



Kamal Sandesh
Fortnightly Magazine

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Yield not to unmanliness, Arjuna; this does not befit you. Shaking off this base faint-heartedness stand-up, O scorcher of enemies.

— (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 3)

QUOTES

“The country will get relief only when the party heading the ruling coalition at the Centre is defeated in polls”

-Nitin Gadkari

“The divided judgment of the Gujarat High Court is a setback to federalism”

-Arun Jaitley

“I am from MP and people will accept me. I am not an outsider. I have defeated Rahul’s mentor (Digvijay Singh) in MP, now I will defeat Rahul.”

-Uma Bharti

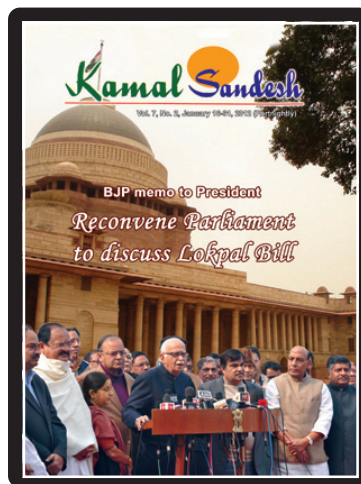
Letter to the Editor



Dear Editor,

What happened with Lokpal Bill in Rajya Sabha is an unfortunate incident for parliamentary democracy. Rajya Sabha Chairman Hamid Ansari is more responsible than Congress party for Lokpal Bill fiasco in Rajya Sabha. The Rajya Sabha timing could have been extended. Because All member of opposition were ready for sitting even after midnight. But wrong decision taken by the chair has proved disastrous for Lokpal Bill. It seems the decision has been taken without proper consideration.

Pawan Agarwal
Ranchi



“Relevance of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay and his ideas in present context”

Articles invited

Insightful and inspiring articles on the life and great work of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay ji are invited for a special issue of Kamal Sandesh under the title “Relevance of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay and his ideas in present context”. Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay remains a source of our inspiration, guiding us in our journey to restore the glory and greatness of Maa Bharati. We request his associates, co-workers, researchers, writers and journalists to become a part of this vichara yatra of Kamal Sandesh.

-Prabhat Jha, Editor

Write to us

The Editor,



We welcome
Your views & Suggestions

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A golden opportunity awaits BJP in Uttar Pradesh

Editorial...

India is keenly watching its largest State. While assembly elections are taking place in four other States viz. Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa, the question comes to the fore why Uttar Pradesh alone is being watched with so much interest? Entire country acknowledges the fact that Uttar Pradesh is the State which sets the direction of the Indian politics. For last few years Uttar Pradesh instead of giving direction to the nation is itself becoming directionless. It is the need of the hour that instead of getting directionless Uttar Pradesh should strive towards giving direction to the nation. And it is possible only when Uttar Pradesh rises above regionalism and casteism in the interest of nationalism. In the last assembly elections, Bihar, by taking lead on these issues shown a path to the nation. Uttar Pradesh is the glory of the nation. While the most ancient city of the world Kashi, where Baba Vishwanath has his seat, is situated here, the birth place and Karmabhumi of Maryada Purushottama Shri Ramchandra and Bhagwan Krishna is also located in this State. Uttar Pradesh is also the sacred birth place of our ideological inspiration Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay. Most of the Prime Ministers including Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee are from Uttar Pradesh. In a democratic election, the prestige of such a land of spiritual and political leaders should increase. If we take into account all these facts then Uttar Pradesh elections become very important for the nation.

The rule of Samajwadi Party was seen as *gundaraj* by the people and Bahujan Samaj Party rule has heralded a regime of corruption and loot. The Congress is struggling in a Bihar-like situation there. Although the *maa-beta* party is putting together all its strength but in reality there is no strength left in the Congress. The Congress is struggling for its survival. So far BJP is concerned, it got a very good opportunity during the Shri Ramjanambhoomi movement which it converted into results. But the political situation changed so fast that BJP had to extend its support to BSP. BJP was duped not once but twice by the BSP. It was not BJP but people who were duped. Therefore BJP National President has declared that this time BJP will fight on its own strength and as a result party is fighting the elections with its full strength.

For BJP, Uttar Pradesh presents a challenge as well as an opportunity. It is time when all the like-minded organizations will have to stand together so that Uttar Pradesh is rescued from the clutches of regionalism and casteism and starts moving

forward on the path of nationalism. BJP activists will have to take to the streets with mashaal of change in their hands. This mashaal will lighten up the yajna of election. In Uttar Pradesh, BJP has once again a golden opportunity to improve its position. BJP leadership and activists should not take any risk at this moment.

Today people are anguished and full of anger against the BSP government. While people are scared of SP they have no hope from Congress. In such a situation BJP has a golden opportunity to win the faith of the people through its nationalist ideology. The people of the State will also have to cast their votes sensibly. The future of the coming generation depends on the outcome of the assembly elections of Uttar Pradesh.

So far it is being reported that people are eager for a change of government in Uttar Pradesh. They only want to be confident of their future and want a guarantee of security of their life. The manner in which great reforms are being witnessed in BJP ruled Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Uttrakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Punjab, it can well be a guarantee that given an opportunity BJP will be able to change the future and fortune of Uttar Pradesh. ■

Judgment on appointment of Gujarat Lokayukta a setback to federalism : Jaitley

The Gujarat Government has challenged in the Supreme Court the High Court verdict upholding the Governor's controversial appointment of Justice (retd) RA Mehta as State Lokayukta.

The High Court on Wednesday upheld the Governor's controversial appointment of Mehta as the State Lokayukta without consultation with the Council of Ministers led by Chief Minister Narendra Modi. The



court verdict has been slammed by the BJP. Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Shri Arun Jaitley said, "The judgement is a setback to federalism. The Governor is a nominee of the Central Government. If a Governor gets primacy over the State Government on the appointment of Lokayukta, it amounts to Government of India appointing the Lokayukta." He said the verdict would hurt Lokayukta as an institution.

Meanwhile, Gujarat Government spokesman and Health Minister Shri Jay Narayan Vyas said that the Government was not against appointment of Lokayukta but its objection was to the manner in which the appointment was made by Governor Kamala Beniwal. The fundamental issue is the federal structure of the Constitution and the legal provisions about the powers of the Governor, Shri Vyas said.

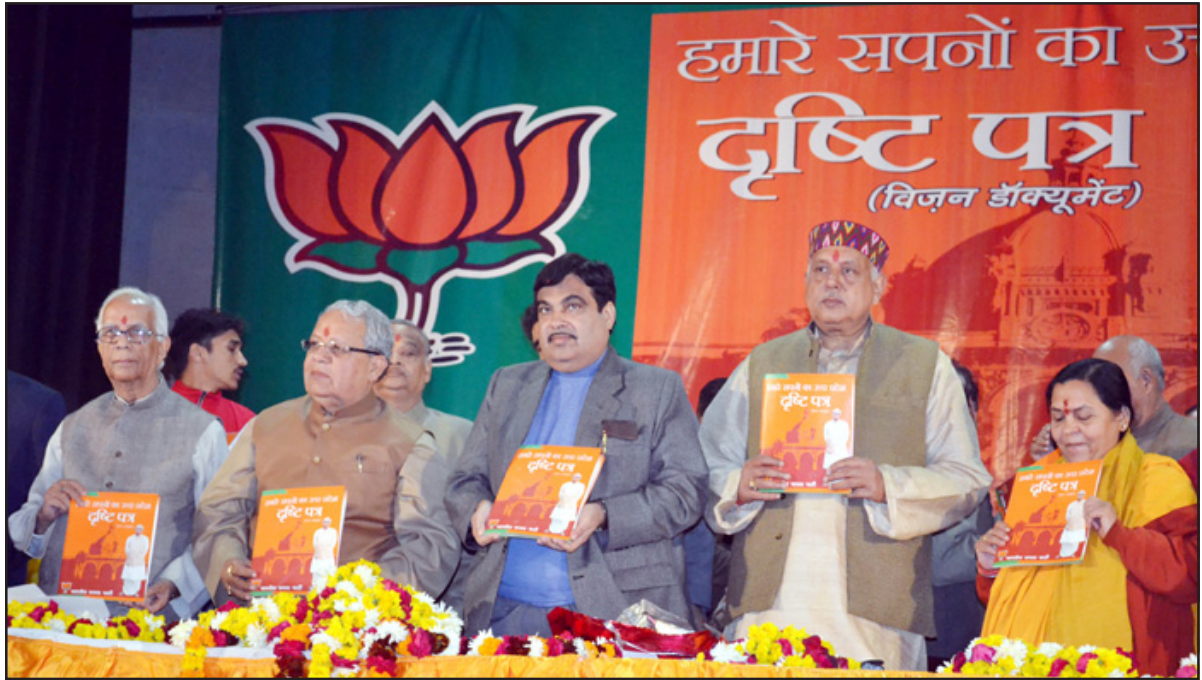
If Governors function outside the constitutional provisions, it would be difficult for the State Governments to work properly, he commented. The decision of the Governor to make the appointment had bypassed the constraints and restraints imposed by the Constitution, Shri Vyas said.

The Gujarat Government had challenged the Governor's unilateral decision to appoint Justice Mehta as the Lokayukta.

The State Government contended that the Governor had acted in an unconstitutional manner as the process of consultation between the Chief Minister and Chief Justice was still continuing when the controversial appointment was made on Aug 25 last year. The Governor could have waited till the differences of opinion between the Chief Minister and the Chief Justice of the High Court about the suitability of the retired judge were resolved, the State Government had argued. ■

Even Nehru, Azad & Ambedkar had opposed reservation on basis of religion : Gadkari

From Our Correspondent



Addressing a gathering after releasing BJP's Vision Document for the State Assembly poll BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari said the Congress, Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party advocating religion-based reservations for minorities to appease Muslims.

He asked them to respond to the fact that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Dr. BR Ambedkar had even opposed reservation on the basis of religion. It also asked these three parties to tell from where they would provide 8 or 9 per cent quota to Muslims when the Supreme Court has categorically stated that the outer

limit of reservation cannot exceed 50 per cent.

