freely and spitting venom against India. It clearly proves that attitude of Pakistan Govt. has not changed a bit. BJP believes that the Government of India should exert appropriate diplomatic pressure on the Pakistan Government and should not exhibit any haste."

He added, "BJP disapproves the dilly dallying by the PMO regarding the action on the six reports submitted by Shungulu Committee on the corruption and irregularities in the organization of CWG 2010. It

was promised that all the reports of this high level committee will be sent to the CBI for further investigation and action. The Govt. put forward this argument as a defense for not having a JPC on the issue. Now Govt. seems to be dithering on the delivery of the promise, as the reports directly held Smt. Shiela Dixit and other UPA ministers along with Mr. Suresh Kalmadi as responsible for the mess and the loot. This is nothing but yet another cover up operation of the worst scam India has ever witnessed." ■

## Healthy lessons from Bihar

Rising from ashes, according to a report published in *TOI*, NDA ruled Bihar is India's new phoenix. Recently it impressed the World Bank resulting in an aid worth several hundred crores for development of the state. And it has a number of lessons for neighbouring UP. In 2002-03, when census data was notified, UP fared better than Bihar. But, now the tortoise (read Bihar) has metamorphosed to hare, leaving UP behind.

Consider figures from the National Rural Health Mission. Number of institutional deliveries - the chief tool to curb infant, neonatal and maternal mortality rates - in Bihar stood at 2.37 lakh in 2005. Five years since, a five-fold increase has been recorded for the state. In UP however, the progress hasn't been much. Compared to a figure of 19.22 lakh in 2005, number of women delivering babies in recognised health care centres didn't even double by 2010. Laggard state of routine immunisation could also be exemplified. As of now, four out of five children in UP aren't fully immunised. In Bihar, the ratio of children protected with that of unimmunised is 2:3. What needs to be underlined is the progress made by Bihar on the front. Figures show that Bihar's rate of immunisation stood just 10% during the first National Family Health Survey which grew to 33% in NFHS-3. In UP, 19.8% were fully immunised during the time of NFHS-1 while the figure rose to 23% in NFHS-3. ■



## Jaitley for expeditious creation of Lokpal



As the Government and civil society representatives work on drafting the Lokpal Bill, the BJP has come out in favour of its expeditious creation of Lokpal to fight corruption.

“We are in favour of an independent mechanism of Lokpal and this should be expeditiously created,” said Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley.

“We hope that both the JPC and PAC get to the root of the matter (2G spectrum scam). Even if there is an overlapping between two Parliamentary committees, they can work on the same issue,” Shri Jaitley said. Maintaining that “heavens will not fall if overlapping occurs between the two committees”, he said both the committees know how to respect each others functioning.

He cited the example of the merger of Air India and Indian Airlines where two Parliamentary Committees – the Transport, Tourism and Culture Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings – had looked into the matter. ■

## Interlocutor bowing to the demands of the separatists

*Press Statement issued on April 20 by BJP National Spokesperson Shri Tarun Vijay MP on interlocutors statement on autonomy to J&K.*

BJP strongly condemns the suggestion made by interlocutors to give additional powers to the state to assert its “independent character”.

It is unfortunate that the interlocutors instead of suggesting steps for greater integration of the state with the rest of the country are making suggestions that are bowing to the demands of the separatists. The people of Jammu & Kashmir have repeatedly demonstrated that they stand for closer links with rest of the country by rejecting the poll boycott calls by the separatists. This report by the interlocutors, coming in the backdrop of overwhelming voter turnout in the Panchayat polls rejecting the boycott calls of the separatists, is very unfortunate.

BJP stands for establishing deeper linkages between the state of Jammu & Kashmir with the rest of the country. Following the vision laid out by Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, BJP has always followed the policy that “Ek desh mein do nishan, do vidhaan, do pradhan nahin challenge”. BJP expects the current UPA government to respect the steps taken by Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri and Indira Gandhi for abrogation of title of Prime Minister (*Vazire Azam*) for the state of J&K. Successive Congress and National Conference governments have followed the policy of separate status for Jammu & Kashmir which fueled the movement for separatism. BJP demands the abrogation of Article 370 to remove the separate status privilege to the state of J&K. We also demand the government to take steps for restoring an environment that is conducive for the Kashmiri Pandits to return back to their roots. We also demand the implementation of the unanimous resolution passed by the parliament to take back the areas of Kashmir under illegal occupation of Pakistan. ■

## Manmohan Singh can't get away by merely blaming procedural lapses : Ravi Shankar Prasad

**B**JP National Chief Spokesperson Shri Ravi Shanker Prasad on April 19 reacting to the Cabinet Secretary K M Chandrasekhar's report on the Antrix-Devas deal, said that the Congress led UPA government cannot get away by merely blaming "procedural lapses" for the agreement.