He said, "Congress was not in a position to get it passed by two-third majority and SP lacked the strength. It is only for vote bank politics," he alleged. Shri Gadkari alleged that the issue was being raised to make an attempt on how to get Muslim votes by alluring the community.

He said that while Congress has promised nine per cent quota to Muslims, SP was talking about 18 per cent. "I want to ask that from where this 9 per cent and 18 per cent will come. Even 4.5 per cent quota for minorities has been carved out from 27 per cent reservation for OBCs. If this has to be done, it will be done by

curtailing rights of OBCs," he said. He said that the move was an injustice towards OBCs and will create rift in the society. "It's an attempt to take the country towards partition for poll politics," he said.

Shri Gadkari also accused the Congress, SP and BSP of conspiring to reduce the quota of OBCs and SCs and said it would keep opposing the move at all possible foral.

BJP president Shri Nitin Gadkari also attacked the Congress-led UPA government at the Centre for its attempts to appease Muslims and alleged that ever since Independence, the Congress had only duped Muslims while treating them

merely as vote bank.

The BJP president refuted the assertion of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh that minorities had the first right over the natural resources of the country. "I denounce this observation as I feel that the poor have the first right on the natural resources rather than minority".

Congress' politics of vote bank has become so glaring that it is even shielding terrorist who have been awarded death sentence by the Supreme Court for attacking Parliament, he added.

Amidst the chants of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' at Ravindralaya, in Lucknow Shri Gadkari criticised the UPA government for promoting corruption and pursuing the policy of appeasement. "The Congress is demoralizing the security forces

and its personnel who sacrifice their lives fighting the terrorists," he said. "Congress President Sonia Gandhi must make it clear whether she is endorsing the views of Home Minister P Chidambaram or her party's General Secretary Shri Digvijay Singh," he asked.

The BJP president said that people of the State wanted to get rid of the corrupt Mayawati government and they also did not want to bring back the Samajwadi Party which had given criminals a free hand in the State during its regime.

"As the Congress is non-existent in the State, the only alternative is BJP that can provide a progressive government," he said. If we fail to muster majority we will prefer to sit in the opposition rather than forge an alliance with the

SP or the BSP, Shri Gadkari reiterated. He called upon the people to bring Ram Rajya in the state.

Earlier, the BJP president released the party's Vision Document, which has been prepared by a committee headed by party's former State president Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi. The party has elaborated in the Vision Document how it would provide good governance to the state.

Among others BJP vice-presidents Shri Kalraj Mishra, Shri Vinay Katiyar and Smt. Karuna Shukla, National General secretary Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, National Secretary Shri Ashok Pradhan, BJP State President Shri Surya Pratap Shahi, Sushri Uma Bharti, senior leader Shri Lalji Tandon were present on the dais. ■

Highlights of the Vision Document

'Hamare Sapnon Ka Uttar Pradesh — Sarvottam Uttar Pradesh'

BJP President Shri Nitin Gadkari released the Party's Vision Document for Uttar Pradesh at an impressive function on January 16, 2012. Shri Gadkari had announced at the party's national executive meeting held in Lucknow last year, that the BJP would prepare a Vision Document to present a comprehensive perspective about the future development of the state. His promise has been fulfilled with the publication of the document in Hindi, which is titled 'Hamare Sapnon Ka Uttar Pradesh — Naya Uttar Pradesh, Sarvottam Uttar Pradesh'. The vision has been encapsulated in the following words: "A model of balanced development without social and regional disparities, with prosperity and security for all, and with the rejuvenation of the State's glorious heritage of culture, arts and spirituality."

The mission to realize this vision is articulated in summarized in the following line: "To make Uttar Pradesh a front-ranking State in India by following the path of Good Governance, Development and Social Justice."

The Party's commitment to follow its Vision and to implement its Mission is captured in the slogan: "Na ugaahi, Na gundayi; Na mehangaayi, Na bhrashtachar; Na shoshan, Na kuposhan;

Paaradarshita doordarshita hoga saakaar; Hum denge saaf-suthari sarkar." ("No extortion raj, no goonda raj; No price rise, No corruption; No exploitation, no malnutrition; Transparency and accountability are our watchwords; We pledge to give a clean, honest and effective government.")

The Vision Document has been prepared by a 24-member committee headed by Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi, a veteran leader

of the Party and former Speaker of the UP Vidhan Sabha.

Salient points of the Vision Document

The Vision Document is inspired by former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s optimistic assertion, which he had made a decade ago, that “Uttar Pradesh is not a bimar (sick) state but a

present-day Uttar Pradesh. Some of the stark indicators of UP’s backwardness are:

In the 1950s and ‘60s, UP’s per capita income was fairly comparable to the other leading states in India. Today it is less than two-thirds of the national average.

UP’s social development indicators are among the lowest in infant

Bundelkhand are 568 (in 2009), 583 (2010), 519 (in January-May 2011).

The Vision Document raises moot question: Who is responsible for this unacceptable state of affairs?

Samajwadi Party: The rule of the Samajwadi Party, headed by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, is even today known for uncontrolled goondaism, extortionism, casteism and communalism.

Criminalisation of the ruling party extended to blatant misuse of the administrative machinery and even the police. The

relatives and those who enjoy her patronage is mind-boggling. Her empire of corruption, worth thousands of crore rupees, extends all the way from Noida-Ghaziabad in western UP to Gazipur in eastern UP. No major land deal anywhere in the state goes through without a black money component going to the CM’s residence or to the various benami/money-laundering companies run by her kith, kin and confidantes.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar had rightly stated that political freedom is incomplete without concomitant economic freedom for the depressed classes. For the past five years, a self-styled Dalit leader and follower of Dr. Ambedkar has wielded political power in UP. But what economic freedom has it brought to the millions of ordinary people belonging to the Scheduled Castes? The fact that Sushri Mayawati has built huge monuments of Dr. Ambedkar and Kanshi Ram (and, of course, of herself too) cannot hide the fact that she is personally culpable for the monumental corruption in UP today.

The BJP believes that liberating UP from the corrupt regime of Sushri Mayawati must become one of the primary goals for the electorate in the 2012 elections. The voters, including Dalit voters, should teach a sobering

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar had rightly stated that political freedom is incomplete without concomitant economic freedom for the depressed classes. For the past five years, a self-styled Dalit leader and follower of Dr. Ambedkar has wielded political power in UP. But what economic freedom has it brought to the millions of ordinary people belonging to the Scheduled Castes?

jhujhaaru (valiant) state. It has the potential to become a sarvottam (front-ranking) state.”

It begins by describing the glorious past of Uttar Pradesh. It pays tribute to the great sons and daughters of the state, belonging to all castes and religious communities, and representing its spiritual heritage, social reform, India’s Freedom Movement in 1857 and post-1857 periods, and the fields of culture, arts, sports, journalism. It recognizes the syncretic Ganga-Jamuna tehzeeb (culture) of Uttar Pradesh, acknowledging the contributions of both Hindus and Muslims.

This is followed by a description of the ugly and worrisome picture of the

mortality, maternal mortality, malnutrition, blindness, rural and urban sanitation, etc.

Hundreds of rural children have died due to encephalitis in recent years.

Only 55% of UP’s 97,134 villages are still not connected by pucca roads.

Only 57% of UP’s villages are electrified; Only 20% of rural households have electricity.

Only 10.3% of households in the state have piped water supply, one-fourth of the national average.

Severe regional disparities in the state, with Eastern UP and Bundelkhand lagging behind even Sub-Saharan Africa in the provision of basic necessities of life.

Farmers’ suicides in

people’s desire to seek liberation from SP’s goonda raj was the main factor that defined the verdict of the Vidhan Sabha elections in 2007. Our state cannot afford a return of this nightmare in 2012.

Bahujan Samaj Party: The people’s desire for a stable alternative to the SP’s criminal misrule resulted in the Bahujan Samaj Party winning a clear majority in the 2007 Vidhan Sabha elections. Five years, it is obvious that, far from being the alternative that the people expected and wanted, the BSP has established a frightening new record in misrule. It is by far the most corrupt government in UP’s history. The sheer scale of the ill-gotten wealth amassed by Chief Minister Sushri Mayawati, her close

UP election results will surprise everyone, says Nitin Gadkari

In an interview to The Economic Times, BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari talks about several things, from his party's prospects in the polls to his passion for music. Excerpts:



What has changed for BJP in UP this time?

The UP results will surprise everyone. Vote banks which supported Mayawati are breaking off from her because of her corrupt regime. There is anger towards Congress because of price rise and corruption at the Centre. Congress has become unpopular for dividing people on grounds of religion by promising minority quota. It says it will give 9% quota to minorities (within the 27% OBC quota in the State) while SP is assuring 18%. Quota cannot cross 50% and a Constitution amendment requires a two-third majority. We want to ask, will you cut the share of OBCs or the SCs. It infringes on their rights. The Backward Castes are upset. The OBC population is 54% in Uttar Pradesh.

In case of a hung assembly will you align with BSP?

We are moving towards a majority. If we do not get a majority, we will remain in the Opposition. There is no question of an alliance with BSP or SP as they are both hand-in-glove with Congress. They both bail out the UPA government at the Centre, when needed, like during the confidence vote in 2008 and last year in the Public Accounts Committee over 2G spectrum scam.

CBI has been misused to change affidavits against Mulayam Singh Yadav and Mayawati. It's friendship in Delhi and enmity in Lucknow. They are three sides of the same coin. While Congress and SP are talking of quota for Muslims, Mayawati is silent on the injustice

being meted out to Backwards.

What if BSP is king-maker in Uttarakhand?

We will form government there. There is no question of requiring BSP.

Does it suit BJP better in the long run to keep away from BSP and SP?

We have no ideological similarities with BSP or SP. Our vote bank will not accept our aligning with them.

Your vision document neither reflects the aggressive position the party has taken to reach out to OBCs nor the mandir issue...

The vision document shows the direction the party will take over the next 25 years. We have said BJP does not discriminate on lines of caste, religion or gender. As far as Ram Mandir is concerned, the Allahabad High Court has pronounced its verdict. We do not want to make it a political issue.

Ram is our *shraddha* (devotion) and Mandir is the voice of our *atma* (soul). Mandir is not on our political agenda. We are committed to building the Mandir and if a masjid is built outside the disputed area we have no problem.