Shri Prasad asked Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to spell out who was responsible for the lapses and come clear on his role since he was in charge of the Department of Space.

On April 18 the news papers reported that a classified report by Chandrasekhar has blamed procedural lapses for the deal and has recommended corrective measures in the power structure of ISRO and Department of Space to ensure accountability.

Shri Prasad said that it was not a procedural lapse but a "glaring lapse" on the part of the political leadership of the Congress party ruling the nation and a loss of public face of the government.

He said the government would not have terminated the deal had it not come under pressure from the media and the Opposition.

Shri Prasad further said, "The ISRO and Department of Space come under the Prime Minister. If this was a case of May 1-15, 2011 ○ 20

procedural lapse then what were you (the PM) doing for five years? The agreement was first inked in



2005. The Cabinet Secretary, Minister of State in the PMO, Secretary of the Department of Space and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister were all part

of the decision-making process".

He also said the UPA government cannot brush the issue under the carpet by merely calling it a procedural lapse. "We condemn the attempt to put the whole issue under the carpet by taking the alibi of procedural lapse. The report of the Cabinet Secretary conceals more than it reveals," he said. The Prime Minister should "tell the nation who are all responsible and what is his own responsibility," he added.

Comparing the Antrix-Devas deal with spectrum contracts, he argued that there had been a huge loss to the exchequer. (FOC) ■

### Supreme Court quashes panel probing corruption charges during Raje tenure

The Supreme Court on April 18 quashed the setting up of a commission against Smt. Vasundhara Raje by Rajasthan Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot government to inquire into cases of alleged corruption during her tenure.

A bench of Justices D.K. Jain and H.L. Dattu said proper procedure was not followed by the State government in setting up the N.N. Mathur Commission and all the cases of alleged corruption could be probed by the Lokayukta.

The bench dismissed the petition of the state government which had approached the apex court challenging Rajasthan High Court's order setting aside the appointment of the commission. ■ (PTI)



## Higher per capita income & literacy than national average 58% women in panchayatiraj institutions Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal takes pride in achievements

*Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal set a new trail in Himachal politics by becoming the longest ever non-Congress Chief Minister to serve the State. In his current second term he has already completed over three years. In his second inning Prof. Dhumal brought many laurels and honours to the State in spite of the fact that the Congress-led UPA is not that kind as it is to Congress State governments. Yet with perseverance, personal persuasion and contacts he has succeeded in pushing the pace of development fast. Today Himachal is well ahead of the national average in per capita income and literacy.*

*National Convener of BJP Literature & Publication Cell, Amba Charan Vashishth spoke to him when Prof. Dhumal was in Delhi about 10 days back. Here are the excerpts:*



### **In your second inning as Chief Minister in Himachal you are in the fourth year of office. How does it feel to you?**

It is a mixed feeling of humility and happiness to have got an opportunity to serve the people for all these years. It is only their love, affection and unstinted support that has provided me the strength to serve them. The Party and the people are the two pillars of my strength.

### **Main achievements of your Government this time?**

We have fulfilled almost all the promises made at the time of last Assembly elections. In the rest of the term, we are going beyond that. We are striving to achieve still higher and higher to establish many more milestones of service to the people. By ensuring speedy and all-round development Himachal Pradesh has emerged as a pioneer State in many fields. Nation-wide surveys conducted by various prestigious agencies stand testimony to this fact. HP has been adjudged the Best State in *India Today* survey last year in 'State of the States' awards. We topped in overall performance, education, micro economy and investment. *Outlook* and IBN-7 Electronic Channel conferred Diamond State Award adjudging Himachal as the best in overall performance, poverty alleviation and education. *Agriculture Today* magazine conferred State

Agriculture Leadership Award-2010 for outstanding policy initiatives and performance in agricultural development. In implementation of the 20-Point Programme the State has been on the top. It is an indication of how anxious our Government is towards betterment of the life of the poor and the downtrodden.

### **Your plans for the remaining two years of your present term?**

To consolidate the fruits of our achievements and to further accelerate the pace of development. My government is keen to ensure welfare and betterment of every section of the people by laying a sound foundation for Himachal. By providing ample employment opportunities and avenues for self-employment, I am determined to give the people a life of self-sufficiency and self-respect.

### **Anything unique?**

Many things. We have launched a '353 crore *Pandit Deen Dayal Kisan Bagwan Samridhi Yojana* to give impetus to cash crop production by adopting precision farming practices with 80 percent subsidy. A '321 crore Crop Diversification Promotion project funded through Japan International Cooperation Agency is being launched this year. For integrated development of villages with more than 40% scheduled castes

and scheduled tribes population, a new *Mukhya Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana* to create infrastructural facilities, like road net work, water supply, sanitation and street lights in a coordinated manner in 136 villages has been started. Students who have to cover a distance of 5-8 Km by bus to reach their school are being given a monthly stipend of ₹200 and those traveling beyond ₹300. The Asian Development Bank has approved a financial assistance of about ₹ 428 crore for developing tourism related infrastructure.