Do you think induction of NRHM scam-tainted Babu Singh Kushwaha, who is an OBC leader, will benefit the party more than it can hurt it vis-a-vis the campaign against corruption?

He himself decided to put his membership on hold. It's now a closed chapter for us.

Why is Uma Bharati not projected as the chief ministerial candidate?

I have said that after elections the party MLAs will

decide. We are fighting the elections under the leadership of four leaders in the State - Rajnath Singh, Uma Bharati, Suryapratap Sahi and Kalraj Mishra.

How far will the UP poll outcome influence the national political scene?

It will have a significant bearing on the future political scenario. After all, it sends 80 representatives to the Lok Sabha.

Do you see parties like Trinamool and AIADMK moving towards you?

If we get over 170 Lok Sabha seats, all our old friends will come back to us.

What is BJP's focus in the run-up to 2014?

We are trying to expand the party's base in areas where our presence is less.

Are you in the race to be BJP's prime ministerial

candidate?

I am not an ambitious politician. For me politics is an instrument of socio-economic reform and I am working towards it. When the time comes we will decide who the prime ministerial candidate will be. We could have a face before elections, but it depends on the situation. If it's after elections, it would depend on the numbers.

You have been president for two years...

Earlier I was new to everything. I have learnt a lot. But I take some moments off from all this and go into my own world... listening to music. I like Malayalam and Tamil songs also. I sing, too, sometimes songs of Mukesh, Lucky Ali and Ghulam Ali. I like Gulzar's philosophical songs like "tuj se naraz nai zindagi..." ■

Makar Sankranti & Pongal celebrated at BJP Central office

Makar Sankranti and Pongal were celebrated at BJP central office in New Delhi. The BJP Karyakartas organized a feast of chura-Dahi and Litty-Chokha on January 16, 2012 to celebrate the festival. Parliamentary Accounts Committee chairman Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Bihar BJP President & MP Shri C.P Thakur, BJP Chief Spokesperson Shri Ravi Shanker Prasad, BJYM Natinal President Shri Anurag Thakur, Lok Sabha MP Radha Mohan Singh, Bihar Government Ministers like Shri Ashwini Chaubey, Shri Nand Kishore Yadav and other BJP State and national leaders joined the celebrations and greeted those present. About 3000 people including party activists, senior leaders, journalists and writers took part.



Sankranti or *Sankranthi* marks the transition of the Sun into *Makara rashi* (Capricorn) on its celestial path. Traditionally, this has been one of many harvest days in India. Owing to the vast geography and diversity of culture in India, this festival is celebrated for innumerable reasons and in innumerable ways depending on the climate, agricultural environment, cultural background and location. Among others Bihar BJP Vice President Sh. Sanjay Mayukh and Sh. Vivek Thakur were present. ■

Gadkari condoles demise of Sukumar Nambiar

The BJP National President Shri Nitin Gadkari expressed his profound grief and deep sorrow on the death of Shri Sukumar Nambiar, a veteran BJP leader and a former national treasurer of the party. In a condolence message, Shri Gadkari said Shri Nambiar's death is a great loss to the BJP in general and our Tamilnadu unit in particular. He was a distinguished party leader who served in various capacities at the national level as well as in Tamilnadu. Currently, Shri Nambiar was co-convenor of the BJP's Foreign Affairs Cell. ■

There should be no reservation on ground of religion : Rajnath Singh



Campaign for assembly elections are in full swing in five States viz. Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa. The elections in these States are being watched keenly by political observers who are discussing the outcome of the elections. Former BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh, who is also a former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh and presently a member of Lok Sabha from the same State, is guiding the course of elections in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand on behalf of Bharatiya Janata Party. Shri Rajnath Singh who is known for upholding high values in Indian politics, a mass leader and a voice of farmers and people living in villages has been leading movements against Mayawati regime of corruption and loot. He went on a upavaas against police atrocities against farmers in Bhatta-Parsaul and made their voice heard in the Parliament. Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi and Shri Sanjiv Kumar Sinha from Kamal Sandesh discussed with Shri Rajnath Singh various election related issues at his residence in New Delhi on 20 December 2012. Excerpts:

Uttar Pradesh assembly elections are being keenly watched by the entire nation. In the context of State and national politics, what are BJP's hopes from these elections?

Bharatiya Janata Party is making efforts to get clear majority in Uttar Pradesh so that BJP government is formed there. So far the impact of these elections on national politics is concerned, by virtue of being the largest State in the country it naturally has a bigger share in both houses of the Parliament. But it will be wrong to assume lesser impact of the small States in the national politics. The smaller States might have smaller populations but it appears unjustified to me to consider their importance in the national politics in lesser terms.

Bharatiya Janata Party too had formed government in Uttar Pradesh. It worked

for good governance and development in the State. What were the significant contributions of the BJP government in the State which the party would like to project before the electorate?

It was a big achievement that there were no charges of corruption against our government and I feel every government, chief minister and minister should stay away from corruption. If any chief minister or minister faces the charges of corruption then he and his government loses the credibility and faith of the people. There is nothing more valuable than credibility in the life of a human being. One should stay away from such situations. Every chief minister works as per his vision and I also worked for the development of the State. But I don't want to flaunt whatever I've done. But so far

reservation is concerned I just want to mention that I'd given reservations to Muslims also, those who were included in the list recommended by the Mandal Commission.

In the last five years the State was ruled by Mayawati. What are the issues which you will take to the people?

Common man is badly hurt by corruption. There is complete break down of development works. The law and order situation has gone from bad to worse. There is not even a semblance of governance in Uttar Pradesh. There is misrule everywhere. It can be understood from the fact that thousands of crores were spent on statues and parks alone. I feel that had that amount been spent with some purpose then lacs of unemployed youth could have got employment. The electricity crisis has also deepened. For development, I believe, the first condition is the availability of electricity, road and water. But the government has failed to fulfill even the first condition and that too when there was a stable government for the full five years.

Congress is also striving hard in these elections. While it is leading the UPA government at the centre, black money, corruption and Lokpal have become big issues. Do you think that these will have any impact in the elections?

Congress is fighting for its political existence. I don't see Congress getting any success in these elections. The kind of corruption that prevailed in the last five-seven years of Congress rule, country had never witnessed corruption of such magnitude in the history of independent India. I don't believe that it has resulted in loss of credibility for the Congress alone. It doesn't matter if credibility of a party is lost but the main concern is that the credibility of the country has been lost. If the Supreme Court would not have been forced to intervene against the people involved in corruption and the Congress had itself taken steps against them then I feel the people would have reposed faith on the Congress to some extent and the credibility of the country had not been lost in the entire world on the question of

corruption. Congress should have acted on its own. It would have sent a message that its intention is not doubtful, a handful of people were responsible for corruption. But it has not happened.

Samajwadi Party has also ruled the State recently. BSP is now ruling the State and Congress is ruling at the centre. In such a situation how BJP plans to present itself as an alternative?

I feel that if people compare the achievements of all the three government then they will naturally accept BJP. SP-BSP chiefs are under CBI investigation in disproportionate assets cases. What more to say if *Gangotri* itself gets polluted.

In the matter of injustice meted out to the farmers of Bhatta-Parsaul you raised a strong voice of protest. What is the condition of the farmers under BSP rule?

The BSP government has no policy for farmers. They have been an exploited lot and big builders have gained from land acquisitions.

A provision of minority reservation has been made within OBC quota. What will you say on this?

There should be no reservation on the ground of religion. During my chief ministership I had made provisions of reservations for extremely backward and dalit sections. I never discriminated on the basis of religion in this. The recommendation made by Mandal Commission for the Muslim castes were accepted and they were included in extremely backward section instead of backward or other backward sections with a provision of 14% reservation for them. Recently I read in Pioneer and other newspapers that Aligarh Muslim University students have said that Rajnath Singh formula should be implemented for reservation.

Party is contesting Uttaratkhand elections under your guidance. What is the situation there?

We will form the government in Uttrakahnd again. This is because of the good works have been done by Nishankji and Khanduriji there. On becoming chief minister, Khanduriji has increased the credibility of the government. He has taken remarkable steps by enacting Lokayukta Bill and by implementing

BJP will provide 2 lakh jobs and 10-12 per cent annual economic growth : Rajnath Singh

From Our Correspondent

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party released its manifesto for the State Assembly elections in Dehradun on January 17, 2012 for assembly polls pledging to bring a Whistleblower Act, provide agriculture loans at 2 per cent and create 10 lakh jobs to youths.

The document also pledges to attract Rs 50,000 crore investments and make the state power surplus. Addressing on the occasion former BJP National President Shri Rajnath Singh Shri BC Khanduri as the Chief Ministerial candidate said that BJP would get a majority due to the clean image of

Shri Khanduri and the good governance he has provided.

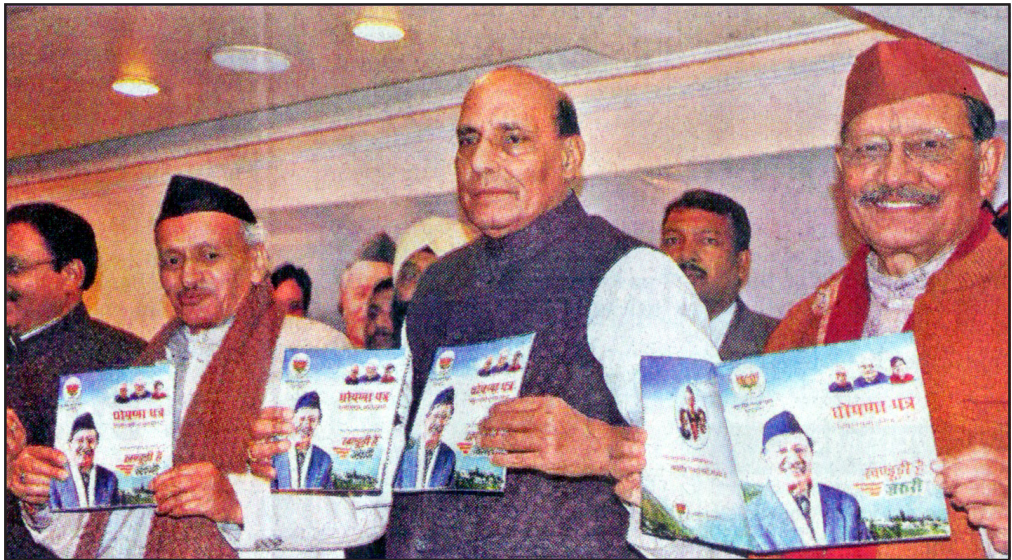
Shri Singh said the BJP if returned to power would usher in an economic growth of 10 to 12 per cent.