*E-Samadhan* has been launched to promote transparency and accountability in administration, Facility for online payment of various Government charges and dues has already commenced. AGRISNET portal has been developed to provide online expert advisories to agriculturists.

We are in the process of enacting “Himachal Pradesh Public Services Act” to ensure delivery of certain key public services to citizens within a prescribed time frame.

**Where does your ambitious Manali-Leh Railway Project stand today?**

This project is very vital for the defence and security of the country. Additionally, it will give a boost to tourism in the State. I have taken up this matter at the highest level of the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister stressing its importance in view of the threatening postures adopted by China which has taken rail, road and air force stations right on our border with Tibet. I will go on pursuing this project with the Union Government till we succeed. I have done my duty to apprise the Union Government about the essentiality of this vital rail link for nation’s security. The ball is now in the court of the Union Government.

**Himachal is no longer a backward State. It is rubbing shoulders with forward States in the matter of development. What is the position today?**

You are right. We have taken Himachal to the top in many spheres of development. Today it is a role model not only for hill States but for others too. State’s per capita income has gone up to ₹ 58,493 and State Gross Domestic Product to ₹ 52,428 crore. The literacy percentage has touched 86 which is more than the National average. This is just a small reflection of the work done by the present government.

**It is generally felt that when a party is in power, there**

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**is a clash between organization and the Government. What is the position in Himachal?**

We are fortunate that this is not so at least in Himachal.

The organization and the government enjoy perfect understanding and coordination. The party organization and workers are the very strength of our government. It is with their support that we have been able to achieve so much and so fast.

**How adequately are women and youth represented in the Government and the party?**

Women had been given proper representation in every part of the Government. Immediately on coming to power, we reserved 50 percent seats to women in Panchayati Raj institutions and urban local bodies. You will be glad to know that more than 58 percent women had been elected to these institutions in the elections held last year.

**What has been the position of the party in the Urban Local Body and Panchayat Elections concluded some time back?**

More than 60 percent BJP supported candidates have been elected in these elections.

**Since the Government at the Centre is different from the party ruling in the State, do you feel handicapped in any way?**

We have been trying our best to get State’s legitimate share from the Centre. To a great extent I have succeeded too. There are some outstanding issues like discontinuance of the industrial package granted to the State by the NDA Government headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Manali-Leh Railway line, liberal assistance for the State which have been ignored by the UPA Government. These issues are agitating the minds of the people.

**How far has the curtailment of the special industrial package granted by Atal Bihari Government affected the industrial development in the State?**

The package had given a big boost to the pace of State’s industrial development. Almost every leading company and MNC established its units here. Youth got employment. But now its discontinuance has, to some extent, affected the State. On our part the Government is doing everything not to let the pace of industrial progress decelerate. We continue to provide the best industrial environment to entrepreneurs by ensuring basic infrastructure, speedy clearance of projects, cheaper power in plenty plus transparent and responsive administration. This has stood us in good stead. ■

# UPA Govt.'s autocratic approach condemnable : Prakash Javadekar

*Press statement issued by BJP National Spokesperson  
Shri Prakash Javadekar MP on April 21, 2011*

**B**JP condemns the UPA Govt.'s approach for going ahead with FTAs / CECA / CEPA with various countries without proper consultations with all the stake holders. UPA Govt. has already concluded Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPA) with Japan, Singapore, South Korea and Malaysia. It has also concluded goods agreements with ASEAN and Thailand. It is also negotiating CEPA with EU and EFTA. All these agreements have tremendous impact on India's overall Growth strategy especially employment, manufacturing, imports, exports. What is condemnable is a fact that such agreements having potential adverse implications on Indian economy for a longer period are not discussed even in the Cabinet, leave alone the Parliament and the opposition parties.

The UPA Govt. is moving away from a multilateral arrangement under WTO and compromising the bargaining power in Doha Round. Even the Economic Survey of 2010-11 (page 186) has cautioned the Govt. on its new frenzy in bilateral agreements. It says "in some cases the benefits to the partner countries are much more, with net gains of incremental exports from India being small



or negative. FTAs also lead to a new type of inverted duty structure. This acts as disincentive to local manufacturing, which is not competitive against FTA imports.... The policy challenge related to FTAs / CECAs should take note of specific concerns of domestic sector and ensure FTAs do not mushroom". There are a few critical issues

First, the UPA Govt. is negating the benefits accrued to India after removal of Singapore issues at the Cancun WTO Ministerial Conference in 2003. Govt. procurement, investments and competition policies have been removed from the Doha Round. Now Govt. is exactly fretting away the benefits and giving in to the pressures of developed countries and is engaged in active negotiations on these very issues through CECA / CEPA.

Second, agriculture and health are essentially state subjects. UPA Govt. is going ahead with FTA negotiations without consulting state Governments thereby undermining the very federal structure guaranteed by the Constitution.

Third, the UPA Govt.'s FTA engagements are non transparent and secretive. What is surprising is that the Govt. is not making available the impact assessment studies, negotiating text and relevant information in the public domain. NDA Govt. consulted all parties and even discussed this in parliament through its own initiatives. UPA is going ahead with negotiations by discussing in a body created for this purpose i.e. TERC, which is dominated by non elected representatives.

BJP demands:

- All party meeting to discuss FTAs / CECAs.
- A comprehensive debate in parliament on all FTAs entered and being negotiated.
- Introduction of a legislation to make ratification of International Treaties to be subjected to Parliament approval.

Immediate release of negotiating text and impact assessment studies of FTAs / CECAs particularly EU-India.■

# Rajasthan CM awarded lucrative contracts to companies linked to his son

From Our Correspondent

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has indulged in favouring companies that employed the services of his son.

BJP leaders have on April 20 released more documents claiming they strengthened the allegations against the Chief Minister.

Former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition in Rajasthan assembly Smt. Vasundhara Raje said that, so far Gehlot had been making baseless charges against her. Now, with grave charges leveled against him, and that too through media reports, Gehlot had a lot of explaining to do.

The Gehlot government allegedly awarded contracts worth several crores of rupees to Om Metals and Triton Hotels, which had hired Vaibhav as their legal consultant.

The Opposition hit out against the government after a television channel aired a report about its alleged largesse to the two companies.

The BJP alleged that rules were bent to award lucrative contracts to Om Metals

In May 2010, the state government awarded an Rs 457-crore contract to Om Metals to construct a dam across the Kalisindh River near Kota.

The company's main business is hydro- power projects, the TV channel said.

The company was awarded another Rs 250- crore contract to build 200- km stretch of the state highway between Jaipur and

Bhilwara.

Om Metals is also reportedly actively pursuing several other projects in the state. Among them is a highrise near Jaipur's Statue Circle near the state secretariat.

The company is also in the race for a 100- mega watt power project in Jaisalmer.

Om Metals bagged all these projects after Gehlot came to power in 2008. The company had hired

*Former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition in Rajasthan assembly Smt. Vasundhara Raje said that, so far Gehlot had been making baseless charges against her. Now, with grave charges leveled against him, and that too through media reports, Gehlot had a lot of explaining to do.*

the services of Vaibhav in 2006. In his tax returns for the past two years, Gehlot junior says he was paid Rs 10,000 per month by Om Metals.

Triton, too, allegedly benefited from the government after it hired Vaibhav's services in 2009 for a monthly remuneration of Rs 50,000.

A month after the CM's son joined the company; it was allowed to use 10,000 square metres of land on the Delhi- Jaipur highway for commercial development. The

Triton Hotel came up on the land quickly, the report said.

In 2008, Vaibhav had started a company, Sunlight Tours and Travels. Last year, he sold off 50 per cent stake in that company to Ratan Kant Sharma, a director in Triton, for an undisclosed amount.

In another instance, BJP National Secretary Shri Kirit Somaiya released a document at Bikaner about a Mumbai-based construction major, Kalaptaru Group, in which Sonia and Gutam Ankhad, daughter and son-in-law of Gehlot had links.

According to these documents, Sonia and Gutam were directors of Shouri Constructions, promoted by the owners of Kalaptaru. Sonia was allotted 10000 shares of the company. Company invested in a flat in posh Lal Baug area of Mumbai. This flat was in the possession of Sonia and Gautam since 2006. Though she returned 50 per cent of these shares in February last, the couple continued to be in the possession of this flat.

Mofatraj Munot, owner of Kalaptaru group, was director of Shouri Constructions until August 2010, while son Parag continued as director even after. Gehlot never hid his links with Munot and his companies but has maintained that no favour was done to those firms by his government. However, Somaiya claimed that several projects were awarded to this company in Rajasthan by the Congress government.■

## Prof. Dhumal launches new welfare schemes

From Our Correspondent

The sixty-fourth Himachal Day was celebrated all over the State with great fanfare and gaiety on April 15. It was on this day in 1948 that Himachal Pradesh was created as a separate entity by merging 31 princely States.