Shri Rajnath Singh said the BJP government has fulfilled 90 per cent of its previous poll promises. 184 announcements have been implemented and remaining 22 were under implementation stages, he added.

He said this is not merely an election manifesto but it is our pledge paper and unlike the Congress which has promised to give unemployment allowances, Shri Singh said, BJP would not give such doles and instead create job opportunities for youth. He further said in this regard, party pledged to create 2 lakh jobs both in government and private sectors every year.

The BJP manifesto promises to create two lakh jobs every year by promoting big, small and cottage industries and promote agriculture and horticulture by giving loans at two per cent interest for farming activities. It also promised to issue Shilpi Credit Cards for artisans and lay high class roads.

The manifesto also promises to decide on the issue of a



On corruption, Shri Singh said BJP would bring a Whistleblower Act to give security to all those who come forward to expose corruption in the State.

This is in continuance of various steps already been taken by the government like passage of Lokayukta Bill, enacting citizen charters, transparent transfer policy and setting up of anti-corruption department, Shri Singh added.

permanent State capital, declare film production an industry, develop the concept of Non-Resident Uttarakhandis and make the State power-sufficient in five years.

Among others Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri B.C. Khanduri, former Chief Ministers Shri B.S. Koshiyari and Shri R.P. Nishank all the office bearers of the party, senior leaders were present during the release of the party manifesto. ■

Yatra will expose partisan attitude of UPA govt towards Madhya Pradesh : Shivraj Singh Chouhan

From Our Correspondent

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan flagged off the *Balram Sandesh Yatra* in Bhopal on January 16. It was organised by the farmers Cell of the party and farmer volunteers from 200 villages participated in the *Yatra*.

Addressing a huge gathering of party *karyakartas* and masses on the Shri Chouhan said, The *Balram Sandesh Yatra* would solve double purpose, as on the one hand it would make aware the farmers of the State about the revolutionary initiative taken by the State Government to make agriculture a profitable business and on the other hand they would come to know about the generous agriculture loan for them at just 1 per cent interest by the State Government.

Shri Chouhan further said that this sort of generous loan scheme for farmers does not exist neither in any other State of the country nor in any other part of the world. Not only this but the State Government provided bonus of Rs 100 per quintal on wheat and Rs 50 per quintal on support price that was lauded by the National Development Council, he added.

He said that the development works carried out in the State have disturbed the opposition Congress and due to political bias the Congress through its Government at the

Centre was providing step motherly treatment to Madhya Pradesh. Attributing electricity and manure shortage in the State to the step motherly treatment of the Centre the Chief Minister said that the *Balram Sandesh Yatra* would also expose the partisan attitude of the Centre towards the State. Former Chief Minister and Senior BJP leader Shri Kailash

Secretary and Madhya Pradesh in-charge Shri Anant Kumar flagged off the *Balram Sandesh Yatra* in Indore. Addressing the party workers on the occasion he said that the farmers of the State were not alone and the entire nation was with them.

Shri Kumar said that this was a unique way of Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and



Joshi also addressed the party workers on the occasion. He said that the woes of the farmers in Madhya Pradesh were due to the Congress and the farmers of the State should know this.

Similarly, State BJP President Shri Prabhat Jha flagged off the party workers of the *Yatra* in Ujjain of the party.

**Entire nation is with you:
Ananth Kumar**

BJP National General

State president Shri Prabhat Jha to reach farmers and hoped that this unique step would certainly enter the Guinness Book of World Records. He said that the State Government was devoted to the cause of farmers and mentioned the schemes of the State Government run in the interest of the farmers. The Madhya Pradesh Government is in fact a farmers' Government, he added. ■

BJP National President launches 'Telangana Poru Yatra'

Support BJP, realise Telangana : Nitin Gadkari

From Our Correspondent

Bharatiya Janata Party National President Shri Nitin Gadkari has urged the people of Telangana to support BJP wholeheartedly in the 2014 elections to realise their decades-old demand of statehood to the region. He vowed that it is only the BJP that will achieve Telangana and no

the process for its formation on December 9, 2009.

"You finish the Congress with a resolve to find a solution to all your problems including water to your farm fields and work to all needy hands. We promise you to give Telangana if you vote back BJP to power", Shri Nitin Gadkari said. He pointed

session of Parliament. He reminded the people how BJP had created three States without any fuss when it was in power at the Centre.

Stating that BJP was in power in 9 States and with the support of 36 per cent of the country's population, Shri Gadkari exuded confidence that

the party would come to power in 2014 and would give Telangana. He blamed the Congress and TDP for all problems and backwardness of Telangana and attributed the large number of farmers' suicides due to lack of irrigation facilities in the region.

BJP State President Shri G. Kishan Reddy, who earlier launched his *Yatra* in Krishna in the village bearing the same name, accused the Congress and TDP of adopting four-tongued strategy and two-eye theory on Telangana.

This *Yatra* was aimed at exposing the Congress and TDP and awakening people on the issue of Telangana, he said.

Telangana Joint Action Committee (T-JAC) Chairman Shri M. Kodandaram, founder of Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi Manda Shri Krishna Madiga, Shri Nagam Janardhan Reddy of Telangana Nagara Samithi and others also spoke. ■

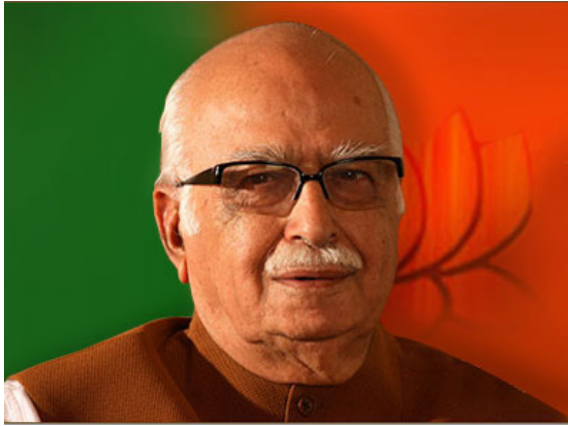


other party can do it.

Participating in the *Telangana Poru Yatra* taken up by the BJP State president Shri G. Kishan Reddy in Makthal, Mahabubnagar District on January 19, 2012 Shri Nitin Gadkari reminded the people how UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had dashed their hopes of separate State after Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram had announced

out that it was because of the people's support the Congress got in Andhra Pradesh, including Telangana, the party could form the government at the Centre.

The vote for Congress would be vote against Telangana, he cautioned people and reiterated that the BJP would support the Telangana Bill in Parliament if it was introduced by the Congress led UPA government at the Centre in the coming budget



A Landmark Publication

By L.K Advani

From blog.lkadvani.in

Hearty kudos to R.K. Mehra, his son Kapish Mehra and Rupa Publications for having published their 11-volume set of Encyclopedia of Hinduism, which Indrajit Hazra, the reviewer of these volumes has described in the Hindustan Times as “a startlingly good treasure trunk for any one interested in the history of ideas to dip into.”

Hazra quotes R.K. Mehra telling him that he considers the Encyclopedia to be “the most important publication of his career.” The H.T. has displayed the review prominently under the bold heading: “Hinduism is an Intellectual System, not a Religion”. The above caption is a telling remark picked from the comments made by Dr. Kapil Kapoor, a former Jawaharlal Nehru University professor who as Editor-in-Chief of the series, has been editing, collating and proof-reading each entry in these volumes.

The former JNU pro-vice chancellor and professor of English who also taught comparative linguistics at the University has observed: “Hinduism has no sacred text.

It is also deeply and widely interpretative.”

The inspiration for the Encyclopedia of Hinduism came about following a Sahasra Shivalinga Abhishekam at the Hindu-Jain Temple in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, in 1987. The idea was conceived by Swami Chidanand Saraswati, President of Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh (Uttarakhand). Several revered spiritual leaders attended this Abhishekam, including Swamiji’s Gurudev, Swami Dharmanandji.

On November 21, 1987, the India Heritage Research Foundation was formed with Swami Chidanand as Chairman, and Sadhvi Bhagwati Saraswati as Secretary to execute this idea of preparing an authoritative, comprehensive and up-to-date Encyclopedia of Hinduism. Swamiji selected Dr. Sheshagiri Rao, a renowned and respected Professor at the University of Virginia, as Chief Editor of the Encyclopedia.

Between 1987 and 1992 Swamiji and Dr. Rao traveled around the globe meeting eminent scholars of Hinduism and Indic studies. An international team of hundreds

of scholars was established.

The initial board of editors and associate editors were selected in 1989 by Dr. KL Seshagiri Rao, Chief Editor and Dr. Vidya Niwas Mishra, Editor-in-Chief, India. Regional directors during various stages added more scholars as necessary. A team of four executive editors in the USA and Canada – Dr. Subhash Kak, Dr. V.V. Raman, Dr. Rama Rao Pappu and Dr. T.S. Rukmani-served diligently reviewing, editing and even rewriting articles where necessary.

In 1998, Honorable Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Prime Minister of India at the time, graced an event held in New York by IHRF, on behalf of the Encyclopedia. Shri Vajpayee spoke effusively in praise of the undertaking, saying, “Your undertaking is rightly called the ‘Project of the Third Millennium.’ This is a monumental undertaking. It is indeed a Jnana Yajna. Hence, all those who have offered their time, talent and scholarship as ahuti for the success of this yajna deserve our heartist applause and felicitations.”

In early 2006, Dr. Kapil Kapoor, Professor of English and

Concurrent Professor of Sanskrit Studies who had just retired as Rector, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi took over as Editor-in-Chief.