Speaking at a state-level function at Thanakalan in Una district, Himachal Chief Minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal announced the launching of a new scheme, *Mukhya Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojna*, to be implemented during the current year to create basic amenities like road, water, sanitation and streetlights in villages which had 40% and above SC population. Two villages in each assembly constituency would be developed this year under this scheme, he said.

The Chief Minister also launched another scheme for Scheduled Caste women, *Mata Shabri Mahila Sashaktikaran*, under which they would be given a 50% subsidy for LPG connections and stoves.

Prof. Dhumal said that the present government intends to make Himachal Pradesh as educational hub of the country. This year Rs 3,165 crore had been earmarked for education, which was 18 per cent of the total budget of the state, he added.

Referring to the development of Una district, the Chief Minister said with the efforts of the state government, a Una-Haridwar link train and a Una-Delhi Jan Shatabdi had been started. The Mehatpur-Amb

road was being developed at a cost of Rs 126 crore and the work was in full swing, he said.

On this occasion, Prof. Dhumal also announced the release of 6 per cent DA to all the employees and pensioners of the Himachal government from January 1, 2011.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister also conferred Himachal Gaurav Puraskar to various officers in the State. They were given citation, a Himachali shawl, a cap and cash prize of Rs 21,000 each in recognition of the exemplary services they had rendered towards the society. ■

### Kerala BJP Vice-President B.K. Sekhar no more



Kerala Bharatiya Janata Party Vice-President Shri B K Sekhar passed away on April 20, 2011 in Kotchi where he was undergoing treatment for cancer. He was 51. He is survived by wife Smt. Shyama P Kurup and daughter Gauri Kalyani.

He was BJP candidate in the Thiruvananthapuram constituency in the elections held to the State Assembly on

April 13.

Shri Sekhar had become active in public life through student and youth politics. He had served as State vice-president and general secretary of BJP Yuva Morcha.

Senior BJP leaders including State president Shri V Muraleedharan and Shri O Rajagopal expressed shock at the death of Shri Sekhar. Former BJP State president Shri Sreedharan Pillai described him as embodiment of ideals.

Kerala Chief Minister Shri VS Achuthanandan, Opposition leader Shri Oommen Chandy, State Congress president Shri Ramesh Chennithala and other leaders expressed grief at the death of Shri Sekhar.

### Nitin Gadkari condoles the demise of Shekhar

The BJP National President, Shri Nitin Gadkari condoled the demise of Shri B.V. Shekhar, Kerala BJP Vice-President.

Shri Gadkari said the contribution made by Shri Sekhar in spreading the message of the party to people at large have strengthened the party cadre in the State of Kerala and given it a mass following among people.

Shri Nitin Gadkari conveyed his deep sense of grief at the loss of a dedicated and committed party colleague. He said that it was an irreplaceable loss to his family and to the Party. ■

## CM thanks Anna for Complimenting him for the Developmental Work in Gujarat

Respected Annaji

On the eighth day of fasting in the Navratri, I am inspired to write to you early at 5 O'clock early in the morning.

When you were sitting on fast in Delhi, same time, I too was fasting on the occasion of Navratri, the period that symbolizes the embodiment of Divine Shakti. Indeed, I was pleased that by the grace of Maa Jagadamba, I happened to be a co-traveller in your crusade albeit indirectly.

Observing the Navratri fast and being busy in election campaign, I was fortunate to have the darshan of Mother Kamakshi in Assam. When you were fasting, naturally I did pray to Kamakshidevi about your health and I'm sure that the divine power has been kind enough to bestow her blessings on you.

Today, I came back from Kerala campaign to Gandhinagar early morning at 2 a.m.

And it was yesterday that I got the encouraging news of your expressing kind words towards Gujarat and me.

I am fortunate and grateful to get your blessings.

Respected Annaji, my respect for you is decades old. Before I entered politics, I was full time RSS pracharak. At those time, national leaders of the RSS who came to attend our meetings invariably discussed your rural development activities so that it could be emulated. It has tremendous impact on me. In the past, I also had the good fortune of meeting you.

I and my state of Gujarat are indebted to you for the courage and conviction you showed in saying good words for me and my state. In this show of courage, you exhibited commitment to truth and a soldier-like conviction. And because of this, your opinion has been universally accepted.

I request you to also bless me that your praise shall not make me complacent and commit mistakes.

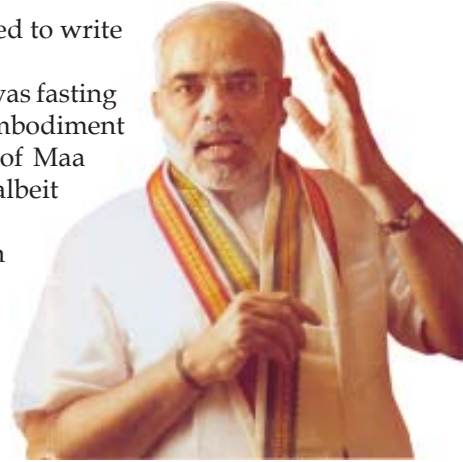
Your blessings have given me the strength to do what is right and it is good. At the same time, my responsibility has also gone high. Because of your statement, crores of youth would be having great expectations and therefore even a small mistake on my part will disappoint them. Therefore, I have to remain vigilant and seek your blessings for the same.

Respected Annaji, in this delicate moment, I must share with you that I come from a simple family and I am a common man too. In my family, no one is even distantly connected to politics or close to power; I do not have any illusion that I am a perfect human being. Like a common man, I too have my own limitations; good and bad qualities.

I pray that I am always blessed by Mother Jagadamba so that bad qualities do not take possession of me. Always thinking of doing good to Gujarat, I would devote myself to the progress of Gujarat and therefore like to wipe out the tears from the face of the poor. In doing this, I pray that I am never short of your blessings, and this is my humble request.

Respected Annaji, you are a Gandhian and a Soldier. Yesterday, during election campaign in Kerala when I heard about your blessings to me and my state, I feared that you will be subjected to vilification. A certain group inimical to -Gujarat will not miss this opportunity to malign your love, sacrifice, penance and commitment to truth. They will try to tarnish your name because you spoke well of me and my state.

As bad luck would have it, this has come true. Once again, these inimical forces have come to





the fore. On the occasion of Navratri, I pray to Maa Jagadamba that no one sullies your fair name.

You will be aware that whosoever talks good of Gujarat, he or she will be subjected to the vilification campaign.

In the past, a senior Muslim parliamentarian from Canoor constituency hailing from the Communist Party Shri P. Abdulla Kutty was ostracized from the party following his praise of Gujarat's development.

The superstar of this century, Shri Amitabh Bachchan when he promoted Gujarat Tourism, was also attacked by the same group of inimical forces. They spread falsehoods against Bachchan so as to snap his old ties with Gujarat. At a public function in Mumbai where he was invited, this group stopped him from entering to the venue.

Also, a campaign was let loose to malign the leading Gandhian of Gujarat Shri Gunavant Shah who is speaking for the atma-gaurav of Gujarat and development of Gujarat.

Maulana Ghulam Vastanavi of Gujarat who was elected as Head of the Darul Uloom of Deoband has also been subjected to vilification campaign when he praised the development of Gujarat. He had publicly said that Gujarat is surging ahead on the road of fast paced development, and without any religious discrimination everybody is reaping the fruits of this development. Soon, he has been silenced by constant harassment by the same forces.

Recently, Major General I. S. Singha of Golden Katara Division of Indian Army when he praised the development of Gujarat he too was subjected the same treatment by the same forces and there was even a demand for disciplinary action against the Major General.

These are only a few examples. But Gujarat's real developmental journey is an anathema to this group bent upon heaping calumny on my state. Whenever the name of Gujarat is mentioned these forces immediately swing into action to spread canards and falsehoods.

Respected Annaji, Gujarat's six crore people do not want that the same group should sadden you.

I am still afraid that, this group will put you in trouble. May God give you strength.

I humbly bow to the sacrifices and penances you have made for the country.

Let the Almighty bless you with supreme health and long life so that many like me would benefit from your guidance. This is my prayer to the God from core of my heart.

Yours'  
Narendra Modi

April 11, 2011,

## Chetan Bhagat and ASSOCHAM President praise Narendra Modi

Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi received praises from another quarter on April 16. This time it was the turn of renowned author Shri Chetan Bhagat who asked him to play a bigger role in national politics. Shri Bhagat was speaking at a seminar organised by Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industries (GCCI) at Ahmedabad, attended by the Chief Minister and Dileep Modi, the president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), among others. "When I came to Ahmedabad, I felt Gujaratis possess many qualities but they don't market it well. They remain quiet. But it should be spread," Shri Bhagat said. "But CM sir, you are doing well here, this is only one state and 27 are still left. We wish there could be many good leaders, but we don't have". Describing Shri Modi as an icon the ASSOCHAM president Shri Dileep Modi said, "Modiji is a true icon that people look forward to follow." he said. Responding in a lighter vein Shri Narendra Modi said that he did not know what would happen to Shri Bhagat and ASSOCHAM president Dileep Modi, now that they had praised him. ■(PTI)

UTTAR PRADESH

### Dalit chief minister encouraging atrocities on dalits : BJP

Citing the incident of Chitrakoot where a dalit youth was burnt alive by miscreants state BJP has severely criticised Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati for the constantly growing atrocities on dalits during the rule of BSP.