In a brilliant 44-page scholarly Foreword by Dr. Karan Singh to the first Volume the opening paragraph says:

“The religion that has come to be known as Hinduism is certainly the oldest and most varied of all the great religions of the world. The word ‘Hinduism’ itself is a geographical term based upon the Sanskrit name for the great river that runs across the northern boundaries of India, known as the Sindhu. For those living on the other side of this river, the entire region to the south-east of the Sindhu, which the Greeks called the Indus, came to be known as the land of the Hindus, and the vast spectrum of faiths that flourished here acquired the generic name Hinduism. In fact, Hinduism calls itself the Sanatana Dharma, the eternal faith, because it is based not upon the teachings of a single preceptor but on the collective wisdom and inspiration of great seers and sages from the very dawn of Indian civilization.”

Dr. Karan Singh's closing comments are:

“The long awaited publication of a massive eleven-volume Encyclopedia of Hinduism is a major publishing event. Many years of scholarship, organization and devotion have gone into the preparation of what will be a landmark in the history of Hindu research. While there are many excellent books on various aspects and texts of Hinduism, and also some attempts at a wider presentation,

nothing of the dimensions of this Encyclopedia has ever been attempted before. This will surely become an essential acquisition not only by libraries and universities around the world, but also for individual Hindus who are interested in owning this magnificent set of books.

The editors, contributors and publishers have all earned great spiritual merit by producing this Encyclopedia. It is my sincere hope that it will lead to a better understanding of the great Hindu religion, not only among Hindus themselves but among all those who are interested in the study of religions and the Interfaith Movement.”

Indrajit Hazra opens his piece (H.T. January 14, 2012) with his conversation with R.K. Mehra, Chairman, Rupa Publications Group, “over a fabulous spread of homemade vegetarian food.” While Hazra was hardly able to conceal his

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**“The long awaited publication of a massive eleven-volume Encyclopedia of Hinduism is a major publishing event. Many years of scholarship, organization and devotion have gone into the preparation of what will be a landmark in the history of Hindu research. While there are many excellent books on various aspects and texts of Hinduism, and also some attempts at a wider presentation, nothing of the dimensions of this Encyclopedia has ever been attempted before.**

reservations about the venture, Rajan Mehra sought to impress upon him about the kind of u n c o m p r o m i s i n g “Professionalism” that had gone into the production of this giant compendium.

A self-confessed “non-practising Hindu atheist”, Hazra seems to have shed all his initial cynicism after interacting with Dr. Kapil Kapoor who told him “Even most Brahmin scholars don’t know about most of the matters that they pass off as Hindu. Like nuclear science, Hinduism is essentially a system of knowledge and this encyclopedia attempts to explain various elements for both the scholar as well as the student of ideas.”

**Hazra writes in this review:**

“The proof of the pudding, of course, is in the eating. So it is to the encyclopedia that I, a non-practising Hindu atheist, go to. The format is straightforward and along the lines of Encyclopedia Britannica. Starting from ‘Abadhita-Jnana’ in Volume 1 (“non-contradictable knowledge...”) to ‘Zoroaster (Zarathustra)’ (the founder of Zoroastrianism...) ten volumes later, the entries are crisp, provide background and foreground, and come with a bibliography (the entry on Abadhita-Jnana includes JF Staal’s 1961 book, Advaita and Neoplatonism).

The production is excellent, as is the quality of images that are scattered across the volumes. With entries that include the ‘Dhammapada’ (the main text of Theravada Buddhism), the ‘Chipko Movement’ (the organized environmental



movement to resist the destruction of forests in India'), as well as the 'Saura Mandala' (Solar System), clearly, this is an encyclopedia that doesn't define 'Hinduism' in any narrow, proselytizing way."

#### TAILPIECE

For all lovers of democracy in India today, 18th of January, is a date which cannot be forgotten. It marked the beginning of the end of the darkest chapter in the history of Indian democracy. On this day in 1977, the then Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi decided to hold the Lok Sabha elections which were due to be held in 1976, but which by virtue of the Emergency, had been deferred. My Jail Diary published under the title A Prisoner's Scrap-book records: "It is around 1.30 in the afternoon when the Bangalore Jail Superintendent comes to my room and says that a wireless message has arrived from New Delhi revoking my detention order (I had been arrested 17 months earlier, on June 26, 1975)" Just before leaving jail I was handed a heap of letters not delivered to me earlier.

There were about 600 letters mostly from abroad. Quite a few of them were Christmas or New Year Greeting Cards. But there was a line or two inscribed on each.

Here is a sample – a Christmas Card from one Laurie Hendricks from Amsterdam in Holland. She wrote: "Freedom and hope don't go hand in hand.

They can steal your freedom but can't take your hope". Yes, they stole the freedom of 600 millions, but they just could not destroy their hope !.

In the elections held in March, 1977, the people of India asserted themselves, and restored Democracy, which had come under eclipse for nineteen months. ■

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## National Security cannot be ignored in the preparation of UID

*Statement made by BJP National General Secretary & Chief Spokesperson Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad on 21 January 2012 on UID and National Security*

Confusion, chaos, differences and turf war has become the defining and disturbing feature of nearly all decisions of the UPA Government. Ministers don't agree, ministries differ and there is also serious disconnect between the Congress and the allies on many policy initiatives. The latest in this saga of uncertainty is the turf war between the ministry of home and the planning commission on the preparation of Unique Identification Number (UID) also popularly known as Aadhar being undertaken by Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) under the overall control and supervision of the planning commission.

Under the Citizenship Act, 1955 elaborate provisions prescribe as to who is a citizen of India, what is the qualification for the same and who can get registered as a citizen. Under section 14-A of the said Act the Central Government has to compulsorily register every citizen of India and issue national identity card to him. Under this provision the Central Government is required to maintain a National Register of Indian Citizens and issue National Identity Card to him. This is a legal obligation.

In this background the insistence by the planning commission to enroll identities beyond its initial mandate of 20 Cr. to ensure benefit of welfare programmes to the right beneficiary raises disturbing questions. Can the issue of development be divorced from securities issues? Welfare programmes are financed from tax payer money. Why should it go to those who have got no legal status to stay in India? There are already reports that in many parts of the country including north –east prominently, the illegal immigrants have manipulated documents to corner benefits meant for the poor as also voting rights. The security concern obviously remains most important. In this light the turf war between the Planning Commission and the Home Ministry on such a sensitive issue is indeed very unfortunate. In this state of confusion the BJP would like to raise the following questions :

- ◆ By what time frame the National Register of Indian Citizen (Popularly known as National Population Register-NPR) will be ready?
- ◆ Is the Government taking proper measures to ensure that security issue is being addressed properly while preparing the NPR?
- ◆ What is the "Sanctity and integrity of the data" being collected by the UIDAI?
- ◆ What is the methodology adopted by the UIDAI because it concerns only residents of India and therefore serious apprehension exists that any one and get one self registered in any name and address. What indeed is the security audit of the data being collected by UIDAI?

The BJP demands that all these issues must be clarified immediately and UIDAI should not be rushed through without addressing serious national security concerns. ■

# States ruled by Opposition parties denied funds : Narendra Modi

Sparks flew at the 10<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Jaipur when Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi used a plenary session to censure the Congress led United Progressive Alliance government at the Centre for what he described as a complete neglect of the States ruled by Opposition parties and denial of funding and resources for their development on January 10, 2012.



concluding day of PBD-2012 to discuss the institutional support offered by them to the non-resident Indians Shri Modi kept aside the copy of his prepared speech in English and launched a scathing attack on the Congress led Centre, suggesting that it was only the Congress-ruled States like Rajasthan which got the

Addressing the session on "Global Indian: State initiatives and opportunities" on the

"blessings" of the Union government, while routine requests from other States failed to elicit any response. ▶

## Jharkhand Government will support all NRI investors : Arjun Munda

Addressing a gathering of NRIs during interactive session of the 10<sup>th</sup> NRI Day in Jaipur on January 10, Jharkhand Chief Ministers Shri Arjun Munda tried to convince them to invest in the State. Prior to this, Shri Munda inaugurated the Jharkhand pavilion showcasing potential of the State.



"I welcome you all in Jharkhand, a land of simple and peace loving people rich in tradition and culture," Shri Munda said. Explaining potential of Jharkhand from mines and minerals to industry and tourism; he said that State offers a range of opportunities. By calling Jharkhand biggest producer of oxygen, Shri Munda praised the State for its ecological balance and beauty. Parasnath

is an important religious site for Jain followers. We are working overtime to develop religious tourism as well as eco-tourism in Jharkhand, the CM said.

The CM said, Jharkhand as a knowledge hub is in the process of making. We aim to develop excellent human

resource to accelerate growth along with a fast moving set-up.

Shri Munda welcomed the suggestion of Dr Mohan Kumar Gautam from Netherland who urged him to protect and promote cultural traits of Jharkhand. Ranveer Nayar of France suggested Munda bring a documentary on Jharkhand. Bhagchand Soni sought his view over the possibility of starting adventure tourism in Jharkhand.

The officials of the State Government accompanying the Chief Minister, the Chief Secretary, Development Commissioner and Secretary Industry Department explained to the NRIs about mega projects like industrial park, software technology Park and others started by the State Government. ■

►He affirmed that whatever his State had achieved in terms of infrastructure development, affluence and living standards, it was from its own resources. We are not fortunate enough to get something from the Centre or the Prime Minister. We have to do everything on our own.

Shri Modi said the remarkable development in Gujarat and the double digit GDP growth it has been enjoying for the last 10 years was possible because of the think big approach.

"Scale, speed and skills" were the three pillars of this approach that had the potential to make the 21st century the century of India, he said.

He said I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister last year. Usually what will a Chief Minister write to a Prime Minister? He will seek funds. But I never write letters seeking funds. This letter was asking the Prime Minister to allot a satellite for Gujarat. But they were confused on what to do, he said.

Shri Modi said Gujarat through a full-fledged transponder of 36 MHz Q-band on Indian Space Communication Satellite will implement long distance education system across 12 sectors at a time that will be used to improve governance, distance learning programme and telemedicine.

After his half-an-hour-long speech, the audience, comprising industrial magnates and leading businessmen from 60 countries, gave a standing ovation to Shri Modi. The session was largely devoted to the theme of India's growth story shifting to the States. ■

## 'Congress following a divisive agenda' BJP opposed to it : Arun Jaitley

Accusing the Congress of following a divisive agenda, the Leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha Arun Jaitley said that the party is facing a leadership crisis. Interacting with media persons on January 13, 2012 in Chandigarh he said, "At the national level in over seven years, the Congress led UPA government has nothing much to offer...There is a leadership crisis. Decision making

is not at its place and Congress is following divisive agenda", he said



The allegations of corruption are unprecedented in the UPA regime, he said, adding that the leadership in the Congress had lost its credibility. The Congress will pay a huge price for its divisive agenda in the ensuing Assembly polls in the five states, he said.

"In Uttar Pradesh, the Congress is trying to implement a divisive (quota within quota) agenda for which the society will have to pay a lot," he said. He

said that the BJP was openly opposing the divisive agenda of Congress, whereas the SP and BSP were not coming in open against it. "The policy of sub-quota by Congress is for its vested interests," he said, adding that the BJP would not allow the Congress to implement its divisive agenda.

On the issue of Batla house encounter in Delhi, he said that it was an excellent performance of intelligence which broke the backbone of Indian Mujhaeden. However, the Congress is double tongued on the issue like many other issues; he said referring to the stand of Home Minister P Chidambaram and Congress General Secretary Digvijay Singh on the three-year old encounter.

Shri Jaitley said, "The strategy of the Congress and UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi will keep quiet and party's general secretary Digvijay Singh will do questioning on important issues which hurts the country,".

Shri Jaitley also lashed out at the functioning of the CBI and said that it had lost its credibility. On the issue of ensuing polls in Punjab, he said the party will start campaigning after the withdrawal procedure is over.

He further said that the BJP's experience with its ally SAD in the last five years was satisfying. The SAD and BJP supplement each other with SAD having base in rural pockets and BJP in urban areas and the alliance between BJP and SAD was above political issue and it's a social alliance, he said. (FOC) ■

# E-governance brings transparency

By Rajit Sengupta

*The SWAGAT initiative has been lauded by the United Nations.*

Gujarat is proving to be the frontline state in the implementation of policies, projects and infrastructure for e-governance. In 2010, the United Nations recognised the Gujarat government's effort to promote transparency through e-governance and gave it the UN Public Service Award (2nd place winner).

The State government readily shares data with the State's residents through department websites that act as "information tools". The government has also adopted innovative, constructive and result-oriented policies for the promotion of e-governance.

It ranks first in India in making e-governance functional in all state municipalities and municipal corporations. The State government's Science and Technology Department acts as the nodal agency to make government-citizen interface more transparent and efficient.

The focus is also on the growth and development of new and emerging technology areas so that these services can be offered to citizens at convenient locations, at a low response time.

Gujarat promoted its e-readiness initiatives in its IT policy 2006-2011. In one such successful initiative, Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Distance

Teachers' Training Programme for elementary school teachers by using satellite technology.

Over 1.94 lakh teachers in over 4,000 receiving centres participated in the session, and got to watch and listen to eminent scholars, as well as interact with them.

The backbone of the e-governance project is the GSWAN (Gujarat State Wide Area Network). It connects seven districts on 8 mbps lines, 18 districts on 4 mbps lines and one district with 2 mbps line, to the state centre at Gandhinagar, using leased circuits provided by BSNL, Reliance and Tata Tele Services. As many as 225 talukas are linked with 26 district headquarters on 2 mbps leased circuits. On an average, 70 departmental offices at district locations and five offices at taluka locations have been connected through GSWAN.

The network facilitates uninterrupted and easy IP-based video-conferencing among various state government offices. Over 20,015 email IDs have been created for government officers all over the state, and over 255 websites started for various departments.

## E-governance projects

SWAGAT Online (State Wide Attention to Grievances through Application of Technology): It is an innovative concept that enables direct

communication between citizens and the CM. The project is hosted every fourth Thursday of the month in the presence of CM Narendra Modi, along with all department heads and district representatives in the Jansampark department of the Chief Minister's Office.

The common man's grievances against the services provided by the state government are logged in, transmitted and made available online to the officers concerned, who have to reply within four hours. (In February 2011, villages were connected to the central CMO via computers.) The departments have to be ready with their replies before 3 p.m., when the CM holds his video conferences with all the districts involved.

Applicants are called one by one and the CM examines each complaint in detail. The information sent by the department is also reviewed online in the presence of the complainant and the collector/district development officer/superintendent of police and other officials.

Attempts are made to offer a fair and acceptable solution the same day and no applicant has ever left without any firm reply to his grievance.

Each case is recorded in the SWAGAT database. For implementing this project, the CMO received the United

Nations Public Service Award (UNPSA).

The Gujarat CMO is the only CMO in the country to have acquired an ISO certification for its processes in January 2009. The certification was renewed in January 2010, according to the latest standards.

Because of the innovative use of technology, which injects accountability in the government machinery, international institutes such as the Commonwealth Telecom Organisation and the University of Manchester consider SWAGAT to be an excellent model for e-transparency.

**E-Gram or Vishvagram:** On the birthday of Subhas Chandra Bose on 23 January, Mr Modi launched the E-Gram project from Haripura, from where Bose had given a call for freedom. The project provides internet connectivity to 13,716 gram panchayats and 6,000 citizen common service centres. The project facilitates video conferencing at all villages, issuing documents and certificates and application forms for various development and welfare schemes, payment of electricity bills, etc.

**E-Dhara:** Under this scheme, the Gujarat government has digitised the state land records.

**Health Management Information System (HMIS):** The HMIS aims to build trust and confidence among citizens for general hospitals by providing efficient and quality health services through IT application. The project was conceptualised by the Department of Health and Family Welfare to provide standard clinical and diagnostic tools, hospital management tools and integration of management information at the state level so as to ensure online review and monitoring.

**E-City:** The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation is the first municipal corporation in India to improve the delivery of municipal services such as birth and death registration, building plan, primary health, education, city cleanliness, water supply etc through e-governance. For this, the civic body established six city civic centres in five zones of Ahmedabad and created 43 ward civic offices, all interconnected via intranet/internet.

**IWDMS (Integrated Workflow and Document**

**Management System):** The project has been implemented by automating government functions and processes at all levels. It provides documents, workflow and knowledge management and a collaborative environment, delivering an electronic workplace that improves government productivity.

**Sachivalya Integrated Communication Network (SICN):** This is a network owned by the Gujarat government for voice, data and video communication needs. Asia's biggest government network, it connects almost all government boards and corporations offices in Gandhinagar.

**ICT and e-readiness initiatives:** Gujarat is an aspiring leader with e-readiness initiatives a part of its IT policy for 2006-11. All departments have prepared their IT Action Plan, which has a one-year focus and a five-year perspective. A fixed part of the budget is committed to IT related activities. Each department has a chief information officer, who reports directly to the secretary of the department. ■

(Courtesy: The Sunday Guardian)

Continued from page 13

Citizen Charter to remove corruption.  
**Lately there have been mass movements by Baba Ramdev on black money and by Anna Hazare on Lokpal. The central government tried to suppress these movements. What kind of impact of these movements do you see in the assembly elections taking place in five States?**

I don't see the movements led by Baba Ramdev and Anna Hazare from the angle of political profit or loss. I also believe that no political party should take these movements from

political loss-gain perspective. For instance, the movements against corruption, for swadeshi or for the defense of Indian culture and pride should not be viewed from political angle.

**In view of the elections to five State assemblies what is your message to the people and party activists?**

I will appeal to the people so that Bharatiya Janata Party gets their support and faith. We will strive hard to fulfill their aspirations and hopes. ■

lesson to BSP for betraying the faith they had reposed in her in 2007.

**Congress:** The Congress party is making a desperate bid for regaining its lost ground in UP. However, it is doing so without in any way atoning for the sins that rendered it a marginal party in UP politics. A party that is presiding over the most corrupt regime that India has seen at the Centre since 1947 can hardly be trusted when it promises to fight corruption in UP. A party whose government is responsible for the unprecedented price rise cannot be trusted to work for the welfare of the aam aadmi in UP.

Compared to other parties that have governed UP, the Bharatiya Janata Party has a good record of clean, honest, pro-people and development-oriented governance. The BJP's first government in 1991-92 is even today remembered as one of the best governments in UP's history.

The BJP has entered the electoral fray in 2012 to seek the people's mandate to form the next government. We pledge to make the New Uttar Pradesh an exemplar of Balanced Development, Prosperity and Security for All, and Resurgence of the Glorious Heritage of Arts, Culture and Spirituality.

**Our approach to some important issues**

Good Governance and

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**Clean Politics:** The BJP is solemnly committed to practice and promote Good Governance (sushasan) whenever and wherever the people give us their mandate, be it in panchayat, municipal, assembly or parliament elections. We pledge to be resolute in our efforts to rid governance in UP of the poison of corruption, which has rendered the entire governance machinery weak, ineffective and insensitive. While cleaning up a staircase, one cannot begin from the bottom; one can only start from the top. Similarly, Our efforts to make governance corruption-free will begin from the top, and extend to all levels.

**Integral Development** without social and regional disparities: The disparities in UP, both social and regional, are stark. The Poorvanchal and Bundelkhand regions of the state are the most backward, socially and economically. Central UP presents a picture of either stagnation or slow growth. As a region, western UP is the most prosperous, partly due to the development of sugarcane-dominated agriculture and more recently due to the emergence of Noida and Ghaziabad as industrial and business hubs due to their proximity to Delhi. However, even in the rapidly urbanizing places in Western UP we see new forms of disparity, with the

poor and working people pushed to the margins of development.

**The BJP believes that the time has come to redefine and re-state the true principles and determinants of development. This has become necessary in the context of not only UP but the entire country.**

What exactly is development? The answer to this development shows that our party has a distinct vision of India's development, which is consistent with our distinctive spiritual and cultural ethos and our understanding of the purpose of human life.

For example, in the developmental vision of Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh, UP would be adjudged to have become "developed" if the glitz and glitter of Delhi get replicated all the way from Noida in the west to Ballia in the east. In other words, development for the Congress means creating enclaves for the rich all over the state (and the country), with the rest of the population playing a secondary and supportive roles to serve the needs of the elite. The Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party have no development vision at all, except that they would like their own leaders and their families to join the exclusive club of millionaires and

billionaires.