The state BJP spokesman Shri Vijay Bahadur Pathak said on April 21, 2011 that the BSP's affection for dalit is just a cover up and infact its government had done nothing for the betterment of the dalits. He said, "The leaders belonging to ruling BSP has raped dalit women and due to pressure from government the police remained mute spectator".

He said that a dalit youth named Bhagwandin and resident of village Dhaurahi in Chitrakoot district opposed the eve teasing with his sister. The miscreants close to BSP have become such fearless that they called the Bhagwandin out of his house and burnt him alive, Pathak said. "Till the moment the police have registered no case and was hushing up the gruesome killing" he added.

Reacting to the BSP's allegation about the atrocities committed on dalits in Haryana, the BJP spokesman said that it was Congress who was running the government in Haryana and BSP was supporting Congress led UPA Government at Centre. Shri Pathak said that lips service will not serve the purpose and BSP Government must take concrete actions to safeguard the interests of dalits.

### BJP raps Congress for minority appeasement

Terming the demand of Union Coal Minister Shree Prakash Jaiswal and UP Congress president Rita Bahuguna Joshi for payment of salaries to *imams* from the state exchequer as appeasement of Muslims, the Bharatiya Janata Party state unit said that to woo the minority votes the Congress was ready to mortgage the nation.

BJP State spokesman Shri Hardwar Dubey said that the appeasement policy pursued by the Congress had led to the partition of the country but the party had not taken any lesson from it. "Because of this mindset, the Congress leaders compare nationalist organizations with separatist

group and speak of the caste of great martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the independence of India," Shri Dubey said.

He said that Congress and the Bahujan Samaj Party had close links with Hawala dealer Hasan Ali and now evidences were coming to light to establish this fact. He demanded that the role of Chief Minister Mayawati should also be probed in the Hasan Ali case.

Shri Dubey also lambasted Congress general secretary Digvijay Singh for his remarks against social worker Anna Hazare. Singh issues controversial statements only to shift the

focus from corruption and other failures of the Congress led UPA government, he said.

TAMILNADU

### Take immediate action against killing of fishermen : Radhakrishnan

The Bharatiya Janata Party has threatened to launch an agitation of laying siege to the sea in May if the Union and State government failed to take immediate action against killing of fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy.

Addressing a media persons in Madurai on April 20 BJP State President Shri P. Radhakrishnan, who referred to the April 2 killing of four fishermen from Tamil Nadu, expressed concern that both the Congress led Central and State governments did not take the issue seriously.

He said Fishermen from Tamil Nadu should not be treated like cattle for slaughter and it was unfortunate that the External Affairs Secretary had stopped with a customary condemnation of the incident. The Prime Minister should spell out the steps India intended to take to stop the killing of fishermen.

Shri Radhakrishnan said the Election Commission to train agents of various political parties on the new procedures it intended to adopt when the votes polled in the April 13 election would be taken up for counting. Like in the case of officials, the agents should also be introduced to the new procedures, as otherwise they would be in the dark while the counting process was on. He was of the view that the proposed counting of votes by mixing electronic voting machines from different polling stations would only add to people's skepticism of the efficiency of EVMs.

**MADHYA PRADESH**

**BJP Govt. committed for welfare of tribals, Dalits : Prabhat Jha**



Madhya Pradesh BJP President Shri Prabhat Jha MP in Bhopal on April 20 said that the Shivraj Singh Chouhan led BJP State Government was working for the welfare of tribal communities and

Dalits.

Shri Jha said BJP is working hard for the upliftment and welfare of tribals and Dalits in the state and Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan's Government is running more than 50 schemes for them.

As a result, he said BJP could wrest power from Congress in the reserved Sonkatch (SC) and Kukshi (ST) Assembly constituencies in the by-polls two months ago. He said the tribals and Dalits now knew the real face of Congress party.

About the Congress's allegation that BJP had not yet made a tribal person the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, Shri Jha said that it was not right to presume that only a member of the community could do well for it. Congress always used them as vote bank and has not done any thing for their progress during their rule, he added.

**Next five years will be observed as 'Jal Varsh' : Shivraj Singh Chouhan**

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan during the foundation stone laying ceremony for the canal project to the tune of Rs 550 crore, on April 17 made many important announcements. He announced to observe next five years as 'Jal Varsh' with spending a huge amount of Rs 25 thousand crore during this period.



He said the under construction Singaji power

plant would get ready by 2012 with generating capacity of 1200 megawatt electricity. Besides, feeder diversification work will also be completed by 2013.

Shri Chouhan said that Madhya Pradesh has to use Narmada water up to 18.25 million acre feet till 2024 as per Narmada Water Tribunal. The work would be completed before 2020 instead of 2024. He said that electricity supply would be ensured for 24 hours after 20 per cent reduction of transmission loss.