In contrast, the BJP believes in the balanced development of society, with benefits and opportunities of growth equally available to all sections, especially to the poor first. Consistent with the philosophy of Antyodaya, we believe that the "last man" in society should have the first priority in any developmental policy, plan or scheme. Moreover, the "last man" should not merely be a passive recipient of the doles given by the government, but an active participant in the development process, exercising his rights and duties as an aware and responsible citizen.

Every section of our working population is a repository of amazing skills, scientific knowledge and cultural-artistic traditions. These must not be neglected, much less allowed to fade away, in the mad race for "development" that apes the West's material civilization. UP's landscape of small, medium and cottage industries shows an incredible range of native strengths in industry, crafts and artisanship — silk saris of Banaras; carpet weaving in Bhadohi; metalware of Meerut and Moradabad; lock industry in Aligarh; zari work in Bareilly; perfumes of Kannauj; textiles and leather craft of Kanpur; chikan embroidery

of Lucknow; bangles and glass works of Ferozabad; ceramics of Khurja; wooden products of Pilibhit and Saharanpur; black pottery of Azamgarh; and terracotta of Gorakhpur. Some of the finest architectural creations in India were built by the people of UP. The farmers of UP, blessed as they are with fertile land irrigated by many rivers, were pioneers in some of the most advanced farm practices, which is evident even today in many pockets.

All these industries and crafts, along with agriculture, employ a majority of the working population in UP. How can any vision of UP's development ignore the needs, problems and potential of our kisans, craftsmen, artisans, workers and native entrepreneurs? In the BJP's vision of development, we see the growth of a harmonious eco-system in which all these creative people co-exist, cooperate and collectively progress by combining their old strengths with the newest advances in Information Technology and other areas of science and technology.

A no less important component of the BJP's Development Vision is that we see man's material or economic progress as not an end in itself, but as an essential means to a higher end — the social, cultural,

artistic and spiritual flowering of the human potential. As propounded by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya in his 'Integral Humanism' treatise, true development means the balanced development of the individual, family, community, nation and the entire human race in harmony with the entire web of God's creation in the universe.

Guided by this vision, the BJP will radically alter the present West-influenced development paradigm in India (and in UP) by evolving a New Swadeshi paradigm of development which takes into account the new realities and opportunities that have emerged both nationally and globally. This paradigm respects Mother Nature, is eco-friendly and hence is conducive to sustainable development. It rejects mindless consumerism, while ensuring the satisfaction of the basic needs of all human beings (food, clothing, shelter, work and leisure for cultural pursuits). Specifically, this New Swadeshi paradigm of development will aim at creating attractive and joyful livelihood opportunities for every able-bodied person in UP by —

(a) r e j u v e n a t i n g agriculture, animal husbandry, rural infrastructure and the rural economy as a whole;

- (b) promoting agro-processing industries and a wide range of necessary services for local employment generation and wealth creation;
- (c) boosting traditional industries and crafts for meeting local, national and export needs;
- (d) encouraging both native and external investments in the modernization of the basic infrastructure of power, roads, railway, inland waterways, airports;
- (e) accelerating the balanced growth of social infrastructure of education, healthcare, clean drinking water, sanitation, leisure and recreation, benefiting every section of society;
- (f) balanced and environmentally sustainable development of urban areas with modern and aesthetic town planning (as against the present haphazard and chaotic growth of our towns and cities), decent housing for all, efficient public transport (as against the present one-sided emphasis on private transport);
- (g) promoting a wide network of modern and hi-tech industries, with a focus on creating world-class human resources in UP itself in R&D, management, etc;

- (h) encouraging the native traditions of voluntary work, compassionate social service and philanthropy, which strengthen social cohesion, through specific policy measures such as incentivizing the active participation of senior citizens in guiding communities;
  - (i) giving the highest priority to the protection and promotion of UP's multi-hued heritage of arts, culture, music, literature, architecture and spirituality; and
  - (j) developing a distinctive system and infrastructure of quality education, from primary to university levels, which is accessible to all and which is relevant to the needs of the above-stated holistic development of UP and India. To recall the stirring words of Swami Vivekananda, true education is that whose goal is "Man-Making and Nation-Building". Existing educational institutions will be reformed, and new institutions will be created to fulfill the growing aspirations of our children and youth.
- Our Development Vision for UP attaches the greatest importance to the need for cleaning up the Holy Ganga, and all other rivers and water bodies in the state, and restoring

them to their pristine purity. This cannot be done by the usual and useless bureaucratic measures such as the Ganga Action Plan. Success in such initiatives comes only with active and enthusiastic people's participation, with local communities developing a sense of ownership and responsibility towards such projects. This is indeed possible since our people, cutting across caste and community affiliations, have a strong civilisational attachment to Mother Ganga, other water bodies, and similar holy places. Therefore, the BJP will draw up a mission to encourage respected and widely influential religious leaders in the state, representing the broad spectrum of society, to guide and cooperate with the government in this sacred task.

Similarly, we assure the people of UP that our government will build the best of infrastructure and amenities at every pilgrimage centre in the state — Ayodhya, Kashi, Mathura, Naimisharanya, Sarnath, Kaushambi, Sravasti and also places that are sacred to Muslims. Alongside, we shall also develop all important places of Patriotic Pilgrimage that are associated with the heroes and martyrs of 1857 War of Independence and the subsequent struggle for India's independence.

**Social Justice with Social Harmony:** The fragmentation of society on caste, sub-caste and religious lines in Uttar Pradesh is a matter of deep concern. This has been greatly exacerbated by the casteist politics of SP and BSP on the one hand, and by the politics of minorityism practiced by these two parties as well as by the Congress. This has not only badly damaged social cohesion and harmony, but it has also had a debilitating effect on governance.

**The BJP recognizes the existence of castes, sub-castes and religion-based communities in our society. We are not against any caste, we are against casteism. We vehemently reject all notions of high and low on caste lines. Our credo is: Sab jaati samaan, Sab jaati mahaan. The BJP stands resolutely in favour of social justice, which means elimination of all kinds of disabilities and injustices that people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Tribes and Other Backward Classes have suffered due to historical reasons. Legislative and institutional measures, including reservations, are necessary to achieve**

**this goal.**

However, the BJP emphasizes four points that are necessary to be kept in mind for pursuing the goal of social justice. Firstly, the very pursuit of social justice gets weakened if it is sought to be achieved in a manner that undermines social harmony. Some forces in UP and in the rest of India are intent on sowing the seeds of social disharmony and discord while speaking the language of social justice. They also receive abundant foreign funding for doing this. Governments in the state and at the Centre must take stern steps to foil their evil designs to divide our society.

Secondly, the BJP believes that the goal of social justice requires policy measures that go beyond, and in addition to, reservations. There is an obvious limit to the number of jobs that can be created in the government and in the public sector. Therefore, if the goal is to create equal and adequate opportunities for the development of the neglected and marginalized sections of society, we cannot rely on the Congress party's bankrupt model of jobless economic growth, or growth with only low-income and uncreative jobs for the poor. We need the kind of New Swadeshi paradigm of development that is briefly sketched above. This will create hundred-fold more gainful

and attractive livelihood opportunities for SCs, STs, OBCs and the backward classes among Muslims than what is possible through the limited policy of reservations.

Thirdly, it is far from true that all those belonging to the so-called forward castes, including Brahmins, are educationally advanced and economically prosperous. Large numbers of them are also victims of poverty and deprivation of various kinds. Therefore, no policy of social justice can be called fair if it ignores their legitimate needs and aspirations.

Fourthly, the BJP is totally opposed to religion-based reservations. None other than Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had warned against communal reservations. While participating in the debate in the Constituent Assembly in 1947, he said about: "This way lies not only folly but disaster."

No to Minorityism, Yes to Justice and Security for Muslims: The BJP's social vision, rooted in the philosophy of Integral Humanism, brooks no discrimination along caste or religious lines. We believe that all sections of our society, including Muslims and other religious minorities, have an equal place, equal status, equal rights and also equal duties. However, our social vision also brooks no appeasement of



any section of society for narrow political gains. Unfortunately, SP, BSP and Congress have been practicing the policy of minorityism with the sole intention of gaining the block votes of Muslims. For this, they constantly fan anti-BJP sentiments in the Muslim community. They are least interested in the socio-economic development of common Muslims. As stated by the Sachar Committee itself, common Muslims, like their non-Muslim compatriots, have remained backward and deprived in independent India. Is the BJP responsible for this? Or the Congress, which has ruled at the Centre, and also in UP, for the longest period since 1947? Indeed, the socio-economic conditions of Muslims have considerably improved in BJP-ruled states, be it in Gujarat or in Bihar. We therefore appeal to our Muslim brethren in UP to introspect on this issue and shed their misconceptions about the BJP.

On our part, the BJP pledges to work in a non-discriminatory — and also in a non-appeasement — manner for the fulfillment of the Muslim community's legitimate aspirations. Our government shall guarantee justice and security for them, in the same way that we do so for other sections of society. Indeed, as India's 'Iron Man' Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had stated in the Constituent Assembly in August 1947, "In the long run, it would be in the interest of all to forget that there is anything like a majority or a minority in this country and that in India there is only one community — Indians." ■

## Take severe action against Khurshid, BJP tells EC

The Bharatiya Janata Party asked Chief Election Commissioner S.Y. Quraishi to take action against Law Minister Salman Khurshid for violating the code of conduct by announcing quotas for Muslims if the Congress was voted to power in Uttar Pradesh.

The team, led by BJP national vice president Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, submitted a memorandum to the EC and told the Election Commission that the announcement by the

union minister was unconstitutional and violated the election code of conduct. "He made the announcement in the constituency of his wife (Farrukhabad). This will hamper free and fair elections in the state and it is unconstitutional and violation of code of conduct. Khurshid had announced that a nine percent sub-quota for backward Muslims would be provided in Uttar Pradesh if the party was voted to power. We demand a strict action against him and the Congress party," Shri Naqvi said reporters. ■

### *BJP welcomes EC decision to stay implementation of Quota*

BJP has welcomed the Election commission decision to stay the implementation of quota within quota by Central Government on the eve of elections in five States.