The Chief Minister further said that 70 per cent grant would be given to the farmers on farm implements and grant amount would go directly into their accounts. Shri Chouhan appealed to the farmers to use every drop of water in their agrarian activities.

**RAJASTHAN**

**Cong govt hand in gloves with pvt hospitals in uterus issue : BJP**

The Ashok Gehlot government has come under severe pounding literally from the Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat (ABGP) and opposition BJP over the several uterus removal surgeries in Dausa district of the state.

Barely the government has shaken itself from the controversy of the death of 17 women in Jodhpur, but the BJP has found another health issue to beat the authorities with. Moreover, ABGP which brought the uterus removal surgeries to light, charged the government with covering up the cases in connivance with the private hospitals.

On April 17, Both BJP and ABGP alleged that the tehsildar, the chief medical and health officer (CMHO) and the block CMHO in the committee formed to probe the matter are incompetent but are helping in covering up the matter.

"There is a big racket where the government hospital and the private hospitals are hand in gloves. So, there should be a proper committee to investigate into the matter. We demand that the state government should form a committee headed by the HoD of gynecology department of the Sawai Man Singh Hospital since the members of the current committee tehsildar, CMHO and block CMHO are not expert gynecologists and they are covering up the issue," BJP state vice-president Suman Sharma said.

She further claimed that the Gehlot's administration has dumped the government hospital here and "it is almost like a first aid centre".

Anita Baghel, another member of the BJP team which visited Dausa, said, "The committee had recorded statements of 12 patients and the number of women whose uterus was removed run into hundreds. The team recorded the statement of some chosen ones. So, we demand that a proper team should be constituted to investigate into the matter." (Input with TNN)

## GUJARAT

### Modi slams PM for not voting in Assam

Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi on April 21, 2011 criticized Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh for not voting in the just concluded Assembly elections in Assam.

While speaking to reporters at a seminar at the Pandit Deen Dayal Petroleum University in Gandhinagar Shri Modi said, "Today, when we are celebrating the birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar, I am pained to learn that the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh did not vote in the Assembly elections in Assam".

"Ambedkarji gave us the Constitution, and the Constitution gave us the right to vote. To know that the Prime Minister did not vote in the Assembly polls is a very saddening act, for the people of the country," he said.

It is noteworthy, that the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and his wife Gursharan Kaur are registered voters from Assam's Dispur Assembly constituency, where polling was held on April 11. Dr. Singh has been a Rajya Sabha member from Assam for the last two decades. ■

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### Union pesticide Bill will hurt interests of farmers, stakeholders : Om Prakash Dhankar

BJP Kishan Morcha National President Shri Om Prakash Dhankar has alleged that the Congress led Union government is trying to get the amended Pesticide Management and Seed Bills passed in Parliament as per the commitment given to the World Trade Organisation. It was a part of the larger plan to integrate the Indian agriculture sector with global economy against the wishes of farmers and other stakeholders, Shri Dhankar observed.



Addressing a press conference in Guntur on April 18 Shri Dhankar said the proposed bills were intended to confer greater authority on the Central government over agriculture which is a State subject. The consequences of ratifying the bills without having wider consultations would be disastrous, he said.

Shri Dhankar said the Pesticide Management Bill was silent on the demand to bring the subject of pesticide management under the purview of the Ministry of Environment (it is currently with Ministry of Agriculture) which was essential to ensure protection of the environment.

The vexatious issues of compensating the loss incurred by farmers due to failure of pesticides and banning the use of pesticides harmful to human beings, animals, birds, and environment remained mute points and there were no guidelines regarding construction, transporting, and storing of pesticides and accidents such as Bhopal gas tragedy caused by the criminal negligence of Union Carbide India Limited, he said.

Shri Dhankar said the Kishan Morcha would not allow the Central government to take those legislations forward as they were detrimental to the agriculture sector. Monsanto, Cargill and other big foreign companies would wrest control of the seed business in India compounding the woes of farmers who were incurring huge losses on account of spurious seed he said.

He said the Seed Bill does not contain a mechanism for protecting the conventional rich varieties of seed amidst the collective onslaught of hybrid seed companies. It was imperative that seed banks were set up in each State for protecting the native seed varieties, he said.

He expressed regret that Andhra Pradesh Congress government had completely neglected the welfare of farmers who bore the brunt of nature's fury last year. The assistance received from the State government was minimal.

BJP Kishan Morcha State secretary Shri D. Koteswara Rao, Shri R. Lakshmi pathi, Shri V. Krupa Rao, Shri Raja Ram Mohan Rao and others senior leaders were present. (FOC) ■