BJP spokesperson Shri Prakash Javadekar said the election commission discussion is a slap on the face of the Congress-led UPA government. He said "BJP welcomes the Election Commission decision to stay the implementation of the quota within quota by the Central Govt. on the eve of the elections in five States. It is a slap on the face of the Congress for indulging in the opportunistic and vote bank politics. This decision has exposed the Congress for its communal politics. This decision unnecessarily created rift between OBCs and minorities and it really does not benefit even minorities."

He added, "BJP demands explanation from the Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi and General Secretary Shri Rahul Gandhi on whether they approve the utterances of Shri Digvijay Singh describing Batla encounter as a fake encounter. This is necessary because Shri Digvijay Singh has always worked as 'His Majesty Voice' of the two leaders. The Congress cannot fool all the people all the time."

"BJP also expects the Prime Minister to come out of his usual "Silent Mode" and explain the nation as to where he stands on the issue. The statement of Shri Digvijay Singh is worst kind of communal vote bank politics and is an insult to the martyrdom of brave police officer Mr. Mohan Chandra Sharma. His utterances are demoralising security forces and will act as a moral booster for the terrorists. This negates the investigation findings and will adversely impact the court proceedings. BJP demands action against Shri Singh for this." ■

**UTTAR PRADESH****Rahul Gandhi must understand legacy of Lord Ram : Ravi Shankar Prasad**

Hitting out at Rahul Gandhi for his remarks on Lord Ram, the Bharatiya Janata Party National General Secretary and Chief Spokesman Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad dared him to speak against the god of any other religion. He also advised the Congress general secretary to understand the legacy of Lord Ram before speaking about him.



Shri Prasad said that Rahul's comment about Lord Ram deserved to be condemned. "During its eight-year rule, the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government has not taken a single step to construct Ram Mandir at Ayodhya and this shows its apathy towards Hindus," Shri Prasad said while addressing a press conference at the party's state headquarters in Lucknow.

He also pointed out that the UPA government had filed an affidavit before the court, denying the existence of Lord Ram in the context of Ram Setu but had later withdrawn it under public pressure. "The Congress is yet to tender an apology for hurting the sentiments of Hindus by denying the existence of Lord Ram," Shri Prasad said.

Referring to Babu Singh Kushwaha's admission in the BJP, he said the former leader of Bahujan Samaj Party had joined the BJP to support the party which opposes the 4.5 per cent reservation given to Muslims from the 27 per cent quota of OBCs. "Why are Mulayam Singh Yadav and Mayawati silent on this issue when they claim to be well-wishers of OBCs?" Shri Prasad asked. He said the BJP would make this issue its main poll plank during the Assembly election. He said the BJP was not in favour of shielding any guilty person but it was also well known that the Congress habitually misused CBI for political purposes. "I want to ask why the CBI is not acting on the allegations made against Chief Minister Mayawati and her family members?" he asked.

**ODISHA****CM must quit for shielding accused persons in gangrape case : Oram**

Odisha BJP President Shri Jual Oram interacting with media persons in Bhubaneswar said Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's attempt to quell the public outcry by sacking the Agriculture Minister Pradeep Maharathy for his alleged role in the gangrape case in his constituency is not enough. Naveenbabu had no moral right to continue in office following the spurt in atrocities on women, particularly the increase in rape incidents in the State recently. He said the Chief Minister must resign on moral ground for shielding accused persons in various gangrape cases.



Stating that the Chief Minister had forgotten his responsibility to the people of the State, the BJP President said, "If the CM believes in morality and transparency, he should first tender his resignation and order an impartial CBI probe into all shameful incidents recently came to fore in the State".

He said the BJP which had undertaken state-wide agitations in the wake of the *dalit* gangrape case would continue its agitation further to ensure justice to the *dalit* victim.

Terming the Pipili happening as a heinous crime and a national shame senior BJP leader and MP Shri Rudra Narayan Pani demanded Chief Minister's immediate resignation and CBI probe into the case. Asking the immediate intervention of National Mahila Commission and Human Rights Commission, he said Chief Minister's move keeping in view of the panchayat poll is a drama. He also demanded that the *dalit* girl be provided proper medical support for her speedy recovery.

Meanwhile, the BJP State Mahila Morcha under the leadership of its President Smt. Jayanti Padhiary staged demonstrations through out the State and said Ex. Minister and Pipli MLA Maharathy's resignation is an eyewash and demanded the immediate arrest of Maharathy for his alleged complicity with the gangrape accused.

She also demanded the foolproof security cover

to the girl, arrest of all the accused including political elements and review of all rape cases by an independent body and adequate compensation for the victims' families.

It is noteworthy that the Pipli rape incident occurred on November 28, last year in which the *dalit* girl was gang raped by four persons for several days and attempt was made to throttle her as she was eyewitness to another rape in 2008. It was part of a criminal conspiracy to sniff out all evidences of the old rape case in which the girl committed suicide. Later under the pressure from the govt. the girl, was denied treatment by the local hospital and local police denied her to register FIR against the culprits.

## DELHI

### BJP demands 'White Paper' on pucca houses for the poor

Delhi BJP President Shri Vijender Gupta demanded that the Delhi Government issue a White Paper on providing *pucca* houses to the Economically Weaker Section people in the Capital under *Rajiv Ratan Awas Yojna* so that the promise to the poor indeed gets fulfilled.



Shri Gupta said it was essential for the Government to come clean on whether it actually wants to provide the houses under the EWS scheme or if it was merely politicking ahead of the elections to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. Stating

that "in the Cabinet meeting the Sheila Dixit Government has decided that the houses under *Rajiv Ratan Awas Yojna* will be allotted by the month of March this year and that the *jhuggi jhonpri* dwellers belonging to Scheduled Caste category will be provided houses free of cost," he said this promise was only an election stunt for securing votes because the Government is talking about allotting 13,700 flats by March, 2012, whereas by the second week of February the model code of conduct will come into force for MCD elections.

The Government will not be able to allot houses to the poor after the code of conduct comes into force. The Government also knows this and is

trying to mislead the EWS category people of Delhi, he claimed. He also questioned that when about two lakh people had applied for flats under this EWS scheme then how was the list of the eligible persons drawn.

## JHARKHAND

### UPA led Govt.'s apathy impedes NH work in the State : Arjun Munda

Interacting with media persons Jharkhand Chief Minister Shri Arjun Munda informed that despite his repeated requests to the Congress led Union Government for release of funds for repair and widening of the National Highways passing through Jharkhand, the Union Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways has displayed a lethargic attitude in disbursing funds for the purpose. Roads reflect the health of the State, and most of the National Highways in the State are in a pathetic condition, thanks to the Centre apathetic attitude, he said.



He said Jharkhand has a total length of 1,805 km of National Highways passing through it, while that State had sent a proposal for widening and repair of NH-33, 75, 32 and 23.

The officials of the Union Ministry of Road, Transportation and Highways have been reluctant to speak on the issue. Earlier, the CM Shri Munda had tried to draw Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's attention towards the widening and repair of national highways in the State, demanding Rs. 1,600 crore to develop road network in the Naxal-affected districts of Jharkhand.

He said the basic expenditure under the planned and non-planned expenditure of the Union ministry for development of highways and minor repair works for the road-networks in the States for the year 2011-12 show a zero, giving an impression of zero-release of funds to States for such purpose. Shri Munda said it is unfortunate and said the State government will protest against this apathy of Congress led UPA against Jharkhand. ■

# Art and science of stillness

*The path of Evolutionary Enlightenment, like all enlightenment teachings, is a path of ego-transcendence.*

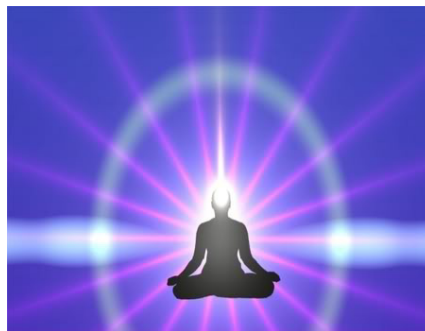
Here, transcending ego is not an end in itself - it's a means to a higher end. The reason we want to have the liberating experience of transcending our personal fears and desires and our culturally conditioned values is to open up some space within the self - space for evolution to occur.

It's important because being inspired by the idea of conscious evolution is one thing, while actually engaging in the process of evolution is something else altogether. Many people are moved by the notion of evolutionary becoming. But within themselves they are not free. They are trapped in psychological hang-ups and attachments, with little or no space for that which is new. Their souls are not liberated, and their choices and actions are still being shaped by unconscious adherence to values and perspectives that have nothing to do with being a liberated vessel for the evolution of consciousness and culture.

Merely being inspired by the potential for conscious evolution does not automatically give us access to the fearless inner freedom to actualise that potential. In order to find that freedom, to open up that space for the new, it is essential that you liberate yourself to a significant degree from your personal fears and desires and

your culturally conditioned values.

Inner freedom is not different from the goal of traditional enlightenment. In Evolutionary Enlightenment, the attainment of spiritual freedom is not the end



of the path but, ideally, becomes the foundation from which to engage in conscious evolution. So the foundation of the path and practice of Evolutionary Enlightenment is nothing less than the position of traditional enlightenment itself. In order to release your own consciousness and psyche for the wider and deeper embrace of the life process that Evolutionary Enlightenment demands, you must disentangle yourself, you must significantly free yourself from your karma, history, culture and personal ego.

There are two ways to discover enlightened awareness: spontaneously, or through making noble effort... Spontaneous experience often happens in the company of a

spiritual master who has access to this unmanifest ground, or among a group of inspired individuals who have come together to share mystical truths. You can also, however, assume the posture of freedom and experience enlightened awareness simply through disciplined effort. Traditionally, the metaphor for this radical freedom has been the image of the seated Buddha, perfectly still, eyes closed, his awareness focussed within, his attention on the infinite nature of his own consciousness.

So the way to practise this radical position is to literally take the posture he is taking - to engage with what I call "the art and science of stillness" or the traditional practice of meditation... In learning how to be still, you are choosing to stand for and express that deepest part of yourself - that empty no-place before the beginning of time, before anything ever happened.

That formless ground of Being is always the deepest dimension of who we all are, and it is the ultimate source and wellspring of all that is. In that ground, nothing ever moves, because there is no time, form, subject or object. There is only One, eternally at rest and at peace. ■

*(Courtesy: The Times of India)*